

Public Comments

Deer License Allocation

Dustin Mund

Lead SD

dustin440@msn.com

Comment:

support support

Chet Peterson

Freeman SD

kennie_jo_10192@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Nathan Scherer

Custer SD

nathan.scherer@gmail.com

Comment:

I strongly support the proposal to require individuals to select their most preferred license from the six seasons in the first draw. This would give me and my family a better chance to hunt in the Black Hills where we live every year, instead of every third year the way it is now.

Thank you for approving this proposal and I hope you finalize it at your October meeting.

God bless
Nathan Scherer

Casey Ellerton

Custer SD

Cellerton@hotmail.com

Comment:

I strongly disagree with changing the deer tag draw, I believe this will create less opportunities for hunters than more. Leave it the way it is.

Nathan Gerlach

Pierre SD

Npgerlach@gmail.com

Comment:

I'd prefer that it was left as is. This is going to take away from east and west river deer hunters. I would like the option to keep getting the potential buck on both sides of the river.

Matt Kutz

Highmore SD

Comment:

This is not a good deal for anyone everyone will lose out. If your trying to ruin the hunting in sd you're going at it the right way.

Mathew Fetherhuff

Aberdeen SD

mathewfetherhuff@gmail.com

Comment:

I believe that the allocation process we have now, is plenty adequate. Being able to apply for east and west river opens up great opportunity for multiple hunts per year. I do not believe that the pressure for certain tags will decline, as you will always have people who only want to hunt one certain unit every year.

Tonisha Mund

Lead SD

Tonishaisaak@hotmail.com

Comment:

Deer license allocation process, alternative #1 support

Justin Murphy

Crooks SD

justintmurphy@outlook.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose the change to deer tag applications. Tags are a lottery. You can't please everyone. People who hunt multiple tags spend a great deal of time and money each year. Why punish someone for putting in the time to apply and pay preference points? Please reconsider your stance on this proposal and keep the deer tags alone.

Adam Holen
Brookings SD

Comment:

For people who put in multiple tags, they are still not guaranteed a tag. Even to draw either way still takes a couple years of preference.

Tom Jensen
Harrisburg SD
tomjensen178@gmail.com

Comment:

Strongly oppose any change. Please reject proposal and leave system as is. The current system is effective and fair.

Jesse Hartman
Lennex SD

Comment:

I don't want to have to choose between family and hunting my other spots. I am sick and tired of all these changes. People need to suck it up buy their preference points and wait that's what makes the hunt that more special and then maybe people would get out of the vehicles and actually hunt knowing it could possibly be the only time they get a tag. I don't want any changes. If there is a change what are the cost of the deer tags gonna go up to because I know the revenue the gfp used to make isn't gonna be crap if there is a change.

Tyler Aadland
Webster SD
ty_aad@hotmail.com

Comment:

Why not start with nonresidents. Put them in for a drawing for an archery tag don't allow them over the counter tags. They have to draw a tag to shoot a goose but not a deer? Doesn't make much sense! Every other state starts with reducing tag numbers for non residents why does this state have to be different. If the commissioners would have been a little smarter 10 years ago and not given every person 4 deer tags maybe we would still have deer. Maybe they should try being proactive instead of reactive and waiting for a problem to start before they try to fix it!

Kyle Kaskie

Aurora SD

thefishies2003@yahoo.com

Comment:

I support the current deer tag allocation process. Through planning, I am able to draw desired tags on a yearly bases. I am able to spread my hunting time across the state with this process and believe the new purposed process would take away from these opportunities. I also enjoy having the ability to hunt multiple desired units in a single year when the stars align (every couple years). The system is called a lottery for a reason and I don't believe it is going to help a single person draw a more sought out unit on a yearly basis, like some people think the new proposal will obtain.

Daniel Feldhaus

Ipswich SD

archeryking2003@hotmail.com

Comment:

Leave as is for gun tag applications. Mature buck numbers are going down need to go to a nine day rifle season and eliminate the late doe season for rifle. Deer are getting pushed around way to long right now they don't stand a chance. Also need to cut way back/cap non resident bow tags it is overrun out west to the point it's not even fun to go.

Clint Barber

Aurora SD

Comment:

I would prefer the state leaves the tag allocation the way it is currently setup. With the use of special buck tags, an individual can draw almost every year, east & west river. I think the proposal will add confusion to the drawing process, and make it more difficult to remember deadlines. Also, based on the table I saw, it showed a majority of hunters were actually opposed to changing the current system. Thank you for your consideration.

Alex Heilman

Sioux Falls SD

alexheilman31@gmail.com

Comment:

Option three was by far the popular vote. We have so many opportunities in this state and you guys choose to go with the one that limits them the most what a joke. Why have polls and surveys if they don't mean anything? Do what's right and go with option three.

Nick Hauert
Harrisburg SD
Nickhauert@gmail.com

Comment:

I really prefer the system as is. I am a multi season hunter and believe the current system works great.

Skyler Burke
Rapid City SD

Comment:

There is plenty of deer and GF&P has done a great job managing deer from year to year and me and my family enjoy hunting several different areas for bucks or does. It allows us to spend more time outdoors and see new parts of the state. I don't understand how the way it is currently hurts anyone. I don't fill half the buck tags I get each year not because I don't see deer but I'm waiting for giants which is what is happening each year. Due to trail cams and scouting I have seen the deer quality improve drastically. Thank you for your time. Keep it up!

Shauna Woodward
Tulare SD
woodwardfarms05@yahoo.com

Comment:

I wish they would just leave it alone. Thanks

Judy Carroll
Rapid City SD
Elkguts69@hotmail.com

Comment:

I feel your going to make it even harder for us residents wanting a deer tag. If you look at the numbers of people that put in for each season and unit, there's way more people than tags so their never truly will be a second or third choice drawing for those units and need to make archery tags for nonresidents a draw only. Too many mule deer being shot by archery nonresidents and the same goes for youth tags should be whitetail doe only tags to stop shooting so many mule deer does.

Zachary Knox
Spencer SD
zknox97@gmail.com

Comment:

Please please do not change anything. I like hunting on both sides of the river every year!

Charles Hamre

Canton SD

Hamrec27@hotmail.com

Comment:

I think its crap to pool all the tags together. I put in alot of hours and days on the phone and driving east and west river to find spots, knock on doors begging farmers to hunt. Doing research on the refugees to find good spots to hunt so I can hunt more then one tag a year. Now these guys that sit at home and only hunt one spot and won't do any work to find other places to hunt sit and bitch because they can't draw any tags when they don't do the work. I draw 4 bucks tags a year and I fill them tags because I put in the time before the season and during the season. Now I might only get luck and get 2 tags or 1 tag. It's been that way for the last 18 year I have been chasing deer. Why does the gfp always have to go changing things all the time. Just leave it alone. Make the guys that want to shoot deer go out and do the work to find the deer and get permission in other spots besides there back yard.

Seth Dawson

Howard SD

Dawson867@mitchelltech.edu

Comment:

I think changing the deer tag draw is a huge mistake and will only hurt the sportsman of South Dakota dramatically, I think the draw should be left the way it is and no change should be made. We should not have to choose between hunting West River East River or the hills for 1st choice. I and many friends I hunt with save all our vacation just for hunting and plan our trip around multiple tags a year this would greatly affect our spending across the state and we will start buying tags in others states if we can only get limited tags in South Dakota each year. I have many other reason I disagree with this change.

Aaron Willis

Mitchell SD

aaron-willis@hotmail.com

Comment:

The system works great. It's a only a select few that have troubles drawing tough counties cause they won't adapt or change locations. I don't understand trying to fix a system that isn't broken. If it's a money issue it's not the right way to generate revenue.

Scott Johnson

Fort Pierre SD

Stnn1@pie.midco.net

Comment:

We need to leave the deer application process the same. There is nothing wrong with the current method. If it isn't broken don't fix it.

Kelly Halverson

St Cloud MN

kelly99halverson@gmail.com

Comment:

I recommend no change

Darrin Christensen

Watertown SD

Livetohunt@wat.midco.net

Comment:

The lottery draw is not broke!!!! Do not change it!!!

Lucas Eickholt

Brandon SD

Lucas.eickholt@duke-energy.com

Comment:

If the system isn't broken don't try to fix it. I drive across the boarder into Minnesota to work every day, the main reason I remain living in south dakota is because of deer hunting and the system that we have now...if the changes are made it will basically wreck my life, the deer hunting trips with my friends will go out the window...and I will have no reason to remain living in what I thought was the greatest state in the nation...after taking away all the public water and now turning deer hunting on its ear who knows what idiocracy will follow

Zach Mccready

Chamberlain SD

Comment:

Strongly opposed. What is the value in the change?

Brody Boes

Gregory SD

Boes061@mitchelltech.edu

Comment:

This whole thing seems really unnecessary. I don't feel we should change the whole system just because some people don't know how to apply for tags. Educate people not to apply for any deer tags when there isn't mule deer in the area they hunt, then give out more any whitetail tags? There are leftover tags every year right? If people aren't drawing in their home county, drive a half hour to the next one and hunt there or take up archery. We should not be changing the system to make it easier for people who don't want to put in the work to hunt. It's as simple as that. I hunt Gregory county. It's my home. Every November during opening weekend I can drive to the Platte/winner bridge and I will guarantee there are 5-10 Sioux Falls/Mitchell hunters hunting that area. Those are people taking advantage of this states resources. The system to me seems too good to change. I'm open to more suggestions and info on this topic. If there are any other advantages to this change other than drawing odds, I'd love to hear them. Thanks

Adam Witte

Egan SD

Witte2000@gmail.com

Comment:

Leave the deer tag application process the way it is. Changing how the application process currently is would have an adverse effect on the sportsmanship of the state. Personally, each year I try to enjoy a family hunt east river and a different family hunt west river. As well as I put in for Black Hills every year. For those of us hunters who try more than one season, having to choose only one would be difficult. Especially since you are not guaranteed a tag.

In closing, please leave the current application process alone.

Thank you,

Adam Witte

Matthew Kasuske

Huron SD

jigger_84_02@hotmail.com

Comment:

Why change something majority of resident as opposed of makes no sense east river west river is a tradition to a lot of family and friend I don't understand why you want to try to change something when the is no problem. If anything need to be done it is limited number of tag archery and rifle for non residents!!!!

Joe Henderson

Colton SD

Hendu_88@hotmail.com

Comment:

Dont change something that isnt broke. This is going to Increase NR tags and take away from south dakotans. It also allows the lazy to benefit. If people put in the work and time, they can get their desired taga majority of the time every other year.

I would like to know the stats in which GFP surveyed people. Majority of people I talk to are opposed to this.

Darren Swenson

Madison SD

Comment:

No change

Reid Peterson

Brookings SD

Comment:

I think that changing the current application system is foolish. What's the point of buying preference points to draw tags. By changing to first choice for all seasons you are still going to have to accrue the same amount of preference points to hunt your desired season, also you Can t view refuge and Custer and all the other specialty tags as a first choice nobody will ever draw them on a cycle like that they are a bonus tag at the end of the day. Please don't penalize the guys like my self who buy preference points and apply for tags from one corner of the state to the other and travel to all of the small towns and bring revenue to them. because some people aren't willing to compromise and travel but For example there were buck tags into 3rd draw last year for multiple counties. I know I'm in the minority on this topic but I buy more tags and give for conservation more than the average guy who wants his one tag. I think you should keep the current system

Anthony Gibson

Watertown SD

a_l_gibson@hotmail.com

Comment:

I completely oppose any changes to the current deer tag allocation. A good portion of areas have left over tags each year. It seems to me that only people that don't want to travel to hunt, or only want to hunt trophy bucks in high pressure areas are the ones with the problem. I supply pretty much all of my meat each year from hunting, and 90% of the time I have to travel to do it. By limiting the number of tags I can apply for first draw, you decrease the possible number of tags I can get, and or make me have to travel further to do so. Just so that someone who only wants to hunt in their back yard in a heavily populated area can shoot a big buck and probably not even care about what happens to the meat. If you make these changes I might as well give up big game hunting in South Dakota, and just spend all of the money to go out of state and hunt one trip for an elk or a moose. On top of all of that what happens to all of my preference points that will pretty much become useless? Are you going to refund all of my money?

David Wagner
Rapid City SD
huntifican@yahoo.com

Comment:

Need to leave the lottery system as it is. The complaint of not being able to draw tags or deer is mostly self induced due to type of tag and unit difficulty. The residents that due their homework and aren't afraid to travel shouldn't be punished by the few people that can't. Most of these residents also only apply first draw and no other. I also think the cost of non resident tags should meet the pricing of other states. There is no reason they can't pay the same prices that we do if we go to other states. If you want revenue go for it there.

Alec Boughton
Watertown SD
Alec.boughton@yahoo.com

Comment:

I do not support the change. The way things have been going are the way they should continue to work. The herds are getting managed properly and those who are dedicated to hunting get to go out and take part in creating those memories!
Thank you for listening.

Aaron Erickson
Watertown SD
Aaron.erickson89@yahoo.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose the changes you are planning on making to the deer license draw! Kevin stated at the meeting that you try your hardest to fix what is broke.....that is absurd in my opinion, it looks like you are trying your hardest to break something that is working just fine!!! It is a lottery system, fair to everybody, somebody wants a tag more than once every 3 or 4 years then apply for more tags, be more flexible in your hunting style! DO NOT SCREW-UP WHAT ISN'T BROKEN!!! Please leave the deer draws the current way they are!

Aaron Erickson
Watertown SD
Aaron.erickson89@yahoo.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose the changes you are planning on making to the deer license draw! Kevin stated at the meeting that you try your hardest to fix what is broke.....that is absurd in my opinion, it looks like you are trying your hardest to break something that is working just fine!!! It is a lottery system, fair to everybody, somebody wants a tag more than once every 3 or 4 years then apply for more tags, be more flexible in your hunting style! DO NOT SCREW-UP WHAT ISN'T BROKEN!!! Please leave the deer draws the current way they are!

Paul Carroll
Rapid City SD
paul-hunter@hotmail.com

Comment:

I think our tag system should be left alone! The new system if you don't draw your first choice . Then you will not draw a tag. There are no left over tags now .So that means there will not be any left over tags to even send for in the next draw. Being able to have multiple tags is a great option we have in our state . I feel changing this would be a step backwards!

Jacob Terry
Elk Point SD
Jacob.terry@k12.sd.us

Comment:

oppose

Justin Boynton
Bath SD
boynton.justin@yahoo.com

Comment:

We have a state setting that allows us the ability to hunt both white tail deer and mule deer and now you are trying to limit us to just one option. This is wrong! Change the west river tag system to be like the east river and give the state residents there power back. We are the ones who spend all the money and time to keep this state going. I happen to be a land owner and would really be disgusted with the state for even considering this as an option. The only part of the system that is broke is allowing out of state hunters to draw buck tags but turn down residents because you're setting tags aside for out of state hunters.

Barry Smith
Andover SD
bsmith@nvc.net

Comment:

I do not agree with this proposal

Taylor Custis
Belle Fourche SD
Custistaylor@hotmail.com

Comment:

I fail to see how this fixes anything. Leave it alone!

Becki Erickson

Watertown SD

bweisedel@yahoo.com

Comment:

If I choose to gamble, I walk into a gas station and PURCHASE a lottery ticket. I may or may not win. If I PURCHASE more than 1 ticket, I may increase my odds of winning. Fair.

Same holds true for deer license allocation If I PURCHASE (application fee) a tag, I may or may not get it. However if I PURCHASE (application fee) multiple tags for multiple units, I may increase my chance at getting to fill a tag.

This is a lottery system folks. It's fair. It's simple.

Dakota Case

Tea SD

dakota.case2@gmail.com

Comment:

The proposed changes to the state's deer drawing procedure is a disservice to both resident hunters and small town South Dakota. Hunters like myself choose to pursue deer through multiple options, which means more time afield and more money spent in places that don't normally receive much business outside of hunting season.

Restricting hunters to one option hurts everyone, and only looks bad on GF&P, which already has lost the trust of South Dakotans via the nonmeandered water fiasco. Don't shoot yourself in the foot by driving away your clientele and cutting off the almighty revenue stream.

Travis Rounds

Dell Rapids SD

roundstravis@hotmail.com

Comment:

You guys have a great licensing system already, please leave it be

Brandon Peery

Milbank SD

Brandonpeery99@yahoo.com

Comment:

I think this is a terrible idea. All this does is benefit out of state hunters and hunters who only apply for one license. I feel the GF&P cared more about making out of staters happy than taking care of its own hunters.

Doug Brage
Watertown SD

Comment:

I'm opposed in changing any deer seasons, leave them they the way they are

Jon Brozik
Winner SD
jbroz184@yahoo.com

Comment:

Why is this even an issue if 43% and 46% of the people want a change? That tells me that 57% and 54% oppose the change! I have bought preference points in multiple seasons the past several years as a donation, and also to built my points for the year we spend the holidays in the hills again. However, if there is a change, I will discontinue my practice. I typically apply for WR deer, archery deer, BH deer, elk (multiple units), Big Horn Sheep etc. In the years where I have had multiple tags, I will only harvest one deer. I have recently gotten my son into the sport and he harvested his first buck last year, so I elected to pass multiple bucks. If this proposal goes through, and there is a change, I will discontinue my multiple applications. I know there are people who are complaining because they can't draw a west River tag, etc. Those are the same people that don't have anywhere to hunt and end up 'road hunting' big game! I know that is not legal; however, I have witnessed it personally year after year. I suggest you should have to put down a landowner to apply for WR deer tags, in a similar fashion to the Any WR deer tags.

Zach Schneider
Oldham SD
Zak_2004@hotmail.com

Comment:

I do not support changing the way deer licenses are allocated. The current system is far and away better than the proposed one in my opinion. It only benefits people not willing to travel and utilize the public lands this state had to offer. This state thrives off of outdoorsman and the vast majority i have spoken to do not support this change.

Dustin Rice
Rapid City SD
dricer5@hotmail.com

Comment:

I am opposed to anything that is effecting resident draws at this time until we put a limit on the number of Non-resident archery permits that are issued. I believe this is having a big impact at least on our West River mule deer herd and the amount of people accessing our public lands.

Christopher Kessler

Brandon SD

Chrisjkessler@gmail.com

Comment:

We as sportsmen are blessed to have so many great deer hunting opportunities in this state. My family and I, DO NOT support or want any changes to the deer application process. We hunt every season possible from mentor, youth, to archery and muzzle loader. I am in favor of choice C, NO change. Sincerely, Chris Kessler

Michael Kroger

Bridgewater SD

krogermi@gmail.com

Comment:

I strongly recommend option C (no change). I apply for a good percentage of the available deer tags. I believe that it is currently a fair opportunity to all to get the tag they would like for each season. Lumping all the different seasons together for the 1st choice and 2nd choice will just make things complicated. Currently if I don't get the tag I want for that season, I have the preference purchased and move on with my life. I understand the concept of change and how it will benefit the certain hunters that only wants to hunt 1 certain season. This change will effect the avid hunter. The current system gives everyone a fair chance at a tag. If a person really wants a tag for a specific season, I feel that they would put in there time till there opportunity comes up.

Seth Vant Hof

Dell Rapids SD

Sethvanthof@yahoo.com

Comment:

Please leave the draw as is. I am opposed to all other options based on losing opportunity for deer hunting.

Ryan Mcnamara

Sioux Falls SD

qb11mac@yahoo.com

Comment:

The old adage rings true. If it isn't broke, don't fix it. Here is my opinion. Raise the price of out of state tags. South Dakota is the cheapest state for out of state hunters to obtain tags. Double the prices. They will still pay. People will not think twice about a couple hundred dollars in the planning of a trip.

Preston Munk

Wentworth SD

Prestonellsworth@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Jared Thomas
Harrisburg SD
jared644@gmail.com

Comment:

I believe the current system works fine. Hunters do the research they can be successful, or strategize points to have a consistent odds of drawing. Intervention is not needed in this.

Rick Wilson
Rapid City SD
Riw64@rushmore.com

Comment:

I cannot afford to pay to hunt out of state, so having multiple opportunities in my own state allows me and my family a chance to draw one or two licences a year. I would think that limiting one deer tag per person the revenue on license fees would drop and licenses themselves would have to go up to make up the difference. I don't think we need a West and East prairie tags, but we should keep Black Hills, muzzleloader, prairie and archery all available to draw to everyone.

Kammi Doud
Rapid City SD
Kammi_doud@yahoo.com

Comment:

I prefer being able to apply for the various seasons that I want to hunt. I get that some may get to hunt multiple tags while I get none and vice versus but the way it works out now at least I know I should have any opportunity every other year to hunt a unit. I do think we need to add the second draw opportunities again

Victor Rapkoch
Britton SD
Heyvictor06@gmail.com

Comment:

I would like to see it remain the same. I think we have a great system that does not need anything changed.

Stephen Gossman

Pierre SD

Comment:

Go to a true preference system! Lose the lottery!!!! If you want one buck per hunter then make it so. It will never happen, 5 to 15 dollars per preference point and no accountability, why change that?! Game management is not an easy task, but when finance and politics become equally important, the average sportsman loses. Public ground is shrinking and the quality of it is falling even faster. Hunting has become big business catering to land owners and probably rightfully so. The landowners have become stewards of the resource, while GFP have tried to keep their fingers as deep in the pot as possible. If every dollar spent went straight back into hunting or fishing then there could be buy backs for new QUALITY ground with restrictions on licenses. I have no problem with drawing 1 GOOD tag every or every other year. Right now, unless you have a landowner or deep pockets it's not realistic. Don't misunderstand, South Dakota is top notch for opportunity on quality for all species, but I feel it is slipping away. Keep and try to gain more public access, possibly limit tags, and make my points worth something!

Daniel Gunderson

Lake Preston SD

predatorarms@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose Close to the dumbest thing I've heard all day

Tanner Sprague

Rapid City SD

tannersprague1992@hotmail.com

Comment:

Strongly oppose this change. I wish the GFP commission would stop giving into the mentality that everyone should receive a tag. It is a lottery system for a reason. I properly plan my tags accordingly so I can draw certain tags at different times. I

Zach Stricherz

Watertown SD

stricherz18@gmail.com

Comment:

This is a bad idea. For many reasons. There are multiple more ways to manage deer. Lots of people love and enjoy deer hunting, lots of people rely on the deer they shoot to provide food for their familys. I myself do not rely on deer to feed my family, but i do enjoy the sport and I do love hunting both sides of the river. Please try to figure out another way to work this. A set tag number for each county would be great. Why give 500 tags out in one county and 100 in another. Why not give 200 out for all counties. Cut back on out of state tags.

Tyler Manning

Mitchell SD

Manningtyler55@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Jordan Miller

Canton SD

Jordanmillerats@gmail.com

Comment:

STOP trying to change our current system. The South Dakota sportsman have spoke out in droves against this, yet you are still pushing your agenda. I, along with the majority strongly oppose any change to the deer liscense system.

Tanner Kohn

Watertown SD

Comment:

I think it should be left the same. If people really want to get a tag the options are out there some countys you have to patient for. I don't see how changing the system is gonna help anyone besides possibly making more out of state tags and i think that it is ridiculous to try and give out of state tags when we hardly have enough for residents!

Tom Garner

Valley Springs SD

goldman@alliancecom.net

Comment:

oppose

Blaine Snyder

Milbank SD

dodgeblaine@hotmail.com

Comment:

I belive that the system in place is already fair. The people that are drawing tags on both sides of the river are fairly applying for a set number of tags. Sure it may open up more tags for the people that live in the county but some people like me live east river (Milbank) and have a place to hunt west river (Lyman county) would appreciate the opportunity to hunt both places like I can now.

Mike Vostad

Canton SD

mikevostad@gmail.com

Comment:

support no change to applying for both east/west river deer. Have 23 years preference points for Custer Park elk, with no hope of ever drawing a tag

Quintin Biermann

Rapid City SD

Quintin.biermann@hotmail.com

Comment:

Let's give individuals the option to enjoy all our great seasons at some point. No change is the best option with combining east river, west river, and black hills deer an alternative second option. To combine all 6 seasons is ridiculous given the small amount of tags issued for refuge, custer, and muzzleloader seasons.

Charles Bot

Brook I'm Ngs SD

Charles.bot@jacks.sdstate.edu

Comment:

I support option B of the proposed changes. I am in favor of people having to choose their most preferred tag.

Andrew Baier

Armour SD

abaier88@outlook.com

Comment:

Please keep the deer tag allocation process the way it is. The majority of the public opinion opposes any change. Send out a questionnaire rather than making the public search for a survey online or randomly selecting who gets invited to the focus group meetings. You'll get a better and more accurate response. This is a big issue to most hunters and I feel our opinion is not being considered. If option 2 is approved, then non-residents will be taking opportunities away from us residents. If someone doesn't apply for any other units besides the "hard to draw" unit they desire than that is their problem. Why limit everyone else's opportunities because a few are not willing to travel beyond that unit that is hard to draw a tag in?

Brian Benson

Watertown SD

Bbenson@watertownmu.com

Comment:

oppose

Jerry Nissen

Brookings SD

jerry@stmbrookings.org

Comment:

Leave the system alone , we need family hunting to stay together. Please leave it as is

Justin Mettler

Sioux Falls SD

mettler18@hotmail.com

Comment:

I hunt all public and apply for more than one deer tag in a given year as I enjoy spending more than one weekend pursuing deer each year. With this new proposal it will be much harder to do this and basically will side with the 1 weekend per year hunters and limiting everyone else. I'm not sure what will happen in the 3rd drawings for the remaining tags as this could possibly be flooded with NR in a few years allowing more tags to go to them even though you are saying the NR tags will remain the same, but they will be able to pick up leftover tags much easier with this process. South Dakota is one of the greatest places to hunt deer in the US and the current process has worked great for many years so lets not wreck this and look back in a few years saying what have we done. Certain people are complaining due to not drawing tags every year or even ever few years. I would like to hunt a lot of those counties as well that takes more than one years PP to draw a buck tag, but I don't for that reason alone as I enjoy hunting each year. These people that are complaining about not drawing every year will still be complaining with this new proposal as well in a few years as they still will not be able to draw tags every year in certain areas. This topic as has separated ER and WR which is very unfair due to the higher population of residences ER and the extremely less larger shreks of public land on the east side of the river making it harder for residences to hunt ER. I stronger recommend no change to the current deer tag allocation as it has worked just fine for most people for a lot of years and changing it will limit everyone who like to hunt more than opening weekend.

Brad Olson

Dell Rapids SD

olsonranchs@outlook.com

Comment:

I OPPOSE !

Michael Krein

Rapid City SD

michael.krein09@gmail.com

Comment:

Changing the draw structure does not fix the issue of it being almost impossible to draw an any deer tag in the Black hills because half the tags go to land owner preference. There should be no land owner preference in units that are made up primarily of public land. Do not change the draw system for deer.

Lonnie Kleinsasser

Watertown SD

lonnie.kleinsasser@terex.com

Comment:

I am a hunter that hunts both east and west river, and this would be a huge disappointment to my hunting seasons. I vote to leave as is!

James Nelson

Rapid City SD

james.nelson1@coldwellbanker.com

Comment:

Just because some hunters only apply for 1 license doesn't mean you have to ruin it all for us true hunters who live and breathe hunting. It is their own fault to only apply for 1 license. Those hunters are also apply for the hardest units to get (hills, harding,etc..). It is their own fault for doing so. Don't ruin SD deer hunting just because those people apply for only 1 tag.

Nathan Fossell

Sioux Falls SD

fosselln@hotmail.com

Comment:

I do not support this. Our system is very excellent as is and should remain that way.

Justin Pliska

Hartford SD

jjpliska@gmail.com

Comment:

This is the worst idea you can possibly think of for deer hunters revenue losses are going to be great. You don't understand what people do with 5-6 tags a year we HUNT. We manage the population we don't just take one deer for shits and giggles we feed our families. We eat our reward. We make memories we spend money in little towns, we make relations. You have \$40 resident tags already you lose 3 tags from those people what's that 120 now your gonna bump the fees up. And bang I'm heading out of state. I can atleast Hunt elk deer bear antelope wherever every year and not piss around with this stupid bitching fest.

Lance Rom
Rapid City SD
info@qualityservices.us.com

Comment:

I've lived in SD since 1984. Since the 1990s it has become increasing harder and harder to draw licenses. I don't think this proposed change will help that at all. It could make it worse. It does not seem that deer numbers in most of the state have been much reduced over the long run. More licenses should be available for everyone. In state hunters should get priority. In addition landowner licenses should only be valid on private property owned by that particular hunter.

Rhyan Koch
Watertown SD

Comment:

I believe my kids and myself will have a lot better hunting If nothing changes if you do change it it will for sure ruin hunting for the common hunter

Jeremy Wollman
Bonesteel SD
jeremy.wollman@k12.sd.us

Comment:

Although I have taken advantage of having multiple buck tags across the state in the past, it has become increasing more difficult to draw a single buck tag in a given year. I live in a popular deer hunting county and when I have difficulty drawing a local tag it does frustrate me. Hunters from the east side of the state will oppose this measure as they can draw a local tag (private ground) and still draw tags in west counties that have numerous acres in the Walk-In Program. However, if you live in a county with Walk-In acres (good for you) it is more difficult to draw local tags because of the influx of hunters from other counties. I'm willing to give up the rare opportunity to hunt multiple bucks in a given year, to simply draw one tag of my choice.

Randy Rasmusse
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

While I support the change to the modern rifle seasons I oppose lumping in muzzleloader and refuge seasons in this group. Or if these seasons are to be included then archery should be as well. The odds of drawing a muzzleloader or refuge tag are not that great and thus should be a special group. If someone is trying for one of these tags they are essentially giving up on drawing another buck tag for several years. Another question I had was what is going to happen to preference points that people have accumulated when all the draws get rolled in to the same draw?

Jason Lutt
Dallas SD

Comment:

The suggestion to restrict anyone from applying for two deer tags is ridiculous, I should be able to apply for West River Rifle and Muzzleloader at the same time. I can hunt Nebraska and have a rifle tag and get a Muzzleloader tag over the counter anywhere and here I need to get preference points just to Muzzleloader hunt. Now with the proposed change I need to apply for my rifle tag and wait till the leftovers are available then I can't apply for Muzzleloader because this stupid state only gives out a limited number of Muzzleloader tags so there won't be any left. Why is it a such a problem for SD to open up Muzzleloader Hunting for anyone

Dylan Wirkus
Watertown SD
bandedfowl@gmail.com

Comment:

Why? I've seen very few people who support this. Actually, I haven't seen a single person who supports it. Quit ruining South Dakota's resources. We've already lost fishing land and now we are about to lose deer tags when there are plenty of deer to go around.

John Deneui
Sioux Falls SD
jdeneui@sio.midco.net

Comment:

I, and a lot of other sportsman, feel this will be detrimental to the hunting experience. Leave as is. Luck of the draw, instead of catering to those who only want to hunt in their preferred area. If you want to limit your hunting, you should not receive preference on your chance of drawing a tag

Andrew Cameron
Harrisburg SD
acams19@hotmail.com

Comment:

Hello. I strongly oppose the new deer drawing process. Not getting your preferred deer license is a big bummer. It happens to everyone! I just don't understand all the change in a process that works because someone has gotten their feelings hurt. Look where the world has gone in the last ten years. Over-offended people over nonsense are ruining it, and now the same thing is happening to our outdoors here in SD. Fishing will never be the same because some (very few) farmers were offended. Now uncle Joe can't get his deer tag in the county he lives in every year. I don't think what has been proposed is the answer. The future of the outdoors in SD are very uncertain to me.

Kyle Manning

Pierre SD

Mooseman_74@hotmail.com

Comment:

Please leave the current drawing system as is. There is nothing wrong with how the drawing process works. Thank you for your time with this !
Kyle Manning

Angela Bevers

Watertown SD

amurphy0109@live.com

Comment:

I am not in favor of the deer license proposal.

Trevor Davis

Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

STRONGLY OPPOSE!

This is a wolf in sheep's clothing that's real purpose is to bring in more out of state money at the expense of residents.

Also, the die hards that hunt multiple seasons spend way more money than the fair weather guys that just go opening weekend for the social aspect.

If this goes through, you're cutting out the people that spend the most money locally on their hunting and in the town's and businesses in their hunting areas.

When those guys can't get their tags anymore, they'll take their money across state lines and many of them can afford to do it...

Many of the people that hunt multiple rifle seasons stay in SD or return to SD because of their ability to hunt multiple seasons here.

As our abundant sporting opportunities continue to erode in this state, so shall the number of sportsman the reside here for those opportunities.

It's the only reason I still live here and I promise you, there are so many others that site the hunting and fishing as the reason they won't leave.

Lastly, making it so everyone can get the tag they want every year opens the door greatly to people who who don't take it seriously and conduct themselves in the field as such.

More of that type = more careless reckless hunters.

Careless hunters create disgruntled landowners.

Disgruntled land owners take away WIAs and other publicly accessible private grounds.

Haven't sportsman/landowner relations deteriorated enough in the last couple years????

A good tag is worth the wait.

Having to hunt public in a different county every other year in order to hold a tag each season isn't going to kill anyone and does are better table fare, anyway!

If you need a buck tag to justify going hunting, you're doing it for all the wrong reasons!

Vernon Tarbox

Bradley SD

vernt@westsideimplement.com

Comment:

i feel that the proposed change would not increase ones chance of drawing a particular license. in clark county where i live non landowners have at best get a license 1 out of 2 years most times less than that. if more people are forced to choose only 1 place, in counties as this one i feel more applications are going to be put in for. so i am really not in favor of the proposed change. and also your robot thing is a joke.

Kirk Phinney

Milbank SD

Comment:

I believe these proposed changes have unintended consequences in regards to properly managing the deer herd, over hunting of public lands, increasing trespass violations, and reversing the recent effort of the GF&P to increase license draw success for hunters with a large accumulation of preference points. The most active, most invested, and more than likely, most ethical hunters should not be limited on their yearly opportunities just so everyone gets a tag. This change will unfairly cause hunters to have to more frequently purchase preference points while fully knowing they will be unsuccessful in a draw. The seasons that are included are not similar to one another, as say, the first choice/second choice arrangement for east river deer hunting which does make sense. If this is about fairness then include the archery season, or perhaps scrap the entire proposal and the unsuccessful hunters can take up archery hunting.

Otto Qualm

Platte SD

Oqualmer@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Tim Melton

Salem SD

tdm63@hotmail.com

Comment:

6 choices for deer preferences. Why should the bow hunters be left to get as many tags as they want? Bow hunters get multiple tags that could be saved for rifle seasons . That is where the problem is.

Chris Bailey
Rapid City SD
captainchris14@hotmail.com

Comment:

I believe the current system should be left as is. I currently am able to hunt west river with family and east river deer with good friends every year and hills deer every other year. I have always drawn either my first or second choices for these seasons. With this new alternative I would not be guaranteed both the east river and west river every year and likely will not get a hills tag without giving up either the east river or west river tag. I greatly enjoy the opportunity to hunt all of these seasons on a given year and hope that the current system remains.

Dylan Vogel
Groton SD
Dylanj1000@hotmail.com

Comment:

I do not agree with this proposal. As a young hunter who will focus where I live around hunting this will push me to live in North Dakota. This policy will make it where you only apply for the same zone over and over versus going to new locations and traveling the great state. If you take away this traveling small communities will be hurt. Also your focus groups show that this is not favored.

Cody Johnson
Sioux Falls SD
codynjohnson6121@gmail.com

Comment:

Strongly disagree changing. I send in for every tag possible and love hunting. I buy preference points for a reason and that's to wait for the tags I want. I am a die-hard and am willing to spend a lot of money traveling around South Dakota to do what I love. Why mess up a good thing that we have going? I love that my mom is staying in our state and we can continue to put our money to work. Why limit the hunters that live for this sport to only have a few tags? I may not fill every tag but it's the fact that I get to go out and enjoy God's country and do what I enjoy most in life! I think changing what has worked is wrong!!!

Eric Landis
Sioux Falls SD
landis_e@hotmail.com

Comment:

A South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposal would require deer hunters to choose among six deer hunting seasons in the first draw period for deer hunting licenses. I think the current system works quite well, and I do not want to see any changes made to the application process.

Guy Bennett
Rapid City SD
guy.bennett@rcgov.org

Comment:

This is a great idea. This change will help support hunter recruitment and hunter access.

Jared Jeratowski
Parker SD
jtowski02@hotmail.com

Comment:

All the Gfp is turning into is more money and you can't even do a good job with the things that are being done with public lands already. Leave a good thing alone

David Mines
Yankton SD
davidmines4831@gmail.com

Comment:

Keep our deer draw the way it is. We can build points and different parts of the state. The proposed way will pigeon hole us into applying for the same unit year after year and punish hunters who like to hunt in different places.

Clark Baker
Sioux Falls SD
clarkbaker27@yahoo.com

Comment:

I have applied for 2-3 license's a year and enjoy deer hunting. I'm satisfied with the current system..DONT CHANGE IT If NOT Broke.....

Nathen Erickson
Marion SD
nathen.erickson44672@gmail.com

Comment:

Don't fix something that isn't broken! Most of the guys that complain about not drawing and complaining that another guy has 6 tags, are the one that refuse to buy preference points. I buy preference points so that I can get a few tags every few years. I should be able to apply for 6+ tags a year if I want, doesn't mean I'll get them.

Bryan Linn
Fort Pierre SD
BryanLinn2@gmail.com

Comment:

This proposal is absolutely ridiculous. In your research you state that in 2017, 35,140 deer hunters applied for only one firearm season: 11,561 applied for two firearm seasons, and 3,861 applied for three, and declining numbers applied for four, five, and six. Based that that information, I don't see what the problem is. There are obviously not that many people snatching up multiple tags. It sounds to me like a small number of people are complaining/whining because they didn't get their 1st choice preference tags one year and are mad because a few of their buddies happened to brag at the coffee shop one morning that they drew multiple tags that year. Unless there is some sort of benefit to deer populations (which we know there won't be because the number of tags being issued are not changing), I don't see why SDGF&P is even considering this. Why are we wasting time and money because a few people are frustrated that they didn't get their tags one year, and had to wait it out a year or two to draw. If there is some other reason behind this change, please explain. The same guys that want to change now will find something else to complain about the next time they don't draw their 1st Choice tags. With very limited amounts of public land in SD (compared to other states in the West I hunt), and the difficulty one has to access private lands across the state, don't make it even more challenging for people to go hunting. We hear over and over how the numbers of hunters in our State are declining. There is a big push nation wide to get more people involved in the sport of hunting. Lets not take a step backwards in this push by implementing a bad policy like this. For the small percentage of people who don't draw tags, there are still plenty of hunting opportunities due to left-over tags, not only in SD, but also in surrounding states.

Joshua Neuharth
Menno SD
muley6@hotmail.com

Comment:

When 57% of the people say no change then listen to the people. Also it will not fix any problems that we are having when there is a popular unit to hunt in it gets lots of applications this won't fix that. Leave it as is.

Rodney Hanson
Lead SD
rodwh84@hotmail.com

Comment:

I think it is a bad decision to change to this option, we have always looked forward to hunting the Black Hills and Prairie units and now you want us to give our hunting preferences up is just not fair. also as hard as it is to draw muzzleloader and refuge deer why would you even include them in the choices make you feel like you can't be even put in for them. Why not leave it alone it worked for several years why change seem like game fish and parks is just after more money from the hunters

James Monick
Sioux Falls SD
esbf@aol.com

Comment:

oppose

Karl Anderson
Rapid City SD
Kdahunter1@gmail.com

Comment:

I believe the structure of making us choose our first choice is a terrible idea. It's a huge step from where we are now. Have you guys considered only combining west river, east river, and special buck. Basically only combine prairie firearm. All of the other units I consider a special draw, and it will keep serious hunters from getting the opportunity to apply for those because we wont cause the draw odds are too low.

Brett Koenecke
Pierre SD
brett@mayadam.net

Comment:

The current system for allocating deer licenses is fair. Anyone can apply and anyone can get a license to go East River, West River, Black Hills or all three. It maximizes opportunities and it is fair. On the other hand, the proposal as reported seems like a solution in search of a problem. The proposal seems to be simply rearranging opportunities so that "someone else" gets a deer license. There is no increase in opportunity and in fact there's a net decrease. This isn't the way the GFP should be going in these times of net loss in hunters. We need to increase opportunities to hunt and the current system maximizes those. Anyone can apply and that is how it should be.

Laura Erickson
Marion SD
Lraschelleb@aol.com

Comment:

oppose

Dan Albrecht
Yankton SD
albrecht2705@aol.com

Comment:

The system works fine the way it is , why change what works ?? I am totally against the changes proposed !!

Kevin Pribbenow

Castlewood SD

Bigredfan_55@hotmail.com

Comment:

Please leave the deer drawing process the way it is. It's a lottery process that is fair for everyone. I know of don't draw this yr I will the following. Build preference points if that is the case, it took me 10 yrs to draw a muzzleloader tag. Plus if you really wanna shoot a buck and don't get a rifle license then get into archery hunting like I did. 10 plus yrs ago I didn't get a rifle tag and decided that archery was my way that yr to get a buck if I wanted to hunt so I bought a bow and have loved bow hunting since. Also the time spent building relationships with friends and farmers for hunting rights are earned, not given, so to take an opportunity away for those that have just so those that haven't get a tag is the wrong way to do it. I have been in a lottery for the past 15 yrs in two different states for moose, I keep applying and know someday I will get it. The state would never change for everyone that lost on a lottery scratch ticket complaining about never winning. Play to win and apply to win. Thank you

Joe Henderson

Colton SD

hendu_88@hotmail.com

Comment:

GFP went upon this completely wrong. We recently implemented the PP cubed - which I feel was a great move.

But right away lets make another change. Let the cubed system run its course for a couple years before making a completely different HUGE change....I think the cubed system will answer what people feel to be a problem.

2nd. lets see your study group and who it consists of. I think you should rethink how you are doing your study group. Check out the facebook comments, forums etc. there are not many people in favor for this 46% in favor is completely false. Think about the people of south Dakota first for once, not the NR tags.

Larry Menning

Chamberlain SD

Lmenning@midstatesd.net

Comment:

I have been applying for a Custer State Park deer license for 20 years. I have 20 preference points. This proposed change forces me to choose between applying for a difficult to draw license in CSP and risk drawing no deer license at all and a likely draw in an East River unit where the farm that has been in our family for over 100 years is located. I shoudn't Have to make that choice. Can GFP afford to loose this application revenue?

Anthony Bellack

Brandon SD

hitman23.tb@gmail.com

Comment:

This is a all around bad idea. Many residents will lose out if this passes through.

Benjamin Brown

Pierre SD

Brown.BenjaminJ@gmail.com

Comment:

I am very much opposed to the proposed deer allocation. I don't understand how the department can recommend alternative #2 when all of the numbers from the focus groups and online surveys show alternative #3 as being the favored alternative. I believe that the problem is mainly an East River issue. Don't screw up everything in an attempt to "fix" East River Deer which will never have adequate resources to meet the demand! Second, landowners get half of the tags for a unit. Give landowners free tags good only for their own land or make a rule change that landowners compete for licenses like the general public. Please do not pass this proposal and keep the deer license allocation as is.

Jeremy Kriese

Brookings SD

krieseja@gmail.com

Comment:

I, as well as several other deer hunters I have talked to, very strongly oppose the change to the deer hunting application process. Many deer hunters apply for both east and west river deer tags, and the change is robbing those hunters of the opportunity to harvest a deer in both very unique hunting areas. It will also rob youth the chance to harvest a deer in both areas. One thing that needs to be considered is the fact that mule deer are only present west river. Your proposal would greatly hinder people's opportunity to pursue whitetail east river and the chance at a mule deer west river. Making hunters choose one of the different seasons is a very poor decision, and a step backward for the future of deer hunting in the state of South Dakota. I understand people are upset because they don't draw their preferred license every year, but that is what the preference point system is for, and the proposed change would make some units even harder to come by. Please, I ask you to seriously reconsider the proposed change for the future of deer hunting in this great state.

Jeff Sorensen

Viborg SD

sorensenfam01@gmail.com

Comment:

Plz leave the big game license draw as it is right now. Thank you

Todd Anderson

Miles City MT

TDANDERSON67@GMAIL.COM

Comment:

I support alternative B where as you must apply for 1st choice only for the seasons listed. This will evenly distribute hunters based on their most sought after hunting district. It also decreases the ability to shoot multiple bucks which is not needed. The ability to harvest a buck with a rifle and a buck with archery equipment is fair and keeps the SD hunting tradition. Also, the priority for coveted tags should always should go to residents of SD.

John Smith
Clark SD

Comment:

I do not believe they should be able to close off part of this body of water that is connected to Antelope Lake for personal use. This impacts the employees of the Black Claw that depend on that source of income. This is a selfish move for a family that does nothing for our city, county, or state, but pay reduced taxes on land in Clark County.

Derek Severson
Chancellor SD
Ds10gauge@gmail.com

Comment:

I don't understand why this state has been trying to fix things that are not broken. Nothing wrong with the system we have now.

Renee Allen
Pierre SD

Comment:

I'm against any change to the current deer licenses draw system. Both fix what isn't an issue for most hunters. I only put in for one tag each year. I don't always get up that is my choice. If it was that big of an issue to get a deer tag I along with anyone else could apply in many other counties that have easier draws. The licenses are there for people that want to hunt, kids included if they are willing to travel a county or two away or hunt does. As sportswoman that only applies for one county each year I'm against the change.

Spencer Neuharth
Sioux Falls SD
spencer.neuharth@gmail.com

Comment:

I'm against changing the deer application process. By doing so, you'd be catering to the minority of hunters who favor a new system. Why would you do something even though your polling has shown that the majority of hunters are against this?

Those hunters who want change aren't trying very hard to get other tags if they're only willing to hunt their home county. Why should everyone else be punished who is willing to travel or hunt public land because the populated areas east river have tougher drawings.

Plus, changing the system would hardly change things significantly. By making hunters prioritize east versus west river in a single drawing, they'll all still pick their home county. This won't change that some areas still only give out tags to those with 1+ or 2+ points, and that those with 0 points still have hardly any chance of drawing.

This would be an overreach and oversight by the GFP and Commissioners to make this change. Why did you even collect all that polling data if you're going to throw it out the window?

Nate Johnson

Wall SD

Comment:

I'm opposed to changing the deer tag system. Seems like a way to sell more NR licenses and take opportunity away from hunters that want to hunt multiple area of the great state of SD. Anyone that wants a tag can get one right now, counties all over have hundreds of doe tag left as well as many any whitetail tags after first draw. I don't feel for the ones crying they cant get a any deer tag every year in my home county of Pennington Co. If you want to hunt the opportunities already exist. Thanks Nate from Wall

Grant Manhart

Bath SD

glmanhart@gmail.com

Comment:

Was fishing at Richmond Lake next to young man last week. We talked about hunting and fishing. He was very angry about not getting a deer license last season, and said he simply did not have the spare \$5 to buy a preference point, and said it was just a racket to get more money for GFP. He said loudly "that's it, I'm done deer hunting...they ruined it with the stupid points, and I watched football instead." I too, did not buy a preference point even though I could easily afford it, as could my twin sons: None of us got a license for Brown county to hunt our own damn land.

Soooo You ruined deer hunting for 3 young men and one father with deer eating flowers in his hobby farm lawn with a policy of preference points which is merely a racket....and we are ethically opposed to this sort of thing when government is doing it.

My sons and I are buying Wisconsin tags and hunting my parents 300 acres west of Madison WI....hundreds of dollars each, and not bothering with our home state deer license as we see it as a scam.....this is how screwing with the process affects real people of South Dakota. Don't you guys ever listen?

BTW your "I am not a robot" "click on the picture" was needlessly complex, repetitive and a real pain.....which is what happens when govt bodies get too big....everything becomes like this...like needing a license, a stamp, a conservation card, and a preference point.....and as I type this, my verify expired, and I going to have to do this all over again.....probably going to just leave the site and you will never get this.....ridiculous...I demand that every gfp employee try this page and try to submit.

Younger Kramme

Presho SD

Yjk.james@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Dustin Luebke
Harrisburg SD
Luebke279@yahoo.com

Comment:

Keep the deer tag lottery the same

Bruce Keppen
Sioux Falls SD
bkeppen@hotmail.com

Comment:

please see if hunters are happy with the change in the way preference points work before you change the whole process

Curtis Mincks
Vermillion SD

Comment:

oppose

Derek Haffner
Sioux Falls SD
Derek@green4everinc.com

Comment:

Please do not change the current structure of Deer hunting in South Dakota.

Tylar Solomon
Vermillion SD

Comment:

This proposal is a wolf in sheep's clothing and has nothing to do with resident hunter satisfaction and everything to do with taking tags out of resident hands and putting them in non resident hands at a \$246 markup per tag as well as lining the pockets of big money outfitters with more out of state money. All this will do is drive residents to spend money in other states.

Harrison Hawley
Burbank SD
Hahawley4@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose Changing the ability to draw tags for multiple firearms deer seasons.

Michael Barnett
Sioux Falls SD
Michael.barnett0718@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Matt Schoppert
Sioux Falls SD
Mattschoppert@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Justin Knight
Watertown SD
Advancedconcrete13@icloud.com

Comment:

I have been a deer hunter since I was old enough to have a license. I go east river rifle hunting and west river rifle hunting and there are years when I draw an any deer tag for both sides of the state. Changing this would take away one of these opportunities for me. It is hard to draw a tag for both sides in the same year but I take advantage of the special buck tag and then buying preference points so I can draw for the regular tag the following season. Most people are applying for a certain county and changing the structure isn't going to change what county they apply for. The same number of hunters will be still applying for the county they want to hunt and will have to wait til they have 1 or 2 preference points to draw an any deer tag. I understand the point of the change but I don't think it is fair that hunters would have to pick between going east or west river.

Tyler Hoffmann
Alexandria SD

Comment:

oppose

Ryan Sauter
Lake Preston SD

Comment:

oppose

Madison Holland
Springfield SD

Comment:

oppose

Kevin Davis
Sioux Falls SD
kdavis@sio.midco.net

Comment:

oppose

Tanner Davis
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

I do not support the proposal of reducing tag numbers down to one and letting everyone getting their first draw pick. I am an avid hunter and I apply for multiple tags a year and spend a lot of money doing so. It's the best time of the year to enjoy both east river and west river and it's great land. Even though I draw several tags, I normally do not fill them all because I am selective. Although, the tags in hand gives me an opportunity to hunt all over the state.

Reducing tag numbers will hurt small local economies because you will not have the influx of hunters coming every year. It will also give slob hunters more opportunity that just go out for the social aspect and promote reckless non ethical hunts. The avid hunters in this state are the ones that promote fair chance and harvest and show others by example. Without allocated the chance to show those characteristics you will diminish the sportsmanship that they provide. Also, out of staters will have a better chance of drawing and many of them do not have ties with our great state. Once again, this promotes poor ethics and sportsmanship.

Many residents live here just for the privileges that we have currently. If you strip this from us, they will be forced to spend their money in other states which no one wants.

Please keep the tags the way they are.

Brendan Bares

Tabor SD

Comment:

The proposal is only limiting the hunting opportunities for resident deer hunters who enjoy being able to apply for multiple seasons with a first and second choice in each

Logan Hammer

Wilmot SD

Logan.hammer@jacks.sdstate.edu

Comment:

Why fix something that's not broke? This is a terrible idea! The amount of opportunities for sportsman drops dramatically! Are we not supposed to encourage the public to get out and explore the great areas that our state has to offer? Also, our state will lose a large amount of income that comes from hunters traveling to areas to shoot big game. This is a sketchy idea that really needs to be thought about a little bit more..

Nathan Mortensen

Sioux Falls SD

Nathaniel.mortensen@hotmail.com

Comment:

I oppose this because people should equally have the right to hunt the different areas of the state. Some areas are more popular and that means less chance someone will get a tag there. Plus if archery is not considered muzzle loader should not be grouped in with the others also. I know going in at multiple places I may not always get a tag and that's fine. I don't expect to get a tag at every place I apply that's why I apply for multiple counties and areas of the state. It gives me better odds and I get the opportunity to hunt other areas. By changing the regulations it limits what chances I have and the opportunity I have to hunt other areas. I am then forced to pick one area and take my chances more. I am okay with the current system knowing I may not get a tag some years, some years get one, and others get multiple tags. It's all in the luck of the draw.

Adam Carroll

Rapid City SD

Adamgc3@hotmail.com

Comment:

this only benefits the non residents, not us who like getting multiple tags even if it takes a few years

Derek Garner

Sioux Falls SD

Garner670@gmail.com

Comment:

Leave the rifle seasons the way they are !

Dalton Stack

Watertown SD

dalton.stack@yahoo.com

Comment:

From what I have read and comprehended from all of the alternatives that the state wants to impose, I think it is something that we shouldn't even be considering. What was wrong with the way its been done for the last how many years? What even got brought up to think it was a good idea to change it? The number one priority shouldn't be who and who doesn't get a tag for a certain county, it should be what is best for this county and its deer population. I know a lot of Sioux Falls people piss and moan over having to travel instead of being able to hunt in Minnehaha, but whos fault is that? For the most populous county in South Dakota, obviously the draw success rate is going to be super low. Especially when every Tom, Dick, and Harry that will only choose to hunt around home applies for it. I know hunting in the State of South Dakota is a privilege and not everybody chooses to do so, but instead of displeasing the majority of the state to accommodate 10 percent of the rifle hunting population for a certain county or two, something else must be done.

Lisa Hagemann

Mission Hill SD

lmhagemann@hotmail.com

Comment:

I find it quite interesting that the focus group and online surveys of 2018 did not play to the favor of wanting change yet this proposal is still being pushed through. It seems your statistics did not support your initial hypothesis. Sounds like this proposal should be shot down based on public preference.

Arlan Smedsrud

Chancellor SD

smedsrudarlan@yahoo.com

Comment:

I would agree with applying the new draw to the 3 main west,east and Black Hills. I consider the other seasons to be a special hunt with the odds against you. I apply for two or three every year, I have considerable amount invested in this state and others.

Jim Fousek

Armour SD

jimfousek@hotmail.com

Comment:

I oppose this proposal as I feel many unspoken people have not yet voiced their opinion on this matter. I have spoken with many people and they feel the current system works great. I feel a very very few people are for this proposal.

Andrew Bottger

Jefferson SD

aebottger@gmail.com

Comment:

Please don't go through with these changes. The current system works fine and allows SOUTH DAKOTA hunters better access to the limited number of tags.

As a state agency you should work to make things better for SOUTH DAKOTA sportsmen rather than

James Kruse

Wessington Springs SD

james.kruse@venturecomm.net

Comment:

I am an avid traditional muzzle loader hunter. I usually have to wait 5-10 years to draw my traditional muzzle-loader deer tag. So I can get in some muzzle-loader hunting I am forced to buy rifle but compete with modern rifles. This system would give the real serious "smoke-pole" hunters like myself a chance to choose that first and not against all those who just simply want "another tag" and are not as vested into black powder hunting as I am. I would be ecstatic to hunt more often in my proper season.

Philip Neuharth

Menno SD

pneuharth@hotmail.com

Comment:

I do support option two, which includes all six seasons. I am a hunter who applies for all six and this will greatly increase my chances of drawing the hard to get tags like csp, muzzleloader, and refuge. Thank you for the opportunity for input!

Jim Eidoeff

Tyndall SD

Comment:

What genius came up with this idea? Nothing is wrong with the current structure, if you don't draw, you wait a year or two and then you get it. Some states you have to wait 5 or more years before you get the tag. That's the name of the game. Please leave the draw system alone and let us continue to enjoy our deer hunting.

James Potratz

Sioux Falls SD

james.potratz@hotmail.com

Comment:

I apply for east west and black hills every year. I expect to have seasons were I do not get a license. Leave the system as it is. Do Not Change It

Shawn Rosa
Sioux Falls SD
shawnr487@gmail.com

Comment:

I am okay with making a state wide preference point for rifle deer hunting licenses. But not when it includes muzzle loaders. They should have their own separate draw/preference points. Just like archery. If you are going to group rifles with muzzle loaders you should then make any deer rifle tags state wide just like you do with the muzzle loader.

Jesse Travis
Humboldt SD
Jtravis@goldenwest.net

Comment:

There are many great opportunities in this great state please do not change the way things are

Cody Miles
Mitchell SD
Cody@uppermidwestgd.com

Comment:

oppose

Taylor Tol
Reville SD
taylorktol.29@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Forrest Howe
Sioux Falls SD
Woodranger1388@gmail.com

Comment:

As a hunter who for nearly 20 years has hunted deer in this state and has spent quite a few of those seasons applying for an east river and a west river tag this new system that us being proposed does not make me very happy . I understand that the majority of hunters only apply for 1 tag but rather than take that opportunity from those of us who are willing and happy to put in the travel time I dont feel like this is the best option for state residence. Sounds to me like this is financially motivated to appease non-residence from which you can charge a higher \$.

Brett Herman
Aberdeen SD

Comment:

I would like to take the time to join the large numbers of South Dakota hunters in opposing the proposed changes to the deer tag allocation process. The new changes will take away opportunities for sportsman to take advantage of opportunities on each side of the state. I speak for many when I ask you to not approve these changes, and for once consider what the South Dakota sportsman wants in your decision.

Michael Miller
Dell Rapids SD
Mikemiller1234@hotmail.com

Comment:

SDGFP WHY ARE YOU RUINING EVERYTHING GREAT IN SD. FIRST ITS FISHING NOW HUNTING!?! YOU MIGHT WANT TO REEXAMINE WHO PAYS YOUR SALARY AND THERE STANCE! BUT WHAT DOES IT MATTER YOU GUYS ALREADY HAVE YOUR MIND MADE UP! MONEY HUNGRY CORRUPT GOVERNMENT AGENCY IS ALL YOU ARE! THE END

Dean Ideker
Sturgis SD
dean6851@hotmail.com

Comment:

Please do not change the way we apply for deer tags. It's not a broken system the way it is. Thank you!

Brett Kleinschmit
Yankton SD
brett_antelopecreek@live.com

Comment:

oppose

Paul Merman
Lemmon SD

Comment:

Please do not pass either proposed change to the current draw system. The system works just fine the way it is. If someone wants to hunt every year those changes already exist. Might not be your dream hunt but that's life. Please listen clearly to what the sportsman want here.

Tom Riddle
Mitchell SD
Riddleandsonsgmail.com

Comment:

Leave deer license as they were

Dennis Micko
Estelline SD
dbmicko@gmail.com

Comment:

I strongly object to any change in the licensing process for deer. Making deer hunters choose only one license choice is totally opposed.

Scott Stroman
Sioux Falls SD
sbstroman@sio.midco.net

Comment:

From English Common Law to today, wildlife is the property of the state and therefore of the residents. We residents should have significant priority over nonresidents for tags. You have ruined pheasant hunting while chasing the almighty dollar from out-of-staters. It looks like deer hunting is next.

Paul Nelson
Rapid City SD
wmbell1772@gmail.com

Comment:

I support this change as a way to help deer hunters draw their preferred license.

Tyler Edler
Lesterville SD

Comment:

oppose

Ryan Ulmer

Volin SD

cammoman1969@gmail.com

Comment:

We rely on deer meat for our food and usually hunt east and west river rifle.

Wayne Thuen

Rapid City SD

wayne.thuen@midco.com

Comment:

I support Alternate #2 strongly

Fred Carl

Rapid City SD

fkcarl@rap.midco.net

Comment:

Great modification to the current process Should result in a fair outcome for all deer hunters

Shawn Pliska
Sioux Falls SD
spliska@smithfield.com

Comment:

First of all I strongly oppose any change to the deer allocation process system, NO Change!

How it's stated in the video is misleading that there will be more buck tags available. I am sure there will be leftover tags for areas that have limited access, but you are not increasing the number of buck tags. There will not be any more tags available for the higher requested areas, so what changed? 724 people applied for 250 any tags in Yankton unit in 2017, 125 went to land owners and 137 non-land owners that had 2 years of preference points only of which 125 received tags so 12 people did not get a tag they will have 3 years preference points for this year drawing. 123 with 1 preference point and 339 with no preference points did not get tags. So you have 474 hunter that didn't get a tag for Yankton, so how many are going to apply for next year's drawing? I would bet it you will have same number of hunters applying with or without this new system, so it will be the same as today. It will still take some people 3 years to get a tag and all you did is change system and screwed the guy that does his homework to hunt other areas. Because they find the units are less hunted, builds preference points and get permission to hunt.

Let's say you like to hunt the Yankton and the Blacks Hills. You have to pick one unit using this new system. For your first choice you have to pick just one, ok its Yankton. You will never be able to hunt the black hills unless you pick that as your first choice with this new system. Because the number of the people applying for tag today is more than the amount available for your 2nd choice. That's how I see it. If I am wrong let me know.

For the most part people that don't get a tag are hunting in units that have a higher applications rate with higher people population and or higher public access, like Yankton and the black hills. This will not change. Preference points will be useless, unless you are using it for your first choice for alternative 1 & 2 proposals.

Myself I want more opportunity to hunt Bucks, I don't care if I shoot a deer. But I want the opportunity to do so. Alternative 1 and 2 will force me to hunt other states, which sucks when I am a resident. I hunt antelope, archery deer, WR, ER, BH, & Muzzleloader deer. I don't always gets tags every year, and when I do I don't always harvest a buck, that's my choice! I am my good with what we have now for the deer allocation process system.

You have 250 loafs of bread to hand out and you have 724 that want one. How many are you going to hand out?

Socialism system is not wanted or needed here. Changing our allocation process because someone can't get a tag in a higher requested area is not the way to go. For the individuals applying for Yankton and Black Hills tags, getting a tag every 2 to 3 years is better than never. Please no change.

Kelly Koistinen
Spearfish SD
kkoistinen@fs.fed.us

Comment:

If 46% of the people at the focus group meetings were in favor, then that would mean that 54% are against. Similarly, the 43% of online participants (which there weren't any, unless you polled people, and I didn't get a poll questionnaire!) were in favor of change, then, that would mean that 57% were against! Why are you doctoring your statistics? This is a big lying game by the commission. I was at the focus group meeting, there was no other way to comment unless you did it online. The meeting which I was at, more were against this proposal than for. Also, I talked to others around the State who attended these focus meetings and they said the same thing. More against than for. From what I saw at the meeting, you didn't even poll people. All you did was have us fill out a fake applications to try and skew results the way the commission intended. Talk about not providing transparency! This is nothing more than an excuse for the commission to bring in more money to the department on leftover applications. There was nothing wrong with the system before. Now you are conning people into thinking this proposal is so much of a better process. What a huge lie! If you want to know the real truth, then why don't you poll all deer hunting public. You have all the addresses and names. That is the only way you will get the most truthful results. Poll everyone who hunts deer!

This is a joke. You people on this commission think what you're doing is for the better of the general hunting public, wrong. You're here only for the State's interest. It is a bad idea!!! Just to eliminate the peoples' complaints that they never get a deer license. If those people can't get a deer license in a specific location then, those folks are not in tune with the current licensing process. I'm totally against anything this Commission Proposes anymore. They are out of control changing this and that every week it seems. You don't even care about the hunting public at all, just keep on making dumb proposals. I can read between the lines. I've hunted in this state for 38 years and this commission is out of control. Let Law Enforcement enforce the laws and quit trying to make new laws! Let the Legislature decide on their own if new laws are needed, stop trying to regulate as a member of the commission!

Timothu Foerster
Aberdeen SD
Timf@foerstertesting.com

Comment:

No change!

Greg Douglas
Aberdeen SD
Gjdouglas234@outlook.com

Comment:

Hello, I'm writing this comment to you to oppose the plan to limit or change the current draw system for deer tags. I want to say first to agree with the amendment to the point system With the cubing. However I am completely against changing the system in any other way. I have never had a season in 6 years where I have not draw a tag. Have also never not been able to purchase left over tags. Some years you get no buck tags some years you do. I don't think catering to small percent of hunters who have a issue With the current system is wise. I believe from people who I have talk to personally you will create a larger group of people unhappy with the dept and it actions than you will have by leaving the system in place.

Chris Tekrony
Castlewood SD

Comment:

I harvest multiple deer to feed my family. I dont want to hunt deer in other states. I only hunt private land. I have my son that is 4 yrs old hunt with me. He cannot walk long distances himself on public land. With multiple tags he gets to hunt deer with me for multiple seasons.

Randy Albright
Piedmont SD
Randyalbright2011@gmail.com

Comment:

Our tag system is absolutely fine the way it is. I feel the hunters who support this change do not understand statistics or refuse to apply for other units and weapons. If a hunter wants to hunt every year I feel they should expand their options in both weapon choices and areas they hunt. If a hunter complains about not drawing a tag for 7 years they need to understand the unit they apply for is highly sought after. I moved here from Minnesota 4 years ago and was amazed at the oppertunities to hunt here for residents and non residents alike. People complaining about our current tag system probably habe never hunted elsewhere as I feel South Dakota does a great job compared to my home state of Minnesota. I feel propsed tag changes are fueled more by emotion rather than carefully documented Science and sound management practices.

Randy Albright
Rapid City Firefighter and obsessive deer hunter

Kenny Henrichs
Custer SD
kennyhenrichs@gmail.com

Comment:

As a very passionate South Dakota outdoorsman I strongly oppose the tag allocation proposal. With the newly implemented cube system it needs its own period to work. On top of that here are some of the reasons I see this new proposal as a giant step in the wrong direction....

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 and get our deer hunter population up, 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:

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 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 Robling said that roughly 70% of the deer applicants only apply for 1 firearm season so that is the reason the GF&P 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 chance 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 Robling said that after running some draw simulations, the East River and West River deer draw odds went up roughly 10-15% under either Alternatives 1 or 2, 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 12-17% 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 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 10-15% 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 47-52% 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 tends lead to more poaching and "road hunting". I know this doesn't represent most public land hunters, but this does not help it.

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.

o It seems that the GF&P already has their mind made up and proposed the least-popular option? Why didn't they listen to input from hunters after all the trouble they went to collecting this data?

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. 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 the GF&P thinks they MUST combine units into one drawing, it should maybe be seasons such as Refuge Deer, CSP Deer, and Muzzleloader Deer combined. The strong majority of SD deer hunters hunt East River and West River deer units.

o This combines some of the seasons and is a compromise of Alternatives 1/2 and Alternative 3"

o If you read any of the outdoor publications, South Dakota is being listed as a great "sleeper state" for NR deer hunting. If you look at any desired NR deer tag in other states, South Dakota's NR tag price is very low. If the GF&P is looking to increase revenue, this is one area that would help even at the 8% currently allocated. Examples are... Iowa \$551 (\$112 lic,\$13 hab,\$426tag), Illinois \$410 archery, \$435.00 gun, Wyoming \$374 and Colorado \$379

I strongly hope that this proposal is reconsidered and the current system left in place to promote the outdoor lifestyle here in South Dakota.

Thank you for your time and reading my opinion on this issue.

Derrick Lonas

Wolsey SD

DERRICK.LONAS@YAHOO.COM

Comment:

These proposed deer changes are absolutely ridiculous if you want to help boost your numbers the first thing that should be done is stop everyone from destroying their habitat putting in drain tile everywhere to get rid of the sloughs and everyone pushing in every tree script they own to burn it off so they can plan a little bit more would be the first ways of stopping in helping boost numbers to create more habitat for the deer and pheasants. Another way to boost your numbers would be to start to implement a antler restriction will there be three or four point per side restriction would help boost numbers also some people aren't shooting every deer they see. Another way to boost numbers would be to not have the rifle season during the rut have it before or after like many other states do which is normally after. Another way that would dramatically boost your numbers it's not have the late doe season everybody gets shot late-season it's killing two to three deer per shot if you want those killed do you want to kill those have the season earlier in the year or they're not already bread after the rut. If you changes to go through what happened to all of our points that we have been applying for four years at least individual species with East River West River Refuge Muzzleloader and so on the Octopod combined into one pot or do they all just disappear in the states takes all of our money we've been putting into it

Justin Redmond

Baltic SD

redmond.justin83@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Dean Theisen

Sioux Falls SD

dtheisen@smithfield.com

Comment:

“ I strongly oppose any change to the deer allocation process system. Keep the present system the same.

Thank you for your time”

Charles Hamre

Canton SD

Hamrec27@hotmail.com

Comment:

The only reason people are not getting tags. Is because the deer numbers are down in them areas. What's going to happen when the deer numbers climb back up. Are you going to change things agian. Or go out and kill a bunch of deer off in these areas. I thing you should leave the system alone and wait for the deer numbers to come back.

Ryan Rumbolz
Mitchell SD

Comment:

oppose

Derrick Rauch
Rapid City SD
derrick.rauch@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

James Rauch
Rapid City SD
huntfish_76@msn.com

Comment:

oppose

Hannah Rauch
Rapid City SD
hannahelizabethrauch@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Robert Feldhaus
Huron SD
robertfeldhauss@gmail.com

Comment:

So what's going to happen to all the points people have been buying at \$10 a piece? How about we quit paying the big farmers for all the walk in land that is grazed to the dirt, while their next pasture beside it that they hunt hasn't had a cow in it all year. How about worrying about all the state and school land that is surrounded by private, maybe invest \$100 into some signs so guys can follow the easement instead of leaving it blank for disputes. You wanna make it better for the hunters, then leave the tag system alone and get us paths to all that blocked in public land.

Phillip Schroeder
Pierre SD

Comment:

I strongly oppose this proposal to change the licensing and applications for deer hunting in South Dakota.

John Mcfarlane
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

oppose

Kim Mcfarlane
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

oppose

Pat Malcomb
Sioux Falls SD
pmalcomb@sio.midco.net

Comment:

I believe this will hurt the deer hunting not help it. You will lose thousands of dollars in preference point money as nobody will be applying for the hard to draw tags like refuge or custer park deer. The people that are complaining only want to hunt in their backyard every year and will not travel and spend their money in the state. I say leave as is if you want to hunt deer there are plenty of opportunity as long as you get the preference points.

Dustin Heylens

Volga SD

**Dustin.heykens@producershybrids.
com**

Comment:

I have contacted a few individuals in Pierre along with a commissioner regarding the new way a drawing in for deer tags in the state of SD. I currently live in Brookings county, my family owns and operates land in Brookings county and we have always applied with land owner preference. It is not always a 100% draw but we felt that was fair as most year we have drawn a tag. We have dedicated land to the wildlife in the form of food plots and trees, with no government assistance we leave this land for the wildlife to winter in along with the opportunity for us to hunt in the fall. I also have become close friends with a friend in Jackson county who has been very kind in inviting me to hunt his property for the last 5 years. While hunting in Brookings county I have a neighbor who lets my family and I hunt his property and an uncle who also allows us to hunt his land. From what I have been told I wish to hunt in eastern SD and Western the best option for me is to West river first then draw a land owners tag and not hunt my neighbors or my uncles ground. This process seems that i am being punished for having the opportunity to hunt on both sides of the river. I am very opposed of this new draw system and after talking with a few neighbors that are strongly against this, if this does go through and we are restricted on what tags we can apply for our land will be shut off from all other hunting to the public. Myself and my neighbors have always been opened to letting Duck, Goose and late season pheasant hunting take place on our properties but if we are controlled this way that opportunity for other hunters will end. I hope that no changes are going to be made and we can continue on. Thanks for your time.

Dustin Heylens

Scott Roth

Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

I strongly disagree with a change in the proposed changes in deer tag drawing. If you are telling me that i will draw minnehaha or gregory county every year, then we can talk, but you cant tell me that everyone will draw first choice every year, and that is how this is being spun to the public. Leave the system alone and fix the hundreds of big game road hunters instead.

Jared Kaiser

Sioux Falls SD

pipersd15@gmail.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the new process for applying for deer hunting tags. This new process is completely uncalled for and not necessary. If people want a tag every year they need to learn how to hunt somewhere new within the state. Strongly oppose .

Joshua Hoven

Webster SD

hovenjoshua@yahoo.com

Comment:

Terrible idea, bad for SD

Andrew Sorenson

Mitchell SD

**ASORENSEN.PRECISIONAG@GM
AIL.COM**

Comment:

I was at the Mitchell focus group. I was not necessarily against it at the focus group meeting, and defended the open-minded look from both sides. Upon spending more time thinking about this topic, I really do support the proposal. The fact is, I really only need one main tag to focus on each season. There are still plenty of opportunities elsewhere, so I approve of the proposal. The only reason I did not approve from the beginning was because I did not want to have to re-think my application process and didn't have a problem with the way it was done currently, so I simply opposed change in general. The more I have considered this, the more I realize that there will always be other tag opportunity, but the planning process for ONE main tag focus actually simplifies things for me personally.

Eric Boehmer

Mitchell SD

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Harley Hansen

Stratford SD

harl2hansen@hotmail.com

Comment:

I do apply for ERD as well as WRD. I don't know the specifics of the numbers you presented. How are they broken down county to county. Many of the numbers of tags applied for are applied for in the same counties due to the popularity in certain areas so I would like to see the breakdown of the number of applicants per county. I understand what you are trying to do but this proposal would really make our family outings in the outdoors more difficult to do together. I know you can't please everyone but I would oppose.

Brian Vanderbush

Brandon SD

Comment:

I think this is poor choice, if any thing I would suggest having the drawing for West River and Black Hills a month apart, this way if a applicant is unsuccessful in BH Deer they have a chance/opportunity with the West River deer. I know some people hedge their bet and apply for both, since its a once a year opportunity. Under to current system, a person has the opportunity to do the research and put in for a subsequent drawing(ie East River or muzzleloader).

Erick Okeson

Tea SD

Wildoak1@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Erick Okeson

Tea SD

Wildoak1@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Larry Voss

Madison SD

lvoss58@yahoo.com

Comment:

Just leave it as it is

Doug Brush

Harrisburg SD

sleddog237@hotmail.com

Comment:

For years hunters plan to hunt the seasons they like most like hunting east, west and black hills this is not a good idea it seems like you trying to discourage hunting I believe that the outfitters that are behind this want to make more licenses available to out of state hunters this is not a great plan for the tradition of hunting in South Dakota thank you

Thomas Weisensee

Sioux Falls SD

Weisman06@outlook.com

Comment:

Every Deer hunter that I have spoken with, from East and West river, are opposed to alternatives 1 or 2. Please leave the system the way it is, no change. Very respectfully

Steven Knipfer

Lane SD

SLKNIPFER@GMAIL.COM

Comment:

MY FAMILY APPLY FOR BOTH WEST RIVER AND EAST RIVER TAGS. IT IS CONSIDERED AS A FAMILY OUTING THAT WE HAVE DONE FOR A LONG TIME

Tim Brown

Watertown SD

Comment:

I do not feel there should have to be a first choice between the 6 tags. Definitely not between east and west river as they are two different geographic locations and I enjoy hunting whitetail and mule deer each year. Or the opportunity to as a resident of SD. That's why I live here. Thanks

Kristina Huber

Tea SD

kristinahuber147@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Lawrence Gadbois

Sioux Falls SD

LGAD361859@AOL.COM

Comment:

I HAVE BEEN DEER HUNTING DEER FOR 57 YEARS, HERE IN THE GREAT STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA. MY FAMILY AND I HAVE NEVER HAD A PROBLEM OBTAINING A LIC TO HUNT DEER. PLEASE LEAVE THE CURRENT DRAWING SYSTEM ALONE.
"IF IT ISN'T BROKE DON'T CHANGE IT".

Tyler Hoffmann
Alexandria SD

Comment:

oppose

Jason Schroeder
Mitchell SD

Comment:

I hunt all different deer seasons and if this change is passed I'm afraid it would be difficult to draw tags for other seasons than my first choose. I opposed this change and think our current lottery works as is.

Matt Staab
Brandon SD
sxflls@hotmail.com

Comment:

Very strongly support the new proposal!

Aaron Hansen
Brandon SD
aaronhansen@hotmail.com

Comment:

Not only will the state, counties and cities lose out on commerce from hunters, I believe this proposal drastically affects resident hunters. This is a dumb idea. 1) it takes away from the years of preference points already purchased. 2) do you really think that deer disease will be managed well this way??? I believe worst case scenario would be a minimum of 2 tags- east river and west river but feel there is no need for reductions.

Ken Schaeffer
Lesterville SD
kandl@goldenwest.net

Comment:

I strongly oppose changing the deer application process. Every body has the same chance of drawing a tag. Why does GFP want to fix something that is not broken?

Phillip Steege

Armour SD

Steegep@yahoo.com

Comment:

Please do not go through with this I don't understand why it is even being considered 90% of everybody's reaction that I've seen on social media has been overwhelming against changing the system, my reason personally lies with the traditions that my family and friends have hunting together that would be ruined if this goes through this is a terrible idea!!!!

Kent Siemonsma Siemonsma

Humboldt SD

ksiemonsma@goldenwest.net

Comment:

Leave well enough alone

Benjamin Hammell

Chamberlain SD

Benjamin.hammell93@gmail.com

Comment:

Warden Dianna Langdent is out to harass anyone and everyone on the river. She does not know the laws of wakesurfing and pretends to. Apparently I can only sit on my back seats while the boat is running but not moving. Doesn't make any sense relating to carbon monoxide. There is greater carbon monoxide while the boat is at a stand still than while the boat is moving. I will be at the office to get the actual boating laws that she does not know.

Jeremie Evans

Pierre SD

sdgoosehunter@yahoo.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose this proposal. I feel blessed to live in a state in which we are able to apply for licenses in the listed units for the first drawing and have every bit of what I feel is a fair chance as the next guy due to the point system. I would feel limited if this proposal would pass. I'm part of the 33% of applicants that apply for a license in more than just one unit for the first drawing. I do this by utilizing the tools provided by the SDGFP website (past draw statistics) I also apply for a tag in a unit that is limited in licenses and am fully aware I will not draw that tag every year. So with the system now in place it allows me to apply in a different unit for the first draw as well to better my odds of drawing a license for that year. I feel the lottery system is what it is a lottery and some will have better luck than others. Also I feel that by cubing the preference points only makes this system better. So once again please do not limit the 14 thousand plus applicants that make up the 33%. Everyone has a fair and equal chance with the system we have in place. Thanks

James Evans

Pierre SD

Comment:

oppose

Aaron Callies

Madison SD

Comment:

I think that this is not a good decision for the state or hunters like me.. I try to get tags for all seasons to create more opportunities for me and my family and friends to see more of South Dakota.. and we travel 6 to 7 hours to hunt sometimes and we keep a lot of money in gas stations and business.. I would like to keep it that way..what would they do with the 5 seasons or more I pay preference to would that change as well? I think the system you have now is the best way to keep hunters in South Dakota ..

Garth Virkula

Rapid City SD

Comment:

I do support the change in the drawing structure for deer licenses. I currently apply for three different firearm deer tags every year hoping to get one. This year I will have multiple preference points in two of the three applications. The chances of drawing just one of these deer licenses this year is still probably less than 10 percent. I'd prefer to be able to draw one deer tag every year than have two or three tags in the same year and then wait three to five years to get another tag or tags. If this change will help the hunter have a better chance on his or her preferred first choice then I support it.

Chris Larson

Vermillion SD

cjlarson@nrctv.com

Comment:

I'm opposed to the new deer license proposed rules for 2019. I feel it will give more license to non-residents. I also believe it will make relationships even worse with landowners because there will be more road hunters breaking the law with not enough wardens to handle the rule breakers. There is public land by our farm that gets walked a dozen times opening morning and then they drive around for another two hours. I live and hunt east river but have formed friendships with west river land owners and enjoy a different type of hunt. This will most likely be ruined with the current proposal. Why do we allow unlimited non-resident archery tags and let non-residents get special buck west river tags before residents. No non-resident tags of any kind should be given until residents have had a chance. There are only two reasons for this nonsense: commercial hunting and money. Please don't move forward with this proposal and let my son have a chance to hunt deer in the future.

Rick Drennen
Flandreau SD
rdrennen315@gmail.com

Comment:

Why change a system that is not broken.

Matthew Flannigan
Salix IA
Flannigan2046@gmail.com

Comment:

So will the changes affect nonresident tags? Under the proposed changes, at what point are nonresidents able to apply within the lottery pool?

Matthew Flannigan
Salix IA
Flannigan2046@gmail.com

Comment:

So will the changes affect nonresident tags? Under the proposed changes, at what point are nonresidents able to apply within the lottery pool?

Gary Styke
Harrisburg SD
gstyke@yahoo.com

Comment:

Initially I was very opposed to the changes that have been proposed. I am satisfied with the way the system works currently. However, I am willing to give the proposal a chance (like I have any choice). For me, I would prefer an evaluation period rather than a permanent change. One or maybe two years to see how it works and if the majority of sportsmen are as pleased after that period of time.

Bill Grocott
Humboldt SD
grobi@siouxvalley.net

Comment:

oppose

Kirk Surat
Bijou Hills SD

Comment:

I think this would be a move in the wrong direction. In my opinion this will create even more crowded public land than we already have. As many of the people that draw the leftover tags now are people who actually have some private ground lined up to

Josh James
Sioux Falls SD
joshajames1@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Kyle Michel
Trent SD

Comment:

I think the change would be a horrible move on the states part. If the people complaining are not aggressive enough to go after more than one tag then that's their own problem. You don't win at the casino every time your not gonna draw your preferred tag every year. There's plenty of opportunity if your not lazy. This would be a good reason for residents like myself to start hunting out of state.

Derek Moe
Watertown SD
Moe_derek@yahoo.com

Comment:

Why try to fix something that's not broken?? I am 100% against this change if any change is to be made do some changing with non residents tag amounts! Resident tag amounts and draws are fine and doesn't need to be changed!!!

Jens Holm
Arlington SD
holmjs@itctel.com

Comment:

I oppose this proposal unless no out of state hunters are allowed to apply until after the third draw. The way the proposed structure is worded it looks as though out of state hunters would be considered before all residents have had a chance at available licensees.

Currently I apply for East River and Black Hills deer. This normally allows me to receive one tag every year since it takes two preferences under normal circumstances to obtain either tag.

Also to make the system fair and honest the draw system should not be a form of gambling. Draws should be by true preference. If you have two preferences no one with less preferences should get a tag before you.

Jason Labrie
Rapid City SD
fairchasebones@gmail.com

Comment:

What we have currently in our state lottery is something special for our residents to enjoy. It is what sets us apart from other states where their residents constantly complain because they cannot draw a tag. Here we have the chance to draw multiple and if you apply for multiple tags in our state you should draw something. I'm an avid Hunter and always tell friends and other hunters how great of opportunities we have as sportsman to enjoy big game hunting in our State. If the data is true re:70% of applicants only apply for 1 tag then clearly they really don't care that much about putting meat in the freezer. Also, the data re:70% should be supplied to the public to verify accuracy. I think if this goes through it will be a grave mistake for our state and we will follow suit with other state's residents being dissatisfied with their GFP.

Thanks for your consideration to oppose any changes.

Jason Labrie
Rapid City SD
fairchasebones@gmail.com

Comment:

This is the first I or many Hunter friends of mine have heard of this which is unreal give the claim in the news article says info has been being gathered over the last 2yrs. How was this gained? Are their forums planned?
Thank you

Richard Hartland
Winner SD
rkhartland@yahoo.com

Comment:

our hunting lottery is good as is, why ruin it like other states have. Please leave as is

James Buteyn

Sioux Falls SD

jbuteyn@siouxfalls.org

Comment:

Please do not change this. We are catering to a small portion. There is plenty of opportunity in this state, and to make it so the preferred is drawn will only push out further eastern tags. I apply for several licenses and enjoy the difference between each area of this great state.

Chuck Molstad

Canton SD

sdsu28551@gmail.com

Comment:

As a avid hunter, I STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed change in the deer application procedure. As hunter, each season takes a lot of planning & prep. Each year we collect preference point and work for a strategy for a great hunt. Planning involves family, vacation time, research areas of drought & foliage, summer scouting, hunting equipment and much more. Sure some years, only one tag application is appropriate for ones person factors. But in the long term effort to plan , the hunter should remain to have the chance to use what he or she as planned for. As it may finally work for that Black Hills tag that friends have been collecting preference point and yet having that one rancher say in the same year, "yup you boys are welcome this year, I've got a plenty of deer". Just remember, everyone has passions....golf, motorcycles, camping and the like. But those of MANY OF US, hunting is a year around effort of planning, getting permission, coordinating with family, sons & daughters and finally getting the "PLAN" to come together. Don't remove the valuable options fot multiple tags that are there for today and for all the hunters planning the future hunts for years in advance right now. South Dakota Residence have the opportunity for best hunting opportunities west of the Rocky's, lets keep this intact. Thank you for your considerations in this matter.

Sincerely,

Chuck Molstad

Chris Adams

Rapid City SD

Comment:

Leave the current system in place. I'm 100% against any potential increase in NR deer licenses sold in SD. Under this proposal residents could only have two licenses after the third draw. No one can possibly deny more licenses will be available under the proposed fourth draw vs. the current third draw in which both residents and NR can apply for leftover licenses. If one more NR license might be sold under the proposed change I'm against it 100%. Residents in SD continue to loose hunting opportunities every year. Enough is enough

Gene Wilts

Toronto SD

gwilts@itctel.com

Comment:

If less than half of the survey participants are in favor of change why change. Many hunters have spent time over the years working with landowners and friends to secure hunting opportunities for multiple seasons. Why take these opportunities away?

Steven Johnke

Garretson SD

Comment:

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the deer seasons. Please keep the drawings as they are currently.

Terry Halvorson

Yankton SD

ttlhh4@gmail.com

Comment:

It takes long enough to get tags in my area, why make us make a choice where we want to hunt I hunt bow rifle and muzzleloader east river, west river, and black hills don't want to have to decide which one would be my choice, if this passes my first choice is going to be either Nebraska or Iowa or another state I have been deer hunting since I was 14 so right at last 36 years, in areas I apply for in my area there are only 500 tags, so 250 for public besides more get hit on the road as us hunters harvest so in closing leave it as is only fairest if you apply for 2 to 5 years you will get a tag eventually

Bill Chatwell

Sioux Falls SD

gmchatwell@sio.midco.net

Comment:

As a hunter that frequently applies for multiple deer hunting seasons (ERD and WRD), I oppose this proposed change. I would rather be able to apply for more than one license even if it meant slightly lower odds of receiving a tag. Also, it appears to be clear from both your focus group meetings and online surveys that the majority of hunters do not want this change.

Jeff Peterson

Sioux Falls SD

jpgeterso@yahoo.com

Comment:

Please leave your current preference point system in place. If you do anything a lot more tags for the years of preference and less for those without preference.

Tyler Heiser
Aberdeen SD
theiser100@gmail.com

Comment:

I do not support restricting deer licenses to only one application for first draw. I am perfectly fine with some units being harder and waiting a few years to get a license. I do enjoy applying for multiple units and being able to hunt all different types of area/terrain in my own state.

Stan Mitzel
Sioux Falls SD
smitzel@frynpan.net

Comment:

I emailed about this topic a couple months ago and no one responded to my questions. I am under the belief that this proposal only helps out of state hunters get more licenses and they pay outfitters. That is what you want. Horrible idea. Who are these people who want their preferred license? Where do they live? Ok give every resident their preferred tag without regard to license numbers. No that would increase hunting numbers. You don't even have a majority of people in favor of this.

Derek Landeen
Watertown SD
Derek Landeen

Comment:

My opinion towards draw changes...If you learn the current system you should get at minimum one tag a yr. Most of the ground I hunt is public but between west river rifle, black hills rifle, east river rifle, state wide east river(only private), state wide west river (only private),refuge deer, and muzzle loader I don't see the point in this change because you have more opportunities as it is. At minimum if u stager these out you should have some where around 3 years preference in any of the given options I listed above not including the over the counter archery tag. This will only benefit the guys not willing to try new areas bringing in minimal economic benefits to other communities. If a hunter is willing to try new areas I don't see any problem with the current system. This system has worked for what I believe is the majority of the people for many yrs. The way the new system lines up I believe it will hurt the chances of the guy who has been planning for future hunts on his drawing success. I feel if people learn the current system it'll continue to work in favor of the sportsman!

David Beintema
Mitchell SD
dave.beintema@state.sd.us

Comment:

I do not support any changes to the current draw system. As an avid outdoorsmen and conservationist I do not feel that I should have to choose one type of license over another. This proposal does not benefit South Dakota's management program. There are a few hunters out there who choose to only apply for one type of license in a specific area. My chances of drawing are no different than that person. I should not be penalized because I want to help support management of deer state wide. Also I believe that preference point purchases will be down due to this proposal further reducing management dollars and effectiveness. Thank you for your time and consideration and please leave the draw system as is.

Trent Beintema

Mitchell SD

dave.beintema@state.sd.us

Comment:

As a young hunter I enjoy the opportunities that South Dakota provide me in the current draw system. Under the new proposal I would not be able to experience the hunting diversity that I am currently afforded. I do not support the current proposals for change.

Phillip Campbell

Pierre SD

Waleyhntr@hotmail.com

Comment:

I believe the tag system should stay the same as it is as I believe the limiting of 1 2 3 4 choices will restrict my ability to draw tags in the future years to come I understand that sometimes changes are needed but I don't believe this is the area in which they are needed I think it should be more like the elk tag system of a tier type I have ten years preference for the muzzleloader deer tag so I think that is definitely a tag that would benefit from change but it would be hard to pick a primitive weapon hunt for my 1st choice hunt over say west river or east river tags just my two cents I believe it is not a perfect system and to change to something like this would cause wide spread complaints

Bob Messerli

Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

NO CHANGE! Keep the drawing as is, as it's been for YEARS!

Clay Pearson

Mitchell SD

Comment:

My stepson hunts with his dad east river and hunts west river with me this is a perfect example of why we need to keep it just how the draw is now!!i say keep it how it has been for years Luck of the draw, gives my stepson a chance to hunt with me

Curt Ericks

Rapid City SD

curtsy75@aol.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose this change

Mark Schweigert

Winner SD

RiverBucks@outlook.com

Comment:

It should stay the same in SD as it is. That's what makes this state so special for the residents. The ability to hunt with different means. Leave it alone!

Cole Neubauer

Aberdeen SD

Comment:

This is a bad idea! No change!

Steve Foerster

Brookings SD

Comment:

No change! Not a good idea!

Tom Foerster

Brookings SD

Comment:

please do not change! Stay the same!

Cory Foerster

Brookings SD

Comment:

No change!

Tim Brezina

Brookings SD

Comment:

oppose

Adam Golay
Sioux Falls SD
adamgolay@yahoo.com

Comment:

It looks like the hunters have spoken & 57% of the people don't want it changed & want it to stay the same so why are we still pushing to have it changed? The current system we have is designed to utilize the preference point system if you want your preferred deer license. The reason many people are not getting their preferred deer license is because they are not buying preference points. Preference points provide income for the GFP which I am all for them making a lot of money & they should since they manage it all. But with this change I will no longer buy preference points for different seasons because more than likely there will not be leftover buck licenses to be able to go west river & east river both & or black hills & be able to shoot bucks in all of those in the same year. That just wont happen anymore. Therefore it will force me to pick east river since I am a landowner & that's the only hunt I will go on. I wont need to pay the \$175 fee for west river special buck & also wont need to buy preference point for that anymore because I will never be able to get a buck tag for that since I will choose east river buck as my first choice. This system is not good in my opinion if someone enjoys trophy hunting in south Dakota for bucks in multiple seasons. You just wont be able to do it anymore. It will force guys like me to spend our extra money on Montana & Wyoming hunts rather than multiple South Dakota hunts & we wont buy preference points anymore for deer if this passes.

Martin Hesby
Brookings SD
Mh920u@att.com

Comment:

Strongly oppose any changes to the existing deer season structure. Our current structure works and is fair to all applicants. Limiting hunters to only 1 season in a first draw really discriminated against resident deer hunters who travel and hunt multiple seasons. The new structure won't help those applicants in hard to fill counties anyways. Please dont change anything. This is a BAD deal for deer hunters, but a good deal for city dwellers who only care about shooting a doe in 10 minutes and calling it a season. This would punish the 30 percent who hunt multiple tags each year and contribute to the statewide economy. Respectfully, please do not screw up another area of your department!

Lincol Biermann
Roslyn SD
LincolnBiermann@yahoo.com

Comment:

I think the current application process is great and system does not need to be changed .

Travis Wagner

Aberdeen SD

travistwagner@gmail.com

Comment:

I do not approve of the new structure for drawing tags. If I get a chance to get 2 tags in 1 year for east and west river that would make for a great year. I do not like the fact that well Ill try west river this year for first choice then next year be like maybe I should do East river for first choice. That just SUCKS. Please leave the drawing the way it is and focus on managing the deer populations. If I get to shoot 2 great bucks in 1 year that should be a chance.

Daniel Amen

Rapid City SD

dan.amen@teamridco.com

Comment:

I Fully Support the Proposed Changes to Deer Hunting Application Structure!
Good Idea!

Tom Reenhart

Viborg SD

Comment:

Please leave the draw system alone, it works just fine. There are too many unknowns moving ahead and you are asking for a big mess. Please reject this idea. Thank you.

Rob Schoeneman

Brandon SD

rrschoeneman@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Brad Rundell

Rapid City SD

Bradr@rapidfireinc.com

Comment:

I personally do not want the proposed changes to the deer draws. I apply for several different licenses and do not want to be forced to pick one. Thats the beauty of hunting this state it is diverse in opportunities and this proposal changes all of that. With the amount of leftovers there are now theres no reason someone that absolutely wanted a license could not recieve one. Just because some people are whining about not drawing their number one choice every year is no reason to change something that is not broken. I hope the gfp take the publics comments seriously and not just do what the gfp wants. Thank you

Lindsey Price
Rapid City SD

Comment:

I am very opposed to the changing of deer license drawings. I apply for multiple licenses and do not want to choose between them. Leave the process alone.

Maury Forsyth
Brookings SD
afbluevet@aol.com

Comment:

Quit messing with the deer season draw. The reason we have a draw is that there are more hunters than licenses. By making hunters pick a time you'll just be taking more money from the hunters as we all know when the deer are huntable and when they are not. You will just be getting money from people who will never get a deer. Leave it alone. It's already almost like NASCAR. No one knows why or how anyone gets points....

Anthoni Simons
Faith SD
simonsrifles@gmail.com

Comment:

it is totally unfair to us who have paid preference points fees for the hard to draw deer tags for years and now we are having to choose between one or the other will you give our money back??? no so how about this you pay landowners 20 dollars a deer that is shot let there be earn a buck program in 49A and the rest of the irrigation program where they can put in for doe tags....unlimited doe tags for that unit and they can shoot a doe to get a buck tag for 60....wow you GFP people have depredation hunts wiping deer off of haystacks....that would not require people to have to be worried bout drawing tags cause those would be over the counter....if you make us choose I will be wanting my preference money back or instead of doing that to residents just cut down NONRESIDENT tags and put those tags into the RESIDENT drawing

Kalvin Kurtenbach
Mitchell SD
kalvink1492@yahoo.com

Comment:

I strongly recommend leaving the deer applications and categories the SAME AS THEY ARE NOW!!

Julie Hamilton
Rapid City SD
mystressdragon79@gmail.com

Comment:

With the dilemma of more hunters than deer. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission have proposed a new draw system for hunters to get their licenses. If this proposal does get implemented, during the drawing process, you will choose the DO NOT IMPLEMENT it!!!!

Joel Backous
Aberdeen SD
joelbackous@gmail.com

Comment:

This proposal is ridiculous. You guys manage the deer herds and specify the # of tags available. I will decide if I want to apply for east/west/archery tag. If I get turned down, so be it. If I get all three than good for me. I'm thinking you should shift your efforts to getting back our public waters and not bending over for just the landowners. Your business owners over east will thank you for it. The reetz lake deal just started a precedent that may never stop this shit show.

Robert Naylor
Hot Springs SD

Comment:

As a blackhills deer hunter I think changing the current system is a bad idea. I love to hunt the hills but I'm also willing you travel to hunt. Why change the system for ones not willing to travel a bit to hunt? I may not be able to get a deer license in the hills every year but I can travel 20 miles and hunt every single year in a prairie unit. The system works fine, the licenses are there for everyone. Don't change the system at all please

Adam Carroll
Rapid City SD
Adamgc3@hotmail.com

Comment:

From the polls taken on facebook with multiple hundreds opposed and under 30 for i hope you decision makers take into thought the public opinion. so now instead of having multiple tags opportunities we only have one shot at getting our preferred license. this is a horrible plan. for example getting a wrd tag will now be as hard as getting an elk tag. idk why we are so focused on changing the deer tags system instead of the elk or something actually broken. Im sorry to say but if you go ahead and change this you are going to make alot of hunters who have been supporting you very unhappy. I appreciate all your hard work and time put in but this is not what 80% of the hunters want.

Kevin Bruzelius

Pierre SD

kevin.bruzelius@state.sd.us

Comment:

The hunters are already applying for the season(s) they want, the Commish is trying to play God with the out comes, and are not going to please any more people changing anything, with a possibility of making things worse. It's not broken, don't try to fix what's not broken, I've had years when I got denied, and got over it, that's what pref pts are for. Kevin Bruzelius

Colin Hargens

Miller SD

colinhargens88@gmail.com

Comment:

I have been following this topic and even attended the focus group. I have heard reason from all 3 options and I do not see the need to change anything. It seems that we are more worried about people's feelings instead of the health of the deer herd. It was stated in one of the commission meeting that this was looked at from a social aspect rather than a biological aspect. That right there is where this should have stopped. We need to stop making decisions based on \$\$\$\$. \$\$\$ based decisions are going to ruin deer hunting as we know it for the average joe. Most average Joe's that are voting on this topic are very uneducated about the situation. I know there has been many surveys about this topic. Perhaps GFP should take a look at more than just their surveys. East River hunting and fishing site on Facebook has a survey going on right now and which is made up of hunters, not politicians. Right now the vote for "No change" is at 236 votes. Allocation #1 has 10 votes and #2 has vote 6. That is an absolute upset.

I hope you take a better look at what is better for the deer, instead of, what is going to make the most money!!

Ryley Thill

Johnstown CO

ryley_thill@hotmail.com

Comment:

Changing of the deer draw makes absolutely no sense at all for the general public.

1st: you just started the cubing of preference points, why would you change multiple significant things at the same time. You should at minimum give the cube points 2 years to see what the outcome is.

2nd: hunter retention is going to take a hit Bc you will only have 1 opportunity to take out a new hunter. And if you have only one chance to capitalize on deer for the year, you are not going to spend that time trying to get someone into hunting.

3rd: the guys whining about not drawing every year are applying for one specific area each year and nothing more(they don't look at a second choice or leftovers)

4th: there is not going to be enough of a change because there are too few tags.

Example: 100 tags available for hills any deer, I choose that 1st choice and my odds still suck to draw that, but now I can't even be in any other draw. And these are even worse for out of state.

Barry Betts

Oacoma SD

Comment:

I oppose any changes in the way deer hunters can apply for deer seasons. If someone wants to apply for all 6 seasons, then let him do it and let the drawing decide. That is only fair to all hunters.

Ernie Karst

Castlewood SD

watwholesale4@iw.net

Comment:

oppose

Ryan Ulmer

Volin SD

cammoman1969@gmail.com

Comment:

I eat the meat and generally get 4-5 tags a year!

Tyler Beutow

Watertown SD

Comment:

I like the way the system is now. Because there is at least a chance for us to be able to draw any deer tags for multiple seasons for example east river deer and muzzleloader deer.

Most of the people that I have heard complain about not getting tags had no idea that they need preference points for some counties (codington) , and didn't know that they had to select "buy preference point" on line when applying. You guys fixed that issue on the new website. I just think it needs to stay the same.

Blaine Marlow

Watertown SD

bmarlow34@gmail.com

Comment:

I oppose any changes to the deer hunting structure. Leave it as is, if only 46percent of the people want change why are you having public hearings about it. Can you have public hearings anywhere else how about Watertown or Sioux Falls? These changes are unnecessary, kind of wondering where all this sudden need for a change is coming from. As usual state game and fish is out of touch with outdoors people in S.D.

Harvey Jensen

Oldham SD

furbuster69ner@yahoo.com

Comment:

I feel it should be left alone, apply for the season and locations you want. It's lottery not a guarantee. Run it on preference points solely.

Darby Klein

Chamberlain SD

darbyklein@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Chuck Clayton

Huron SD

clayton@hur.midco.net

Comment:

So a fairly strong majority of the respondents, that were not on the politically picked committees, told you they didn't want change. Do you folks ever listen? What is driving this change? Commercial interests? I have worked with wildlife issues for almost 45 years. The GF&P used to listen to the license paying sportsmen that fund the PR/DJ money, but you folks seem to be intent on changing things to benefit special interests. I served on the West River Deer task force. The politics were all about getting more tags for paying customers. This proposal rings of that. To make it better odds to get a tag.

James Smythe

Sioux Falls SD

wade.smythe@schoenemans.com

Comment:

I think its about time as I have seen several people that draw multiple tags and others cannot get any I think it would be a fair way of doing it

Dana Myhre
Aberdeen SD
dmyhre@abe.midco.net

Comment:

I have spent years developing a relationship with a landowner both east river and west river so I have a place to hunt for each season. It's really disappointing that I now have to choose which license to apply for. As it stands now I only get a license east river about every other or every 2 years. I also enjoy hunting sand lake refuge when I can get a tag which is not very often any more. Now I'll have to completely forget about applying for that license. I cannot express how disappointed I am with this decision. Now I'll have to give up a hunting tradition I have enjoyed for years. Makes me want to spend my sporting dollars in another state!

Bill Hadsell
Brookings SD
bill.hadsell@daktronics.com

Comment:

How specifically do the proposed changes help hunter recruitment and retention? Why does limiting us to 1 first choice improve our odds of drawing a tag vs. letting us apply for several first choices? I don't see any math to support that. The only math being offered is something about % of survey respondents - supporting some kind of change. This feels like there is more at work here than trying to help us poor old deer hunters who already get to apply for several seasons and generally succeed one way or the other. Its not broken - so don't fix it!

Tad Thomchaw
Aberdeen SD

Comment:

Quit trying to spin this as it will help everyone, the fact is Game and Fish does not understand how this will truly work. Do what the majority of hunters want and have stated and leave the structure alone. The current system is just fine.

Dan Amen
Rapid City SD
dakotainc@gmail.com

Comment:

I do fully support the change!!!!

Terry Halvorson
Yankton SD
ttllhh4@gmail.com

Comment:

I am apposed to changing the app process for applying for tags for one thing I hunt in 3 or 4 areas , east river west river , black hills , and muzzle loader and archery east river and west river along with 2 other friends we always apply for each season first choice , so 2hat happens now we have to apply for just one season first.choice , and if we get it have to wait till 3.rd.drawing to apply for other seasons, so in other words you have just eliminated 3 hunters for 3 seasons, dont see any point of even applying for next year , might have to go to Nebraska to hunt can apply and get tags first time every time , people that just apply for first draw don't really matter the older hunters like myself do have been hunting for 36 years now

Seth Dawson
Howard SD
dawson867@mitchelltech.edu

Comment:

I strongly appose your changes to the deer draw, leave it as is.

Garrett Cameron
Yankton SD
airwolf79@live.com

Comment:

I don't like the idea at all and don't think it does anything to address the problem it is meant to address. The preference point system helps everyone to get their fair shot at getting tags in a given area. All Hunters can choose to hunt in any county or area where tags are easier to come by.

Scott Guffey
City SD
guffeyscott@gmail.com

Comment:

I support the SDGF&P proposed change. I was a participant in the Rapid City focus group and coming in to the meeting I was in favor of some sort of change. The only deer rifle tag I really desire is a Black Hills whitetail tag. For the past decade I can only draw that tag after I have received two preference points, So every third year I get to rifle hunt where I want. I feel the proposed change should dramatically increase my odds of drawing that tag in a shorter time.

At the focus group in Rapid City, there was a gentleman at the beginning of the meeting vehemently opposed to any change to the current draw system. After Kevin Robling did an excellent job explaining the various scenarios, the gentleman that was opposed at the beginning of the meeting was a convert to support a change. He realized this would increase his odds of drawing the tags he most desired. I think there is a lot of rumors floating around on social media and I see people of strongly opposed to any change, but I think if most people would take the time to study the issue and listen to the Kevin's presentation. They would realize how beneficial it will be to them and the future of deer hunting in the state.

William Albers

Rapid City SD

wmalbers@checkerelectric.com

Comment:

I always apply for 2 firearms Deer seasons every year. It usually takes 2 years to get a black hills deer license but I don't mind. I also apply for west river deer and I get that tag every year. Changing it so I can only apply for one does not benefit me in any way. I also am applying for a east river deer tag this year and I wouldn't be able to do that either. This is not a good idea. Making it harder to get multiple tags will just make me not be able to harvest as many animals which is not a good wildlife management plan.

Kyle Wilson

Mitchell SD

Klwilson@santel.net

Comment:

By the numbers, it appears that less then 50% of people support the change. In my opinion a change as drastic as this one should be put on a ballot and voted on and not just in the hands of the GFP commission, then and only then will it show what the hunting community of South Dakota wants.

Bruce Gill

Rapid City SD

hd57x13333@yahoo.com

Comment:

It's already difficult to obtain a preferred tag in a preferred area...being able to only submit 1 application on the initial draw is very restrictive....if this passes my 50 years of deer hunting in South Dakota will end.

James Winkels

Rapid Cityh SD

winks450@msn.com

Comment:

IT'S NOT BROKEN, DON'T FIX IT! This proposal only works for those hunters that hunt only one rifle season. Please don't change it....

Jeremy Johnson

Milbank SD

johnsonjeremy@johndeere.com

Comment:

I don't see why you would really change something that isn't broke. I think we need to focus more time and energy and funds to try and get our youth into hunting and the great outdoors.

Charles Abt
Rapid City SD
cwabt17@live.com

Comment:

I have no issues with the current structure. I do however have issues with the lottery draw structure. I went 10 years of preference to draw a Black Hills Deer Tag. Unacceptable. That is the system that needs SDGF&P Commission attention and needs to be fixed soon. When first year applicants can draw before someone with 10-15 years of preference points... then the system is broken. Please look at adopting a similar system to Wyoming. That seems to work and the hunters know how long it takes to draw a tag and can plan accordingly. The licensing/tag application process is not broken so please don't change it.

Andrew Cameron
Harrisburg SD
acams19@hotmail.com

Comment:

Why are proposals being made against what the people want? None of the results you gathered from the public are majority rule in favor of change. Of course more people that apply for only one license are going to be in favor. 72% of 67% of the deer hunters in SD is not a majority. It is almost like someone or some small group of people want this so bad they are ignoring the public views. This change caters to those who hunt the least...those who want to drive a few miles....those that aren't spending money on the road, giving back to our states economy.

Scott Kuck
Aberdeen SD
kucklaw@nvc.net

Comment:

This is a classic example of a government bureaucracy searching for and miraculously finding a solution to a problem that DOES NOT exist. There is no reason to change the way deer licenses have been issued for the past several decades in South Dakota.

Looking at the numbers and charts provided in the presentation shows that a rather significant majority of the people in both the focus groups and in the online survey OPPOSED the changes proposed. 56% wanted NO CHANGE to 44% who wanted either alternative 1 or 2. They had to combine those who chose Alternatives 1 and 2 just to get that 44% number. If you compared the alternatives individually, No Change is far and away the choice of those surveyed. Further, when asked which alternative was preferred, the vast majority of those in BOTH the focus groups and in the online survey selected Alternative 3--No Change. Alternative 2, that which is being proposed, was the LEAST favorite alternative of all those surveyed.

The Department's own numbers don't even come close to supporting the changes being recommended here.

I would strongly urge you to oppose this change. It is not needed, and the numbers simply don't support it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Scott Kuck--Aberdeen

Dakota Case

Tea SD

dakota.case2@gmail.com

Comment:

Limiting the deer hunting opportunities for resident hunters just to make a few extra bucks off non residents is unacceptable. Also hurts the small towns across the state that benefit from the multi-season hunters.

IF you were to combine any, West River and East River should become one season, while Black Hills, CSP, Reserve and Muzzleloader deer should all be separate.

However, best thing is to not mess with things at all. We're happy with accumulating a few extra preference points if it means more hunting opportunities for deer statewide.

Thomas Wulff

Watertown SD

Comment:

Why restrict deer hunters. Just because one cranky old man east river can't get his tag doesn't mean I shouldn't be able to draw any and all tags I have the preference for. This is the United States I thought, where we have freedom to do whatever we want. I didn't know we had to share the deer tags with everyone who can't get the one tag they try to get every year.

Bradley Olson

Astoria SD

olsonranchs@outlook.com

Comment:

Leave a great system alone listen to the people for a change.

David Delsoldato

Rapid City SD

ldelsoldato@q.com

Comment:

Noooooooooooooooooooo

Travis Kaiser
Brookings SD
valleygirl4220@gmail.com

Comment:

Why would you approve something less than half of the people responding support? This proposal is ridiculous and shows that the GFP is out to make a profit and that's the one and only reason. I fully oppose this new drawing structure and can't believe this is even being considered. This is a joke and is going to make me spend my money out of state instead of in state. This is a ridiculous proposal.

Laci Meisenheimer
Brandon SD
meisenheimer.laci@gmail.com

Comment:

I don't agree with this drawing change. I feel some of the people that out in their preference pints in a specific county deserve the chance after the number of years to draw. I think the change will decrease preference points fees and in turn increase the license cost. If the proposal is to try to increase resident hunters I think it will turn away many. I myself will pay the preference points just to keep that seasons chance even if I can't go. If tag prices go up you will have hunter numbers drop.

Travis Hansen
Worthing SD
thansen87@yahoo.com

Comment:

Raise the number of special Buck licenses and leave the draw process the same.

Pamela Winkels
Rapid City SD
winks450@msn.com

Comment:

I am 100% opposed to this proposed change. My family and I hunt more than one season and should not have to choose which season to hunt. This is no different than disallowing our right to vote on all items listed on a voting ballot.....

Megan Winkels
Rapid City SD
meganwinkels@hotmail.com

Comment:

I do not support this proposal as this change is unnecessary. There is nothing wrong with the current system.

Jeffery Wilson
Box Elder SD
jvic@rap.midco.net

Comment:

oppose

Larry Crawford
Sturgis SD
toww@q.com

Comment:

My 70 years hunting in the fields of South Dakota indicates that limiting applicants to one area application for the first draw is another stupid idea that will drive more people to give up hunting . I would like to hunt a mule deer in the west river area so I make at least two applications per year and then as these usually fail in the so called lottery system, I apply for my best chance for an east river deer for a supply of deer meat. I applied for an elk tag again this year as I have done for nearly 20 years , that is probably the last, I am now too old to handle that big of an animal and if you make this change It will most likely be the last for deer also. Stupid rules and making sure your special friends and important people have permits has done more than anything to drive ordinary people away from hunting in South Dakota.

Adam Seeklander
Miller SD
aseeklander@yahoo.com

Comment:

I enjoy the opportunity to apply for both West River deer and East River deer as my father in law lives West River so I can go and hunt with him then can hunt West River with my boys the following weekend. If you change the drawing so you have to choose only one season I would have to choose between going hunting West River or East River. I like it the way it is so I am able to do both.

Robert Borries
Summerset SD

Comment:

South Dakota's draw system is absolutely perfect as is. Don't change it.

Drue Schroeder
Rapid City SD
drue.schroeder@bldr.com

Comment:

I really like the idea of improving everyone's odds to draw their desired deer tag each year. Hunting as a tradition and way of life is losing valuable members when people are forced to sit on the sidelines for multiple years waiting on a tag. My one concern or question would be: With the Black Hills season having the most available land to shoot a deer on public ground (state and forest service) will more people from across the state choose this as a first choice knowing they can draw less desired east river tags where the majority of the land is tied up in private ground? I know a lot of hills hunters who never travel east because of lack of ground to hunt while any east river resident can travel west and have thousands of acres of public ground to hunt. It's just a thought that came to my mind when thinking of the pros and cons of this idea. Overall I love the idea and hope it allows my family more opportunities to get out and enjoy our beautiful state pursuing deer.

Pamela Scouten
Pierre SD
pamelarae_05@hotmail.com

Comment:

I hunt public land both East and west river and would prefer the way I apply separately for each did not change.

Mark Kolb
Aberdeen SD
Mrchitchat1@yahoo.com

Comment:

For the past 3 years I have not gotten a buck tag or even got a shot off at any deer for that matter, so I propose if you don't get a deer you can turn your tag into GF&P to get a better chance at a buck tag the following year. (AKA extra preference points instead of constantly having to buy points and still get denied!!)

Mike Coleman
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

I like the proposed change and support the proposal.

Justin Brown
Freeman SD
Briwner1387@icloud.xom

Comment:

Do not under any circumstances change the waybtags are draw. The system works great allowing me to both a east river and west river tag. I can say i am fully against any changes as well as everyone I have talked to. Also have Ben told the only reason for the push for changes is to get more out of state hunters a chance at a tag. Not impressed at all

Kyle Stoltenberg
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

I usually draw my preferred county east river every other year with rifle. Considering the high number of hunters this is satisfactory. Most people expect to get an any deer tag every year but with the EHD effecting the herd this is not possible and they want a change to the draw system. A total overhaul of the system is not needed.

Dave Schlosser
Aberdeen SD
dschlossr@msn.com

Comment:

Dear GF&P Commission - I don't see how the change to only allowing one license in the first draw is going to make that much of a change in a person's chance of drawing an any deer tag east river. It may fee up some west river mule deer first choice tags but the individual will still have to find a place to hunt. Although not in favor of the change I can see where someone would argue you have to choose between an east river, west river, or black hills tag. However, GF&P Commission needs to leave the late season muzzleloader, refuge, and Custer State Park drawings as is. These applications/drawings should remain the same and could be called a specialty tag. Under the proposed new system I will probably never apply for a late season muzzleloader or a refuge tag because my first choice is always going to be an east river tag. I see "nothing" wrong with having multiple tags every 2-4 years especially if that second tag is what I would call a specialty tag. I would prefer the current system stay in place. Everyone may not get a buck tag each year but I believe everyone who wants to, can still get a doe tag. Thank You - Dave Schlosser

Jaron Anderson
Brookings SD
Janderson@amcm-online.com

Comment:

oppose

William Locken

Lead SD

Wjlocken@gmail.com

Comment:

We need to do what we can to keep as many people interested in hunting as possible and this change will a long ways in doing just that.

Anthony Filholm

Brookings SD

anthonyfilholm@hotmail.com

Comment:

Anthony Filholm of Brookings opposes making any changes to the existing draw structure. Using your own focus group numbers, the majority do not want change. Please keep the will of the people in the forefront.

Patsy Carney

Rapid City SD

tigerrose.pcs.1968@live.com

Comment:

i strongly disagree! myself and a lot of my friends/family apply for more than one of the six seasons. I am from a very long tradition of hunters. I respect the animal that i hunt. i do not kill what i will not eat. i hunt to fill my freezer. if i am allowed only one choice and only one tag i won't be able to put supper on the table every night

Marvin Bouska

Rapid City SD

jmbo@midco.net

Comment:

What has prompted this proposed change in allocating or drawing licenses for rifle deer seasons?? Why "fix" the already complex and almost incomprehensible application process?? I am strongly opposed to these changes, as they will reduce the options for those who just simply wish to draw ER,WR or BH tags for antlerless or any wt deer for the freezer. Returning to apply for leftover or other tags with a non-refundable \$5 point charge would likely be part of this scheme as well. Your current website is also very difficult to navigate, and I have yet to discover how to get a "map" with description of boundaries and season dates without choosing a unit, if even then it is possible. This used to be an option that was easier to find. I navigate complex medical insurance sites, Medicare and HIPPA websites regularly in my business and they are simpler than trying to apply for a deer license in this state! I encounter the "website is currently not working messages regularly on the GFP website."

Robert Rowles
Rapid City SD
bobr549@yahoo.com

Comment:

I support the proposed change to the deer hunting application process. I only apply for Black Hills deer so I can hunt without driving an hour or more. The current process only gets me a Black Hills deer tag every two to three years. I would like to hunt within a few miles of my house every year.

Mike Kintigh
Rapid City SD
Mike.kintigh63@gmail.com

Comment:

I have 1 place I want to hunt deer each year, the family ranch in Custer Co. If i dont draw that tag - i don't hunt deer. I feel the proposed changes will greatly improve my chances of hunting deer each year. Please vote in support of the proposed change!

Joshua Petersen
Rapid City SD
muddyjeep22@gmail.com

Comment:

I want the drawing structure to remain the same.

Randy Zoss
Mitchell SD
randyzoss@centurylink.net

Comment:

I believe that the new system will deter dedicated hunters and not attract new hunters. It has been hard enough to draw more than 1 desired at a time with the old system.

Matt Tweet
Chester SD
matt_tweet10@hotmail.com

Comment:

if i understand correctly, for those of us that are east river land owners, we will not be able to get a west river tag and still be able to have our east river land owner tag.

is this true?

Marty Keegan

Yankton SD

marty.keegan@state.sd.us

Comment:

I do not think the black powder should be included in the list of the 6 seasons. it is a completely different weapon and should be treated like archery on its own.

Mark Clausen

Pierre SD

mark.clausen@dot.gov

Comment:

I support this proposal with one suggested revision. I do believe that the archery season needs to be included in the group. If a person applies for an archery license then they should not be able to apply for the first drawing of any of the rifle seasons. Understand there is no quota on the number of archery tags distributed, but I do believe this revision would affect the results for all of the rifle seasons. Archery hunters are having a huge affect on the number of bucks being taken before any rifle hunter ever has an opportunity at them.

Keenan Roth

Watertown SD

Waleyemagnet@gmail.com

Comment:

The current system may have a few flaws but in general it works very well. With the proposed changes we won't really gain anything except for more non resident hunters getting tags that residents should be getting. Even if you have to wait a couple years to get your desired tag there are still plenty of good tags available for opportunities to go deer hunting

Shane Stanley

Hot Springs SD

hunterfan_31@yahoo.com

Comment:

This is the dumbest thing ever.i have 4 people in my house that apply for every season because we rely on deer for food. taking away the opportunity to apply for different reasons is stupid.this should not be passed.

Darrel Killion

Madison SD

killiond1@yahoo.com

Comment:

I am not convinced that this measure would retain existing hunters as well as add additional new hunters. I have hunted deer here in SD for better than 50 years and over that 50+ years I have taken the time to teach several young people how to hunt all species including deer. I hunt West River, East River, Muzzle-loader and occasionally Black Hills and refuge seasons. Over the years I have rarely failed to get a tag on the first draw across multiple seasons. Perhaps it has to do with the particular units I select as I know some units are harder to get a tag than others, but I suspect that has more to do with human populations being higher in some counties as compared to others. Most hunters are not willing to hunt in counties (units) that are distant from their home county for a number of reasons; the most significant factors being distance and unfamiliarity with distant units with regard to deer herd location and land access.

As far as new deer hunters go, most people do not learn to hunt deer on their own. Most learn because someone took the time to teach them and fewer and fewer people take the time to really teach our youth to love hunting of any kind, much less deer hunting. The current youth hunting seasons are excellent ways to accomplish this, but for it to make a difference, existing hunters have to take the time to actually involve their kids in this activity and far too many simply are not willing to take the time. Changing current seasons as proposed will not have the affect you are looking for in my opinion.

Additionally, I think it safe to say that deer hunting does not lend itself well to texting, emailing, surfing the web and playing games. The idea of getting youth to leave their cell phone home or in the pickup for a few hours is simply not something today's youth are inclined to do. Their social network if far more important to them. You cannot force them to become deer hunters... they must be willing to learn the activity and technology really complicates that willingness to learn.

In my opinion, I believe more focus needs to be put on getting existing hunters inclined to involve youth in the activity. As I said, the youth seasons are a good way to make this happen, but existing hunters need to be a major part of that process... and that is where the problem is.

Tifany Petersen

Rapid City SD

Comment:

oppose

Keith Fortin

Sioux Falls SD

kfortin@lewisdrug.com

Comment:

I have been a hunter in SD for 48years. I support the deer application process and seasons as is! Everyone I talk to says the same! Hope you are not trying to change this to get more out of state Money. Seems like it is!

Ken Steiner
Pierre SD
tbfugus@hotmail.com

Comment:

So if I read this correctly that 46% in attendance are for the change. Written was down to 43% for a change. That would have me believe that 54% and 57% would rather have it stay the same. If these are true numbers that are being used and the commission still adopts and makes a change they should ALL be dismissed. These numbers appear that the majority of us hunters want the system to stay the same. Maybe the Governor needs to look into this sooner rather than later.

Greg Schweiss
Rapid City SD
schweissrc@aol.com

Comment:

I am opposed to the proposed new structure. I participate in an annual family deer hunt in the west river deer season. The new structure would virtually eliminate the possibility that I could ever get a Black Hills deer license (which I currently do once every 2 or 3 years) without giving up my family hunt in the west river season. The current structure is fair for all.

Jason Meyer
Huron SD
jmeyer@santel.net

Comment:

The system we have now is fair for everyone, why change it to benefit the individuals that only apply for one season? It seems like those of us that hunt all across the state are losing an opportunity?

Stacey Bork
Valley Springs SD
stacey.bork@state.sd.us

Comment:

Less than 46% of the people you have received response from so far want ANY change, yet you are doing so anyway? Why? Who is more important than the majority? The people who apply for more than one season, it the REAL WORLD are your most loyal CUSTOMERS. You are looking at it all backwards by only looking at the single season applicants. You have been looking at ways to get those with more preference points their preferred season, which is great, but don't change ten things at once when possibly only one or two are required. You will end up not really knowing which change is effective.

Keith Christianson

Volga SD

walleye621@outlook.com

Comment:

I would rather muzzleloader deer be kept out of this new system.

Adam Glover

Elk Point SD

aglove75@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Jon Olson

Sioux Falls SD

jbolson426@yahoo.com

Comment:

I am 100% in favor of option #2.

Tim Licht

Fedora SD

Comment:

The application process is just fine the way it is....if you take someone like myself who applies for multiple tags each year , all you need to do is have different preference points for each season....ie west river I have 6 preference...muzzleloader I have 3 ...hills deer I have 7 years...east river I have 1

And archery is guaranteed so I usually get that tag.

If I don't draw my tags for either counties I put in for first draw...I apply for a second drawing tag and hunt somewhere new usually...which is fun to hunt a new area.

Theres nothing wrong with the system we have in place...you pay for the preference points and draw when you get enough points...and if people looked at the draw odds you can scientifically analyze what tag your most likely to draw.

I do think the cubing of the big game points is a great thing...not guaranteed still but those who have applied for years get a better chance to draw than someone that has never applied before.

I think Non residents should have a lesser chance to hunt than those of us who live in our state and pay taxes and fees to help the wildlife thrive....

Plus the tag amount for non residents should be increased dramatically at least doubled in price...theres way to much of personell injuring animals with no regards to to overall health of our deer herds

The wildlife should be enjoyed by all...and I don't mind waiting the 5-8 years to draw a great tag with the opportunity to harvest a trophy animal

William Rozell

Warner SD

**WILLIAM.ROZELL@JACKS.SDSTA
TE.EDU**

Comment:

This seems like a terrible idea for the majority of hunters as it is only being proposed to satisfy the needs of the higher population areas such as Sioux Falls. The current system has been working perfectly for many years. It would be very disappointing if the system changed and punished those who are passionate about this state and the hunting tradition.

Tom Kuck

Aberdeen SD

mrduck@abe.midco.net

Comment:

Leave it as is.

Bruce Keppen

Sioux Falls SD

bkeppen@hotmail.com

Comment:

The majority of the people at the focus groups and those who commented were NOT in favor of the change. The change is proposed anyway?. Apparently opinions of the hunting public is not important. GFP has made the decision and public be dammed.

Tony Herrick

Parker SD

dmusicman1@yahoo.com

Comment:

support

James Barnett Jr

Sioux Falls SD

jmbarnett15@hotmail.com

Comment:

My personal feelings in regards to changing the application process is that it is unnecessary and that the present system works well. I might suggest that different seasons have different deadlines as if I knew for example, that I had drawn a west river tag I would not apply for a black hills license. I have looked at the Wyoming web sight at antelope licenses and they list units that are difficult to access; perhaps the applications could include some notation as to certain units that are difficult to draw, maybe even include a statistic such as 0% chance to draw without preference. I feel like there is a lack of understanding on some peoples part about how the drawing process works. I have talked to many people who put in for a county with say 100 any deer tags first choice and for a second choice put in for another county with only 200 any deer tags. They are unlikely to draw the first choice without preference and extremely unlikely to draw in their second choice as if they had looked at past draw statistics, their 2nd choice always sells out in the first draw. I would like to see it continue as it is where a person can hunt in several of the seasons, with our first or second choice tags, as we can now.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jim Barnett, Jr

Clark Baker

Sioux Falls SD

clarkbaker27@yahoo.com

Comment:

I don't believe you figures on hunters who want to change the Deer Application process. Every hunter I talk to thinks this a terrible Idea!!!!!!Leave the current system alone..It is not broke..

Jamie Miller

Sturgis SD

Comment:

I received the email about the possible changes to deer tags. Even after watching the video I don't agree that any changes need to be made. Also if the majority of people surveyed want no change why are you trying to change it? Please leave it as is.

Thanks,
Jamie Miller
Sturgis

Adam Deslauriers

Aberdeen SD

Comment:

I strongly support alternative 3 no change

Adam Hansen
Beresford SD
Hansen_21x@hotmail.com

Comment:

I support alternative 3

Eric Nesheim
Baltic SD
eric_nesheim@yahoo.com

Comment:

As a passionate deer hunter I feel like alternatives 1 and 2 take away my privileges of deer hunting and give to someone that doesn't care for hunting and the outdoors.

Nick Reiff
Renner SD
Nreiff@eastriver.coop

Comment:

support Alternative 3

Clinton Deboer
Tea SD

Comment:

It could be valid to put West River and East River together. I think you will end up with more upset people, and less hunters.

Chris Duklet
Watertown SD

Comment:

Generally I'm fine the way the seasons are today. If people only want to hunt one county that is their choice.

To me if you want to spread the deer around include the bow hunters in this process. For the first draw make hunters select if they want to bow hunt or rifle. Then in the third draw allow the bow hunters to select from the remaining rifle tags and the rifle hunters to select an antlerless bow tag. Let's be honest, most good bow hunters are bucks with bow and if they draw, bucks with rifle. This will help spread the bucks around to more people.

I'd also limit the amount of tags. You run into guys who have 5+ deer tags legally. There is no need for that.

Kevin Sabers

Salem SD

kevsabers@yahoo.com

Comment:

I am very opposed to the changes. I like our current license structure and feel there is no need for change. In addition, every Hunter in my family (at least 9 of us) and every friend of mine that deer hunts, are all VERY opposed to the new changes. Please do not let this happen. It is not the hunters that want change. Furthermore, no one I spoke with was a part of any survey or research on this subject matter. Thank you.

Merle Gall

Tripp SD

mgall@mettlerinc.com

Comment:

Leave it the way it is

Adam Golay

Sioux Falls SD

adamgolay@yahoo.com

Comment:

I hope the GFP realizes that their income from preference points is going to decrease substantially. The 11000 or however many people it was that hunt 2 or more seasons more than likely spend a lot of their hard earned money on deer hunting. If I have to choose east river or west river as my first choice then for the other season I will no longer buy a preference point for it because I won't get to hunt bucks for it more than likely. GFP is going to make less money because you are replacing hunters that spend more money throughout the state & replace them with local hunters that more than likely won't but motels & travel across the state to hunt. This proposal is a bad idea. Wyoming, Montana & Iowa will love this proposal because they will get the extra hunters that you told couldn't shoot bucks in multiple seasons in the same year. They will find other states to spend their hard earned money in.

Mark Herman

Ipswich SD

mherman187@yahoo.com

Comment:

Do not change the license structure. It is already a lottery and this approach appears to limit the hunting experience rather than enhance it. If this moves forward you may lose a great deal of decimated outdoorsman and revenue. If you want to help residents possibility of drawing a desired tag, eliminate out of hunting licenses.

Thad Nafziger

Pierre SD

Thadnafziger@yahoo.com

Comment:

This issue needs to be addressed at a county/unit level..whomever is clamoring for changes because they cannot draw first choice..address their particular county or unit with more allocated tags..do NOT change the whole system..in the end you will lose hunters (such as myself) & defeat your own purpose for change by limiting choice more....at least under current system if you don't draw most desired tag in a particular county on one side of the river..the odds are still pretty high of getting your first choice on the other side of the river..ridiculous proposal..gonna make everyone choose one or the other..& in the end you'll end up with more leftovers..I suppose that is your plan all along,& then start selling more out of state tags..& eventually selling out of state tags in east river counties(all at a higher price)..you people are pushing the little guy/common man out..commission is out of control..& for all you guys preach about transparency there is very damn little..I'm a life long resident license holder in this state..to include many big game tags over the years..I know of nobody that supports this proposed change..I was picked for the focus group in Pierre on this proposal..NOBODY I talked to at the meeting was in favor..nor do I know anybody who supports this change..so I truly believe your numbers are screwed as to percentage of people that want this change..I know I will quit hunting all together because of this..it's really the last straw in a very long list of unwarranted changes to MY birthright..& heritage as a hunter that continue to be implemented..very much appears the gfp..& gfp commissions unbridled power are bound & determined to make it tougher for the common man/woman/youth to continue to have a hunting heritage...& appear to have no regret in losing people like myself....completely disagree with this proposed change..if it's not broke don't fix it..please do not move forward with this proposed change..a life long CONCERNED resident hunter

Scott Kohlenberg

Mitchell SD

Comment:

oppose

David Frankenbery

Custer SD

flintlock5000@yahoo.com

Comment:

oppose

Kurt Bassett

Volga SD

Bsssettkd@gmail.com

Comment:

You conducted both focus group meetings and online surveys and in each case, less than half of the participants were in favor of the proposal. So you're going to go ahead with it anyway. Do you all need to go back to school? This defies simple logic. In case you haven't figured it out, all those people who only apply for one unit every year are going to be the same ones applying for those same units under the new plan. Their odds will change imperceptibly, they'll still be mad that they don't draw "their" unit every year and they'll still be complaining. Meanwhile, the majority of your constituents whose opinion you've chosen to ignore, will have lost any confidence in your department. I for one will stop sending preference point money into your coffers.

Mike London

Sioux Falls SD

londonarrow@gmail.com

Comment:

This is not in the best interest for resident deer hunters, especially for residents who manage deer herds on private property. This seems to something that will benefit non residents hunters and outfitters the most!

Jim Barnett

Sioux Falls SD

jamesmb7757@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Steve Moses

Rapid City SD

jdslr@rushmore.com

Comment:

Leave it the way it is it works

Derek Moe

Watertown SD

Moe_derek@yahoo.com

Comment:

So in reading your last email sent out with all the statistics like 35,140 residents applied for only 1 deer tag how many of those residents applied for a preference point for another tag because of draw stats???? Knowing they won't draw but still want the point and now your telling me when I want to try to apply for a limited license unit like refuge etc.... that if I don't draw I'm probably not drawing a buck tag this year??? This is not right!!!! Find others ways to make your money from the state and leave hunting and fishing alone! We already screwed up fishing for good why do the same to our hunting???????

David Strasser

Lennox SD

davegail@midco.net

Comment:

I think it is a positive for the average joe who can only do one hunt, and are competing against those that apply for MULTIPLE licenses.

BUT, you did nothing with archery. Why does archery get all the breaks as 1st to go after the good bucks, and hunt anywhere. That is a topic that needs adjustments. With the new technology of equipment it is not needed to give them an advantage.

Tanner Johnson

Aberdeen SD

tanner.johnson@heftyseed.com

Comment:

I personally think this is a dumb idea. The lottery drawing is just what the name entails. It's not suppose to be set up for everyone to get a tag (win), it's a LOTTERY, it's a chance. One person might end up with 3 tags for the state and another person might end up with with none, that's the way draw could pan out and that's fine. Like I said previously, it's a game of chance. If you don't draw this year then get your preference point and better luck next year.

All that the state GFP is worried about is bringing more non-resident hunters into the state, and that is exactly what this change would do. It would eliminate the resident hunters, pissing them off, and bring in the non-residents.

I AM COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO THIS CHANGE.

Mark Smedsrud

Hartford SD

smedsrud@unitelsd.com

Comment:

I support the proposal as written. I know many people who have given up big game hunting because they only draw the tag they want every 1-3 years. In the meantime, they find another hobby that is easier to pursue. They may only have permission to hunt in a specific unit and don't have the flexibility to apply in less demanding units. The commission will be lobbied hard to vote this down. I hope they stick to their guns and do what is right and fair.

Rick Kline

Yankton SD

rakline@vyn.midco.net

Comment:

I am opposed to the changes you are recommending for deer season draws.

Skyler Niemann

Watertown SD

niemannskyler@gmail.com

Comment:

The hunting in South Dakota has always been, and always will be, unique and set apart from any other states. What makes it unique is the opportunity for residents of this great state to get multiple deer tags. With South Dakota being divided by the Missouri River, we are lucky enough to have two completely different landscapes. These two landscapes give outdoorsman the opportunity to present themselves with a challenge. Many east river residents will apply year after year to have the amazing opportunity to get into west River country to chase that giant deer they have dreamed about. Along with the opportunity to get it done west river, we also look forward to coming back east river and doing the same thing at home. I myself have been hunting both east river and west river rifle seasons the past few years, and it is an absolute blast and amazing opportunity to get to do both and explore different hunting grounds. If you were to take this option away, and make us choose 1 a year, I feel it is a poor choice. First of all, the state will lose money from the reduction in sales. Second, South Dakotans are avid outdoorsman, as most of us know. With that, we all look forward to deer season- it's like a holiday. And unfortunately as we all know, not every year we draw a tag. And when that happens it is very dissapointing knowing you'll have to wait another year. With the opportunity now to apply for several tags, the chances of drawing one is much better. But if the state were to make this change, then you would only have one chance which is not fair. Along with that, many of us have preference points built up throughout the years and with this change we would not be able to use them. I feel this change was proposed to help the non resident hunters more, which isn't fair. The residents of South Dakota should have the opportunity to hunt whatever, whenever, wherever they'd like. With that, I strongly oppose the proposal to limit the number of deer tags South Dakota residents can obtain a year. After all, it is what sets South Dakota apart from any other state, and in my opinion, makes South Dakota the greatest hunting in the nation. Thank you.

Jon Haverly
Sioux Falls SD
haverly@sio.midco.net

Comment:

I like the chance to have multiple opportunities to go hunting. I am willing to accept the additional competition that the current system involves. It is my opinion that what is not broken should not be "fixed".

Mark Peterson
Aberdeen SD

Comment:

As an avid deer hunter of over 25 years of both east and west river deer I am adamantly opposed to the proposed change to the deer drawing system. The reduction of licenses due to EHD the last few years has caused a complete over reaction of a select vocal few. The system works as it is.

This also has an appearance to be a veiled attempt to open up more licenses to non-residents (especially west river) and commercialize deer hunting now that pheasant hunting has seen huge decline.

There are many east river counties that no matter the system you will not draw your preferred license every year. It's simple math when there are 4 times as many applications as there are licenses it just isn't going to happen.

Also, the act of leaving out a group of hunters that harvest 20,000 deer per season and most of the largest bucks in south dakota (archery) seems to be a huge oversight of a group that easily draws their license and has months to hunt instead of weeks.

Patrick Karst
Pierre SD
pat@pryntcomm

Comment:

What is wrong with the structure we currently have?!?!?!?!?
You change, you will still have complaints!

David Potts
Toronto SD
david.c.potts@centurylink.com

Comment:

DO NOT CHANGE THE DEER DRAW SYSTEM SO A FEW HUNTERS CAN GET THIER PICK. MANY HUNTERS WILL BE FORCED TO ONLY HUNT ONE SEASON AS THERE WILL BE NO LEFTOVER TAGS AND NO REASON TO PURCHASE PREF. POINTS WHEN THERE IS NO HOPE OF DRAWING ON A SECOND DRAW.

Daniel Kuyper

Madison SD

dan.kuyper@kibbleeq.com

Comment:

PLEASE FOR GOD SAKE - PLEASE LEAVE IT ALONE, THOSE OF US THAT HUNT MOST OR ALL OF THE DEER SEASONS WANT A CHANCE AT THE 1ST PREFERANCE OF EACH DRAW - AND WE ARE THE SPORTSMEN THAT ARE SPENDING THE MOST MONEY TO SUPPORT THE GF&P AND SPEND BY FAR THE MOST MONEY ON GAS - MOTELS - EQUIPMENT - TRAVEL - ETC, WE ARE ALL FINE WITH HAVING TO WAIT EVERY OTHER YEAR TO GET AN EAST RIVER TAG - OR A WEST RIVER TAG. I HAVE BEEN HUNTING DEER IN SD FOR OVER 40 YEARS - NOT SOME FLY BY NIGHT WANNA BE HUNTER THAT SIGNS ALL HIS KIDS UP FOR ELK AND DEER TAGS BECAUSE IT'S ONLY \$5 MOST OF THEM CANT SPELL DEER OR ELK!!!! LEASE LET US WHO HAVE SUPPORTED YOU FOR THE PAST 40 YEARS HAVE A SAY IN WHAT HAPPENS - THANK YOU DAN KUYPER, MADISON SD

Colin Herron

Groton SD

Comment:

I'm strongly against this proposal. I think this is completely ridiculous. You guys say you want to keep the heritage of South Dakota hunting. What about the heritage of our family hunting together in the black hills. People have been going out there for 40 plus years and now we are suppose to just give it up because we have to choose between seasons? This just doesn't make sense. Now my son will never enjoy hunting the black hills which I enjoy. I just don't understand why you wouldn't want us to get as many oppourtunities to enjoy hunting and the outdoors.

Jerad Poss

Brookins SD

Jeradposs@yahoo.com

Comment:

Why change something that works. There are leftover tags every year. If people really wanted to hunt they would apply for other counties. Hunters willing to travel and put boots on the ground to find new areas shouldn't be punished because a few people want to hunt their prime Home Counties every year. This unwanted change seems to be all about the money.

Steve Petersen

Sioux Falls SD

sdpetersen1@hotmail.com

Comment:

I am in support of "No Change" or to only combine West River, East River and Black Hills Deer. Why not keep the refuge deer seasons and the muzzleloading seasons as special seasons. They are specific seasons and should be separate than the normal east and west river draws. Don't ruin a good thing.....In Minnesota, everyone can get a deer tag. And the end result is terrible hunting and ridiculous pressure. It may take a year or two to draw a rifle tag in popular counties, but when you do draw, you have a quality hunt. If people really want to deer hunt, they can get a deer tag with the current structure....it may just take a little more effort and maybe a little more scouting to areas that they aren't familiar with that have excess tags almost every year.

Philpot David

Rapid City SD

Comment:

Seem we're only looking w/ tunnel vision i.e even counting 12-18 yr Olds (parents are the ones applying For them to keep our Future going) is ridiculous...most hunters whom have hunted SD for 15-30+ years put in for multiple areas and hell I have preference of 2, which has never occurred in the 14 years I've hunted that unit...putting in multiple units is great for conservation, while putting in for one will not help. (Yeah this includes the thought of 2nd 3rd and 4th draws). In this statistical count I noticed you never mentioned military members active and deployed (which w/ orders) can pretty well get any tag they want, btw I support this However; what about those claiming resident living in Alaska or ND etc...getting that same treatment of Any tag they want with leave papers...BTW most these folks get the required residency and scam until they retire and move back to let's say NY...I TRULY BELIEVE THIS NUMBER/statistical thing isn't capturing your true problem (all the many holes in all slides) ALMOST SEEMS YOUR HURTING FOR MONEY AND YOU HAVE HALF-WITS TRYING TO CHANGE A COMPETITIVE SYSTEM....THAT'S MY 10 CENTS

Pete Fieber

Goodwin SD

Ptfieber@itctel. Com

Comment:

I won't to keep everything the same me and my boys like going to west river to hunt then we get to hunt are own land in east river thanks

Aaron Holguin

Corsica SD

wheelwrightsales@gamail.com

Comment:

1. How is this going to increase my odds?
2. Why not get rid of out of state hunters 1st?
3. Who comes up with all the bad ideas @ GF?

Rick Kuchta
Yankton SD
rskuchta@gmail.com

Comment:

I am writing to you about the new deer hunting proposal in SD. I am 54 years old and I have been hunting deer since I was 12 in this state. I put in for East,West,Black Hills, Custer State Park, Refuge and Muzzle Loader deer tags. You can look. I might get 2 of these tags at the most each year. Sometimes only 1. I have built up 7 years preferences for muzzle loader and 7 preferences for in the park deer. I hunt Black Hills deer with my dad and my son. I have been hunting west river Gregory county for many years and I would really like to get a muzzle loader tag any deer. With the new proposal I wouldn't get to hunt but one deer. I would HATE!!!! this new system and would HATE !!! to have to make a choice of only 1 deer tag. I would probable say the hell with it and do a out of state elk hunt in Wyoming or Colorado instead of hunting deer in SD any more. Since I have 26 years preference in the park for an elk tag. Even if you could guarantee me one of the six tags, witch you can't. I would be so upset that it might make me quit deer hunting all together. I would also discourage my son and dad from trying to get a Black Hills tag. They only apply with me to do the 3 generation get together. If this passes through I will probably never apply for a deer tag and buy a boat and start fishing with my dad and son. I don't know why you would feel this will help solve anything. It sure cant be a money maker.

Ruth Krause
Browns Valley MN
bigstoneruth@gmail.com

Comment:

Please keep the Drawing Structure for Deer Hunting Licenses as it has been. The purchase of preference points allows those who really want to hunt an opportunity to be in line to hunt. No need for a change.

Larry Menning
Chamberlain SD
lmenning@midstatesd.net

Comment:

If you must change the current method of selecting applicants for a firearm deer license please leave the Custer State Park deer license application as is.

Travis Barthel

Avon SD

bartheltl@goldenwest.net

Comment:

When are you people going to stop messing with the deer seasons? First you cut and then cut some more the tag numbers, then you changed the preference system, and now you are limiting the experiences we can have. West river, East river, and muzzleloader seasons are all different hunts. Now, you are telling us pick your favorite and MAYBE you will get it. At least the way it is now you had three different hunting opportunities. YOU have lots of statistics published in your favor. What is going to happen when people are now limited to one season? YOU will have more hunters than ever competing for tags. Those of us that hunt and live on the east side will stay there. Those on the west will do the same. And you might as well eliminate the muzzleloader season because that is difficult enough in December after the deer have been chased all over the country side by the unethical hunters you do nothing about. Why would I put that as my first choice? Also, what is the economic impact? Many hunters go East to West to hunt ad vice versa. There's lost revenues for hotels, convenience stores, meat processors, and restaurants, just to name a few. I don't know who you surveyed, I sure don't remember seeing one, but who knows with the dozen other surveys you send out, but most hunters I have spoken to are not in favor of you changing yet another aspect of the deer hunting system. Waiting to draw a tag can make the experience more enjoyable, when you actually draw your tag you savor the hunt. I waited 4 years for an East river tag one time. The county I hunt is a popular county. Yes, it was disheartening to not get a tag, especially since you can't even shoot does it some counties anymore, but when I did draw it I was grateful. I wasn't going to stop hunting just because I didn't get a tag. We are hunters, we are used to waiting for the right moment. Leave the seasons alone.

Ryan Sauter

Lake Preston SD

Comment:

Please keep it the way it is currently.

Raymond Ames

Belle Fourche SD

elkhunter514@yahoo.com

Comment:

This is a crazy change, it is still by the luck of the draw. This will make it so I can't apply or get the license or licenses that I want. I am now less likely to get any kind of license. I prefer no change. Your focus groups were less than 50 percent in favor of change, why change it. Leave it alone.

Ray Ames, a concerned SD resident and hunter.

Melissa Liben

Sioux Falls SD

melweeks@yahoo.com

Comment:

It is unfair to make people wait years to get a tag. I am 34 And only gotten a tag once in my life.

Garyproposed Wickre

Britton SD

gmwickre@venturecomm.net

Comment:

i would like to see the licence allocation for rifle deer seasons stay the same as they are, and not have to choose between east or west river etc.

Brian Ladd

Mitchell SD

Sladd2010@hotmail.com

Comment:

Please leave deer application as is! As a SD sportsman I fully enjoy all of the opportunities afforded to me in our great state. I realize I may not draw a tag every year but there are several opportunities that we are ALL afforded. We have a great state full of opportunities and all sportsman should take advantage of it!! Thank you.

Jason Stahl

Hartford SD

Comment:

I support the proposed changes to the deer draws

Kevin Holter

Estelline SD

kevinholter62@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Daniel Krause

Roberts County SD

bigstonedan@gmail.com

Comment:

I enjoy the current system of deer hunting in that it allows me opportunities to hunt the entire state. The proposed structure would tend to have hunters hunt close to home. This would have an economic effect by reducing the dollars spent by hunters.

Jason Evans

Pierre SD

jasondevans1999@gmail.com

Comment:

I am strongly opposed to this proposed change. Those of us who choose to apply for multiple units, do so knowing full well that it is a lottery draw and that we may not be successful drawing our preferred license.

I am disappointed that the Commission is even giving further consideration to the idea after the results of the focus groups showed that a minority of the participants and respondents wanted change. You state that a majority of those who only apply in one unit prefer change but what percent of those who apply in multiple units prefer a change?

Everybody has equal opportunity right now. Please don't restrict those of us who choose to contribute additional dollars by applying in multiple units.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Jason Evans

Garran Pliska

Sioux Falls SD

ruthpliska@q.com

Comment:

Deer application drawing system, keep it the way as it is. No change please

Lester Neugebauer

Mitchell SD

les@mitchelltelecom.net

Comment:

I think the lottery system works just fine. If you are charging for preference points that means will you have to stop charging on every season a person applies for if we have to choose our top preference?

Brandon Trapp

Milbank SD

brandontrapp69@hotmail.com

Comment:

I am apposed to the changes for a few reasons. #1 what you are not telling people is that all this does is open up a lot of tags to the out of staters and takes away from those of us who are tax payers in this state to harvest multipule deer. #2 As a avid hunter in south dakota i typically try to.hunt Archery, Westriver Rifle, and east river rifle. i have the places to hunt that i dont pay for and belive all.the out of state hunters will wreck.the public hunting also.ive seen what the out of state fisherman have dun to.our lakes in.the Northeast (Bitter and waubay) for instance. they dont care about our State and im sick.of the game commosion catering to the out of state money. if we recall it was the commission who screwed up the deer numbers in the first place and made.it so.hard to draw a preffered tag. i really hope the commission thinks.a.long time before they make this terrible decision. yhe only way i would even think.about this beeing ok is if the out of state hunters couldnt apply until the 4RTH draw not the 3 so that a reaident hunter could get a chance a second tag.

Brian Fletcher

Rapid City SD

blfletch80@gmail.com

Comment:

I do not support this change at all. I believe it will make it even worse to get deer tags.

Larrene Kaderabek

Sioux Falls SD

chatterboxsd@hotmail.com

Comment:

57% of the hunters said they don't want this changed so why are we still trying to pass this bad proposal? This seems like politics where the gfp wants this & the general public does not. This hurts the true sportsman who travels the state & spends their hard earned money on motel rooms west river. This will also collapse the current preference point system since we won't be able to hunt bucks in multiple seasons so we won't need to buy them anymore cuz you won't be able to use them unless you give up your main season of choice. Please reconsider this awful proposal. Keep deer hunting the same in south daKota.

Mike Swanson

Sioux Falls SD

mikeswanson@siouxnationag.com

Comment:

The muzzle loader shouldn't be lumped into this at all, it is primitive arms like bow hunting. This one should be modified to go county to county or East River and West River not a state wide tag that you can't regulate your deer resources by? I am fine with having to choose East River vs West River Rifle also long as you can apply for left over tags which this my create.

Alberta Fink
Woonsocket SD
steveandbert@hotmail.com

Comment:

I am commenting on the proposed change in the drawing for deer licenses. I am opposed to this.

Nathan Schlimgen
Mitchell SD
nschlim@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Alex Rosburg
Rapid City SD
alexrosburg@gmail.com

Comment:

Proposed changes will be very detrimental to west river hunters while likely providing little or no improvement in popular zones near highly populated areas.

Greg Goodman
Pierre SD
goody2469@gmail.com

Comment:

Unfortunately you will make me choose a season. No more WRD opener and ERD opener back to back weekends. I have been hunting the same properties on both sides of the river for 20+ years. Are you going to have all the seasons run at the same time? You should to make it "fair" Also you will not only lose on revenue from my licenses purchased but also all the preference points you make me purchase. No more muzzleloader, east river special buck, east river deer and west river deer applications or preference points purchased yearly. It will be just one purchase for WR special buck because it will be the easiest to draw every year. Since it takes 10 years to draw muzzleloader and that's not my #1 choice are you going to refund me all the preference points I have purchased over the last 4 years? You think this is about more opportunity for more people? It will be, for nonresidents of SD. You will sell the tags I used to purchase to nonresidents for more money so in the end GF&P will get what they want anyway. I guess the loss of the \$30 in preference points I purchase will be made up in the \$286 nonresident east river license you will sell.

Scott Jamison

Wentworth SD

sjamison@dakotacare.com

Comment:

Hi, I commented briefly on this when it came up a few months ago. I have several comments and a few questions. My first comment is regarding how this proposed change got to be a proposal in the first place. When I read the statistics for the "focus group" and on-line respondents, it hardly appears to be a mandate for a change, regardless of how carefully the response numbers have been crafted. Basing the decision on responses from people who only apply for one license each year makes no sense. Three, possibly four, of the six seasons which would be affected are totally unlike the others. The odds of drawing a Custer State Park deer tag are fairly astronomical and will change very little with the proposal. The Refuge hunts are largely the same, considering the low number of tags. Also, Muzzleloader hunting, particularly the way it is managed in SD, is totally unlike the other seasons. I don't see any way that these seasons function as a method to recruit or retain current deer hunters.

What the proposal largely does is negatively affect ability to get Black Hills tags, which has already been reducing each year. I've hunted in the Hills for 40 years and have seen the drawing odds settle in to about once every three years. I highly doubt that those odds would greatly improve under this proposal; however I would be essentially precluded from receiving an East River tag in the process, which is where I live.

Including Special Buck licenses in this proposal doesn't make sense either, since by definition the Special Buck seasons have their own rules and obviously a much higher cost, since they were created for different reasons, ie appeasing West River landowners. They are not an inducement to recruit or retain deer hunters and shouldn't be used to justify this kind of change. Also, it isn't clear that Special Buck preference points could be purchased at the same time as ER or WR preference points; or vice versa. Can I get that question answered?

Hunting East River, where I live, and Black Hills, where I have a long hunting tradition, is at least possible each year under the current system, so don't change it.

Scott Jamison

Wentworth SD

sjamison@dakotacare.com

Comment:

Added Comment: The proposed change would essentially end Muzzleloader hunting for most people who hunt that season at all.

Also, after a few years the number of people willing to spend each year to accumulate preference points will drop drastically, since people will realize it makes no sense to buy points for a season, ie Muzzleloader or CSP or WR; when you will have to sacrifice ER or Black Hills completely in any year you would try to cash in on your preference points. That will be budget impact much larger than your sketchy age projections.

Steven Fink

Woonsocket SD

steveandbert@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Martin Hesby

Brookings SD

Martinh@averyoutdoors.com

Comment:

Recommend NO changes to GFP Deer Proposal! This is bad for hunters in South Dakota. I haven't spoken with 1 single person outside of GFP who are in favor of these proposed changes, not a single sole. My experiences over the past 30 years is that when GFP tries to "fix" something, they typically screw it up. For example, the over abundance of non resident waterfowl licenses (resident hunters spoke loud and proud on this subject for years and opposed any increases. What happened, GFP screwed the resident hunter and continually increased and moved non resident licenses against the wishes of resident hunters=bad for resident hunters). Another example, the introduction of the Mt lion to the Black Hills.. what happened, the "deer problem" went away, the elk went away, and again this was a bad move for resident hunters who want more deer and elk in the hills. Took GFP over a decade to get a handle on things. For GFP commissioners reading this, please stand by the resident deer hunter and don't buy into GFPs smoke and mirrors.. NO CHANGE is what residents want. A draw is a draw, and every single hunter under the existing system has equal chances. Keep it the same so residents can travel and hunt multiple buck tags in our great state! Respectfully!

Gabe Ellerton

Rapid City SD

gabe32578@yahoo.com

Comment:

I apply for 16 or more tags a year and know many of which I wont draw, but I have no problem waiting due to the quality of wildlife we have. one thing I look forward to is spending time with family west river. with this plan I would lose that due to choosing a tag closer to home. and no chance of getting a second choice. I know many families get together for hunts this plan B is a horrible idea, my friends from east river will not be able to get hills tags so no more visits from the either, no more muzzleloader tags for me also. the #1 reason I love South Dakota is the hunting opportunities. this will force me to go out of state and spend my \$ there. I spend hundreds of dollars hunting this state apparently you don't like my money. you want to cater to the people that spend the least amount. I support the game and fish on most everything but certainly not this. I have been hunting here for 28 years and plan to hunt another 28 or more if I can. I ask you please listen to you biggest financial supporters and best customers. you can't make everyone happy I know but right now I am and will continue to be if things don't change. I would be able to handle plan A if I had to but plan B is bad news. as it stand's there is absolutely no reason people cant draw a tag in this state as is but they want that any deer tag every year. there are plenty of tags available if your willing to sacrifice a bit, but lets screw the ones that are willing to wait and sacrifice a little to get a tag.

Dale Wilms

Chico CA

dalewilms@yahoo.com

Comment:

As a non-resident hunter I have applied for licenses for the last ten years and have found the current system to be fair and equitable.

Jacob Ehlert

Bozeman MT

Jacob.ehlert@gmail.com

Comment:

South Dakota has a serious equity problem with deer licenses. I lived in the Black Hills for four years and had difficulty drawing a tag. It was absurd to me that people from east river could come over and vacation hunt my backyard, while I had to wait to do so over there. This change is long overdue. I'm in favor of proposal 2. Additionally, it would be great if it opened for nonresidents to muzzleloader hunt. I think there would be a lot of interest and it could be a great revenue source for the state

Clinton Peterson

Box Elder SD

oacomian@rap.midco.net

Comment:

I love being able to hunt different seasons and areas. If this passes I will get my West River tag but I will never have another Black Hills tag or Muzzleloader buck tag again as there will be none left by the third drawing. Before SDGFP starts limiting the resident deer hunting opportunity they need to first limit the out of state archery deer tags. The public land I hunt is overloaded with nonresident archery hunters killing lots of deer and taking future tags away from the residents.

Bradley Beavers

Jeffersonjefferson SD

brad@dakotamechanical.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose your proposed deer season drawing structure. I am an East and West river landowner and enjoy hunting my own ground. I also make a yearly trip to far west SD to hunt with friends on their ranch. With your proposed deer draw structure it will limit my time hunting in the great state of South Dakota. I guess I will have to travel out of state and spend my money elsewhere.

Paul Starnd

Hermosa SD

Comment:

I see no reason to change the current system. I apply for blackhills every year and usually draw about 1 out of 2 years. If I don't draw I get a doe tag on the flat ground. If I wanted to shoot a buck every year I could apply somewhere else but it isn't that big of deal to me. I don't think the change is needed. From the sounds of your numbers the majority doesn't want it anyways. What is the point of asking for input but then not listening?

Roy Oberle
Mellette SD
coberle@nvc.net

Comment:

I am opposed to changing the present deer license allocation procedure. The system has worked for many years. I attended one of the work shop groups on this matter and am not convinced the proposed new system is better. If anything, it is more confusing and seems to only benefit a few more applicants. It appears South Dakota is trying to become like a lot of other states. You need to hire a licensing service or an attorney to interpret all the application processes.

Nicholas Axtell
Volga SD

Comment:

oppose

Jerrol Erlenbusch
Aberdeen SD
erlenbusch2000@yahoo.com

Comment:

Leave it the the way it is.

Ryan Erickson
Mitchell SD

Comment:

Leave the system alone, there's nothing wrong with it.

Shauna Woodward
Tulare SD
woodwardfarms05@yahoo.com

Comment:

I wish they'd leave the deer application & drawing well enough alone. It's worked for years just fine. The landowners that actually grow the deer should be 'given' tags every year. Because of landowners that provide food, water & shelter year round...at their own expense, the rest of the public has healthy deer to harvest. We deal with poachers & completely disrespectful individuals every year...taking away from the enjoyment of our very minimal time we do have to hunt with our families on our family land. The least that could happen is being sure those who 'grow' healthy deer are guaranteed tags to have the ability to harvest these animals!

Doug Baltzer

Mitchell SD

douglinda_b@centurylink.net

Comment:

The majority of hunters do not want the change. It seems like you are catering to people that apply for only one license, I apply for 5-6 tags and i would rather take my chances in the lottery with preference points than pick one area as a first choice and then apply for more tags after that. It seems like you are trying to make it more complicated. I enjoy hunting all areas using several methods and i don't want to pick just one and then apply for what is left from the first drawing.

Logan Winckler

Scotland SD

Comment:

oppose

Adam Stofferahn

Hartford SD

A.stofferahn@hotmail.com

Comment:

Please leave things the way they are

Lee Kinney

Onida SD

kinneyl@icloud.com

Comment:

Leave it the way it is.

Hunter Serfoss

Aberdeen SD

Comment:

oppose

Ashley Neuharth

Menno SD

Ashley_2006@hotmail.com

Comment:

I strongly support proposal. Thanks

Jake Jorgenson

Watertown SD

Comment:

oppose

Derick Wenck

Harrisburg SD

Kcnew6@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Dalton Mcnutt

Doland SD

Dalton@nvc.net

Comment:

Leave it alone let people play lottery

Chris Christenson

Watertown SD

Mistelleandchris@wat.midco.net

Comment:

oppose

Mistelle Christenson

Watertown SD

Mistelleandchris@wat.midco.net

Comment:

oppose

Mistelle Christenson
Watertown SD
Mistelle80@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Carter Christenson
Watertown SD

Comment:

oppose

Garett Dugan
Kyle SD
garett_dugan@yahoo.com

Comment:

WHY!! Leave our deer hunting alone!!

Josh Horak
Spearfish SD
mj.horak@yahoo.com

Comment:

Although it will negatively effect my opportunity for multiple buck tags I still support the proposed changes. In an effort to improve the deer herd and buck quality, I recognize some give and take on both sides needs to take place. So knowing we could have a better chance at a more quality hunt in terms of numbers and size of bucks I would give up the chance at more tags.

Josh Zimmerman
Viborg SD
josh_zimmerman@cargill.com

Comment:

support

Brett Lebrun
Brookings SD
lebrunbrett@gmail.com

Comment:

I think the system is fine the way it is. I don't feel that we should cave to a few peoples opinion that they need to draw a tag every year in a certain county. I also feel like this will create more non resident opportunities. The deer herd and quality of deer is good right now I don't think we need to ruin that. Educate people on how to do homework on draw odds instead of just making it easier on them

Aaron Eich
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

I would oppose this change. I feel our current structure is adequate and is working as intended. The new structure would only hurt farmer/rancher relationships as it would restrict the current benefits they have with land ownership and the game on their land.

Brennan Baune
Sioux Falls SD
baune3@gmail.com

Comment:

I believe we should leave the current drawing structure in place.

Aaron Punt
Armour SD

Comment:

Strongly oppose changing deer application and allocation process. changing the application process will do no good for the hard to draw units that people are whining about not drawing in. This will just take tags out of the hands of guys that love to hunt and be in the outdoors. This will also open more tags up to nonresidents ultimately making it even worse for the residents of sd. Already too many of them bowhuntin our public lands

Philip Mccauley
Sioux Falls SD
philip.mccauley@gmail.com

Comment:

I oppose the change because I feel it will create difficulty in having the chance to hunt multiple areas. The current application process allows an individual to apply for east, west, and Black Hills with the chance to get all of their first choices. If a person is willing to put in the time and research on where to hunt, the current proposal penalizes the effort. With tag counts continuing to decrease in the state the proposal seems to pander to people who are unwilling to research alternative counties.

Jared Sutton
Watertown SD
jasutton41@gmail.com

Comment:

support

Kelsi Miles
Mitchell SD
Kelsimiles33@gmail.com

Comment:

I am not for this at all. The current system is not broken. It works fine

Monty Shorter
Pierre SD
Shortmon@gmail.com

Comment:

I am strongly opposed to changing the deer licensing process. Why would we? Makes no sense..

Daron Peterson
Humboldt SD
daronspanh@siouxvalley.net

Comment:

It looks to me like The commission has already made up its mind on this And it doesn't matter how many sportsman are against this change

Phil Hudson
Howard SD
P.hudson@jamesvalleylandscape.com

Comment:

I oppose any changes to the current deer license draw. The system that is and has been in place works for those who are willing to put in the work and hunt new places or those who are willing to wait a year or two for their preferred tag.

Andrew Albers
Rapid City SD

Comment:

Please stop messing with our big game seasons. The survey I just completed on Turkey season was very suggestive to future changes also. We don't need to change the deer application process so that people go all in on one specific unit with still a chance of not getting a tag. Sometimes changes are necessary, but this one feels more like a way to slow down public land only hunters from getting multiple tags to feed their families. You guys already give the landowners the advantage. And by the way they sell those tags you give them for cash and there is no way to prove it. Maybe I would be more ok with the proposed changes if you scaled back the landowner tags you give out like candy at the outfitter only parade.

Larry Voss
Madison SD
lvoss58@yahoo.com

Comment:

I live and hunt in Lake county and have since 1995 and in that time my draw success for an Any Deer Rifle tag has been about one every 4 years and 1 in every 2 or 3 years for a Any Deer Muzzleloader tag that is state wide. Each year I apply for both tags and know that I only have a little better than 25% chance at drawing 1 buck tag in two different seasons and now you want to limit my options even more. This is ridiculous a hunter in South Dakota would go from having the chance at scoring a buck tag in 6 different seasons and now want to limit those opportunities down to 1 chance period. I realize that I could end up with six buck tags but I have never gotten a buck tag in two consecutive years applying for two different tags let alone six different seasons. That being said what is hoped to be gained from limiting my opportunities at a buck tag. Is it so the state has more buck tags left to offer to out of state hunters? If that's the case then you should all be fired because money is your only goal for change and you are no longer representing the hunting community or South Dakota for that matter. That being said the system in place is a lottery system it's fair and it works. If hunters from out of state or even residents want more opportunities then they should be applying for all six seasons available instead of trying to twist a system that is working to their advantage. I planned on adding a Black Hills rifle tag to my yearly hunting trip but if this nonsense is pushed through my chances would be less than they already are. I just don't see an upside to this sort of a change. No matter how you spin it a hunter would go from having 6 chances to get a buck tag down to having 1 chance period. I oppose this nonsense and hope you all come to your senses.

Jordan Miller
Sioux Falls SD
Jmill13@hotmail.com

Comment:

DO NOT CHANGE THE CURRENT ALLLICATJON AND TAG ALLOCATION SYSTEM.
NO CHANGE IS NEEDED

Anthony Bellack

Brandon SD

Hitman23.tb@gmail.com

Comment:

This is going to ruin a very special part of every year for me. I plan trips every year to go west and east river to hunt.

Derek Howard

Stickney SD

Gotwoofs@hotmail.com

Comment:

Why try to fix a system that is not broken. We already see enough participation trophies in to many things. People do their research on where to send in. I and how keep their preference points to get counties they want. The people complaining about not being able to get tags are the ones in my opinion to be the ones that don't wanna shoot anything but antlers. If they are wanting a tag so bad they can also do their research in the draws and get out and hunt. And if they are so adamant on getting a tag there is always plenty of doe tags left in many units. Why do we need to punish they people that spend their time and money and invest in what they love to do.

Steve Buchholz

Watertown SD

s_buchholz@hotmail.com

Comment:

I do not like the support this proposal

Mike Molstad

Canton SD

Comment:

oppose

Kraig Kappenman

Watertown SD

Kraigkapp@yahoo.com

Comment:

oppose

John Moses
Rapid City SD
ppcmoses@vastbb.net

Comment:

This is so stupid so instead of having 3-4 chances to draw one tag if your lucky you have one and then you still have to pay for your preference points and not even a opportunity to draw that tag leave it alone it works fine the way it is

Cory Albers
Rapid City SD
C.walbers@yahoo.com

Comment:

To whom it may concern please leave our drawing system the way it is , I oppose the changes

John Roggow
Trail City SD
John.roggow@agtegra.com

Comment:

I believe a guy should have to hunt his local ground and not go out where he does not know the ground at all leads to a lot of trespassing f problems. Granted I like to hit both sides of river ambit sometimes people do t know how to read a map. Makes me mad when someone walks up on me when sitting on my land. Plus I feel state should have all control over game in state not any federal stuff

Ronald Nehls
Claremont SD
hnuter@nvc.net

Comment:

I feel it wont affect the east river draws but will only benifit the west river because it will stop east river hunters from applying for west river tags in first round

Andrew Krier
Harrisburg SD
andrewckrier@gmail.com

Comment:

Keep the drawing system as is. Going with the proposal will be a slap in the face to South Dakota hunters.

Clay Duxbury
St. Lawrence SD

Comment:

oppose

Kyle Jones
Murdo SD

Comment:

I'm against the change to the deer tag draw system. My wife and I currently apply for west river and black hills every year. Why limit our opportunities to hunt both areas of the state because someone else is limiting themselves to only hunting in their backward and applying for one season. The way I see it if you changed the system we would put in for our family land area west river first choice thus IMO looking at draw stats would never have a chance to hunt the black hills because I don't see any chance there ever being buck tags left after the first draw. Leave the current system as is.

Sam Tiede
Parkston SD

Comment:

oppose

Zachary Knecht
Mount Vernon SD
Zknecht123@gmail.com

Comment:

Leave the draw methods alone. It is absolutely ridiculous what you are considering. Works just fine the way it is.

Jeremiah Schultz
Elk Point SD
Jschultz@thermobond.com

Comment:

Please make sure that u are using these public's polls to decide the outcome of this proposal. I enjoy to hunt multiple seasons in SD that's why are state is great ! Please don't take that from me and give it to a non resident. I don't know all the facts or know how this will affect me but it scares me. But I guess if you don't listen to the people that hunt this great state and you do what you want to do anywase you are the only one that will have to live with it knowing as a public servant u didn't do your job properly. Please make the right decision based on the peoples poll!

Dane Nelson

Philip SD

danenelson07@gmail.com

Comment:

The current system is deeply flawed however the new proposed changes are a complete farce designed to appease a few cry baby whining botched. Its a lottery system lifes not always fair but limiting everyone's oppurotunities because of a few upset hunters that don't get the tag they want every year is ridiculous bullshit. You want to talk about fair, county residents should have first preference in their county as it is already difficult to find land to hunt county residents have established relationships with local landowners who are not going to let some yahoo from 300 miles away go hunting because their local guy didnt get a tag. How about farm and ranch employees getting operator tags, I work on farm/ranch operation, the only person thats going to get to go hunting there is me, if I don't draw a tag that doesnt mean some other guy that did is going to get to go hunting there. I work hard on the property and part of the biproducts of what I do produce healthy thriving game populations that will not give others opportunities just because I dont have a license. The point of this long winded rant is you can do this new tag system to help spread the tags around but that does not mean spreading those tags out is providing anyone with more opportunity its just providing them with a 45 \$ piece of paper that they very well will be dissapointed in because they dont have anywhere to hunt in the first place. You want to help the crybabies then make a seperate public land only tag.

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.

Joe Carda

Tyndall SD

joe.carda@state.sd.us

Comment:

I am not sure?? Are you going to make people pick 6 licenses for Deer? If so NO! Can not find a place to hunt in the unit I know. How is this going to help?

Jarrett Perry

Rapid City SD

Perry.jarrett9@gmail.com

Comment:

I highly recommend that you listen to your south dakota residents that say this is a horrible idea. The great part about hunting in south dakota is our opportunity. And this new draw system will take that away. Why I think we shouldnt go to this new draw system is because 1. You guys are taking tags away from people that want them. 2. Every resident should have a chance to hunt the special seasons like hills, refuge, custer, and muzzleloader. 3. You guys have not gathered enough information or looked at any other opportunities to be making this big of a decision. 4. This decision should be made by the hunters and not the commissioners. Some of those commissioners are outfitters and shouldnt have a say in this.

Why we should take more time on this is because we need to look at other options like general tags and special units. Raising tag prices on non residents, open up more land lock public land to the public, let non resident draw tags in east river to spread the non residents out, and make sure the all residents get a tag before non residents. There is so much we need to talk about before making this big decision. If you go to this system I recommend that non residents are not allowed to have any residents tags, not even in left overs. If it is a resident tag it should be for a resident.

Cameron Hinckley

Armour SD

Comment:

My opinion everyone wants that any deer tag and when they don't get it after 5 years they start getting upset, I personally did this for 10 years applied for any deer never got it, so I decided to apply for any white tail, and the next year I drew my tag. I have ground in the hills and I east river I don't want to have to choose what tag to apply for it's nice have both or either or. Thanks

Mark Peppel

Pierre SD

markpeppel@gmail.com

Comment:

I support changing the deer draw structure. I believe that everyone should only get one first choice statewide, especially for rifle tags. Thanks.

Dustin Thill Thill

Mitchell SD

glimmerman151@hotmail.com

Comment:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed change in deer drawing structure for the following reasons. First, I hunt a lot and every other hunter I have talked to does not want a change and many have not even heard this may happen. So, the GFP saying there is some kind of significant support for change seems biased in some way to a small specific group of people. I attended a forum that I was invited to by the GFP and the overwhelming attitude of the meeting was that they should leave things as they are. Also, when I quized the GFP rep on where this proposed change came from, the answer was always vague and they did not have any specific counties or types of licenses that they were basing things on. All they would say is "People aren't getting their FIRST choice often enough" . Another thing people need to be aware of is there is already a SIGNIFICANT CHANGE being implemented by cubing the preference points. So, to try to make TWO huge changes at the same time without giving the first change a couple of years to provide data for the next decision, is Irresponsible at best, and Ignorant at its worst. They also try to tell us this is for the intrest of hunter retention, that I call BS on. This change seems to lean in favor of primarily people with private ground to hunt, but will affect all of us that hunt mostly public land. These people proposing the change are unwilling to hunt anything but ONE season, ONE county, and is typically East River Rifle according to the GFP. They seem to care less about hunting more often and trying to get others (especially Youth Hunters) involved in hunting and outdoor lifestyles. If they change the structure, that will make it so most of us who try to draw several seasons and hunt multiple times of the year will not do that any longer. I do this, because trying to hunt with my family and kids, and extended family and friends needs to be distributed throughout the fall so many people have to oppurtunity to enjoy and learn about hunting.

So mainly if they are doing this for "Hunter Retention" as they say I believe and many others, that it would be a mistake. We really need to see how cubing the point system affects things for several years so there is a baseline and also they need to prove to us what counties that these people are so frustrated with it taking a while to draw the Any Deer tag for. If it is a county with limited any deer tags, that number of tags available still does not increase and the same people with still all be applying for those specific counties. With that, I urge the GFP to leave the draw the way it is or at least get some more specific data before they ruin the way it is for the majority to benefit a small specific pool of people. D. T. Mitchell, SD

Steve Gates

Mitchell SD

Comment:

oppose

Daniel Rodas

Spencer SD

Dan.Rodas@pipestone.com

Comment:

oppose

Jeff Nodsle
Corona SD

Comment:

It seems that this change to drawing structure for deer licenses would be of benefit to those hunters who only want one deer license per year. It would have a negative impact on hunters like myself who enjoy a variety of deer hunting options each year. There for in summary, it seems that this option would benefit only the group of hunters who purchase the fewest licenses each season.

Craig Hauser
Tripp SD
craig_hauser@midcontinental.com

Comment:

The system is fine the way it is. I don't have a problem if it takes a certain number of preference points to draw a tag for certain unit.

Benjamin Spaans
Corsica SD
ALANSPAINANTBODY@HOTMAIL.COM

Comment:

I am opposed to this structure change for the deer hunting seasons. This would limit the chances of drawing multiple tags for outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy to hunt all over the state. The current structure is working well as there is normally always opportunity to draw multiple tags in one year in your desired counties. The only limiting factor under the current system is the individual applying. Whether they choose to do research and use the system to their benefit to ensure being able to hunt every year. The proposed changes will also affect the local economies of many small towns. I believe you will see a decrease in out of county hunters applying for tags. those are the same hunters that fill hotels, bars, restaurants and many other businesses during the fall. When forced to "Choose" between seasons it will most likely have them applying in their home county. In closing I see no benefits to the "proposed" drawing system whatsoever. Like the old saying goes, "If it's not broke, Don't fix it".

Seth Dawson
Howard SD
Dawson867@mitchelltech.edu

Comment:

oppose

Josh Moret

Platte SD

joshmoret@gmail.com

Comment:

Please do not make any changes to the deer season structure!!!! The proposed new changes are not needed. The vast majority of the public that I have conversed with is against making changes to the deer season draw structure. Thank you

Mark Neugebauer

Dimock SD

m_neug@yahoo.com

Comment:

As a divorced dad my kids and I spent a lot of time together hunting! I don't even like the points system but get it with deer numbers down. I hope the points deal is only temporary as well. I would rather apply for all and get turned down than be limited to one and not draw

Chris Oneal

Stickney SD

Chriso85@live.com

Comment:

This is a terrible idea for resident hunters. Myself and my family strongly oppose these changes.

Cody Treft

Rapid City SD

Comment:

I do not support the change.

Jon Kooiman

Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

I dont support this at all. I dont see the point of this. I usually only hunt east river so it wouldnt hurt me but I dont see the point of hurting the chances for someone that hunts multiple areas. They are the ones spending the most money in the state. Why hurt the people that give the most. Why change something that isn't broke? I've gone many years without drawing a tag west river and I'm fine with that. No need to change it to make the winners happy.

William Heintz
Rapid City SD
William.heintz.ctr@us.af.mil

Comment:

I strongly oppose the proposed changes

Jeremy Van Gorp
Stickney SD

Comment:

This is a terrible idea, I believe that the seasons should stay the way they are so that you could have multiple tags in the state & hunt anywhere you want, idk who's big money is trying to sway the gfp but this is completely ludicrous, I pray to god this doesn't pass because it will RUIN the state & it's hunting program, it's starting to happen with Pheasant Hunting

Dan Griese
Pierre SD
Birddog@pie.midco.net

Comment:

The change will not help people draw tags in units with very little tags.

Matthew Overgard
Colton SD
og-1983@hotmail.com

Comment:

I've been diligent about applying for multiple tags and purchasing preference points each year to insure at least one or two hunts of my choice. I strongly disagree with the proposed changes! If hunters put their work in with preference purchase they too would draw a hunt of their choice. If these changes take place will I be reimbursed for at least the last 10 yrs of preference purchases? Also, if the changes are made I would be inclined to take my hunting trips and tag purchase to other states. Please just leave the application process alone!

John Carsten
Plattedee SD

Comment:

I am a land owner and I do not know where they will hunt . You are already limiting the number of hunters in certain public grounds .I am assuming that this will also allow more nonresident licences this is not right

Kristi Anderson
Hartford SD
krosevh79@gmail.com

Comment:

This is no benefit for hunters in SD

Mikenzi Petersen
Rapid City SD
Mikenzi.m@gmail.com

Comment:

I want the drawing structure to remain the same.

Harry Mitchell
Hot Springs SD
wanesharose1@gmail.com

Comment:

that proposal is ludicrous. leave things alone that will mess up everything.

Steve Eide
Mount Vernon SD
steve.eide@chsinc.com

Comment:

If its not broke don't fix it.

Terrance Dosch
Pierre SD
tladosch@dakota2k.net

Comment:

The proposed changes will not be helpful in drawing licenses in my preferred hunting areas. In fact the restrictions placed on placing multiple applications will impede my draw opportunity while costing more in preference points over time. If GFP wishes to encourage deer hunting opportunities for South Dakota residents, it should focus on further limiting non-resident licensing, reducing application fees, and examining policy regarding land-owner preference. Emphasis on fostering better habitat and land-conservation practices is needed to support deer populations in our state.

Lukas Weyh
Watertown SD
Lw3009@hotmail.com

Comment:

Keep it like it has been in the past

Craig Haber
White SD
haberkyle@hotmail.com

Comment:

totally against changing license format were do you think people will hunt not on private land

Michael Norton
Rapid City SD
nortonmichael1922@yahoo.com

Comment:

I want the drawing structure to remain the same.

Darin Oestmann
Pringle SD
oestmann@gwtc.net

Comment:

Please stop messing around with a system that already has proven itself. All this will do is force SD residents to go to other states to hunt (Nebraska), where most of the units are "purchase on-line" "first come-first served"

Shelia Oestmann
Pringle SD
oestmann@gwtc.net

Comment:

The system already works

Tanah Oestmann

Pringle SD

oestmann@gwtc.net

Comment:

Please don't change a thing...it is working fine as it is.

Kelloway Norton

Rapid City SD

kdwaggoner01@gmail.com

Comment:

I want the drawing structure to remain the same.

Tony Bradley

Deadwood SD

Comment:

this limitation of 1st choice deer licenses will limit the opportunities for families to continue their tradition of hunting as families and enjoying the outdoors they love. On the current system all hunters know there is a chance they won't get tags for a specific area in a certain year, but we all take our chance and hope we get one of our 1st choices and hope the next year we get the next area. The proposed change will create a needless change to the current system. The old saying "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" fits this proposal. The system isn't perfect, but it isn't broke either.

Eric Bauer

Volga SD

ebauer40@gmail.com

Comment:

As is, I oppose. Acquiring a muzzleloader tag is already competitive enough. Given the scarcity of available tags, one has to build preference points over many years to have a realistic shot at drawing the way it is. Forcing hunters to now also choose this limited shot as their likely only deer season is unreasonable. Muzzleloader should not be included in this grouping. Hunters have leaned on the preference point system to better their chances at drawing tags in alternative years, purchasing and building points in the off-years and planning hunts accordingly. This proposal reduces the comprehensive value of preference points. It must be made clear how the "preference" of one's choices (1st, 2nd and so on), under this proposal, will be balanced against cumulative preference points. If I have 8 preference points for Black Hills deer but choose it as my 2nd choice, under this proposal would I lose out to someone who chose it as their 1st choice but only had zero, 1 or two preference points?

Emily Reid

Parker SD

Comment:

Leave the drawing system alone, it works fine right now. If you actually talk to most deer hunters, they are all OK not getting a tag every year. I waited 3 years for my county and I am OK with not hunting during those years that I don't draw. Please leave the current system alone and DO NOT change anything.

Mark Smedsrud

Sioux Falls SD

Maksmedsrud@msn.com

Comment:

I strongly propose changing a system that has worked for years. I think the percentages prove most think the system works. 46% and 43% are the minority seeking change. I urge you not to change the system to cater to those minority that seek this change. I have hunted within this state for over 30 years. I have witnessed the change of decreasing opportunities for the tag I may desire the most. I don't think this new system will be earth shattering in changing those opportunities. The fact is more people hunt today than 30 years ago and Mother Nature dictates deer populations. Given those two facts, deer license opportunities will fluctuate. I think the system our GFP has matured this system over the years and is the fairest for our residents, which should be the priority. I think the tools are provided on the website for people to investigate and do their homework to provide multiple opportunities to harvest bucks in multiple years or each year.

I feel some of the percentages include landowners applying within their own county. This is another subject that may skew those percentages. The truth in the matter of landowners applying within their own county is they are provided at will landowner tags for their own property. Another fact is that half of tags all tags are a set aside for landowners decreasing opportunities for all non landowners. This decreases the amount of tags allotted to the general public. I think landowners deserve the option of a tag at will for their own property, but if they want to hunt anything outside of their own property, they should be included in the general draw. I feel at the end of the day this would help increase to a small percentage the opportunity to the general public. I hope you take my comments into consideration and thank you for the opportunity.

Mark Smedsrud

David Thill

Mitchell SD

ravenofg@yahoo.com

Comment:

After having listened to the online presentation concerning the proposed changes to the deer hunting program I've considered how either proposal #1 or #2 would effect my hunting preference and those of my family. I believe that the intention is admittedly interesting and possibly hopeful for those who only want to hunt one season and call it a year. Especially if the majority of those applicants were concentrated on trying to draw an East River license. The statistics show an inequitable number of people for the number of tags available. However the statistics also show a consensus among the focus groups and online respondents in favor of leaving the system basically as it is currently. Complicating the situation is the bouts of deer die offs through some key areas East River over the past several years. This inevitably lead to fewer licenses being available through the time frame that your statistics were compiled. Admittedly the sample size for commenting on this recent proposal is smaller than it should be, but so was the sample size pulled from the 2014 season where only 4054 respondents out 6000 invites were used to represent statistics for over 50,000 applicants for that time period. I feel for those who desire to draw a tag every year for their desired area, but I too have had to adjust to the disappointment of not being able to draw a tag for the areas I deeply desire to hunt in. Not only for deer but for Elk also. I've adjusted my expectations to concentrating on getting a West River tag annually and hopefully drawing a Hills tag every two years. My greatest pleasure comes from hunting in the Black Hills where I've invested much time and money in training each of my three children and now my grandson how to hunt ethically and effectively for deer. Since the opportunity to hunt in the Black Hills every year is a distant memory from long ago I was forced to look for other opportunities. That culminated in a relationship with a land owner West River that is now a yearly tradition. The investment I make financially for the Special Buck tag, access fees and hotel stays is significant and economically vital for the people who are trying to make a living in a small Western South Dakota community. Still, my greatest pleasure comes from hunting in the Black Hills. Under your proposal there is no winning option for me to continue to spend time hunting and teaching my family the wonderful experience of deer hunting in the Black Hills while continuing a hard fought for relationship with a generational West River rancher. Under this new proposal the likelihood that I could pull a tag in both seasons is statistically impossible. I gave up East River hunting with firearms several years ago so someone else could enjoy hunting where they felt drawn to, and now those same people are taking away my opportunity to hunt where I have a deep passion for. From an economic standpoint with the proposed changes I will most likely be spending hundreds of dollars less each year on hunting deer in South Dakota and if I'm not going hunting then there will be many fewer opportunities for my grandchildren to experience one of the most exciting hunting opportunities we have in South Dakota. If hunter retention is one of the stated goals this proposal is a losing proposition in my mind. By having the option to apply for multiple seasons, avid hunters can plan on hunting with family members and friends regularly according to each person's schedules. Please reconsider your positions and don't abandon those who desire to hunt throughout the entire season across our entire state

Delyle Kruger

Watertown SD

delyle@tnics.com

Comment:

I would like to see the big game license application process stay the same as it has been. I am content with the current process and do not like the new proposals.

Ben Spies

Watertown SD

bennyspies@gmail.com

Comment:

I'm firmly opposed. This proposal does not offer one ounce of incentive to the future hunters of South Dakota. Instead of creating opportunity, elevating excitement and offering more reasons for kids to continue to engage in outdoor activities, this eliminates options, forcing what's left of our future generation of hunters to lose interest, which ultimately, results in quitting hunting all together. I'd like to know exactly where the opposition is coming from. Is it residents or non-residents who oppose the status quo? Where are they from? Are these people thinking of themselves or the future of hunting in South Dakota? My occupation allows the opportunity to have daily conversations about this with many people, none of which favor a change.

By taking away opportunity, youth interest in deer hunting, and hunting all together, will continue to decline. How many kids have the patience to, "wait another year" to draw a deer tag because their first choice was unsuccessful and, if they're lucky enough to have a 2nd, that too is unavailable or too few tags are available to even give it another try. What we have accomplished is showing our future hunters, who are now, at the critical point to become motivated to deer hunt in SD, that it's not worth the time to apply for deer tags. Why give them another reason to stay inside, play video games and not participate in the treasured South Dakota hunting heritage? Our current system offers opportunity and the "chance" to draw a coveted deer tag. This is what makes South Dakota special and different from other states where their big game hunters are regularly discouraged by their deer tag draw system. Under our current system, kids have the opportunity to get involved, be active, have options, enjoy the outdoors, spend time with family and friends and build all the great memories we ALL experienced as kids in this great state. Once we lose the kids, we've ALL failed, and by passing this, the GF&P will have officially formed the snowflake, which will create the avalanche that'll eventually kill off hunting in SD. We're one BIG step closer to the end, which many of us are now starting to see. Our current system is what makes SD an encouraging platform for future outdoorsmen and women. Again, without the kids, we have nothing and this proposal will crush it. Even the newly introduced mentor big game tags will become a waste of time.

Before taking this major step, please take in consideration ALL the repercussions this will create. We don't have much more to hold on to.

Chris Moser

Rapid City SD

moser_c1@hotmail.com

Comment:

To whom it may concern,
I do not support this new proposal. I have hunted in this state since I was a little boy, I am 35 now, grew up hunting with my dad. Allowed to pretty much get any tag a person wanted every year or every other year with applying to units where I could do so. I like to hunt west river firearm, black hills firearm, archery, muzzleloader, all for deer. I apply for those every year. I like the fact that a person has the opportunity in this state to hold multiple tags to hunt every year. It shouldn't have to change just because of "SOME" people or "SOMEONE" choosing to only apply for one tag. That is their choice, if they don't draw that year well that is their choice, they should know going into it what their chances are by looking into draw statistics. We shouldn't have to change it for the rest of us who have hunted this way since the beginning. I choose to apply in places where there is a good chance at drawing a tag. I have done my research when it comes to hunting and what counties I have good opportunity with draw statistics. Why should folks like myself be held back if this were to change now. With this new proposal it pretty much means you get one chance per year at an any deer tag, not necessarily a guaranteed tag either. Well that doesn't sound too great! Everyone that I have talked to that hunts are all opposing this new idea. Let's not ruin great South Dakota hunting for it's residents by applying this ridiculous new proposal!

David Vogel
Mobridge SD
dvogel@webwater.org

Comment:

My opinion High demand areas are still going to need preference. I like the way it is now, because I no I can get a tag every year the new way limits this in my opinion.

Brian Korman
Pierre SD
Briannpswork@gmail.com

Comment:

I support the proposed change to combine the six deer seasons into one draw. As a hunter who can generally only hunt one season per year due to a variety of reasons, I agree with the department's conclusion that I will be more likely to draw my preferred license; whether that be Black Hills, West River, East River, Or Muzzleloader Any Deer, all of which I have applied for in the last 5 years with moderate success in drawing my preferred tag for that year.

Rob Brooks
Dakota Dunes SD
robb@siouxcityford.com

Comment:

I think you should leave the deer application process the way it is. The process is fair and there are times when it is nice to be able to draw more than one tag for different seasons. Not sure you can do that with the new system.

Greg Stuebner
Webster SD
PEPPER_835@HOTMAIL.COM

Comment:

I support making all seasons one application in first draw as proposed. After watching the presentation and hearing that the idea behind this is to allow more opportunity for first choice hunt area, I think we should make it more opportunity or nothing at all. I am one of the few who do multiple seasons per year. IF we do the big three- why not all? as proposed. I did not include archery, but support limiting out of state tags numbers valid on public land.

Matt Foell
Milbank SD
drmattfoell@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Indian Springs Boating Restrictions

James Seaver

Frankfort SD

cvoishere@yahoo.com

Comment:

oppose