

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission
January 10, 2019

The Public Hearing Officer Scott Phillips began the public hearing at 2:00 p.m. at RedRossa Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Travis Bies, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Scott Phillips, Russell Olson (via conference call), Douglas Sharp, and Robert Whitmyre were present. Chairman Jensen indicated written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes. Phillips then invited the public to come forward with oral testimony.

Deer Hunting Season Drawing Structure

Dan Nefzyer, Lake Norden, SD spoke in support of the two tag proposal. He said with the two tag proposal more people can be in the field and if people really want to hunt there are archery and other tags available to give everyone opportunity. There is no excuse if people are not getting a tag. There were quite a few leftover tags available and people need to do things for themselves before the state has to.

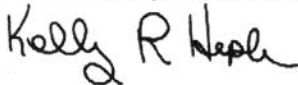
Wayne Lloyd, Wentworth, SD, spoke in support of the deer hunting season draw structure noting it is a good compromise between the avid hunter and GFP. The said he is one of the 12 percent that puts in for more than 2 tags and appreciates the compromise as this is the best solution for the hunter.

Dayne Weelborg, Estelline, SD, said as a hunters we are a small percentage of people and we need to work together and be positive even toward people who do not hunt. He is excited to have a Governor who is representing our view points and sportspeople. It's disheartening to see the negative comments online.

See attached public comments submitted prior to the public hearing

The public Hearing concluded at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Public Comments

Deer License Allocation

Brad Taylor

Fort Pierre SD

bradtaylor40@hotmail.com

Comment:

I oppose the the change. Leave it as it is and let the preference point change have a chance to work

Jim Gruber

Estelline SD

jgruber148@yahoo.com

Comment:

if you really cared about numbers and increasing chances you would address the 50% allocation nonsense to land owners... but, as usual, being an appointed body you will never bring this issue up... tell me why?

Pat Malcomb

Sioux Falls SD

pmalcomb@sio.midco.net

Comment:

Not needed don't do it there will be a huge backlash.

Nic Edlund

Farmington MN

nwedlund27@hotmail.com

Comment:

I have been hunting South Dakota for over 7 years as a non-resident. In that time I have seen the hunting pressure increase and the quality of animals decrease. The health of the deer herd is of great concern to me. My question is, you think limiting non-residents is going to help the quality of the herd? I know a lot of South Dakota residents that get 5 to 7 buck tags a year and more doe tags than that. I don't see how giving more tags to residents that can already buy numerous buck tags is going to help the quality of the deer herd. I full understand the out cry coming from your residents. Maybe y'all should look inward, and limit the number of tags some of your residents are getting. I believe your upper end of your resident hunters are doing far more damage on the deer herd than non-residents. If you want to look at it from a business and funding stand point. Per hunter who actually contributes more to the community and game and fish? When non-residents are paying \$286/tag and they are spending money on lodging and fuel, who is contributing more and you want to limit that because of some residents who are complaining that 5 buck tags a year isn't enough. I am sorry, I just don't see the logic. I truly wish I could be in Pierre on the 10th to voice my opinion.

Dale Johnson

Summerset SD

djohnson@petelien.com

Comment:

I want to comment on the non-resident and youth parts of the deer license allocation proposal. I have seen the profound impact that hunting and the outdoors has on our youth. I have also witnessed the decline in youth utilizing the outdoors. There are a lot of reasons for the decline back one of the biggest is a lack of opportunities. The youth tags and youth seasons are wonderful programs but I believe the waiving of a fee for preference points and the bonus points for unsuccessful youth applicants makes these programs even better. Getting a kid out hunting is the first step. But if they then have to wait for several years to take the next step of hunting with the chance of harvesting a buck, we are taking a big chance of losing them.

I have heard some say that this gives an unfair advantage to youth in drawing a tag. Yes it does give youth an advantage and that is the point. It gives them an advantage the same way resident only pheasant season gives residents a chance to harvest birds before non-residents. But you don't hear any one calling that unfair.

The fact of the matter is if we don't continue recruiting more youth into the outdoors, this all becomes mute. Because we won't have the privilage of hunting and fishing. PETA and WWF and HSUS are banking on the next generation not having ties to the outdoors.

I also fully support not allowing non-residents to apply for extra tags until the 5th drawing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dale Johnson

Scott Jamison

Wentworth SD

sjamison@dakotacare.com

Comment:

I have commented twice during the previous hearings on the deer license changes. I remain opposed to any change, feeling that there is no mandate for this, quite the opposite. After the Legislative committee rejected the change, due to overwhelming public opposition, I see that the GFP changed the name of their proposal and are now framing it as simply a way to increase youth hunting opportunities. The new youth offers should have been included in the original proposal if they were valid. Instead they now appear to be an attempt to buy a vote on the Legislative committee. I oppose this change, as do the majority of the people who have voiced an opinion.

Matthew Langenfeld

Littleton CO

Mattlangenfeld@hotmail.com

Comment:

Please don't make changes to the existing draw structure for deer. It works fine as is.