

**Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
March 3-4, 2022**

Vice Chair Doug Sharp called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. CT. Commissioners Travis Bies, Julie Bartling, Jon Locken, Stephanie Rissler, Doug Sharp, Charles Spring, and Robert Whitmyre were present. Public and staff were able to listen via SDPB livestream and participate via video conference or in person with approximately 70 total participants via zoom and in person.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Vice chair Sharp called for conflicts of interest to be disclosed. None were presented.

Approval of Minutes

Sharp called for any additions or corrections to the January 4-5, 2022, regular meeting minutes and February 7, 2022, special meeting.

Motion by Whitmyre with second by Locken TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4-5, 2022, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND FEBRUARY 7, 2022, SPECIAL MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Sharp called for additional salary days. None were requested.

Legislative Session Summary

Secretary Robling provided an update on legislation pertaining to GFP for 2022.

Wildlife Damage Management Specialist of the Year Award

Emmett Keyser, regional supervisor presented Greg Wolbrink with the WDM Specialist of the year award.

SD Bowhunters Conservation Office of the Year Award

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division director, announced the Bowhunters Conservation Officer of the year.

SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation

Kristina Coby, executive director, introduced herself to the Commission and provided a brief update on current initiatives.

Go Outdoors SD Update

Keith Fisk and Ross Scott provided an update.

Fishing Marketing Plan

Nick Harrington, Communications Manager, provided an update on Fishing South Dakota. This is a department initiative to recruit, retain and reactivate resident and nonresident anglers. Shala Larson, R3 and Relevancy Coordinator, provided an update on Fishing with Your Friends, a project that will begin in 2022. This project is funded through a Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation grant.

HuntSafe Program Update

Brandon Maas, HuntSafe Coordinator, provided an update on the HuntSAFE program. Classes are now being held in-person and online courses are now being charged. There is a HuntSAFE Conference April 22-23.

Parks Programming and Social Media

April Larson, Marketing Coordinator, presented an update on park programming and social media. The goal behind all programming and social media content is to continue to deliver excellent customer service and meet our customers where they are to continue to build outdoor families.

PETITION

Nonresident Use of Hounds for Hunting

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division director, presented the petition received from Joshua Didier to allow for nonresidents to use hounds to hunt racoons.

Motion by Bartling, second by Spring to deny the petition. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bies, second by Bartling to adopt resolution 22-05 (appendix C) denying the petition. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Jon Kotilnek, senior staff attorney, opened the floor for discussion from those in attendance on matters of importance to them that may not be on the agenda.

Missouri River Waterfowl Refuge

Larry Steffen – Pierre, SD – SD Migratory Bird Association President The recommendation is to take half of the Peoria boat ramp to the face of the dam, and it would all be public hunting.

Steve Nelson – Pierre, SD – SD Migratory Upland Bird Association Have had several meetings with organization. A goose hunter in Pierre probably hunts 10-20 days. Explained that the geese need a refuge close to water and they have been doing this with the DeGrey refuge for 45 years. This would leave 500 miles of shooting on the west side of the river from Pierre to Gettysburg and we are only asking for a 6-mile strip surrounded by public ground.

George Vandel – Pierre, SD Ducks go where they want to go and if there were ducks outside of the refuge, I would not need to make comment today. There is not 500 miles of hunting along the water. It's important to understand the existing system is due to a compromise by boat hunters and field hunters and it's a good system. It's not an easy hunt, but it's a lot of fun. Please keep these hunting options open.

Peter Koupal – Rapid City, SD Built a cabin at Peoria Flats 5 years ago to enjoy the river. Enjoys waterfowl hunting by waters edge, field, and from the boat. Public land access provides the opportunity for me to hunt. This proposal does not have any R3 (recruit, retain and reactivate)

Andy Vandel – Pierre, SD - High Plains Wildlife Association These public lands provide ample opportunity for future and past waterfowl hunters. Passionate to pass this on to the next generation. This parcel doesn't require you to register prior to hunting. These areas are close so people can easily go out in the evening after school or work. While it is close to Pierre it is the public lands that provides access that makes it ideal. There are 5 concrete boat ramps, we should create and or expand on these opportunities not remove. This proposal removes access and therefore the High Plains Wildlife Association is not in support.

Paul Lepisto – Pierre, SD – Izaak Walton League of America Request this proposal be denied as we support R3, and this expansion proposal increases the refuge by 440% and decreases access and participate. This would have major impacts for people all over South Dakota and the country. We do not support closer of public land or public water.

Derek Schiefelbein - Pierre, SD Opposes the proposal due as it will limit access and stated this is not a hunting pressure issue. Ducks provide opportunity when the geese don't leave North Dakota. Adding more refuges only allows one thing, the loss of opportunity.

Nathan Morey - Pierre, SD Outdoor opportunities have kept me in the Pierre area specifically waterfowl hunting and the late season opportunity. This refuge would take away what I look forward to every year. And for what reason, what would we gain from this? There is no reasonable data to show this would benefit the waterfowl.

Roger Hatling – Pierre, SD This area is unbelievable for duck hunting. The birds that come through here now is because of what happens in North Dakota. If you want scientific data, you can go back and see what happen at Sand Lake when all the grain was removed. The geese will be here by one reason only which is the weather in North Dakota. Can provide pictures to show the shoreline full of ducks, geese, and everything else. The geese move around a little bit, but they always come back. Every refuge is right in front of a goose camp. These areas are where the birds chose to stay.

Lance Roberts – Pierre, SD Agree with the comments against the proposal. Was in Washington State fishing and they haven't explained the refuge but alternate the days decoys can be used.

Shooting Range Land Purchase

Matt Kammerer – Rapid City, SD Spoke in opposition. Doesn't want section line moved to the south end. He listed several other reasons why he does not support the shooting range.

Chris Hesla – Pierre, SD – SDWF Opposes refuge change and agrees with comments previously made. Supports the gun range and compliments staff for their hard work thus far.

King Cavalier II – Sturgis, SD Has been working with Jim Scull for the last 14 years to find land to develop a shooting range in this state. This will not be a private business. It will allow for a safe, responsible, concerned and EPA compliant manner and it will be free to the public. In response to complaints about noise and for load out he has been a competitive shooter across the country, and this will not be an issue. Knows about ranges and promoting events and this range would be a

spectacular attraction for residents across the state. Supports this range it is the right time and the right place.

Dennis Jorgenson – Rapid City, SD spoke in support. He explained that as coach to youth sports that require dedication, hard work and attention to detail shooting sports are another way for kids to excel.

Teri Jorgenson - Rapid City, SD Supports the facility. She says safety is the number one priority and is shocked at peoples lack of shooting knowledge and not understanding this will be a safe place for shooting.

Nancy Hilding – Black Hawk, SD – Prairie Hills Audubon Society Opposed to shooting range at this location. Says safety is limited to bullets and not lead or local wildlife. Says the Commission promised to pay the foundation back a year ago.

Brian Gosch, Rapid City, SD – NRA State director for NRA. Represents 5 states spoke in support of the shooting range land purchase.

George Vandel – Pierre, SD Has experienced a great change in the Pierre shooting range and it used to be a dump. GFP built a whole new range and it's a night and day difference. It is safe, clean, and accessible. A hunter has several ethical responsibilities: safe, legal, and efficient enough to be a good shot to proficiently harvest an animal. Provide as many of these ranges as you possibly can. You will never find a spot that doesn't have some conflict, but this is the best possible location..... encourage

Petition – Use of Hounds

Julie Anderson, Rapid City, SD – Signs of Hope Opposes the next predator bounty program and petition to allow for the use of hounds.

Jamie Al-Haj – Rapid City, SD spoke in opposition to the use of hounds for hunting.

PROPOSALS

Public Waters – Indian Springs

Jacquie Ermer, wildlife regional supervisor, presented the recommended change to

1. Modify applicable dates and the area included in “no discharge of a firearm from a boat” of Indian Springs and Antelope Lakes in Clark County.
2. Modify applicable dates and the area included in the closure of fishing from a boat of Indian Springs and Antelope Lakes in Clark County.

She explained that in 2017, HB1001 tasked the SD Game Fish and Parks to work on agreements with landowners on nonmeandered water issues. One such agreement was with a landowner on Indian Springs Lake in Clark County. The current rule was put into place in 2018 after discussions with a landowner who owned most of the flooded private property in the Indian Springs basin. It was the opportunity to balance the request of the landowner and the public recreational use of Indian Springs Lake. Landownership has changed hands since the original agreement. Due to water levels increasing in the

area, the new landowner has requested to simplify the boundaries of the current area closed to “discharging a firearm or fishing from a boat” on Indian Springs to also include the waters of Antelope Lake. Antelope Lake is currently designated as a State Waterfowl Refuge. As part of this request, the landowner also agreed to change the start date in the current rules 41:04:02:12b and 14:07:02:01b to October 20th, giving sportsmen and women an additional 10 days in the fall to hunt and fish from a boat while allowing the water to be open to public recreational use during the winter, spring, and summer months. This date would also align with boating regulations on other state refuges. Indian Springs Lake is a non-meandered body of water thus is subject to landowner request to close it to recreational use if so desires. By GFP staff working with the current landowners, Indian Springs Lake can remain open to public recreational activities with minimal restrictions for 2 months vs being shut down year-round.

Motioned by Bies, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES. Motion carried unanimously.

Waterfowl Seasons

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season

Chad Switzer, Wildlife Administrator, presented no recommended changes to the youth waterfowl season.

Duck Hunting Season

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the duck hunting season as follows:

1. Remove daily bag limit of 5 mergansers (including 2 hooded mergansers) and include all mergansers in the normal duck daily bag limit.
2. Remove the possession limit of mergansers and include all mergansers in the normal duck possession limit.
3. Remove the ability to transfer certain nonresident licenses after a specific date.

He explained these recommended changes cleans up administrative rules for the implementation of the experimental options available to duck hunters. The allowance to transfer certain nonresident licenses after a specific date is unnecessarily complex and creates difficulties with the administration of licenses as well as creates confusion with hunters.

Motioned by Rissler, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Early Fall Canada Goose

Switzer presented the recommended change to remove restriction for nonresident hunters in the counties of Beadle, Brookings, Hanson, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Moody, Sanborn, Turner, Union, and Minnehaha counties.

Motion by Bies, second by Bartling TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

Goose Hunting Season, August Management Take and Special Canada Goose Hunting season.

Switzer presented no recommended changes to the goose hunting season.

Common Snipe

Switzer presented no recommended changes to the snipe season.

Tundra Swan Hunting Season

Switzer presented no recommended changes to the tundra swan season.

Sandhill Crane

Switzer presented no recommended changes to the sandhill crane.

Waterfowl Hunting Season

Switzer presented no recommended changes to the waterfowl hunting season.

Elk License Allocation

Switzer presented the administrative action to allocate licenses for the 2022-2023 elk hunting seasons.

2021			2022-2023		
Black Hills Elk			Black Hills Elk		
Unit	Resident Licenses		Unit	Resident Licenses	
	Any Elk	Atl Elk		Any Elk	Atl Elk
	21	23		21	23
H1A	50		H1A	60	
H1B		15	H1B		65
H2A	240		H2A	290	
H2B		25	H2B		50
H2C			H2C		50
H2D			H2D		
H2E		50	H2E		40
H2F			H2F		40
H2G			H2G		40
H2H		5	H2H		10
H2I		15	H2I		10
H2J		15	H2J		10
H3A	100		H3A	120	
H3B		30	H3B		45
H3C		30	H3C		45
H3D		30	H3D		45
H3E		60	H3E		60

H3F		60	
H3G		60	
H4A	20		
H4B		40	
H5A	5		
H7A	20		
H7B		15	
H9A	15		
H9B		40	
TOTAL	450	490	940
Contingency	NA	98	98

H3F		60	
H3G		60	
H4A	20		
H4B		40	
H5A	5		
H7A	25		
H7B		20	
H9A	15		
H9B		40	
TOTAL	535	730	1,265
Contingency	NA	146	146

Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	23	
H1A	20	10	
H2A	80	40	
H3A	35	20	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	10		
H9A			
TOTAL	147	70	217

Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	23	
H1A	30	20	
H2A	100	40	
H3A	40	30	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	10		
H9A			
TOTAL	182	90	272

2021			
Prairie Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	23	
9A	10	15	
11A		18	
11B	16		
11C	16		
11D		30	
11E		30	
11F		30	
15A	8		
15B		5	
27A	10	10	
35A	4	8	
35B	4	12	
35C			
35D			
35E			
35F			
49A			
WRA	10	20	
TOTAL	78	178	256

2022-2023			
Prairie Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	23	
9A	4		
11A		5	
11B	16		
11C	16		
11D		30	
11E		10	
11F			
15A	8		
15B		5	
27A	20	20	
35A	10		
35B	8		
35C		15	
35D		15	
35E		20	
35F		20	
49A	10	15	
WRA	10	20	
TOTAL	102	175	277

Custer State Park			
Season	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	23	
CEE-CU1	3		
CUE-CU1	9		
TOTAL	12		12

Custer State Park			
Season	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	23	
CEE-CU1	4		
CUE-CU1	12		
TOTAL	16		16

Motioned by Bies, second by Bartling TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ALLOCATING ELK LICENSES BY SEASONS AND UNITS. Motion carried unanimously.

License Forms and Fees

Switzer presented the recommended change to remove the inclusion of the state migratory bird certification permit with the nonresident spring snow goose, nonresident early fall Canada goose licenses, nonresident 3-day licenses, nonresident youth waterfowl licenses and decrease applicable license fees by \$5 each. He explained that currently, several nonresident waterfowl licenses include the migratory bird certification permit. With the 2-tiered duck license option, applicants must select a migratory bird certification permit to reflect their choice of the traditional or 3-duck license option and pay the \$5 fee for the applicable migratory bird certification permit.

Motioned by Bies, second by Bartling TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE HUNTING LICENSE FEES. Motion carried unanimously.

Application for License

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the license application as follows:

1. Remove the requirement for unlimited access permits for archery, muzzleloader, mentor, youth, and apprentice deer license holders to hunt certain deer hunting units and public lands.
2. Limit the number of archery access permits for Unit WRD-27L to no more than 20 "any deer" access permits for residents and no more than 5 "any deer" access permits for nonresidents.

He explained research on R3 efforts (i.e., Recruitment, Reactivation, Retention) has identified rule/regulation complexity to be one of several obstacles for new sportsmen and women. The removal of these access permits will greatly simplify hunting regulations regarding mentor, archery, muzzleloader, youth, and apprentice deer license holders while having no impact to deer management in these areas. The number of access permits currently available, across all of these seasons, has created unnecessary complexity for sportsmen and women as well as the administration of these access permits in the licensing system. Unlimited access permits were established with the intent to evaluate harvest and participation on specific management areas by deer hunters with statewide or region-wide (e.g., West River Archery Deer) license types including archery, muzzleloader, mentor, youth, and apprentice license types. Deer harvest and participation was evaluated on all areas that required an access permit in 2019 and results were presented to the Commission. As a result, the Commission took action to limit archery deer access permits to 500 residents and 125 nonresidents on management unit 35L and no other unlimited license types or access permit areas were limited. Since 2019, no changes have been made to the number of access permits available for archery deer hunters in management unit 35L and no further changes have been made to the unlimited access permit areas. Through the 2021 deer hunting season, hunting effort and harvest success by access permit users has been collected, providing sufficient baseline information regarding use on these areas. Harvest and success by hunters with statewide or region-wide license types will continue to be estimated at the firearm deer management unit level. In the event there

is a desire to consider limiting access permits on additional areas and user groups, harvest and success data will be used to evaluate use by user groups on these areas beginning the 2022 deer hunting season. This change will simplify deer hunting regulations for statewide and region-wide deer license type user groups and reduce complexity of the deer licensing system. Limited access units (LAUs) are intended to reduce hunter densities and provide a quality hunt experience. Trend data of supports limiting the number of resident and nonresident archery access permits for Unit WRD-27L to help meet its LAU objective. In addition, a reduction in archery deer harvest will help meet the 80% firearm hunter success goal identified in the deer management plan for LAUs.

Motioned by Rissler, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Elk Seasons (April Finalization)

Black Hills Elk Hunting Season

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, presented the recommended changes to the elk seasons.

Black Hills Elk

1. Adjust the total number of available licenses from 425 "any elk" and 700 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,125 licenses) to no more than 500 "any elk" and 1,000 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,500 licenses).
2. Modify the boundaries of BHE-H9A and BHE-H9B to correct unit boundary.

He explained the recommended maximum number of elk licenses will be established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission via administrative action will determine specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation amongst hunting units. Updated population objectives and any recommended license adjustments will be shared at the March Commission meeting once preliminary harvest estimates have been obtained and population modeling exercises have been completed. There is currently a small geographic area that technically does not reside in any elk hunting unit; this unit boundary modification will correct this oversight.

Custer State Park Elk

1. Adjust the total number of available licenses from 9 "any elk" licenses to no more than 15 "any elk" licenses.
2. Administrative rule clean-up for season dates.

Switzer explained the recommended maximum number of elk licenses will be established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission via administrative action will determine specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation amongst hunting units. Updated population objectives and any recommended license adjustments will be shared at the March Commission meeting once preliminary harvest estimates have been obtained and population modeling exercises have been completed. Of the nine any elk licenses issued for Custer State Park, eight will be valid specifically for Custer State Park and the ninth any elk license will be made available to a non-governmental organization as a raffle license that is valid in Custer State Park and any Black Hills elk hunting unit in which an any elk license is issued.

Custer State Park Early Archery Elk

1. Adjust the total number of available licenses from 3 "any elk" to no more than 10 "any elk" licenses.

Switzer explained the recommended maximum number of elk licenses will be established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission via administrative action will determine specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation amongst hunting units. Updated population objectives and any recommended license adjustments will be shared at the March Commission meeting once preliminary harvest estimates have been obtained and population modeling exercises have been completed.

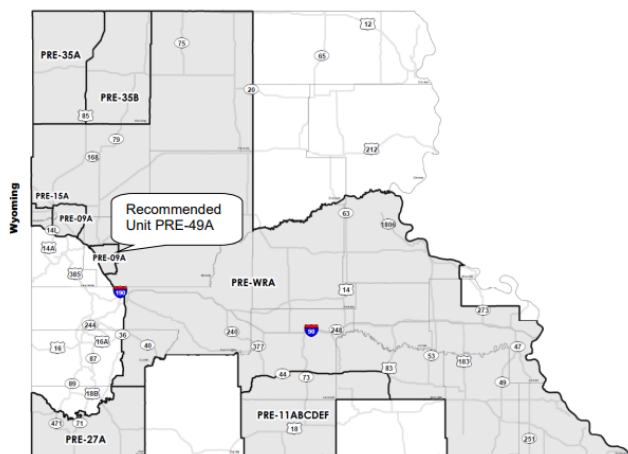
Archery Elk Hunting Season

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 142 "any elk" and 80 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 222 licenses) to no more than 200 "any elk" and 100 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 300 licenses).

Switzer explained the recommended maximum number of elk licenses will be established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission via administrative action will determine specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation amongst hunting units. Updated population objectives and any recommended license adjustments will be shared at the March Commission meeting once preliminary harvest estimates have been obtained and population modeling exercises have been completed.

Prairie Elk

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 78 "any elk" and 178 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 256 licenses) to no more than 100 "any elk" and 300 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 400 licenses).
2. Modify Unit PRE-9A (see map).
3. Establish a new unit (PRE-49A) to include a portion of Meade County and season dates (see map).
4. Correct season dates in administrative rule for units PRE-11B, PRE-11C, PRE-11D, PRE-35A, and PRE-35B.



Switzer explained the recommended maximum number of elk licenses will be established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission via administrative action will determine specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation amongst hunting units. Updated population objectives and any recommended license adjustments will be shared at the March Commission meeting once preliminary harvest estimates have been obtained and population modeling exercises have been completed. The recommended changes to prairie elk hunting unit boundaries and season date changes are to improve elk management on private land and simplify season dates.

Motion by Bartling with second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ELK SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

Missouri River (Pierre) Waterfowl Refuge (April Finalization)

Kirschenmann presented the recommended change to withdraw proposal and retain current refuge boundary. He explained the Commission denied a petition submitted by the South Dakota Migratory and Upland Gamebird Association as a component of the petition was to include a 50-year clause. The Commission, however, did develop a proposal that includes the addition to the Oahe Dam State Waterfowl Refuge as requested by the petitioner and believes the requested additions to the Oahe Dam State Waterfowl Refuge deserve an opportunity for public comment. It is unknown if the proposed refuge change will enhance waterfowl hunting opportunities in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre area at a level greater than the current public hunting opportunities that would be taken away. In addition, the total area in the proposed refuge expansion and removal of public access for waterfowl hunting opportunities is 14,768 acres; a 444% increase in size that includes 11,704 acres of water and 3,064 acres of land. The proposed refuge expansion would remove shoreline hunting that includes 24.2 miles upstream and 24.5 miles downstream of Oahe Dam.

No action was taken.

Lake Francis Case Walleye Regulations (April Finalization)

John Lott, fisheries chief, presented the recommended changes to remove the restriction requiring anglers to keep the first four walleye caught when fishing through the ice for the lower portion of Lake Francis Case. He explained current walleye regulations for the lower portion of Lake Francis Case, while fishing through the ice, include:

1. The first four walleyes caught must be kept
2. The 15-inch minimum length limit does not apply

A proposal was made by the commission at their January 2022 meeting, in response to a petition, that would remove the requirement that the first four walleyes caught be kept, while fishing through the ice in the lower portion of Lake Francis Case. The proposal, with the department recommended changes, would remove the existing walleye harvest restriction requiring anglers to not release any walleye caught while fishing through the ice in the lower portion of Lake Francis Case. It would also remove the exemption to the 15-inch minimum length limit in effect when fishing through the ice in this portion of the reservoir, meaning the 15-inch minimum length limit would be in effect for all areas of Lake Francis Case from September 1 through June 30. Specific regulations for walleye harvest when fishing through the ice on the lower end of Lake Francis Case were enacted in 2001 in response to public concern over high mortality of walleye caught from deep water and then released. The intent of the regulations was to reduce post-release mortalities by prohibiting release of walleye and limiting the number

of walleyes caught during a fishing trip. There is evidence to support the idea that post-release mortality increases at deeper depths. The special walleye harvest regulations for the lower portion of Lake Francis Case, when fishing through the ice, is the only case in the state where a regulation specifically requiring fish to be harvested exists because of potential post-release mortality. However, the same issue occurs at other locations during various times of the year, including in the lower portion of Lake Francis Case during the summer.

Motioned by Locken, second by Spring TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE AS PRESENTED. Roll Call Vote: Bartling – No, Bies – Yes, Locken – Yes, Olson – absent, Rissler – Yes, Sharp – Yes, Spring – Yes, Whitmyre – Yes. Motion passed 6-1

Public Waters (April Finalization)

Jacque Ermer, wildlife regional supervisor, presented the recommended change to remove no boating zones and allow for non-motorized watercraft within the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and the Waubay State Game Bird Refuge, establish a no wake zone at a new boat ramp at Lake Poinsett State Recreation Area in Brookings County, modify the no wake zone at the Belle Fourche Reservoir in Butte County to include all boat ramps. The noted change from the original proposal was to modify the use of existing safety zone definitions currently in rule.

Motioned by Bartling, second by Rissler TO APPROVE THE MODIFICATION TO THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Lake Vermillion SE Boat Ramp Park Entrance License Requirement

Al Nedved, parks and recreation deputy director presented the recommended change to move the entrance station to before the southeast boat ramp at Lake Vermillion.

Motioned by Rissler, second by Bartling TO APPROVE THEN CHANGE TO THE BOUNDRARY. Motion carried unanimously.

DOT Collector Road Funding Plan 2023

Adam Kulesa, parks division administrator, presented a brief summary of the 5-year agreement between DOT and GFP for 2.8 million dollars annually in collector road funding. Projects along with expenses for FY22 were outlined and a projection of projects and funding amounts was provided for FY23. Commissioner Sharp asked about the Shep's Canyon Road and was provided information regarding a project completed in 2021 to add asphalt millings, gravel, and base-one to improve that road surface.

Camping, Visitation and Revenue Report

Al Nedved, Deputy Director for Parks presented monthly camping, visitation, and revenue that after the reports. Nedved indicated that the reports are now being generated by the new GoOutdoors system, and we have noticed there are some

inaccuracies due to the old and new systems trying to work together. So, the February reports should be disregarded and hopefully March reports will reflect accurate numbers.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Track Chair Fundraising – Samp Family

Emmett Keyser, wildlife regional supervisor and Peter and Michael Samp spoke regarding a partnership with between GFP and the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation to purchase additional track chairs to assist people with mobility issues in participating in outdoors activities.

Motion by Spring, second by Bies TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-03 (APPENDIX A) FORMALLY SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE, COLLABORATE, AND DO HEREBY AUTHORIZE THIS BENEVOLENT FUNDRAISING EFFORT BY THE SAMP FAMILY. Motion carried unanimously.

Shooting Range Land Purchase

Paul Coughlin, terrestrial habitat program administrator and John Kanta, terrestrial's chief, presented the resolution authorizing purchase of 400 acres in Meade County, SD from the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation at the price of \$900,000.00 plus all associated costs incurred by the foundation from its purchase and holding of the property.

Motion by Locken, second by Rissler TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 22-04 (APPENDIX B) Roll Call Vote: Bartling – Yes, Bies – Yes, Locken – Yes, Olson – absent, Rissler – Yes, Sharp – Yes, Spring – No, Whitmyre – Yes. Motion passed 6-1

Nelson-Hendrickson GPA Exchange

Paul Coughlin, terrestrial habitat program, provided information on a proposed GPA land exchange in Day County to swap the 200-acre Nelson-Hendrickson GPA valued at \$244,000 for the 240-acre Althoff property valued at \$244,000.

Mentored Volunteer Hunting Program

Paige O'Farrell, Volunteer Coordinator/Naturalist and Katie Schlafke, Naturalist, presented information on eh mentored volunteer hunting program.

Nest Predator Bounty Program Update

Jacque Ermer, wildlife regional supervisors provided an update on the nest predator bounty program explaining that a key priority of Governor Noem's Second Century Initiative is focused on the next generation of trapping and creating outdoor families. As part of this initiative, GFP will kick off the fourth year of the program designed to enhance localized pheasant and duck nest success by removing nest predators from the landscape while engaging families in trapping and outdoor recreation. For 2022, GFP will offer \$10/tail from trapped or hunted raccoon, striped skunk, badger, red fox, and opossum. New for 2022, the month of March will be open only to resident youth under age 18; a month earlier than for those 18 of age or older. Starting April 1, all residents are eligible to participate in the program. The program runs through July 1, 2022, or until a maximum total payout of \$500,000 is reached. Since 2019, over 5,500 individuals have participated in the program with

approximately 20% being younger than 18 years old. In 2021, 29% of participants were under age 18 which is 16% increase from 2020. GFP will again hold a weekly giveaway drawing for all youth under age 18 that participate in the program. The giveaway consists of a GFP-sponsored trapping package that included three live traps, a knife, and a copy of the National Trappers Association Trapping Handbook. For more information on the Nest Predator Bounty Program, visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/bounty-program/>. GFP also offers a variety of trapping-based education opportunities, including Outdoor Campus classes such as Predator Calling, Snare Making and Introduction to Trapping. For more information on trapping education opportunities provided by GFP, visit <https://southdakota.storefront.kalkomey.com/em/programs/18>

Waterfowl Update

Rocco Murano, senior wildlife biologist, provided a powerpoint presentation on flyway management, hunting season selection, breeding population and habitat survey, as well as duck framework.

Elk Population Update

Senior wildlife biologists Andy Lindbloom and Andrew Norton provided an update explaining the management of elk populations in South Dakota is guided by the Elk Action Plan that was adopted by the GFP commission in 2021. The population objective for elk in the Black Hills is 6,000 – 8,000 wintering elk, and 500 – 600 in Custer State Park. Approximately 735 elk were harvested in the 2021 Black Hills hunting seasons, with hunter success for “any elk” hunters at 87% and 80% of the bulls harvested were 4 years of age or older. Harvest success and age objectives are currently being exceeded and GFP is recommending increases in “any elk” licenses to manage towards objectives and increase hunter opportunity. Documented elk recruitment and adult survival the past few years has resulted in a growing elk population, and GFP is recommending increased antlerless elk tags to increase cow harvest, provide more hunter opportunity, and slow elk herd growth. Current model projections suggest the elk population in the Black Hills is approximately 7,000.

License Sales Update

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division director, provided an update on resident and nonresident license sales.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

Appendix A Resolution 22-03

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks (Department) has worked to develop and improve access opportunities for hunters, anglers, and park visitors at our agency building facilities, our public fishing areas, our boat ramps, our water access facilities, our campgrounds, our trails, and other public use facilities associated with our State Park System; and

WHEREAS, approximately 12.26%¹ of all South Dakotans suffer from a mobility disability; and

WHEREAS, the Department is continually striving to improve access to outdoor recreational opportunities for all members of the public, but especially for those individuals with disabilities and mobility issues; allowing them to safely and comfortably enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities of all kinds across our state; and

WHEREAS, Rollyn H. Samp (Rolly), an avid South Dakota hunter, angler, outdoorsman, conservationist, and mentor, with a long history of working for and collaborating with various government and charitable entities, suffers from cerebral ataxia, a disease where he feels like he is falling.

WHEREAS, Rolly had the opportunity to utilize a special mobility “track chair” during a 2020 family vacation where he was able to hike and fish in the Grace Coolidge Fishing Area and enjoy a family fishing trip to Center Lake in the Black Hills of SD; and

WHEREAS, Rolly and his granddaughter Margaret K. Samp submitted a very sincere and heart-warming cover story published in SD Conservation Digest sharing the positive experience he and his family had because of their ability to access the track chair; and

WHEREAS, following the publishing of this story, Rolly, his son Michael, and their family approached the Department and have expressed a strong desire to help ensure all South Dakotans challenged with mobility issues can enjoy similar outdoor experiences with their families and friends; and

WHEREAS, with the goal of helping the Department raise funds to provide additional track chairs and to help the Department market, promote, the future availability of additional track chairs enabling even more individuals with mobility challenges the opportunities to gain access to the outdoors by placing additional track chairs at various State Parks, Recreation Areas and Regional Wildlife Office facilities geographically dispersed across South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, both the Department and the SD Game Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) wish to recognize and support this benevolent offer brought forth by the

¹ SD Department of Public Safety – 109,814 disability parking placards issued in 2021,
US Census Bureau, July 2021 – SD Population 895,376

Samp Family to help improve access to the outdoors for those with mobility challenges;
and

WHEREAS, the Samp Family has a long history of involvement as well as expertise in fundraising for charitable and benevolent causes; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has also expressed a strong desire to help foster additional outdoor recreational opportunities for all South Dakotans; the Commission rises to strongly support this effort by the Samp Family.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Department and Commission wish to formally support, encourage, collaborate, and do hereby authorize this benevolent fundraising effort by the Samp Family through this formal Commission Resolution in an effort to ensure access to South Dakota's rich outdoor heritage for those citizens with mobility challenges well into the future.

Appendix B
Resolution 22-04

Whereas, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks (DEPARTMENT) desires to acquire real property (PROPERTY) presently owned by the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation (FOUNDATION), which PROPERTY is legally described as:

Government Lots 3 and 4 in Section 3 of Township 3 North, Range 8 East of the Black Hills Meridian, Meade County, South Dakota; and the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 34 in Township 4 North, Range 8 East of the Black Hills Meridian, Meade County, South Dakota, less a portion of subject property as conveyed in the Quit Claim Deed recorded in Book 140 on Page 265, containing 400 acres, more or less; and

Whereas, said PROPERTY is to be acquired and utilized by DEPARTMENT for the purpose of developing a public shooting range; and Whereas, DEPARTMENT has evaluated the PROPERTY and determined it is suitable for developing a public shooting range; and

Whereas, SDCL 41-4-1.1 requires before purchasing property, DEPARTMENT notify adjacent owners of land to the property being acquired by publishing notice once in each legal newspaper of the county in which the property to be purchased is located; and

Whereas, DEPARTMENT has published the required legal notice 30 days prior to the date of action by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (COMMISSION) authorizing the intended purchase, which notice included the meeting time and location at which COMMISSION action is expected and by giving notice of instructions for presenting oral and written comments to the COMMISSION; and

Whereas, the COMMISSION has reviewed any comments received relative to the intended purchase, and after consideration of the same, the COMMISSION approves the purchase of said property for developing a public shooting range.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the DEPARTMENT is authorized to purchase the PROPERTY from the FOUNDATION at the price of \$900,000.00 plus all associated costs incurred by the FOUNDATION from its purchase and holding of the PROPERTY, including real estate taxes, closing costs, and estimated loss of income on investments liquidated for its purchase and holding of the PROPERTY, with the purchase by DEPARTMENT to be completed on or before April 30, 2022.

EXISTING SITE | SITE LOCATION



Appendix C
Resolution 22-05

WHEREAS, Luke Worthington of Gillette, Wyoming, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated February 7, 2022, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:08:01 (Furbearer seasons) – to allow for nonresidents to use hounds to hunt racoons for the reasons more fully set out in the petition (hereinafter referred to as “the Petition”); and

WHEREAS, all members of the Commission have been furnished with and have reviewed a copy of the Petition; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that a copy of the Petition has been served on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council as required by SDCL § 1-26-13; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that SDCL § 1-26-13 requires that within thirty (30) days of submission of a Petition, the Commission shall either “deny the petition in writing (stating its reasons for the denials) or shall initiate rule-making proceedings in accordance with SDCL 1-26-4.”; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised and is of the opinion that a hearing on the Petition is neither statutorily required nor necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed and carefully considered the requirements and procedures set out in SDCL §1-26-13 and the contents of the Petition, including the reasons advanced by Petitioner in support of allowing nonresidents to use hounds to hunt racoons; and

WHEREAS, there is concern over increased trespass in eastern South Dakota due to smaller acreage; and

WHEREAS, the current prohibition is a result of concern brought forward by trappers and organizations; and

WHEREAS, the current fur prices are low, however when they should again increase there is concern over the number of participants coming into the state and competing with residents; and

WHEREAS, amending current rule would only benefit a very small number of participants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby deny the Petition for the reasons hereinabove stated in this Resolution, which said Resolution

as adopted by the Commission shall constitute the Commission's written denial of the Petition and its reasons therefore.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Petition, a record of the Commission's discussions concerning same, and this Resolution be made a part of the Minutes of the Commission meeting at which this Resolution is adopted, and further, that the Department be and it is hereby authorized and directed in compliance with SDCL §1-26-13 to serve a copy of an extract of that portion of the Commission minutes which pertain to the Commission's discussion of the Petition and its adoption of this Resolution, including a copy of the Resolution, on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council with copies also to be provided to the Petitioner, Luke Worthington of Gillette, Wyoming.