



## **AGENDA *Revised*** **Game, Fish and Parks Commission**

January 16-17, 2020

Capitol Lake Visitors Center

650 E Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD

Livestream link <http://www.sd.net/home/>

### **Call to order 1:00 PM**

#### **Division of Administration**

##### Action Items:

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approve Minutes of the December 2019 Meeting  
<https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
4. Election of Officers

##### Information Items:

5. Cathy Peterson Memorial
6. Second Century Initiatives and Fund Board Update
  - a. Nest Predator Bounty Public Survey Result - Mark Duda, Responsive Management
  - b. Nest Predator Bounty Program Overview
7. Department Sponsored Legislation for 2020
8. Waterfowl – Missouri River Refuge Follow-up
9. R3 Workgroup Updates

#### **Petitions**

10. Nonresident east river special deer license
11. Retirement Deer Tag

### **Public Hearing 2:00 PM**

#### **Open Forum**

#### **Proposals**

12. Public Waters
13. Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season
14. Elk: BH, Archery, CSP and Prairie
15. CSP Bison
16. Waterfowl: Duck, Youth Duck, Tundra Swan (March)
17. Rules Review Chapters 41:06-41:07 (March)
18. West River Spring Turkey – Use of Rifles (March)
19. Flathead Catfish Trophy Regulations (March)

### **Division of Wildlife**

Action Item:

20. Land Donation – Brown County

Information Items:

21. Pheasant Hunting Marketing Efforts – Department of Tourism & GFP
22. Fish and Wildlife Service R3 Efforts – Dave Azure
23. HuntSAFE and Bowhunter Education Update
24. Captive Cervid Herds and CWD – AIB
25. CWD Update
26. Aquatic Habitat Projects and Approach
27. Black Hills Fisheries Plan Update
28. License Sales Update and Year End Summary
29. Distinguished Achievement Award

### **Division of Parks and Recreation**

Action Items:

30. Custer State Park Private Cabin Transfer
31. Roy Lake Concession Extension

Information Items:

32. Land and Water Conservation Fund Awards
33. Capital Development Project Update
34. Revenue, Camping and Visitation Report

### **Solicitation of Agenda Items from Commissioners**

### **Adjourn**

Next meeting information:

March 5-6, 2020

Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center

920 W Sioux Ave, Pierre, SD

GFP Commission Meeting Archives <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/4/>

## **Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission**

**December 12-13, 2019**

Chairman Gary Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CT at the Dakota Prairie Playhouse in Madison, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Travis Bies, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Scott Phillips, Russell Olson, Douglas Sharp, Robert Whitmyre and approximately 45 public, staff, and media were present.

### **DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Chair Jensen called for conflicts of interest to be disclosed. None were presented.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Jensen called for any additions or corrections to the November 7-8, 2019 meeting minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Olson with second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7-8, 2019 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Additional Commissioner Salary Days**

No additional salary days were requested.

#### **Second Century Initiatives Update**

Kevin Robling, deputy secretary, and Tom Kirschenmann, deputy wildlife directory, provided an update on the status of Second Century initiatives.

#### **WMI Review**

Keith Fisk, wildlife program administrator, and Bill Moritz and Chris Smith from WMI provided details on the review of the Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) /Animal Damage Control (ADC) Programs.

#### **Missouri River Refuges**

Kevin Robling, deputy secretary, provided an update on Missouri River refuges.

#### **R3 Waterfowl Efforts**

Kevin Robling, deputy secretary, and Heather Villa, wildlife administration chief, provided an update on R3 waterfowl efforts.

#### **National Wild Turkey Federation Conservation Officer of the Year Award**

Ron Schauer presented Matt Talbert the Conservation Officer of the Year Award.

#### **GFP Leadership Development Program Graduation**

Tori Littlefield, Lumin Advantage Consulting, provided a program overview & awards presentation for the first cohort of the GFP Leadership Development Program.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Jensen opened the floor for discussion from those in attendance on matters of importance to them that may not be on the agenda.

Michael Brown, Sioux Falls, SD East Dakota NWTF, has been hunting turkey for approximately 36 years. Spoke regarding his personal views not local NWTF chapter. Incident in Black Hills years ago when a hunter was shot then a year later had an

incident when a rifle was pointed at him when he was working turkey down the road. Another time saw a rancher shoot a turkey from a road and referred to it like picking them off like a sniper. Does not want this passed feeling it is unsafe step backwards.

Jim Pitman, Emporia, KS NWTF opposed to the proposal as rifles pose an unnecessary safety risk. Most hunters are in full camo in the field near a decoy and could easily be put in the line of fire and possibly mortal risk. Statistics show more incidents when rifles are involved.

Francis Strohfus, Watertown, SD NWTF State President spoke on his own behalf as a landowner noting it's important for people to learn to hunt the turkey in a respectful manor will keep people involved. Safety is number one and we are on a good track and need to keep it as is and opposes the proposal.

Barrett Bauer, Hayti, SD avid turkey hunter for 18 years using rifles, shotguns and bows and says there are safety issues with every method, and they should be addressed. Said comments noted the camo and decoys are so good and people are okay with the use of them but oppose the rifle. Said it could be a suggestion that hunters wear orange to and from their blinds to increase safety. Believes quality of game meat is hire when rifle is used. Recommended commission approve the proposal

Bridget Bauer, Watertown, SD noted the importance of getting people out in the field and recommends offering different methods to provide opportunity for kids to keep them interested and older generations as it may be easier.

Bruce Bauer, Watertown, SD asked the commission to approve the proposal and allow the option of rifles and promote varied and diverse opportunities in a time when we are losing hunters is important and aligns with the second century initiative. Ask commission to be careful of increasing safety as it may end up causing a ban on rifles or decoys for other seasons. Said there has not been a rifle accident on the prairie in the last 40 years.

Zack Hunke, Watertown, SD introduced himself as the new president of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation. Noted grassroots habitat efforts done by federation to bring forward contributions for habitat.

## **PROPOSALS**

### **Waterfowl**

#### **Youth**

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, presented recommended changes to the youth waterfowl hunting season to modify the start date from beginning on the Saturday prior to the last Saturday of September to beginning 14 days prior to the Saturday closest to September 24.

Motion by Boyd, second by Olson TO MODIFY THE YOUTH WATERFOWL SEASON TO BEGIN 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SATURDAY CLOSEST TO SEPTEMBER 24. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Duck**

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the duck hunting season to decrease the scaup daily bag limit from 3 to 1 and modify the start date of the Low

Plains Middle and North Zones from beginning on the last Saturday of September to the Saturday closest to September 24.

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO DECREASE THE SCAUP DAILY LIMIT TO 1 AND MODIFY THE START DATE FOR THE LOW PLAINS MIDDLE AND NORTH ZONES TO THE SATURDAY CLOSEST TO SEPTEMBER 24.

### **Goose**

Switzer presented the no recommended changes to the 2020 goose hunting season August Management Take.

Switzer presented the no recommended changes to the 2020 early fall Canada goose hunting season.

Switzer presented the no recommended changes to the 2020 goose hunting season.

Switzer presented the no recommended changes to the 2020 Special Canada Goose Hunting Season.

### **Tundra Swan**

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Tundra Swan hunting season to reduce the total number of licenses from 1,675 to 1,300 and reduce the number of licenses available for nonresidents from 250 to 200.

Motion by Sharp, second by Phillips TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF LICENSE FROM 1,675 TO 1,300 AND NONRESIDENT LICENSES FROM 250 TO 200. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Sandhill Crane**

Switzer presented the no recommended changes to the 2020 sandhill crane hunting season.

### **Snipe**

Switzer presented the no recommended changes to the 2020 common snipe hunting season.

### **Spring Light Goose Conservation Order**

Switzer presented the no recommended changes to the 2020 spring light goose conservation order.

### **Rules Review Chapters 41:06-41:07**

Andy Alban, program administrator, explained that during the 2019 Legislative Session HB 1162 was introduced by Representative Gosch. The intent of the bill was to have the Department conduct a systematic review of our administrative rules. During the review the Department was to identify rules that are irrelevant, inconsistent, illogically arranged, or unclear in their intent and direction. After discussions with Representative Gosch, the Department agreed to conduct the systematic review without legislation and to report its findings and corrective changes back to the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council. During the December meeting the Commission formally proposed suggested changes to ARSD 41:06 and 41:07 to correct inconsistencies, remove unnecessary barriers and arrange rules logically thus

promoting an administrative code that benefits current, former and new users. This rules package will be finalized in March 2020.

The Department recommends the following rule changes for the following administrative rules in an effort to reduce redundancy, increase transparency and improve consistency:

Chapter 41:06

Motion by Whitmyre, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:06. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 41:07

Motion by Locken, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:07. Motion carried unanimously.

### **West River Spring Turkey – Use of Rifles**

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife deputy director, presented the recommended change to the spring turkey hunting season to allow the use of rifles (rimfire, centerfire, and muzzleloading) on private land (excluding private land leased by GFP for public hunting access through the Walk-In Area program) for West River spring prairie hunting units.

### **Flathead Catfish Trophy Regulations**

John Lott, fisheries chief, presented the recommended changes to modify the flathead catfish trophy regulations proposal to apply only to inland waters rather than statewide.

Motioned by Phillips, second by Olson TO AMEND THE PROPOSAL TO ONLY APPLY TO INLAND WATERS. Motion carried unanimously.

## **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

### **Resolution Supporting Recovering America's Wildlife Act**

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife deputy director, presented the resolution supporting recovering America's Wildlife Act for Commission approval. Kirschenmann explained this resolution would show support for state policy and legislation to broaden dedicated funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation and wildlife action plan implementation and aid in providing the required match when new dedicated federal funding is secured.

Motion by Whitmyre, second by Locken TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 19-30 (APPENDIX A) SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF THE RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT. Motion carried unanimously.

### **AIS Filtration System**

BJ Schall, wildlife biologist, presented a powerpoint on AIS filtration system.

### **Law Enforcement Efforts**

Regional conservation officer supervisors Kraig Haase and Jeremy Roe provided a powerpoint to the Commission on law enforcement efforts.

### **Rapid City Shooting Range**

John Kanta, wildlife regional supervisor explained GFP is currently partnering with the Ellsworth Development Authority to identify and develop a firearm range opportunity near Rapid City and Ellsworth Airforce Base. The firearms facility will provide a multi-agency firearms training facility in western South Dakota directly supporting Ellsworth Air Force Base (EAFB) B-21 requirements, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks public rifle and handgun range needs; and existing South Dakota Army National Guard training and certification to meet readiness requirements. This opportunity will serve as a free public rifle, shotgun, handgun and archery range within a 30-minute driving radius of Rapid City open to the public, youth groups, shooting sports groups and others. The range will also serve airmen and women from Ellsworth Air Force Base and public from Box Elder.

### **License Sales Update**

Heather Villa, wildlife administration chief, presented the resident and nonresident license sales totals as of December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **CWD**

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, provided an update on chronic wasting disease.

## **DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **Roy Lake Resort Transfer/Sale**

Scott Simpson, parks and recreation division director, provided the Commission information on the status of Roy Lake Resort and discussed next steps.

### **EcoSun Prairie Partnership at Good Earth**

Jeff VanMeeteren, parks and recreation regional supervisor, and Dr. Carter Johnson presented information on the EcoSun Prairie Partnership with Good Earth State Park – Good Earth State Park has initiated a 5-year lease agreement with EcoSun Prairie Farms, Inc. to convert 144 acres of park land to native prairie/habitat. Of the 144 acres, approx. 106 acres have been in ag production over the past 20 years with the balance being in marginal lands comprised of draws, drainages, etc. immediately adjacent to the crop lands. EcoSun Prairie's goal is to create an economically sustainable farm operation/model that showcases alternative land use practices for marginal lands to landowners involved in production agriculture. Income is derived from the sale of native grass seed, forage hay, and short-term grazing leases for cattle. EcoSun Prairie will annually provide their research and expertise to park staff at Good Earth in the management of the departments native grass stands throughout the park as well as marketing this research to SD landowners in the near future.

### **Buffalo Auction**

Matt Snyder, parks and recreation regional supervisor, presented the Commission information on the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Buffalo Auction.

### **CSP Repair/Maintenance Update**

Josh Schmaltz, Regency vice president, and Ryan Flick, Regency operations manager, provided the Commission with the Custer State Park resort repair and maintenance update

**Madison Area Park Update**

Willy Collignon, parks and recreation regional supervisor and John Bame, park manager, provided an update on the state parks and recreation areas in the Madison area.


**Revenue, Camping and Visitation Reports**

Al Nedved, parks and recreation deputy director, provide the year to date revenue, camping and visitation reports for all parks and districts.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary



Appendix A  
Resolution 19-30  
Resolution of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
"Recovering America's Wildlife Act"

**WHEREAS**, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux acts to establish funds financed by hunters, recreational shooters, anglers, and boaters to support wildlife and sportfish recovery and management; and

**WHEREAS**, a dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism is needed for many species of fish and wildlife that are not pursued by hunters, trappers, or anglers; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks has the primary statutory responsibility for the management of fish and wildlife in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, South Dakota's Wildlife Action Plan addresses the needs of the state's fish and wildlife species, including species of greatest conservation need; and

**WHEREAS**, limited financial resources are available to fully implement the state's Wildlife Action Plan to help prevent future threatened and endangered species listings and provide for the needs of all species and key habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, composed of 26 business and conservation leaders, recommended that a new funding mechanism be established for state fish and wildlife conservation and management for current and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Panel recommended that Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Subaccount of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to diversify the funding and management of all fish and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would fulfill the Panel's recommendation by making funds available to address the needs of species of greatest conservation need as identified in state wildlife action plans; and

**WHEREAS**, dedicated federal funding will also require a nonfederal or eligible federal match, similar to requirements of the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux acts.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Commission supports the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will dedicate \$1.3 billion annually to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Subaccount of the Pittman-Robertson Act to help address the needs of all fish and wildlife, including species occurring in South Dakota; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Commission supports the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife's campaign to secure passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Commission, at its December 12-13, 2019 meeting, acknowledges its support for state policy and legislation to broaden dedicated funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation and Wildlife Action Plan implementation and aid in providing the required match when new dedicated federal funding is secured.

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Gary Jensen, Chair  
Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Scott Phillips, Vice Chair  
Game, Fish and Parks Commission

**Comes, Rachel**

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**From:** info@gfp.sd.us  
**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2019 9:20 AM  
**To:** DAA@MAYADAM.NET  
**Cc:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** Petition for Rule Change Form

**Categories:** Commission

## South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

# Petition for Rule Change

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:

**ID:** 83

**Petitioner Name:** Doug Abraham

**Address:** 503 S. Pierre St.  
Pierre, SD 57501-4522

**Email:** DAA@MAYADAM.NET

**Phone:** 605-224-8803

**Rule Identification:** Beginning with the 2020 East River Deer season

**Describe Change:** 1. Establish Nonresident east river special Any Whitetail Deer license and fee of \$554. 2. 500 nonresident Special Any Whitetail Deer licenses to be allocated annually. 3. Applicant must have permission from an owner or lessee of private land before applying. 4. Applicant for special Any Whitetail Deer must also include the name and telephone number of the owner or lessee providing permission.

**Reason for Change:** There is significant demand for nonresident rifle deer hunting opportunities in east river, South Dakota. Landowners deserve the opportunity to host nonresidents on private property in order to assist in sustaining the cost of land ownership and support land stewardship. The addition of 500 east river tags will not have a biologic impact on deer herds. Further, nonresidents may only use the tags on private property, therein preserving public hunting opportunity in eastern South Dakota while reinforcing property rights for landowners and producers. This proposal will also afford nonresident landowners the chance to secure tags for their property and acknowledge their significant landowner contributions. Nonresident family members will also have the opportunity to come home to hunt. In applying the nonresident/resident criteria, it is clear that the overwhelming majority of considerations adopted by the Commission support this petition. Further, the recent adoption of the west river nonresident special whitetail proposal shows the importance of honoring property rights.

**Comes, Rachel**

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**From:** info@gfp.sd.us  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2020 9:24 PM  
**To:** mike\_hill1988@outlook.com  
**Cc:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** Petition for Rule Change Form

**Categories:** Commission

**South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks****Petition for Rule Change**

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:

**ID:** 84

**Petitioner Name:** Michael Hill

**Address:** 822 South Washington Street  
Aberden, SD 57401

**Email:** mike\_hill1988@outlook.com

**Phone:** 605-491-4828

**Rule Identification:** Beginning with the 2020 Deer Season 'Retirement Tag'

**Describe Change:** 1. Establish a Resident only 'Retirement Tag' for those individuals aged 65 and above. 2. 500 'Retirement Tags' would be available for 'Any Deer' state wide at the cost of \$100 per tag allocated annually. 3. Applicant will be allowed to hunt both private and public property. 4. No purchase of preference point option

**Reason for Change:** The 'Retirement Tag' for Residents aged 65+ would be aimed at keeping those individuals in the field and active. This group of hunters is small and would not have an impact on the overall deer herds. A successful applicant would not be allowed to apply for Landowners, East River, West River or Black Hills general draw. A successful applicant would still be allowed to apply and receive Custer State Park or Muzzleloader. There would be no preference point option for the 'Retirement Tag'. The increase in price from the standard \$40 for residents to \$100 for a 'Retirement Tag' is to cover the years of preference point purchase and tag price after years to applying in hard to draw units. This group of applicants has limited remaining years to enjoy the great outdoors in South Dakota. The increase in tag price will also allow the state receive more revenue while allowing more residents in field. Successful applicants for the 'Retirement Tag', being removed from the general draws as stated above, would allow for more residents to be successful in hard to draw counties. We must support our residents within the state of South Dakota for our hunting heritage and traditions. It is time to give those who've spent the years laying the ground work more opportunities to hunt.