



AGENDA - Revised

Game, Fish and Parks Commission

May 7-8, 2020
Livestream link <https://www.sd.net/remote1/>

Due to concerns regarding COVID-19, this meeting will be held via livestream with the Commission and staff participating via teleconference. To listen to the entire meeting at 1:00 p.m. CT on May 7th, livestream can be found at <https://www.sd.net/>.

The public hearing will begin at 2:00 p.m. CT. The conference call number available for the public to call in starting at 2:00 p.m. CT to provide comments is 1-866-410-8397; Conference Code 5451787643#. The public is encouraged to call in from their home.

We are asking that you provide your testimony and then hang up to allow other members of the public to access the line. When you call, the teleconference line may be busy. If you do not get through right away, please keep trying.

Written comments can still be submitted at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record comments must include full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of seventy-two hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing)

Call to order 1:00 PM CT/ 12:00 PM MT

Division of Administration

Action Items:

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approve Minutes of the April 2020 Meeting
<https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
4. FY2020 Budget Discussion/Increase Adjustment

Information Items:

5. Covid 19 Update
6. Habitat Stamp

Petition

7. Livetrapping Removal Date

Proposals

8. Sage Grouse Season
9. River Otter Season
10. Fall Turkey (April)
11. Lost License Replacement (April)
12. Administrative Rules Review ARSD 41:08, 41:09, 41:10 and 41:13 (April)

Public Hearing 2:00 PM CT/ 1:00 PM MT

Portion of the meeting designated for public comment on items pertaining to finalizations listed on the agenda *(Typically limited to 3 minutes per person.)*

Open Forum

Portion of the meeting designated for public comment on other items of interest. *(Typically limited to 3 minutes per person)*

Finalizations

13. River Otter Delisting
14. Flathead Catfish – Border Waters
15. Archery Deer Season
16. Youth Waterfowl Season
17. Youth Pheasant Season

Division of Parks and Recreation

Action Items:

18. Spring Creek Concessions

Information Items:

19. Visitation and Sales Report

Division of Wildlife

Action Items:

20. License Adjustments for Select East River Deer Season Units

Information Items:

21. Nonresident Waterfowl Structure Briefings
22. HuntSafe Update
23. License Sales Update

Solicitation of Agenda Items from Commissioners

Adjourn

Next meeting information:

June 4-5, 2020

Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center

920 W Sioux Avenue, Pierre, SD

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

Donations can be made to honor former GFP Commissioner, Cathy Peterson, by visiting the SD Parks & Wildlife Foundation website at <https://parkswildlifefoundation.org/donate.aspx>. Select “Other” as the program you wish to contribute and note “Cathy Peterson” in the explanation box. The SD Parks & Wildlife Foundation and Cathy’s family will use the funds to honor her memory for future habitat projects.

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
April 2-3, 2020

Chairman Gary Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CT via conference call. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Travis Bies, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Russell Olson, Doug Sharp, Charles Spring, Robert Whitmyre. Public and staff were able to listen via SDPB livestream and approximately 25 participated via conference call.

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 March 5-6, 2020 meeting minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Olson with second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5-6, 2020 MEETING WITH MINOR REVISIONS. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

No additional commissioner salary days were requested.

PETITIONS

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division director, provided information on the petition process and options available for commission action.

Lake Sharp Smallmouth Bass

Kirschenmann presented the petition submitted by Steve Baumberger, Sioux Falls, SD to only allow a daily bag limit of one smallmouth bass 15 inches or longer. Baumberger's petition give the reason for the change as Lake Sharpe is a relatively small reservoir with very high fishing pressure, with continuous pressure on smallmouth hangouts day after day during the open water season. Large smallmouths have declined greatly since the removal of the trophy fishery status in 2014, as a result of harvest during pre-spawn and spawning bass in shall waters. As anglers struggle to find legal size walleyes for harvest, more anglers, including guide services, are targeting larger smallmouth for harvest, and as the word spreads that they make good table fare, this trend will increase. Most anglers today do not like to go home without limits of fish. The implementation of this rule will improve the size distribution of smallmouths, improve the overall health of the fishery, and make for a better fishing experience for all, especially for those like myself who want a sustainable sport fishery.

Motion by Boyd with second by Sharp TO DENY THE PETITION. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Motioned by Boyd with second by Locken TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-08 (appendix A) DENYING THE PETITION TO ALLOW FOR ONE SMALLMOUTH 15

INCHES OR LONGER ON LAKE SHARP. Motion by Boyd with second by Sharp TO DENY THE PETITION. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Elk Hunting Unit Boundary

Kirschenmann presented the petition submitted by Mike Jarding, Hot Springs, SD to amend the existing elk hunting unit boundary to increase or maintain the population in this area. This area is 50% public property and the vast majority of private property owners in this area want the elk population to increase or maintain the same as it is now, not significantly decrease the population as GFP proposes. The Unit H3 Cow Boundary Change would move the boundary H3 ,B, C, D to Co Road 18 Mile and Hwy 89 to go south on Hwy 89 to Minnekahta Jct. and then east on Hwy 18 to Hot Springs and then north on Hwy 385 to Wind Cave National Park boundary.

Motion by Boyd with second by Olson TO DENY THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Boyd with second by Sharp TO DENY THE PETITION. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Motion by Spring, second by Sharp TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-09 (appendix B) DENYING THE PETITION TO CHANGE BOUNDARY FOR THE H3 ELK UNIT. Motion by Boyd with second by Sharp TO DENY THE PETITION. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 2:00 p.m. and concluded at 2:05 p.m. The minutes follow these Commission meeting minutes.

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.

Youth Pheasant Season

Gale Skoog, Milbank, SD doesn't feel it is necessary. They have 5 days and it would be okay to extent it to 7 days, but a second weekend is unnecessary as it is already open for residents and this would offer it to nonresident youth as well.

Other

Foster Bareholow, Rapid City spoke in regards to covid 19 concerns during turkey hunting season. NE took a proactive effort to stop the spread and feels this is something South Dakota should look at doing to keep our residents, farms and ranchers safe from the spread and unnecessary travel of nonresidents. People from other states are looking at places to go since their seasons were cancelled and because our rates are lower we are likely to see an influx. This could also cause a ripple effect on the population of turkeys. Reminded the commission there has already been a 3rd draw for resident licenses and the Black Hills has an unlimited amount of turkey licenses so would like to close the licenses for the area.

Bill Lengkeek, Lyman County Commissioner, Presho, SD spoke regarding out of state people hunting and fishing and we need to limit these licenses until covid 19 passes.

James Neilsen, Aurora County Emergency Manager, Plankinton, SD I would like to address a major concern of not just myself as County Emergency Manager, but also my commissioners as well as several community officials and many of the general public. We have a lot of people who pass through our county from locations out of state to fish the Missouri River and our concern is that there is no way to check or confirm they are free of the COVID-19 virus and could be spreading it to unsuspecting residents. It is not just our county but other counties as well who could be affected. A very good solution would be to cancel all fishing and hunting activities to out of state persons during the duration of the epidemic to ensure the safety of our residents. I understand the economic impact this would have on our state and the inconvenience it would be to not only the fishermen but the sport industry as well but feel that the saving of even one life would be worth it. FEMA and SBA have programs in place to help businesses cope with the financial losses that would occur. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Spoke regarding a study showing average 100-150 out of state licenses pulling a boat passing through his area.

James Nesladek, Brule County Commission Chair, Pukwana, SD spoke regarding concerns of out of state fisherman possible spread of covid-19. Feels we need to be proactive and close down out of state fishing across the state

Lester Thompson, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe Chairman, Fort Thompson, SD same concerns as county commissioners regarding the spread of covid 19. Seeing a massive influx of out of state fisherman from Minnesota and Iowa. Traced license plates and shows these people are coming from highly infected areas. Explained the potential spread is scary for example the women's prison escapees traveled to Crow Creek and had contact with a number of people in short amount of time

Nancy Hilding, Prairie Hills Audubon Society, Black Hawk, SD spoke regarding rule 41-08-02-13 trapping devises. Feels we do not need the two extra months for trapping. Asking the Commission to do a rule change to make it end July 1st. spoke about the nest predator bounty program and the two studies done and the differences which are attached to her public comments. She feels the study compiled by the humane society found better results because the other study asked people who didn't know anything about the program and was teaching them to get responses.

Jack Kolbeck, Sioux Falls, SD spoke regarding out of state fishing and agrees with the commissioners from the counties that provided comment. We do not need travelers coming into our state to increase the spread of covid 19. would like the commission to reconsider the use of rifles for turkey for those that are 65+ or disabled and possibly only on private land.

John Kludt, Mitchell, SD spoke regarding the petition on Lake Sharpe Smallmouth Bass. Would like to see some conversation to the sport fishery from what it was to how it is currently regulated. Concerned fishing ramps my close before there is community spread and none have been linked to out-of-stater's.

PROPOSALS

Fall Turkey

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, presented the recommended changes to the Fall Turkey Hunting Season

1. Offer 125 less resident single tag licenses and 35 more resident double tag licenses for Prairie Units compared to 2019.
2. Close prairie units 12A (Gregory County), 50A (Mellette County), and 60A (Tripp County).
3. Establish and open prairie unit 12A (Bon Homme County).

Motion by Olson, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE FALL TURKEY HUNTING SEASON. Motion by Boyd with second by Sharp TO DENY THE PETITION. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Switzer presented the administrative action for turkey cense allocation by unit. (see appendix C)

Motioned by Boyd, second by Spring TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE TURKEY HUNTING LICENSE ALLOCATIONS BY UNIT. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Lost License Replacement

Tom Kirschenmann presented the recommended change to remove the \$20 administrative fee for lost or destroyed licenses, permits or game tags. The license agent's fee established by SDCL 41-6-66.1 would still be charged by license agents and the Department. He explained that after considering public comment and a review of this administrative fee for all license types, the Department recommends removing this administrative fee. Authorized license agents and the department as per SDCL 41-6-66.1 will charge a license agent's fee of \$4 for resident and \$8 for nonresident licenses.

Motioned by Spring, second by Olson TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ELK HUNTING SEASONS AND LICENSE ALLOCATIONS BY UNIT. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Nonresident Waterfowl Season

Kirschenmann requested the Commission table this agenda item.

Administrative Rules Review ARSD 41:08, 41:09, 41:10 and 41:13

Jon Kotilnek, senior staff attorney, 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. These formally proposed suggested changes are

to correct inconsistencies, remove unnecessary barriers and arrange rules logically thus promoting an administrative code that benefits current, former and new users.

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

Chapter 41:08

Motion by Boyd, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:08. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Chapter 41:09

Motion by Sharp, second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:09. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Chapter 41:10

Motion by Bies second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:10. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

River Otter Delisting (proposed in March- no action necessary)

Flathead Catfish – Border Waters (proposed in March – no action necessary)

Archery Deer Season (proposed in March)

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, presented the recommended changes to archery deer season from the March proposal as follows:

1. Remove the proposed hunting unit for the City of Sturgis.
2. Resident “any antlerless deer” licenses will be allocated as follows:

Municipality	# Licenses
Custer	45
Rapid City	60
Sioux Falls	60

Motioned by Locken, second by Whitmyre TO AMEND THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ARCHERY DEER SEASON PROPOSAL. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Motioned by Boyd, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE ARCHERY DEER SEASON PROPOSAL AS AMENDED. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Landowner Elk License Applications (proposed in March - tabled)

Youth Waterfowl Season (proposed in March – no action necessary)

Youth Pheasant Season (proposed in March)

Switzer presented the recommended changes to amend the youth pheasant season proposal to modify the season dates from “five consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday of October” to “9 consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the third Saturday of October”. See season dates in table below.

Year	Youth Pheasant Season Dates
2020	Sept. 26 - Oct. 4
2021	Sept. 25 - Oct. 3
2022	Sept. 24 - Oct. 2
2023	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8
2024	Sept. 28 - Oct. 6
2025	Sept. 27 - Oct. 5
2026	Sept. 26 - Oct. 4
2027	Sept. 25 - Oct. 3
2028	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8
2029	Sept. 29 - Oct. 7

Motioned by Sharp, second by Bies TO AMEND THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE YOUTH PEASANT HUNTING SEASON PROPOSAL. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Motioned by Boyd, second by Bies TO THE CHANGES TO THE YOUTH PHEASANT HUNTING SEASON PROPOSAL AS AMENDED. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

FINALIZATIONS

Elk – BH, Archery, CSP and Prairie

Switzer explained the intent of the changes being recommended are to allow an opportunity for adjustments to be made at finalization during the Commission meeting in April and in administrative rule to maximize hunter opportunity based on the results of the upcoming aerial survey and to meet population objectives identified in the elk management plan.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to amend the Black Hills Elk Hunting Season to adjust the total number of available licenses from 425 "any elk" and 700 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,125 licenses) to 450 "any elk" and 490 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 940 licenses). And Modify the season dates for antlerless elk units BHE-H2B and BHE-H2E from October 15-31 to October 15-31 and December 1-16.

Motioned by Bies, second by Spring TO APPROVE THE AMENDED CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS ELK HUNTING SEASON. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Motioned by Bies, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS ELK HUNTING SEASON AS AMENDED. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Switzer presented the amended changes to the Archery Elk Hunting Season to adjust the number of licenses available from 142 “any elk” and 80 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 222 licenses) to 147 “any elk” and 70 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 217 licenses).

Motioned by Olson, second by Boyd TO AMEND THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NUMBER OF LICENSES ALLOCATED FOR ARCHERY ELK. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO TO THE NUMBER OF ARCHERY ELK LICENSES AS AMENDED. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Switzer presented the amended change to the Custer State Park Elk Hunting Season to retain current allocation of 9 “any elk” licenses. This is to address an error on the Department’s original recommendation as one of these licenses is available for the elk raffle license.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Bies TO AMEND THE “ANY ELK” LICENSES IN CUSTER STATE PARK PROPOSAL. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Spring TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES “ANY ELK” LICENSES IN CUSTER STATE PARK PROPOSAL AS AMENDED. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Switzer presented the recommended change to the Custer State Park Archery Elk Hunting Season to retain current allocation of 3 “any elk” licenses.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Spring TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES “ANY ELK” ARCHERY LICENSES IN CUSTER STATE PARK. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Prairie Elk Hunting Season to

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 68 “any elk” and 73 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 141 licenses) to 78 “any elk” and 178 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 256 licenses).
2. Modify the proposed Unit PRE-WRA to also exclude the boundary of the Lower Brule Indian Reservation.

3. Establish two additional antlerless elk seasons for Unit 11 as follows: a. Unit 11E with season dates of November 1 – December 31
b. Unit 11F with season dates of January 1 – February 28
4. In conjunction with the proposed unit boundary change to Unit 15A, establish Unit 15B for antlerless elk harvest and season dates of December 1 – January 31.
5. Modify Unit 35A that currently includes all of Harding County to the following: a. Unit 35A: that portion of Harding County west of US Hwy. 85
b. Unit 35B: that portion of Harding County east of US Hwy. 85

Motioned by Bies, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE PRAIRIE ELK HUNTING SEASON. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Switzer presented the administrative action for elk license allocation by unit. (see appendix D)

Motioned by Boyd, second by Olson TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ELK HUNTING SEASONS AND LICENSE ALLOCATIONS BY UNIT. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Spring Creek Concessions

Scott Simpson, Parks and Recreation Division Director, provided the Commission with information on the status of the concessions at Spring Creek for the restaurant and convenience store.

Motion by Olson, second by Bies TO EXTEND THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR PROPOSAL TO May 6, 2020. Roll Call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd – yes; Locken – yes; Olson – yes; Sharp – yes; Spring – yes; Whitmyre – yes; Jensen – yes. Motion carried 8 yes and 0 no votes.

Discussion on out-of-state hunters and anglers:

Jensen noted the authority of the Commission in conjunction with the Governor and staff.

Kelly Hepler, cabinet secretary, provided information addressing concerns from the public regarding out of state hunters and anglers possibly spreading COVID 19. Hepler explained the benefits of all people being able to enjoy the outdoors while following social distancing and other guidelines provided by Governor Noem and the CDC.

Jensen recommended putting a small group of the Commissioners together to be part of the reporting and analysis of the situation and be involved when necessary. Asked why it would be different for us to address things differently than other states like Nebraska with Turkey licenses.

Hepler explained each state is different and must make their decisions based on what their situations are.

Whitmyre stated local officials and community residents in his area are very concerned by the number of nonresidents they see. The concern is bars and restaurants are closed so these people are causing an influx in use of facilities at the businesses that are open and the staff there are working hard to keep things sanitized.

Olson asked if CSP and Game Lodge open for business

Simpson responded yes these are operated by Regency and are open on a limited basis where you can get a hotel room.

Sharp we have all seen the emails and appreciate where Whitmyre is coming from but while these comments are well intended, we need to make decisions on fact and data. The dept can set up game cameras at boat launches to get info. The reality is we have people traveling into our state every day to every city such as truck drivers to grocery stores. Anyone who is not traveling and doesn't have sanitizing products they are not paying attention and all the regulations in the world will not help that. Who do we think is a risk do we decide by counties that have cases? Until we have solid data, we need to treat all these people the same.

Olson said the CORP and some of the tribes' plan to close some ramps to stop the spread. Is it all of them or do we know which ones they are talking about? And will we be informing the public as our ramps will be more utilized.

Hepler no it is a limited number of boat ramps in six locations.

Mark Ohm, wildlife regional supervisor, explained that the six locations are CORP ramps and the list has not been finalized. All these ramps are on or in the Fort Thompson/Big Bend Dam area. The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe is closing everything on the west side of the river within the reservation.

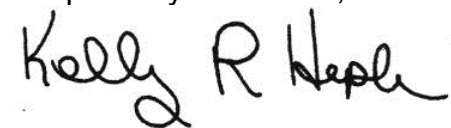
Jensen it would be good to let the public know and for these ramps to have proper signage by the people who are closing them.

Jensen asked Whitmyre and Sharp to join him on a subcommittee to address these concerns.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

**Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission
April 2, 2020**

The Commission Chair Gary Jensen began the public hearing at 2:00 p.m. CT via conference call. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Travis Bies, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Russell Olson, Doug Sharp, Charles Spring, and Robert Whitmyre were present. Olson indicated written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes. Olson then invited the public to come forward with oral testimony.

Elk Hunting Seasons No verbal comments were made

See attached written public comments submitted prior to the public hearing

The public Hearing concluded at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Appendix A
RESOLUTION 20-08

WHEREAS, Steve Baumberger of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated March 3, 2020, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:07:03:03 (Fish Limits-Daily, possession, and length limit restrictions on special management waters) – to allow, at most, 1 smallmouth bass 15 inches or longer in length as part of the daily limit on Lake Sharpe 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 establishing length restrictions for smallmouth bass on Lake Sharpe; and

WHEREAS, current smallmouth bass harvest levels are not detrimental to the smallmouth bass population in Lake Sharpe; and

WHEREAS, research has shown increasing smallmouth bass abundance and lake-wide distribution in Lake Sharpe throughout the last three decades; and

WHEREAS, previous length restrictions on smallmouth bass in Lake Sharpe did not have a positive impact on the smallmouth bass fishery; and

WHEREAS, the suggested length restriction will substantially reduce the ability of anglers to harvest smallmouth bass without improving population quality.

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, Steve Baumberger of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Appendix B
RESOLUTION 20-09

WHEREAS, Mike Jarding of Hot Springs, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated March 27, 2020, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:06:26:02 (Black Hills elk hunting season units) – to modify the H3 unit boundary for antlerless elk tags for the 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 modifying the H3 elk hunting unit; and

WHEREAS, the boundary of every elk hunting unit takes into account multiple factors and could be changed or adjusted based on both biological and social considerations; and

WHEREAS, the Department and Commission will be revising the state elk management plan in 2020 and hunting unit boundaries and other associated adjustments related to elk management and hunting units would be best suited to occur during that process.

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, Mike Jarding of Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Appendix C
2020-2021 Fall Turkey License Allocation

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident		Nonresident		License Totals							
		AnyT 31	2 AnyT 37	AnyT 31	2 AnyT 37	RES 1-Tag	RES 2-Tag	RES Licenses	RES Tags	NR 1-Tag	NR 2-Tag	NR License	NR Tags
07A	Yankton	150				150		150	150				
12A	Bon Homme	150		12		150		150	150	12		12	12
39A	Jackson		35		3		35	35	70		3	3	6
48A	Marshall/Roberts	100				100		100	100				
BH1	Black Hills	200		16		200		200	200	16		16	16
TOTAL		600	35	28	3	600	35	635	670	28	3	31	34
RES & NR:						628	38	666	704				

Appendix D 2020-2021 Elk Hunting Seasons

2020-2021 Elk Hunting Seasons

2019			
Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	60		
H1B		20	
H2A	250		
H2B		75	
H2C		75	
H2D		25	
H2E		75	
H2F		75	
H2G		75	
H2H		15	
H2I		15	
H2J		15	
H3A	80		
H3B		15	
H3C		15	
H3D		15	
H3E		50	
H3F		50	
H3G		50	
H4A	10		
H4B		10	
H5A	5		
H7A	10		
H7B		10	
H9A	10		
H9B		20	
TOTAL	425	700	1,125
Contingency	NA	140	140

2020-2021			
Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	50		
H1B		15	
H2A	240		
H2B		25	
H2C			
H2D			
H2E		50	
H2F			
H2G			
H2H		5	
H2I		15	
H2J		15	
H3A	100		
H3B		30	
H3C		30	
H3D		30	
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

2019			
Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	20	10	
H2A	90	50	
H3A	25	20	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	5		
H9A			
30A			
TOTAL	142	80	222

2020-2021			
Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	20	10	
H2A	80	40	
H3A	35	20	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	10		
H9A			
30A			
TOTAL	147	70	217

Prairie Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	23	
9A	10	10	
11A		18	
11B	16		
11C	16		
11D		30	
11E	Not Applicable		
11F	Not Applicable		
15A	8	5	
15B	Not Applicable		
27A	10	10	
30A			
35A	8		
35B	Not Applicable		
WRA	Not Applicable		
TOTAL	68	73	141

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	
30A			
35A	4	8	
35B	4	12	
WRA	10	20	
TOTAL	78	178	256

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	3		
CUE-CU1	9		
TOTAL	12		12

Public Comments

Elk Hunting Seasons

Sean Fulton

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please carefully consider and read my attached letter.

Steve Cherkas

Edgemont SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like to see an elk landowner program like you do with deer where I can get a license to hunt elk ONLY on my land at a reduce price with 160 acres. I have lots of elk every year and have no interest in hunting them anywhere but my land, but only have 233 acres so do no qualify for existing program.

Landowner Elk License Applications

Gerald Ohman

Glenham SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

- In all the elk season/change proposal they only show the 2018 elk harvest data. Why didn't they show the 2019 harvest data? So is GFP setting the 2020 & 2021 elk tag quotas off of the 2018, two years old, harvest data???
 - Did GFP have any public involvement or seek input on this new SD GFP Proposed "landowner own-land" elk tag.
 - Why was the 500 elk use days proposed to be removed? That requirement helped to keep the landowners honest. Remember, any unused tags go back to public. They say CO doesn't have time to check elk use days. Think they'll have time to see if the elk are habitually using their property. The new landowners that will now apply with no elk use Days will increase with less leftover landowner tags that the public use to get.
 - Why should a landowner get to harvest an elk on August 1st and Joe Public can'tt? What about in late winter over alfalfa or hay bales? Doesn't seem equitable or fare.
 - What landowner involvement did SD GFP do for their new "landowner own-land" elk tag proposal? Who's behind this and what about the tens of thousands of hunters that may only get 1 or 2 elk permits their entire lives while many landowners will receive dozens and can still hunt public lands.
 - What's next transferable landowner elk tags for pure profit to NRs?
 - Black Hills unit H3 is increasing from 80 any elk rifle tags to 100 any elk rifle tags. H3 cow tags going from 195 rifle cow tags to 270 rifle cow tags. Archery stayed the same. This info was posted today. The day before the finalization meeting. How can they do that and not allow any public comment.
 - The aerial elk survey results will be presented at the finalization meeting. No public comment. I'm told GFP did this the same thing 4 years ago when the last aerial survey happened.
 - If we have landowners with depredation claims and are compensated through hunters dollars (1/2 of PP fees) then why do they get a bull tag every year instead of a cow tag? Should LOs get both a bull tag and depredation payments? Why not one or the other and how about asking them to enter property into WIA to help with their "damage" or require that the depredation monies are used for fencing to reduce future depredation?
- I think this is a very important issue and I'm not convinced that SD sportsmen and our public trust resources are being considered here at all.

Kurt Rahlf

Mobridge SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

should be either a license or the money for the depredation not both

Stephen Turner

Rapid SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like to see the same for landowner deer tags as well, if they're getting a landowner tag, it should be for hunting their land that the game is causing the problem! Most of the landowners with more than 50 head of cows don't winter the herd in the hills anyway.

Dana Rogers

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Regarding landowner elk season proposed changes. It's my understanding that this originated with approximately 87 Spearfish area landowners that enlisted a legislator. A meeting was held with this legislator, GFP representation and approximately 35 landowners with complaints in attendance.

They asked for transferable tags to sell, a guaranteed tag on their own land for a 8-month season (Aug-Mar), which will eliminate the cap of 50% of the available permits. Also to totally remove the 500 elk use days with proof to obtain these landowner permits.

Commissioners, PLEASE NOTE that basing a LO permit on habitual elk use without actual proof opens this door extremely wide for abuse. Allowing a LO to choose a LO on own land with an 8 month season independent of the regular season will likely impact large bull harvest and thus total harvest/tag recommendations long term for everyone.

When will the requests for accommodation with our public trust resources end? We already have the Elk Hunting Access Program: Allowing up to \$4,500 per landowner, with additional incentives. This program has paid out \$1,002,270 since 2015.

There is also a fence damage program: Last year \$48,260.92 was spent on this. Though it's NOT a requirement for claimants to actually use the top cable to decrease damage???

GFP has also implemented a stackyard/panel program. Last year \$37,531.64 was spent. Again, no requirement to fence in valuable cattle feed stores is mandated.

We have food plot/hay land contracts: Last year \$150,982.23 was spent on this program.

Please don't take the above as an indictment of all landowners. I know several Black Hills area landowners that qualify for a LO elk permit and they don't ask for a dime. They are simply happy with getting the landowner tag as their compensation. I'd estimate that 50% ask for help. In fact, I'm even aware of a few qualifying landowners that DO NOT even ask for a tag. The aforementioned landowners that don't ask for anything or are happy with 'just a tag' should be championed and revered in my opinion. They are doing us all a great service!

The fact remains that all SD wildlife belongs to the public. All SD residents. We have over 30,000 elk permit applicants a year in SD. Yet this proposal is born from approximately 87 respondents to a legislators survey and 36 that attended a local Spearfish meeting.

Now, I can certainly empathize if there is damage to their livelihood. We sportsmen are paying that bill through 1/2 of the preference point fees that we agreed to. If I have a risk to my property, I personally take countermeasures. Like locking my car door or home door or installing a security system. We see from GFP data that several of the claimant landowners continue to claim damages without using the cable system or installing permanent stack yard fencing. This is curious to me.

Again, about 1/2 of qualifying landowners are happy with a tag and only a tag. Yet we have 37-87 people asking for more while 30,000 sportsmen that pay the bills aren't asked about their opinions on a public resource?

This is certainly a hotly contested and divisive issue at its core, no doubt. Instead of removing license caps, increasing payments without countermeasure stipulations or entertaining selling landowner transferable tags, I'd suggest we offer an option. Do you want a tag, or would you like the depredation, fencing and hunter access payments? What about requiring that landowner tags are only valid on deeded/owned property? After all, these landowners often get dozens of permits in a lifetime while other residents may only draw once or twice in their entire lives.

Additionally, these hunter access payments are NOT tied to Walk In Access. Landowners can say no and can tell a hunter what they can and can't shoot. That's their right under the current Elk Hunting Access Program.

I am not opposed at all to the current and past programs. However, I am most certainly opposed to the continued creep toward commercialization of public trust wildlife resources.

I appreciate your time and involvement as a commission and I ask that you vote NO on the latest request for MORE by a segment of our state residents.

Tim Pravecek

Winner SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As I see this proposal It will destroy Land owner/Public Hunters trust and relationship. If the Landowner only hunts on his/or her land during typical season dates I have no problem with that. Especially when there are plenty of programs to compensate the landowners for damage. Also I fear making the tags transferable is a bad precedent.

Other

Kathy Petersen

Madison SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Let them alone. Let them live and die on their own, pretty soon they will be extinct and then that can be on your hands.

Steve Cherkas

Edgemont SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like to change the requirement to present the entire bobcat carcass for tagging. I had coyotes run off with carcass this year. I would like to see it change to present only the head or bottom jaw (we can cut off ourselves) which will make it easier to store inside where predators cannot take it.

Steve Cherkas

Edgemont SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like to see the bobcat tagging within 5 days to be from end of season rather than each catch. There is alot of wasted time (both trapper and warden) trying to track down a warden to tag bobcats.

Helen Gurney Beveridge

Dallas OR

Position: oppose

Comment:

OMG..The Nest Predator Bounty program ..newborns are orphaned.this is animal abuse!! cruelty with no boundaries..nice going SD..I was born and raised in a SD with dignity..not this.

Gene Cox

Mobridge SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

In regards to the use of rifles in the Spring Turkey Season. I am opposed this amendment. From a sportsman viewpoint a shotgun and call is the challenge of the sport. From the safety side of things my set up has been stalked by other hunters. Now that I am incorporating the use of decoys I wonder if safety wont be a factor for some. I would recommend shotgun only. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Justin Broughton

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am writing in support of the additional youth pheasant hunting opportunities as listed in the petition.

Laural Bidwell

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I know the discussion on nest predator was yesterday and the decision will come today. I know that you are appointed by the governor -- but the governor should listen to the wishes of the public as should the commission. Do not approve the nest predator program. As you know it doesn't do anything for habitat, it isn't a recreational activity and the public is not for it. Please consider this when you make your decision.

Natalie Smith

Barrington IL

Position: oppose

Comment:

Nest Predator Bounty Program

Mike Bunkers

Dell Rapids SD

Position: support

Comment:

After witnessing all the damage along the Sioux River and some of its tributaries done by beaver would it only make sense to add beaver to our bounty program? With depressed fur prices I really don't see an interest in beaver trapping. I'm guessing our State Trapper would agree.

Teresa Engebretson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The nest predator bounty program is based on false or non existing information. Opossums eat thousands of ticks. Ticks cause Lyme Disease. Please acknowledge the damage this program is causing when you vote on it again in 2021.

Youth Pheasant Hunting Season

Robert Friedrichsen

Redfield SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Youth have plenty of options to hunt for pheasants in SD. They have all season long to hunt; youth are not excluded for the remainder of the season. I grew up without a special youth season; I participated in athletics, debate, and h.s. radio & newspaper; I worked as custodian at the post office (before school began for the day); & I graduated with a 3.9 gpa. I made life choices; something that youth will continue to learn that they will have to make. Even though I had a full academic, athletic, & work schedule; I still was able to enjoy hunting & fishing with parents, grandparents, and uncles & aunts. There is no need to extend the youth season; if a season extension is required to reduce the overpopulation of pheasants; then it should be extended to all residents.

Robert Carl

Farmington NM

Position: other

Comment:

I fully support getting young hunters in the field. As a senior (70+) though we should also get some special consideration as our hunting seasons are limited. Consider having senior only days and a special senior hunting license at a reduced fee. Thank you

I feel the new landowner proposal is worse than the one already instated. At least with the 500 elk use days the landowner has to prove they are getting the elk use necessary to harvest an elk. Furthermore the landowners don't need four months for an, any elk tag. If they want four months they can have an antlerless tag free of charge with approval of GFP. I feel they should have a free antlerless tag, if they want to thin the herd, to use one their own property, August-December. If the landowners use the free tag option they shouldn't be able to apply in the normal landowner tag, for any elk, in the whole unit, which should be for the normal season. Technically this would be to help with depredation of the herd anyway. Even if the game and fish did this the landowners are going to find something else to complain about.

Another thing is the added pressure from all the ATVs and dirt bike trails being built in the hills in core summer elk habitat is pushing the elk into different areas. Hence the elk entering onto the private lands with no or little access, probably eating up the grass in those private fields sooner than they used to.

Another problem is, the added strain of ATV use only trails are in prime summer elk habitat, which is driving the elk into new areas and pushing them all summer long. I've helped friends harvest elk most years any many of the elk that we were getting in the last few years down in the Jasper burn area don't have an ounce of fat on them in October. Leading me to believe that they are constantly being pushed. Yet they still have to make it through the next for five months of the year and they haven't had a chance to build up fat reserves, it's depressing.

If landowners have depredation claims and are compensated through hunter dollars then why do they get a bull tag every year instead of giving them a free cow tag? I don't feel landowners should be allowed both a bull tag and compensation and if they want four months to hunt elk on their own property it should only be a cow tag. Or if the landowners want a bull tag and compensated require them to put 80 percent of their land into the Walk In Area program for three years . This could be limited to one year any elk and the rest as antlerless only. Entering their land into the WIA program should help reduce some damage to their properties, due to increased hunting pressure?"

I feel this is an extremely important issue and feel that SD sportsmen aren't being considered at all here.

Sincerely, Sean Fulton
11675 W, Hwy 44
Rapid City, SD 57702

I'm writing to voice my opposition to the Nest Predator Bounty Program. The Resolution is full of misrepresentations. I spent a career in wildlife management, at Custer State Park. I have a PhD in wildlife ecology with my research focusing on predator prey relationships.

Paragraph 1 indicates that the removal of nest predators can enhance nest success, but fails to mention only under very specific conditions. None of these conditions are achieved under this program. Additionally while there was participation in 2019 trapping seminars, the number of trapping licenses sold does not indicate that there were many new people who took up trapping.

Paragraph 2 highlights a "professional scientific survey" of general public support for the Nest Predator Bounty Program. I understand a particular population segment not a general cross section of the general public was surveyed, giving a biased result.

Paragraph 3 indicates removal efforts on "properties with habitat" was used to increase nest success; however, there are no indications or studies to demonstrate the success of such programs. And if so, was it a cost effective effort.

Paragraph 4 acknowledges "intensive predator removal efforts can enhance nest success of pheasants and ducks at localized levels *when* (emphasis added) at high intensities during the nesting season". This type of control is not even approximated under this program. Predator removal must be targeted and intense to even be marginally effective. And even then only of limited duration. This program falls far short.

Paragraph 5. The pilot program in 2019 was a huge expense. Dollars would have been much better used to improve habitat. Habitat improvement is the scientifically established best way to improve pheasant populations.

If this program was about the resource and youth and bringing them into the fold of ethical trappers, it should be during the time of year furs are valuable, not the nesting period when the only value is the tail they can turn in. How does this develop ethical use of the natural resource?

Removal of 50,000 nest predators is not a scientific number and distribution of removal over a broad area will not have an effect on pheasant and duck populations. License sales have not increased over the past 10 years, and there was no spike in numbers in 2019 with the initiation of this program which included free traps and a higher bounty than proposed. I question how this will improve the ETHICS SD when the taking of these furbearers is during a non-prime period (waste of resource) for a program that will not positively impact the target populations. This is not a good way to teach the youth (20% of the targeted participants) the proper ethics of trapping.

This program is not backed up by Wildlife Science. A vast body of scientific evidence indicates that good habitat is the key to successful upland game bird populations. Winter habitat leads to good survival and a strong breeding population, nesting habitat ameliorates impacts of nest predation and leads to high reproduction, good brood rearing habitat leads to good survival and recruitment with a strong population for the hunt season and ample numbers going into winter.

This is an expensive program that removes money from the game fund to support a program that has no demonstrable impact on upland game populations, at the expense of other programs that provide habitat improvements (higher pop'ns) and access programs (increased hunter participation). This is a poor business model! Something the pheasant hunting capitol of the United States should not pursue.

Gary Brundige, PhD

Rapid City

Public Comments

Elk Hunting Seasons

Dennis Unkenholz

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Doug Hansen

Webster SD

Position: other

Comment:

No comment text provided.

James Riis

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I would like to comment on elk units H2H, H2I, & H2J. When these new units were created a few years ago, each season had 25 antlerless elk tags. Please consider going back to 25 tags as it was before. Any elk, any elk tag & any elk hunt is a special thing even if you don't bag one. I think increasing the number of tags could provide more opportunity without harming the elk population. thank you, Jim Riis

Other

Matt Staab

Brandon SD

Position: other

Comment:

The corona virus is going to cause revenues to the GFP to drop like a rock. PLEASE stop the predator bounty program before it re-starts. You are going to need that money for more important things!!!

Billy Boejingles

Gayville SD

Position: support

Comment:

Very Good Stuff

Todd Deneui

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

Allowing air rifles and air shotguns for muzzleloader season and ducks and pheasants

Michael Costanzo

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The new requirement to only allow shotgun hunting for Turkeys is an issue. Hunting turkeys in the hilly West River area often means shooting at distances. I shoot on private land where there are no other hunters causing a potential safety precaution. Also, as a disabled hunter the use of a long rifle, on private West River land allows me to continue to enjoy the outdoors in a less restrictive manner, as I have done for years. Please consider returning this privilege to hunters at least those with the conditions mentioned above.

Mark Peterson

Aberdeen SD

Position: other

Comment:

I oppose any size limits to smallmouth bass on the Missouri River system. They are a voracious predator and since their decline the quality of walleye available has greatly increased. Please do not mess up a multimillion dollar fishery for the benefit of a tiny few bass fisherman.

Dan Loge

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the shotgun only Prairie Turkey hunting. I am senior with a disability and find it very difficult to get Turkeys within range of a shotgun.

Tom Yseth

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Nesting predator traps had an 83% approval?? I haven't met anyone that did not think it was anything but a waste of money. Plus a loss of PR matching money. I received three traps (excellent traps by the way) and I own 240 acres of wildlife and rotational grazing land. I would need 40 traps and check them daily to make an minimal impact on nesting predators. A side note that with my additional traps from you and the 4 I had I caught 80 % fewer possum, 70% fewer skunks and 60% raccoons. The winter of 2018-2019 was really hard on them as well as the pheasants. Tom Yseth former Commissioner

River Otter Delisting

Susan Braunstein

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I would like to know why this is even being considered. We don't have a large population of river otters in this state. Why would we want to delist them so they can be trapped and killed? Please don't do this.

Ray Maize

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the Delisting of the River Otter in South Dakota.

Comments regarding finalization of Black Hills Elk regulations for 2020

Dennis Unkenholz
2860 Essex Road
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
605-280-4581

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2020 and 2021 proposed Black Hills elk seasons. I am a firm believer in the Commission process for rule making and consider South Dakota's model to be one of the best around. Thank you for your service as Commissioners. I respect the SDGFP staff's role in making recommendations based on sound science and public input. With that in mind I have the following comments and suggestions for increasing the number of cow tags in units H2H-23, H2I-23 and H2J-23 by 10 for each unit.

1. Decreasing the number of cow tags issued in H2H because of low hunter success seems counter intuitive. Even with measured 15% success rate, hunter satisfaction was near 5. Elk hunts in the Black Hills are quality hunts that can be satisfying even with low hunter success rates. What were the reasons for lower success in H2H during 2019 compared to previous years? In a unit where the stated management goal is to maintain status quo why decrease the number of licenses?
2. I have observed good elk abundance and what appears to be good age distribution of cows and calves while hunting turkeys in this unit for 40 years. My elk hunt in this area last December substantiates these observations. We hunted a small portion of unit H2I and saw two herds of approximately 75 head and a smaller herd of 20.
3. Given the demand for elk licenses and especially for guys like me who are over 70, an increase in the number of cow tags will provide a quality hunt for many. I may have had my last South Dakota elk tag as I now have to wait another 10 years to apply and can only compete for leftover tags. My cow hunt last December was most memorable. Increased number of cow tags will facilitate more hunter days of recreation in the woods.
4. Hunting pressure seemed low and additional hunters would not have detracted from the quality of my hunt last fall.
5. There has been well documented depredation and mitigation in the units H2H, I and J-23. An increase in cow tags will help in some way decrease depredation.
6. If you apply 2019 hunter success rates to the suggested increase, additional cow elk harvest would total 14-15 head. This seems like a small increase in total harvest when the entire units H2H, I, and J are considered.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED 2020 & 2021 BLACK HILLS ELK SEASONS

Regarding the Black Hills Antlerless Elk Season and specifically Units H2 H, I, and J (the small unit near Hill City):

I believe the number of licenses to be made available in each of those sub-units could be adjusted upward without significantly, or even noticeably, affecting the population objective for that unit.

I recently experienced an early December hunt in Unit H2 I. I was amazed at the number of elk we observed every day within that unit. I was also made more aware of the impact the large number of elk are having on the grass and hay resources of at least one local rancher.

By increasing the license numbers available in those 3 sub-units from 5, 15, and 15, respectively, to 20 or 25 in each, I believe the Commission could accomplish two other important objectives. It could enhance landowner/Department relations, and it could increase hunter opportunity.

With the number of elk apparently residing in this unit, it appears likely a modest increase in licenses would have minimal to no impact on overall population objectives.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Doug Hansen
43950 147th St.
Webster, SD 57274

Object Totals by G,F,O

Operating

FYR 2020 Version AR

Department 06 GAME, FISH, AND PARKS

Center 0601 Administration

Object	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
SALARIES	119,526	0	1,652,182	1,771,708	
BENEFITS	31,491	0	594,146	625,637	
PS Total	151,017	0	2,246,328	2,397,345	27.6
TRAVEL	3,536	0	207,228	210,764	
CONTRACTUAL	820,282	0	722,430	1,542,712	
SUPPLIES	1,317	0	329,448	330,765	
GRANTS	0	0	0	0	
CAPITAL	0	0	16,715	16,715	
OTHER	0	0	2,000	2,000	
OE Total	825,135	0	1,277,821	2,102,956	
TOTAL	976,152	0	3,524,149	4,500,301	

Object Totals by G,F,O

Operating

FYR 2020 Version AR

Department 06 GAME, FISH, AND PARKS
 Center 0620 State Parks and Recreation

Object	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
SALARIES	2,690,314	856,361	5,747,585	9,294,260	
BENEFITS	216,249	170,959	2,259,543	2,646,751	
PS Total	2,906,563	1,027,320	8,007,128	11,941,011	250.2
TRAVEL	0	54,970	270,454	325,424	
CONTRACTUAL	2,471,451	1,339,758	5,907,871	9,719,080	
SUPPLIES	0	493,673	2,063,316	2,556,989	
GRANTS	0	1,100,000	0	1,100,000	
CAPITAL	0	1,750	852,192	853,942	
OTHER	0	0	532,909	532,909	
OE Total	2,471,451	2,990,151	9,626,742	15,088,344	
TOTAL	5,378,014	4,017,471	17,633,870	27,029,355	

Object Totals by G,F,O

Operating

FYR 2020 Version AR

Department 06 GAME, FISH, AND PARKS
 Center 0621 State Parks and Recreation - Dev/Imp

Object	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
SALARIES	0	0	0	0	
BENEFITS	0	0	0	0	
PS Total	0	0	0	0	0.0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	
GRANTS	0	0	0	0	
CAPITAL	0	3,747,250	6,840,625	10,587,875	
OTHER	0	0	0	0	
OE Total	0	3,747,250	6,840,625	10,587,875	
TOTAL	0	3,747,250	6,840,625	10,587,875	

Object Totals by G,F,O

Operating

FYR 2020 Version AR

Department 06 GAME, FISH, AND PARKS

Center 0610 Wildlife - Info

Object	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
SALARIES	0	3,616,311	11,783,867	15,400,178	
BENEFITS	0	1,188,338	3,932,318	5,120,656	
PS Total	0	4,804,649	15,716,185	20,520,834	294.0
TRAVEL	0	335,862	1,068,437	1,404,299	
CONTRACTUAL	0	10,458,022	9,831,506	20,289,528	
SUPPLIES	0	1,360,317	2,869,965	4,230,282	
GRANTS	0	1,745,113	339,768	2,084,881	
CAPITAL	0	10,000	2,205,252	2,215,252	
OTHER	0	0	0	0	
OE Total	0	13,909,314	16,314,928	30,224,242	
TOTAL	0	18,713,963	32,031,113	50,745,076	

Object Totals by G,F,O

Operating

FYR 2020 Version AR

Department 06 GAME, FISH, AND PARKS
 Center 0612 Wildlife -Development/Improvement - Info

Object	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
SALARIES	0	0	0	0	
BENEFITS	0	0	0	0	
PS Total	0	0	0	0	0.0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	
GRANTS	0	0	0	0	
CAPITAL	0	1,427,250	600,750	2,028,000	
OTHER	0	0	0	0	
OE Total	0	1,427,250	600,750	2,028,000	
TOTAL	0	1,427,250	600,750	2,028,000	

Object Totals by G,F,O

Operating

FYR 2020 Version AR

Department 06 GAME, FISH, AND PARKS
 Center 0622 Snowmobile Trails - Info

Object	General	Federal	Other	Total	FTE
SALARIES	0	0	334,879	334,879	
BENEFITS	0	0	81,866	81,866	
PS Total	0	0	416,745	416,745	9.1
TRAVEL	0	0	54,754	54,754	
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	143,476	143,476	
SUPPLIES	0	0	184,750	184,750	
GRANTS	0	0	312,500	312,500	
CAPITAL	0	0	264,000	264,000	
OTHER	0	0	0	0	
OE Total	0	0	959,480	959,480	
TOTAL	0	0	1,376,225	1,376,225	

Request for Budget Adjustment
SD Game, Fish & Parks Commission
May 2020

	FY2020 Approved Budget	Health Insurance Adjustment				Bureau Billings-Central Services				Total Current Year Adjustments			
		General	Federal	Other	Total	General	Federal	Other	Total	General	Federal	Other	Total
0601 Division of Administration	\$ 4,500,301	\$ 8,763		\$ 61,240	\$ 70,003			\$ 9,895	\$ 9,895	\$ 8,763		\$ 71,135	\$ 79,898
0620 Parks & Recreation Operations	\$ 27,029,355	\$ 64,079	\$ 13,947	\$ 231,909	\$ 309,935		\$ 382	\$ 9,834	\$ 10,216	\$ 64,079	\$ 14,329	\$ 241,743	\$ 320,151
0621 Parks & Recreation Capital Development	\$ 10,587,875												
0610 Wildlife Operations	\$ 50,745,076		\$ 126,456	\$ 402,722	\$ 529,178		\$ 626	\$ 18,498	\$ 19,124		\$ 127,082	\$ 421,220	\$ 548,302
0612 Wildlife Capital Development	\$ 2,028,000												
0622 Snowmobile Trails	\$ 1,376,225			\$ 5,682	\$ 5,682			\$ 295	\$ 295			\$ 5,977	\$ 5,977
	\$ 96,266,832				\$ 914,798				\$ 39,530				\$ 954,328

	Per Employee
Original FY2020 Health Insurance Rate	\$ 10,071
Revised FY2020 Health Insurance Rate	\$ 12,124
Estimated FY2021 Health Insurance Rate	\$ 10,809

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
nhilding@rapidnet.com
605-787-6466
April 30th, 2020

Dear Game, Fish and Parks Commission
Joe Foss Building
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
C/o Jon Kotilnek <Jon.Kotilnek@state.sd.us>

Dear Commissioners,

PETITION FOR RULEMAKING Submitted pursuant to SDCL 1-26-13.

Prairie Hills Audubon Society of Western SD, Nancy Hilding, Susan Braunstein, Kathleen and Wolfgang Schmidt submit this petition. Nancy Hilding is a resident of Black Hawk, in Meade County. Susan Braunstein is a resident of Rapid City in Pennington County. Kathleen and Wolfgang Schmidt are residents of Nemo, SD in Lawrence County. Prairie Hills Audubon Society is a non-profit corporation registered in SD. Corporations are persons by SD law, and as such have standing to file rulemaking petitions.

We request the amendment of the following rule:

"41:08:02:13. Traps to be rendered inoperable -- Removal of trapping devices. All traps shall be rendered inoperable and all snares shall be closed to their permanent stop, or closed to less than two and one-half inches if the snare is not equipped with a permanent stop, if the person responsible for checking the traps or snares is not actively trapping and checking them within the time frames as provided in § 41:08:02:03. All traps and snares (set or unset), stakes, cables, chains, wires, or other devices used for the purpose of attaching a trap or snare shall be removed from public lands and improved road rights-of-way prior to May 1 of each year. However, live traps may remain or be placed on public lands and improved road rights-of-way beyond May 1 but shall be removed by September 1 of each year."

Source: 30 SDR 21, effective August 25, 2003; 41 SDR 7, effective July 30, 2014; 45 SDR 155, effective June 24, 2019.

General Authority: SDCL 41-2-18(14), 41-8-20.
Law Implemented: SDCL 41-2-18(14), 41-8-20.

Web Link:
<https://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/DisplayRule.aspx?Rule=41:08:02:13>

We ask that the last sentence of the rule be amended, changing the date September 1st to July 1st.

"However, live traps may remain or be placed on public lands and improved road rights-of-way beyond May 1 but shall be removed by July 1 of each year.

STATEMENT OF REASONS

We request changing the live trap removal date from September 1st to July 1st in order to match the 2020 Nest Predator Bounty Program (NPBP) time frame. A rule change was originally made in 2019 and instead of requiring removal of live traps on May 1st, it allowed live traps to be left on public land and right-of-ways from May 1st to September first. The change was to accommodate the 2019 Nest Predator Bounty Program (NPBP) time frame. That time frame has been shortened in March 2020.

The trap check times allowed in South Dakota are too long. Leaving target and non-target species in traps for three and a partial days west river and two and a partial days east river, is animal cruelty. In high heat or bitter cold, an animal in a box can die in half a day. Animals in boxes or leg-hold traps can freak out and damage their bodies and/or teeth & thus not survive even if released. Dead or confined animals in boxes or traps can't feed their dependent young. Even via a "live trap" non-target species adults and their dependent young will die, in addition to target species. However it is especially cruel to confine mother animals with dependent young that their instincts drive them to return to.

While the Department and the Commission may want to make Governor Noem happy by having another year of the Nest Predator Bounty Program (NPBP), the NPBP ends on July 1st and two more months of suffering of animals is not warranted.

We once again give you the link to the Public Opinion Survey commissioned by the Humane Society of the United States. It interviewed more people than your public opinion survey on the NPBP, it provides more metrics and came to very different conclusions about the popularity in SD of the Nest Predator Bounty Program than the survey you funded. Link to HSUS funded report:

<https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/South-Dakota-General-Election-Survey.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0TzQSvscZeSc-C1dgSxBjt0sCzgSSX5jxks-wOtFMdjFHv4FgSQCvHKBI>

Sincerely



Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

Signing for the below people:

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605-787-6466

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1 attachment

Born Free USA Extended Trapping Report Card for 2017

BORN FREE USA - EXTENDED TRAPPING REPORT CARD

State	Born Free's 2017 Grade	Trap Types and Killing						Trapper Requirements					Trap Check Times		Species Restrictions			
		Leghold Trap Prohibited	Conibear Trap Prohibited		Snares Prohibited	Bait Prohibited	Restrictions on How Trapped Animal can be Killed	Trapper License Required	Trapper Report Required	Trap ID Required	Trapper Education Required	Restriction on Number of Traps	24-Hour or Daily Trap Check Time – Landsets	24-Hour or Daily Trap Check Time – Watersets	Are Non-Target Animals Reported?	Bobcat Trapping Prohibited	Bear Trapping Prohibited	Otter Trapping Prohibited
			Full Ban	Only on Land														
Alabama	B-	No ^{1,2}	No	No ²	Yes	No ³	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No ⁸	Yes	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹	
Alaska	F	No ²	No ²	No ²	No	No	No	Yes	No ⁴	No	Yes	No	No	No ⁵	Yes	Yes	No ⁹	
Arizona	B+	No ^{1,2}	No ²	No ²	Yes	No ³	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No ^{9,10}	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	F	No ^{1,2}	No ²	No ²	No ²	No ³	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No ⁸	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
California	A+	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No ⁵	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	A-	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	No ³	No	Yes	No ⁴	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No ⁹	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	B-	No ^{1,2}	No ²	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No ^{9,11}
Delaware	B-	No ^{1,2}	No ²	No ²	No ²	No ³	Yes	Yes	No ⁵	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No ⁹
Florida	D-	Yes	Yes	N/A	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
Georgia	D	No ²	No	No ²	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
Hawaii	A+	No Commercial or Recreational Trapping Allowed On Public Land.																
Idaho	F	No ²	No	No	No ²	No ³	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No ⁸	No ⁸	Yes	No ⁹	Yes	No ^{9,11}
Illinois	B	No ^{1,2}	No ²	No ²	No ²	No ³	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No ^{9,10,11}	Yes	No ^{9,10,11}
Indiana	D+	No ^{1,2}	No	No ²	No ²	No	No	Yes	No ⁵	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No ⁵	Yes	Yes	No ^{9,11}
Iowa	F	No ^{1,2}	No	No ²	No ²	No ³	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No ^{9,11}	Yes	No ^{9,11}
Kansas	D+	No ^{1,2}	No	No ²	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ¹¹
Kentucky	C-	No ²	No	No ²	No	No	No	Yes	No ⁵	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No ⁵	No ^{9,11}	Yes	No ^{9,11}
Louisiana	F	No ¹	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
Maine	D-	No ¹	No	No ²	No	No ³	No	Yes	No ⁵	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No ⁸	No ⁵	No ⁹	No ^{10,11}	No ⁹
Maryland	D+	No ^{1,2}	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No ⁷	No	Yes	Yes	No ⁹
Massachusetts	B-	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	No	No	Yes	No ⁵	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
Michigan	D+	No ^{1,2}	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No ⁵	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No ^{9,11}	Yes	No ^{9,11}
Minnesota	D+	No ²	No ²	No ²	No ²	No ³	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No ⁸	No ⁵	No ^{9,11}	Yes	No ^{9,11}
Mississippi	D-	No	No	No ²	No	No ³	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No ⁶	No ⁶	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
Missouri	F	No ¹	No	No ²	No ²	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No ⁷	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
Montana	F	No	No	No	No	No ³	No	Yes	No ⁵	Yes	No	No	No ⁷	No ⁷	No ⁵	No ^{9,11}	Yes	No ⁹
Nebraska	D-	No ¹	No	No ²	No	No ³	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No ⁷	No	No ⁹	Yes	Yes
Nevada	F	No	No	No	No	No ³	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No ⁸	No	Yes	No ⁹	Yes	No
New Hampshire	C	No ^{1,2}	No	No ²	No	No ³	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No ⁸	No ⁵	Yes	Yes	No ⁹
New Jersey	B	Yes	No ²	Yes	No ²	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No ⁵	Yes	Yes	No ^{9,10,11}
New Mexico	C+	No ^{1,2}	No	No ²	No	No ³	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No ⁵	No ⁹	Yes	Yes
New York	C+	No ^{1,2}	No	No ²	Yes	No ³	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No ⁵	No ^{9,10}	Yes	No ⁹
North Carolina	F	No ^{1,2}	No ²	No ²	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No ⁸	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
North Dakota	F	No	No	No ²	No ²	No ³	No	Yes	No ⁵	Yes	No	No	No	No	No ⁵	No ⁹	Yes	Yes
Ohio	B	No ^{1,2}	No ²	No ²	No ²	No ³	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No ⁵	Yes	Yes	No ^{9,11}
Oklahoma	C	No ^{1,2}	Yes	N/A	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No ^{9,11}	Yes	No ^{9,11}
Oregon	D+	No ^{1,2}	No	No ²	No	No ³	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No ⁷	No ⁷	No	No ^{9,10}	Yes	No ^{9,10}
Pennsylvania	C	No ^{1,2}	No	Yes	No ²	No ³	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No ⁶	No ⁶	No ⁵	No ^{9,10,11}	Yes	No ^{9,10,11}
Rhode Island	B+	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	D	No ^{1,2}	No	Yes	No	No ³	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No ⁷	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
South Dakota	F	No	No	No ²	No ²	No ³	No	Yes	No ⁴	No	No	No	No ⁷	No	No ⁵	No ⁹	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	D	No ²	No ²	No ²	No ²	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No ⁶	No ⁶	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
Texas	F	No	No	No ²	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No ⁶	No ⁶	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
Utah	D+	No ²	No ²	No ²	No ²	No ³	Yes	Yes	No ⁴	Yes	Yes	No	No ⁷	No	No ⁵	No ^{9,10,11}	Yes	Yes
Vermont	D	No ¹	No	No ²	Yes	No	No	Yes	No ⁴	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No ⁸	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
Virginia	F	No ^{1,2}	No	No ²	No ²	No ³	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No ⁸	No	No ⁹	Yes	No ^{9,11}
Washington	A	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	No ³	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No ⁹	Yes	No ⁹
West Virginia	C	No ^{1,2}	No	No ²	No ²	No ³	No	Yes	No ⁴	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No ^{9,11}	Yes	No ^{9,11}
Wisconsin	D	No ²	No	No ²	No ²	No ³	No	Yes	No ⁵	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No ^{9,10,11}	Yes	No ^{9,10,11}
Wyoming	F	No	No	No ²	No ²	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No ⁸	No ⁸	No	No ⁹	Yes	Yes

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 – No teeth/serrated edges allowed
- 2 – Size restrictions (at least on land)
- 3 – Restrictions on bait type, placement, whether or not the bait is covered, and/or what type of trap it can be used with
- 4 – Voluntary survey
- 5 – Only for certain species
- 6 – 36 hours trap check time
- 7 – 48 hours trap check time
- 8 – 72 hours rap check time
- 9 – Must get pelt tagged/ sealed
- 10 – Must have special permit
- 11 – Bag limit or quota

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Sage Grouse Hunting Season

Chapters 41:06:10

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 7-8, 2020	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 16, 2020	Pierre
	Finalization	July 16-17, 2020	Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2020 hunting season

Season Dates: Closed

Recommended changes from last year: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Retaining a season closure is being recommended based on the season recommendation guidelines found within the “Sage-Grouse Management Plan for South Dakota, 2014-2018”. Results from the 2019 spring lek surveys indicated 60 (66 in 2018) males counted on priority leks and 153 (168 in 2018) males counted on all leks. The 2020 spring lek surveys are still in progress and will be completed in mid-May. Preliminary results indicate similar number of males as documented in 2019.

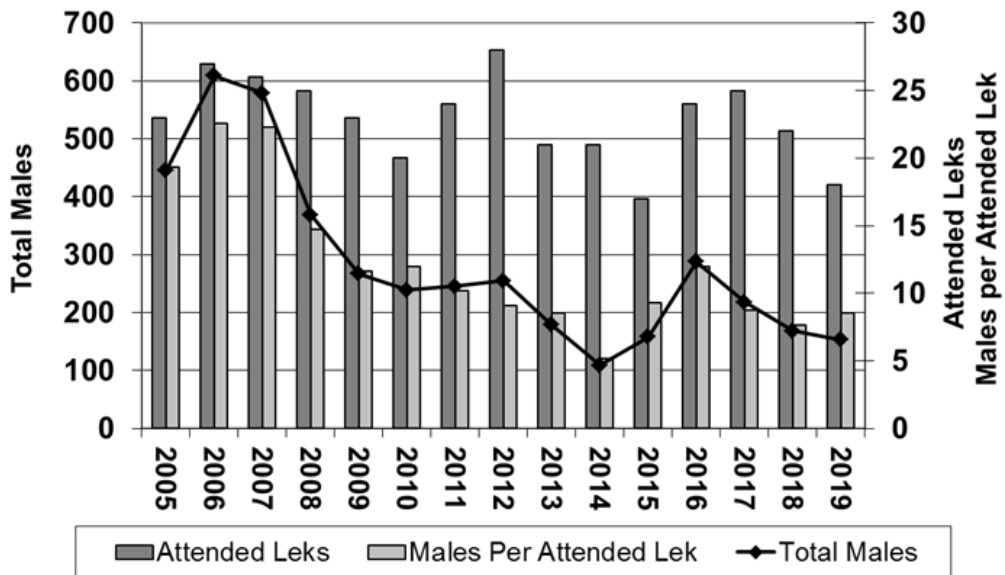
Population Inices	Hunting Season Recommendation
< 150 males counted on priority leks AND < 250 males counted on all leks	No Hunting Season
≥ 150 males counted on priority leks OR ≥ 250 males counted on all leks	2-day season, public land only in Harding County and Butte County west of US HWY 85, limit 1 sage-grouse per hunter per season
Sage-grouse listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act	No Hunting Season

Year	Hunters	Sage Grouse Harvested
2004	53	25
2005	40	26
2006	46	15
2007	25	10
2008	24	17
2009	20	7
2010	26	12
2011	27	11
2012	35	9
2013	SEASON CLOSED	
2014	SEASON CLOSED	
2015	SEASON CLOSED	
2016*	30	10
2017	SEASON CLOSED	
2018	SEASON CLOSED	
2019	SEASON CLOSED	

*Number of hunters and harvest based on hunter harvest survey results of those hunters who were successful in drawing a sage grouse hunting permit.

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____

Sage Grouse Lek Survey Results, 2005-2019.



APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

River Otter Trapping Season Chapters 41:08:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 7-8, 2020	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 16, 2020	Pierre
	Finalization	July 16-17, 2020	Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2020 trapping season

Recommended changes from last year: To establish a conservative river otter trapping season.

1. Establish a trapping season that is open from sunrise on November 1 to sunset on December 31 in all counties of the state.
2. Limit of one river otter per trapper per season.
3. Statewide harvest limit of 15 river otters. Season will end prior to December 31 if the harvest limit is reached.
4. Trapping season open to residents only with a furbearer license.
5. A river otter shall be reported to the Department within 24 hours of harvest. At time of reporting, arrangements will be made to check-in carcass and detached pelt at a GFP office or designated location for registration and tagging of the pelt within 5 days of harvest. Additionally, once the season has closed (last day of season or harvest limit reached), a person has 24 hours to notify the Department of a harvested river.
6. The pelt shall be removed from the carcass and the carcass shall be surrendered to the Department. After the pelt has been tagged, it shall be returned to the trapper. Upon request, the carcass may be returned to the trapper after the carcass has been inspected and biological data collected.
7. Any river otter harvested after the 24-hour period following the close of the season, will be considered incidental take and shall be surrendered to the Department.
8. A person may only possess, purchase or sell raw river otter pelts that are tagged through the eyeholes with the tag provided by the Department or if the river otter was harvested on tribal or trust land of an Indian reservation or another state and is properly and securely tagged with a tag supplied by the governmental entity issuing the license.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

River otter populations in South Dakota continue to grow and expand into available habitat. A statewide season will provide harvest information from across the state. It also provides the greatest opportunity to pursue trapping of river otter. Over the last five years (2015-2019) the Department has received an average of 16.6 incidentally trapped river otter/year. River otter are most frequently incidentally taken during the beaver trapping season given similarity of habitat and trapping methods. The majority (72%) of the 83 incidentally trapped river otter reported over the last five years were taken in November. Updates on river otter harvest will be available on the Department website and by calling a designated phone number. A press release and other information tools will be used when the harvest limit has been met, similar to the mountain lion harvest notification process.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue
 - Why make the change, what are the change alternatives, how will public/stakeholder input be solicited, and how will the change be evaluated if implemented?
 - i. River otter populations in South Dakota continue to grow and expand into available habitat. In reviewing the number of river otters incidentally trapped, the population can sustain a conservative harvest by trappers. Public input will be solicited during the Commission process. If implemented, Department staff will collect biological data, evaluate season structure and bring any recommended changes to the Commission for consideration for future seasons.
2. Historical Considerations – River otters were classified as a furbearer by the South Dakota Legislature in 2019 and were removed from the state’s list of threatened species by the Commission in 2020 after meeting delisting criteria.
3. Biological Considerations
 - What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations?
 - i. As already indicated, river otter populations in South Dakota continue to grow and expand into available habitat.
4. Social Considerations
 - The allowance of a restrictive trapping season will provide additional opportunities for resident trappers. It is recommended to limit this season to residents only, given the limited opportunity and expected high interest from resident trappers.
5. Financial considerations – Not Applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate? Not applicable.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - Yes, the inclusion of a conservative trapping season for river otters will provide additional opportunities for existing trappers and likely spark interest from new trappers.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Provides additional trapping opportunity.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:14

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	April 2-3, 2020	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	June 4, 2020	Pierre
	Finalization	June 4-5, 2020	Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2020 and 2021 hunting seasons

Season Dates: November 1 – January 31

Licenses:

Black Hills:	200 resident and 16 nonresident single tag “any turkey” licenses
Prairie Units:	Residents: 400 single tag and 35 double tag “any turkey” licenses Nonresidents: 28 single and 3 double tag “any turkey” licenses

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. One-half of the fall turkey licenses are available for landowner preference applicants.
2. A person may not use any firearm on the south unit and the signed portion of the north unit of the Bureau of Land Management Fort Meade Recreation Area.
3. No person may shoot a turkey that is in a tree or roost.

Recommended changes from last year:

1. Offer 125 less resident single tag licenses and 35 more resident double tag licenses for Prairie Units compared to 2019.
2. Close prairie units 12A (Gregory County), 50A (Mellette County), and 60A (Tripp County).
3. Establish and open prairie unit 12A (Bon Homme County).

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Harvest management strategy table of the Wild Turkey Management Plan and updated unit-specific population objectives provided guidance for the recommended changes to the respective prairie units.

Year	Prairie				Black Hills			
	Licenses Sold	Tom Harvest	Hen Harvest	Success	Licenses Sold	Tom Harvest	Hen Harvest	Success
2014	1,910	422	224	33%	810	100	114	27%
2015	1,936	422	227	33%	433	66	62	29%
2016	908	173	72	26%	434	91	55	34%
2017	898	194	56	26%	433	87	52	32%
2018	548	142	52	35%	220	27	26	25%

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

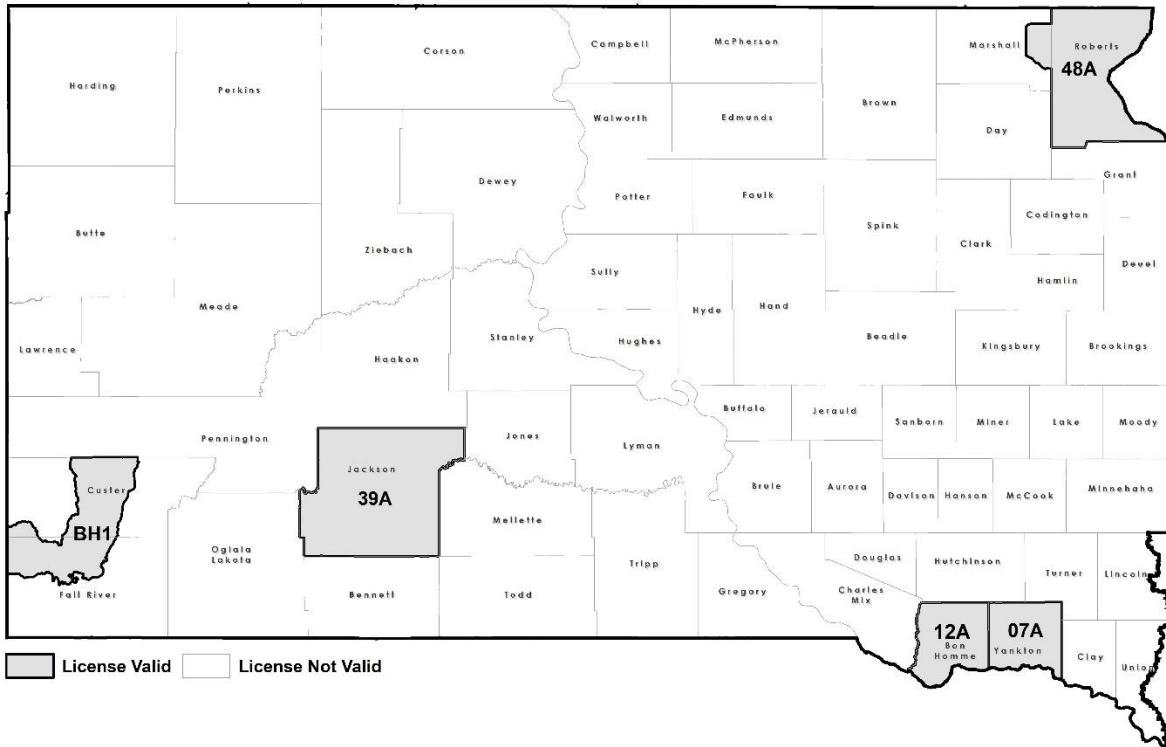
Not applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? No, but slightly less hunting opportunity.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Not applicable.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? No, but slightly less hunting opportunity.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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FALL TURKEY UNITS



2020 & 2021 Fall Turkey Licenses

Unit	Licenses
07A	150
12A	150
39A	35
48A	100
BH1	200

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Fall Turkey Hunting Seasons – Hunting Unit License Allocations

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	April 2-3, 2000	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	June 4, 2020	Pierre
	Finalization	June 4-5, 2020	Pierre

LICENSE ALLOCATION BY UNITS

See Attached Spreadsheets

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

License Forms and Fees

Chapter 41:06:02

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	April 2-3, 2020	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	June 4, 2020	Pierre
	Finalization	June 4-5, 2020	Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

41:06:02:01.03. Replacement of lost or destroyed license, permit, or game tag.

Administrative fees payable to the department to replace lost or destroyed licenses, permits, or game tags shall be \$20.

License agents may, and the department shall, charge the license agent's fee established by SDCL 41-6-66.1 in issuing a permit in lieu of a lost license and any other authorized replacement licenses, permits, or game tags.

Recommended changes from last year:

1. Remove the \$20 administrative fee for lost or destroyed licenses, permits or game tags. The license agent's fee established by SDCL 41-6-66.1 would still be charged by license agents and the Department.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

After considering public comment and a review of this administrative fee for all license types, the Department recommends removing this administrative fee. Authorized license agents and the department as per SDCL 41-6-66.1 will charge a license agent's fee of \$4 for resident and \$8 for nonresident licenses.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Not applicable.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? It might remove a financial barrier for those who have lost their licenses, permits, or game tags.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Not applicable.

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Administrative Rule Review

Article 41:08

Commission Meeting Dates: Proposal	April 2-3, 2020	Good Earth State Park
Public Hearing	July 16, 2020	Fort Pierre
Finalization	July 16-17, 2020	Fort Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

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

Chapter 41:08:01 – Furbearer Seasons

41:08:01:01	Mink and weasel hunting and trapping season established
41:08:01:02	Muskrat trapping season established
41:08:01:07	Beaver trapping and hunting season established in East River and Black Hills Fire Protection District—Exception
41:08:01:08	Beaver trapping and hunting season established in West River—Exception
41:08:01:08.01	Bobcat trapping and hunting season established—Hunting restrictions—Tagging requirements
41:08:01:08.02	Skunk, opossum, fox, raccoon, and badger trapping and hunting season established
41:08:01:08.03	Jackrabbit hunting season established
41:08:01:09	Areas not open
41:08:01:11	Permit required to trap in parks and recreation areas—Time restriction
41:08:01:12	Nonresident restrictions

Chapter 41:08:02 – Trapping Prohibitions

41:08:02:01	Water-sets prohibited—Dates—Exceptions
41:08:02:02	Flagging of muskrat houses prohibited
41:08:02:04	Exposed bait prohibited
41:08:02:05	Snare restrictions
41:08:02:07	Possession and transportation of snares
41:08:02:10	Pole traps prohibited—Exception
41:08:02:13	Traps to be rendered inoperable—Removal of trapping devices
41:08:02:14	Traps and associated equipment prohibited on public lands open to trapping—Dates

Chapter 41:08:05 – Possession of Live Furbearers

41:08:05:01	Possession of live furbearer prohibited—Exception
41:08:05:03	Purchase of live furbearer prohibited
41:08:05:04	Killing or release of furbearer required—Exception for pet
41:08:05:05	Possession of physically altered furbearer prohibited—Exception
41:08:05:07	Seizure and disposition of live furbearer possessed unlawfully

Chapter 41:08:06 – Aerial Hunting

41:08:06:03	County permits—Selection
41:08:06:04	Expiration of permits
41:08:06:06	Hunting area limited

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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41:08:06:07 Daily record required
41:08:06:08 Quarterly reporting required
41:08:06:09 Cancellation

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

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.

NON-RESIDENT CRITERIA

Not Applicable

RETENTION, REACTIVATION, AND RECRUITMENT CONSIDERATIONS (R3)

The suggested changes correct inconsistencies, remove unnecessary barriers and arrange rules logically thus promoting an administrative code that benefits current, former and new users.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Administrative Rule Review

Article 41:09

Commission Meeting Dates: Proposal	April 2-3, 2020	Good Earth State Park
Public Hearing	July 16, 2020	Fort Pierre
Finalization	July 16-17, 2020	Fort Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

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

Chapter 41:09:01 – Private Shooting Preserves

41:09:01:01	Operation plan to be submitted with application
41:09:01:02	Release of male birds required—Harvest limited
41:09:01:02.01	Notification required prior to release of birds
41:09:01:03	Birds that may be released—Minimum release age—Marking of birds
41:09:01:03.01	Daily bag limit—Shooting hours
41:09:01:04.01	Private shooting preserve processing permit—Exception
41:09:01:05	Fee for kill tags—Deadline
41:09:01:05.01	Game release and guest register records required—Deadlines
41:09:01:06	Applications-New and renewal—Single season and three-year season permits authorized—Fees
41:09:01:06.02	Issuance of permit for shooting preserve located within one mile of publicly owned shooting area
41:09:01:07	Minimum area of preserve
41:09:01:08	Definition of “other publicly owned shooting areas”
41:09:01:10	Adjustment to preserve acreage
41:09:01:11	Training required

Chapter 41:09:02 – Captive Game Birds

41:09:02:00	Definition of terms
41:09:02:01	Expiration date of license
41:09:02:02	Possession of captive game birds prohibited—Exceptions—License types and fees
41:09:02:02.01	License application
41:09:02:03	Captive waterfowl—Compliance with federal regulations
41:09:02:06.01	Release to the wild prohibited
41:09:02:08	Records required—Contents—Inspection—Submission of annual report
41:09:02:08.01	Premises to be open to inspection

Chapter 41:09:04 – Bait

41:09:04:02.01	License fees
41:09:04:02.05	Noncommercial limits defined
41:09:04:02.06	Eligibility for bait dealers, agents and employees
41:09:04:03	Waters closed to the taking of bait
41:09:04:04	Seines, nets, and traps limited
41:09:04:05	Trap spacing limited—Emptying required
41:09:04:16.01	Records required for bait taken in South Dakota waters

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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- 41:09:04:16.02 Records required for bait imported into South Dakota
- 41:09:04:16.03 Records required for bait sold at retail in South Dakota
- 41:09:04:16.04 Records required for bait sold at wholesale in South Dakota
- 41:09:04:16.05 Records required for bait purchased and transported out of South Dakota
- 41:09:04:16.06 Records required for nonresident bait dealers for bait sold or purchased in South Dakota
- 41:09:04:17 Conviction for violation may be cause for revocation and non-renewal of bait dealer license

Chapter 41:09:06 – Raptors

- 41:09:06:17 Definitions
- 41:09:06:18 Application for falconry permit—Requirements—Limitations
- 41:09:06:20 Inspection of facilities
- 41:09:06:21 Taking or acquisition of raptors—Trapping requirements
- 41:09:06:22 Threatened and endangered species protected
- 41:09:06:28 Hunting by falconry—Requirements—Restrictions
- 41:09:06:29 Captive-bred raptors—Requirements—Restrictions
- 41:09:06:30 Annual reports
- 41:09:06:31 Suspension and revocation of permits
- 41:09:06:32 Standards for falconry

Chapter 41:09:07 – Private Fish Hatcheries

- 41:09:07:03.02 License approval criteria
- 41:09:07:05 Records required
- 41:09:07:06.01 Hatchery licenses available for inspection
- 41:09:07:06.02 Hatchery license in possession while transporting live fish or fish reproductive products
- 41:09:07:06.03 Inspection by department representative
- 41:09:07:06.04 Fish health inspection required

Chapter 41:09:08 – Importation of Fish

- 41:09:08:03.04 Importation requirements for fish or fish reproductive products

Chapter 41:09:10 – Fur Dealers

- 41:09:10:02 Resident fur dealers' records—Reporting
- 41:09:10:03 Grounds for refusal to issue fur dealer license
- 41:09:10:04 License fees

Chapter 41:09:11 – Taxidermists

- 41:09:11:01 License fee and validity
- 41:09:11:02 Definitions
- 41:09:11:06 Violation is cause for revocation of license—Immediate return of specimens—Exception

Chapter 41:09:12 – Persons with Disabilities

- 41:09:12:01 Special crossbow permit
- 41:09:12:02 Crossbow and bolt specifications
- 41:09:12:03.01 Definitions
- 41:09:12:03.02 Disabled hunter permit—Eligibility requirements
- 41:09:12:03.05 Denial of permit or revocation of existing permit—Reasons—Appeal process
- 41:09:12:04 License requirements, privileges, and restrictions

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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- 41:09:12:06 Application procedure for licenses issued for a reduced fee based on total disability and other qualifications
- 41:09:12:06.01 Fee—Duration of validity of fishing and hunting licenses
- 41:09:12:07 Designated shooter permit
- 41:09:12:07.01 Permit authorities, limitations, and conditions

Chapter 41:09:13 – Dog Training

- 41:09:13:01 Sporting dog training and field trials
- 41:09:13:02 Bird marking required
- 41:09:13:03 Release traps or fluorescent streamers required for pheasants
- 41:09:13:05 Sporting dog trials permitted on public lands

Chapter 41:09:14 – Nursing Home Group Fishing

- 41:09:14:01 License fee—Expiration
- 41:09:14:02 Possession of license required

Chapter 41:09:15 – Fishing Tournaments

- 41:09:15:01 Definition
- 41:09:15:03 Application
- 41:09:15:04 Approval or denial of permit—Special conditions
- 41:09:15:07 Factors considered for issuance of a permit
- 41:09:15:08 Application period and issuance of permit
- 41:09:15:09 Restricted times of fishing tournaments
- 41:09:15:11 Violation of chapter

Chapter 41:09:16 – Scientific Collectors

- 41:09:16:03 Conditions of license
- 41:09:16:04 Reporting required
- 41:09:16:05 Violations

Chapter 41:09:18 – Wildlife Rehabilitation

- 41:09:18:05 Inspection of facilities
- 41:09:18:07 Release of wildlife
- 41:09:18:10 Indemnification and liability
- 41:09:18:11 Suspension and revocation of permits

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

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.

NON-RESIDENT CRITERIA

Not Applicable

RETENTION, REACTIVATION, AND RECRUITMENT CONSIDERATIONS (R3)

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____

The suggested changes correct inconsistencies, remove unnecessary barriers and arrange rules logically thus promoting an administrative code that benefits current, former and new users.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL**

**Administrative Rule Review
Article 41:10**

Commission Meeting Dates: Proposal	April 2-3, 2020	Good Earth State Park
Public Hearing	July 16, 2020	Fort Pierre
Finalization	July 16-17, 2020	Fort Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

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

Chapter 41:10:02 – Endangered and Threatened Species

- 41:10:02:03 List of endangered mammals
- 41:10:02:05 List of endangered fish
- 41:10:02:06 List of threatened fish
- 41:10:02:07 List of endangered reptiles
- 41:10:02:17 Harassment defined
- 41:10:02:18 Harassment prohibited
- 41:10:02:19 Endangered species permit exemption

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

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.

NON-RESIDENT CRITERIA

Not Applicable

RETENTION, REACTIVATION, AND RECRUITMENT CONSIDERATIONS (R3)

The suggested changes correct inconsistencies, remove unnecessary barriers and arrange rules logically thus promoting an administrative code that benefits current, former and new users.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

State Threatened and Endangered Species Listings Chapter 41:10:02:04

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 5-6, 2020	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 7, 2020	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 7-8, 2020	Custer State Park

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Proposed change: Remove North American River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) from list of state threatened mammals.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes to proposal: None.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

River otters were historically widespread across North America, including South Dakota in appropriate habitats. However, due to habitat loss and degradation and unregulated take during the early 20th century, river otter populations were drastically reduced, including likely extirpation from South Dakota. In 1978, river otters were included on the first list of South Dakota state threatened mammals.

Several factors have allowed river otter populations to rebound across much of their former range, including reintroductions, improvements in wetland and river habitat management, and protections afforded under various state threatened and endangered species laws. In South Dakota, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe released 35 river otters along the Big Sioux River on tribal grounds in Moody County in 1998 and 1999. As part of a study to determine river otter distribution in the state, Kiesow and Dieter (2003) collected 34 confirmed reports of river otter in South Dakota. The majority (89%) of these reports occurred along the Big Sioux River; half occurred in Moody County. Melquist reported in 2015 that river otter distribution included the following: Big Sioux, Vermillion and James River drainages, Jorgenson River, Little Minnesota River, Whetstone River, Yellow Bank River, Jim Creek/Big Slough and the Missouri River downstream from Pierre (Melquist 2015).

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP), through the South Dakota Natural Heritage Program, maintains a database of river otter reports from across the state. Data are from a variety of sources including universities, government wildlife agencies, private contractors, and the general public. Reports include the sighting of an otter, incidental catch, river otter sign (tracks, scat, or snow slide), or a vehicle kill. Not every river otter encounter is reported to SDGFP and not all reports are verified. The number of verified river otter reports has increased over time (Figure 1). Approximately half of these reports came from Grant, Roberts or Moody counties. The tribal reintroduction, along with natural recolonization from other areas has resulted in a growing river otter population in eastern South Dakota.

In 2012, a 5-year plan was written to provide general, strategic guidance for the recovery and sustained management of river otter. As directed in the plan, recovery criteria were developed to justify removing the species from the state threatened species list when appropriate. Delisting of the river otter will be recommended when the following conditions are met: 1) verified reports of reproduction are documented in three of the five basins (60%) within the recovery area (Figure 2), and 2) within each basin, the presence of river otters has been documented by verified reports in at least 40% of their subbasins. Both criteria shall be met during at least two of the five years prior to recommended delisting. These criteria were met in 2019 (Figure 3). Because protection under the state endangered species law is no longer justified, the Department recommends that the species be removed from the state list of threatened mammals.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

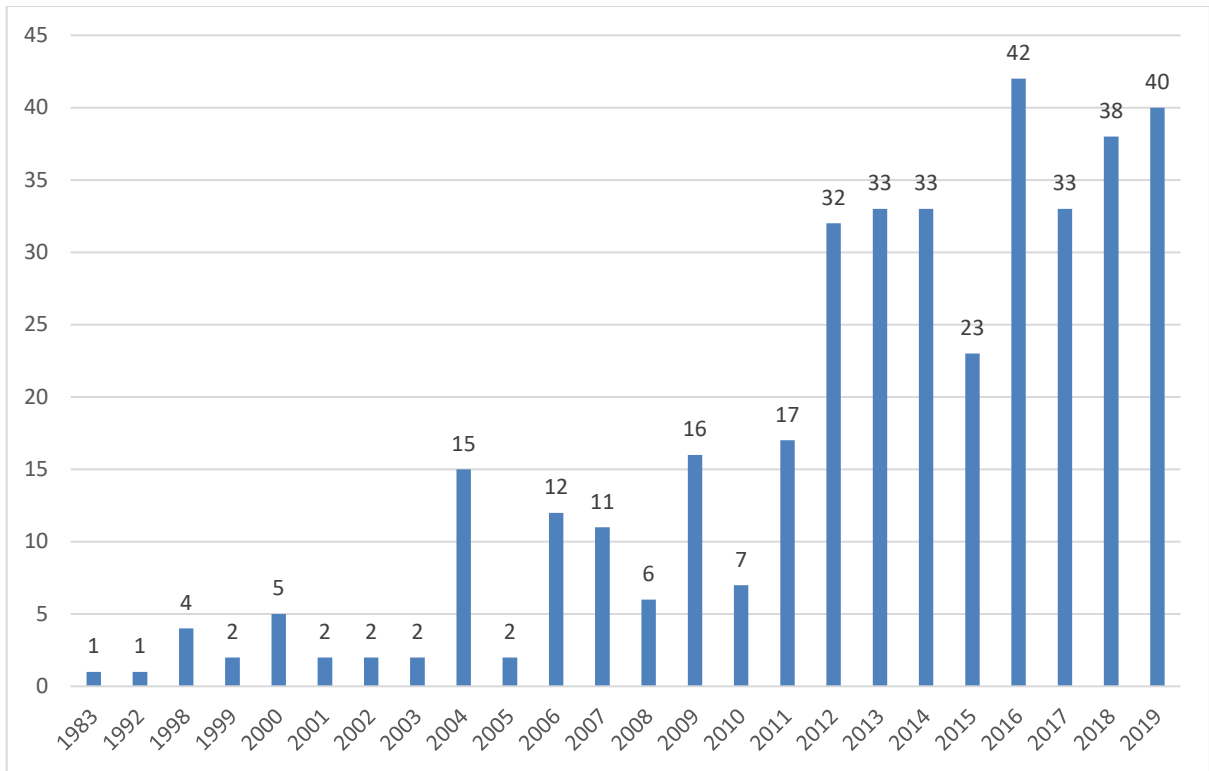


Figure 1. Verified reports of river otters in South Dakota from 1983 through 2019. Reports include the sighting of an otter, incidental catch, river otter sign (tracks, scat or sign) or vehicle kill.

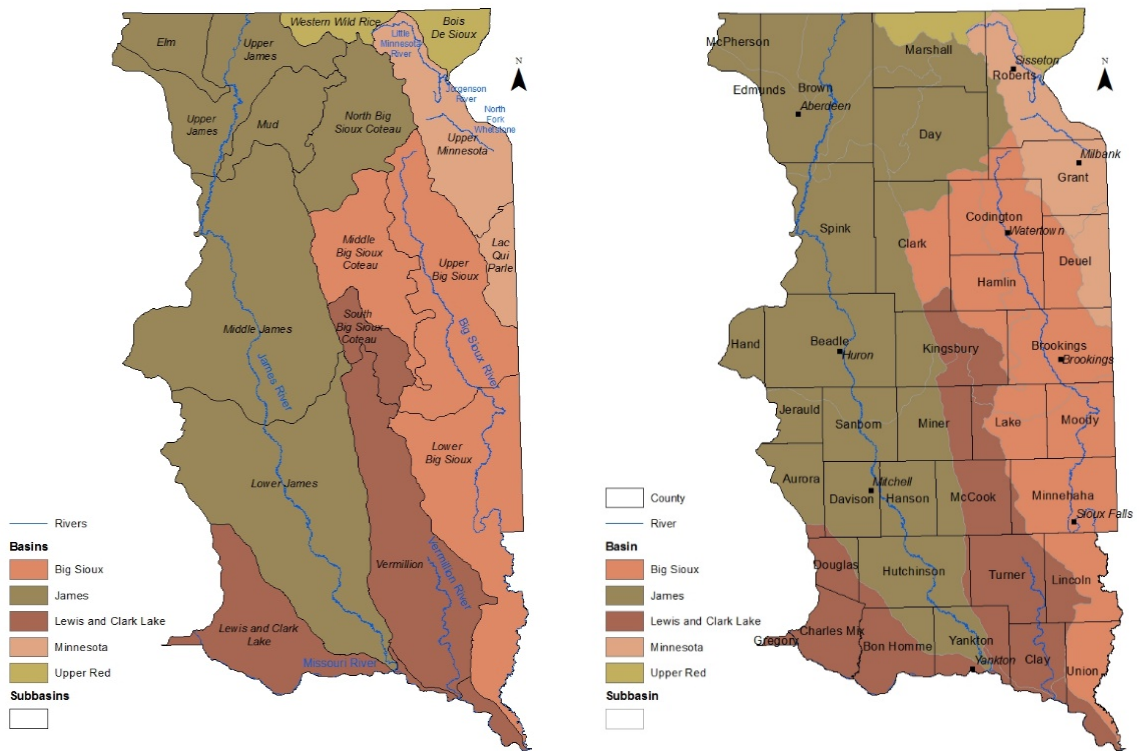


Figure 2. Recovery area watershed basins and subbasins. Basins are hydrological unit level six watersheds while subbasins are hydrological unit level eight watersheds, as defined by the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Watershed Boundary Dataset.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

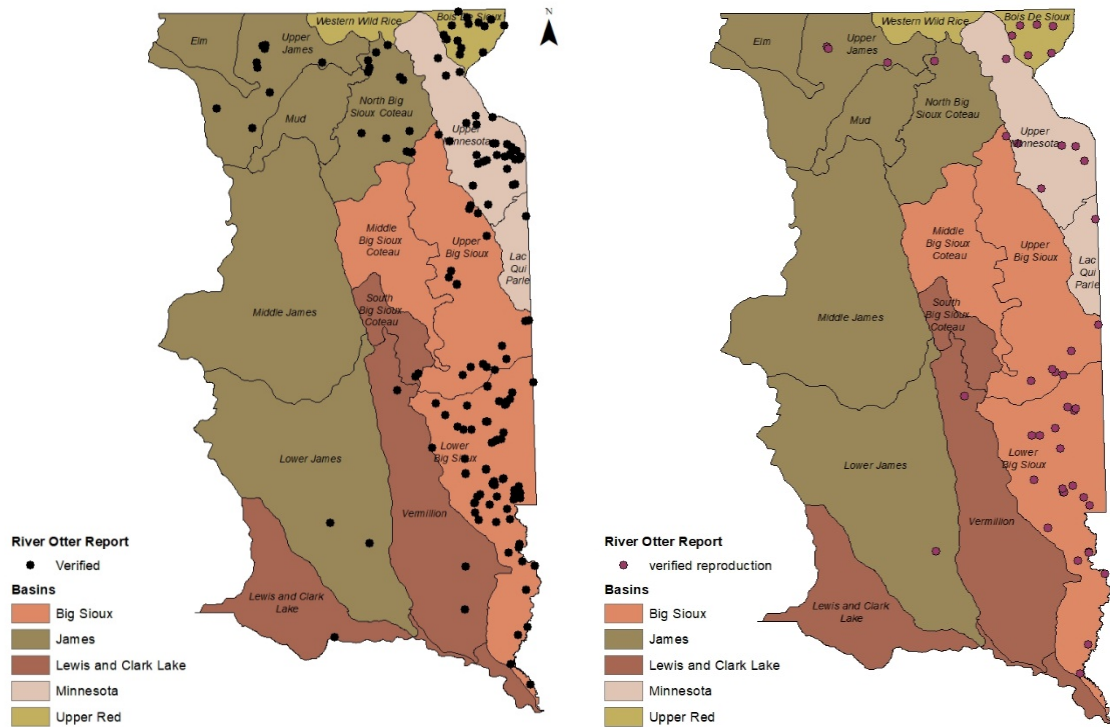


Figure 3. Verified reports of river otters (left) and reproduction (right) across the recovery watersheds in eastern South Dakota from 2015 – 2019. These reports represent a conservative estimate because many reports come from the public, and it is reasonable to assume not every river otter encounter is reported to SDGFP.

Literature Cited

Kiesow, A. M. and C. D. Dieter. 2003. Status and distribution of river otters, *Lontra canadensis*, in South Dakota. Proceedings of the South Dakota Academy of Science 82:79-87.

Melquist, W. E. 2015. Determination of river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) distribution and evaluation of potential sites for population expansion in South Dakota. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division Final Report, Pierre, SD.

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Fish Limits Chapters 41:07:03

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 5,2020	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 7-8, 2020	Custer
	Finalization	May 7-8, 2020	Custer

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Proposed Change:

1. In the Nebraska/South Dakota border waters, limit the harvest of flathead catfish 30 inches or longer in length to at most one fish daily, as part of the daily limit.

Background Information

- Administrative rules 41:07:03:01 through 41:07:03:03 list harvest restrictions for catfish for South Dakota inland and border waters.
- There are no daily or possession limits for catfish of any species for the inland waters of the Missouri River and the Grand, Moreau, Cheyenne, Belle Fourche, Bad, White, and Little Missouri Rivers.
- The daily and possession limits for all species of catfish, combined, for all other inland waters are 10 and 20 fish, respectively.
- At their March 2020 meeting, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission adopted a proposal to limit the harvest of flathead catfish 30 inches or longer to at most one fish daily, as part of the daily limit, for inland waters.
- No length restrictions are in place for catfish of any species for the South Dakota portion of the South Dakota-Nebraska border waters but at most one flathead catfish 30 inches or longer may be kept as part of the daily limit for the Nebraska portion.
- No length restrictions are currently in place for catfish of any species for the Iowa border waters with South Dakota.
- For the South Dakota-Minnesota border waters, at most one catfish 24 inches or longer may be kept as part of the daily limit.

Department recommended changes to proposal:

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Department staff met with Iowa and Nebraska staff in February to discuss border water catfish regulations. To standardize regulations for anglers, all three states desire matching regulations between border waters of NE-SD and IA-SD.

To standardize South Dakota border water regulations with Nebraska regulations, the department recommends changing flathead catfish regulations on the border waters such that at most one flathead catfish 30 inches or longer may be included as part of the daily limit.

As anglers are already restricted to one flathead catfish 30" or longer in the daily limit on the Nebraska portion of NE-SD border waters, adding the same regulation to the South Dakota portion would make the regulations for both states the same.

The IA-SD border water regulations are currently the same for both states but lack any length restrictions. If the one flathead catfish 30" or longer regulation is moved forward for South Dakota's portion of the NE-SD border waters, Iowa will submit the same length restriction for consideration in their regulation process for addition on the IA-SD border waters. If that is accomplished, the Department would recommend adding the one flathead catfish 30" or longer in the daily limit restriction on the IA-SD border water at that time.

“One Over” regulations are effective at reducing harvest of fish when it is common for anglers to catch two or more fish above the specified length during a fishing trip. No negative impacts of a one- over-30” regulation on flathead catfish populations are anticipated, however, staff believe the regulation will not result in an increase in larger flathead catfish.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not Applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate?

There is no impact of the proposed regulation on an individual’s ability to participate.

2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?

The only impact on opportunities for new and existing users would be limiting individual anglers to only one larger flathead catfish per day.

3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?

Negligible impacts are anticipated.

4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?

Adding the proposed regulation to restrict the harvest of flathead catfish to at most one fish 30 inches or longer as part of the daily limit will simplify regulations on the South Dakota-Nebraska border waters. “One-over” regulations can, from a social perspective, increase value placed on larger fish for which harvest is limited. Increased awareness that flathead catfish above 30 inches exist may increase interest in this fishery.

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Archery Deer Hunting Season 41:06:22

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 5-6, 2020	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 7, 2020	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 7-8, 2020	Custer State Park

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2020 hunting season

Season Dates: September 1, 2020 – January 1, 2021

Open Area:
 “Any Deer” Licenses: Statewide, East River, West River
 “Antlerless Whitetail Deer” Licenses: Unit ARD-LM1
 “Any Antlerless Deer” Licenses: Custer, Rapid City and Sioux Falls city limits.

Licenses:
 Unlimited “any deer” licenses
 Unlimited single tag “antlerless whitetail deer” licenses
 500 single-tag “any antlerless deer” resident licenses

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Resident and nonresident hunters may purchase one (1) statewide “any deer” license or one (1) East River “any deer” license and one (1) West River “any deer” license.
2. Residents and nonresidents may purchase one (1) “antlerless whitetail deer” license for Unit ARD-LM1.
3. Residents may apply for and possess one (1) “any antlerless deer” license valid for a municipal deer unit.
4. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
5. Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge is through January 1, except during the refuge firearm deer seasons.
6. Waubay Lake State Game Refuge and Waubay National Wildlife Refuge in Day County are open through January 1, except during refuge firearm deer seasons.
7. Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge is open through January 1, except during the refuge firearm deer seasons.
8. Licensees must obtain an access permit from the Department issued by lottery drawing before hunting Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve and Good Earth State Park.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Modify the season start date for Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge from the fourth Saturday of September to September 1.
2. Modify the season start date for Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge from the third Saturday of October to September 1.
3. In addition to the one “antlerless whitetail deer” license for residents and nonresidents for Unit ARD-LM1, make an allowance for no more than 500 single-tag “antlerless any deer” licenses that would be distributed amongst all municipal archery deer hunting units. Regular price of a single tag “any antlerless deer” resident license.
4. Establish municipal archery deer hunting units for the following city limits: Custer, Rapid City and Sioux Falls. Season structure and specific regulations would be determined by the appropriate municipality within the requirements and restrictions of the South Dakota archery season.

Municipality	# Licenses
Custer	45
Rapid City	60
Sioux Falls	60

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Deer associated with urban areas can cause property damage and increase vehicle deer collisions. The issuance and oversight of kill permits to manage urban deer populations does create additional workload for Department staff. Some municipalities have worked with the Department to develop urban deer management plans. Archery deer hunting within city limits can help address issues caused by urban deer populations and provide additional hunting opportunities. The above municipal governments are interested in implementing this management tool.

It is the desire of the respective USFWS wildlife refuges to align their archery deer hunting seasons with the statewide season.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes to proposal: None.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue
 - Why make the change, what are the change alternatives, how will public/stakeholder input be solicited, and how will the change be evaluated if implemented?
 - i. Deer associated with urban areas can cause property damage and increase vehicle deer collisions. The issuance and oversight of kill permits to manage urban deer populations does create additional workload for Department staff. Some municipalities have worked with the Department to develop urban deer management plans. Archery deer hunting within city limits can help address issues caused by urban deer populations and provide additional hunting opportunities.
 - ii. At the request of the USFWS refuge system, it is the desire to align the opening dates of archery deer season with the statewide season.
2. Historical Considerations – Department has used access permits and issued kill permits for some municipalities to harvest urban deer.
3. Biological Considerations
 - What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations?
 - i. This management tool will assist local municipalities and the Department in managing deer populations within social tolerances.
4. Social Considerations
 - Will provide additional archery deer hunting opportunities.
5. Financial considerations – No significant financial benefit to Department but will improve efficiency of Department staff time.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate? No, provides additional opportunity.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Provides additional archery deer hunting opportunities.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Archery Deer Hunting Season – Hunting Unit License Allocations

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 5-6, 2020	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 7, 2020	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 7-8, 2020	Custer State Park

LICENSE ALLOCATION BY UNITS

See Attached Spreadsheet

ARCHERY DEER SEASON

Municipality	Unit	# Antlerless DeerLicenses
Custer	ADM-CU1	45
Rapid City	ADM-RC1	60
Sioux Falls	ADM-SF1	60

**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION**

**Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season
Chapter 41:06:49**

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 5-6, 2020	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 7, 2020	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 7-8, 2020	Custer State Park

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2020 hunting season

Season Dates: September 12-13, 2020

Open Area: Statewide

Daily Limit: Same as for regular duck and goose seasons

Possession Limit: Same as for regular duck and goose seasons

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Residents and nonresidents who have not reached the age of 18 by the first day of the season may hunt in the youth waterfowl hunting season.
2. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
The youth hunter must be properly licensed to hunt waterfowl in the state, unless participating under a Mentored Hunt scenario as described in "Mentored Youth Hunting".
3. All other hunting restrictions will be the same as during the regular waterfowl seasons.

Proposed change from last year:

1. Modify the eligibility from youth who have not reached the age of 16 to youth who have not reached the age of 18.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes to proposal: None.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

This amendment would align state regulations regarding the age definition of youth with federal regulations, which are less restrictive.

With this recommended change, youth ages 16-17 would be able to participate in the youth waterfowl season.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate?
 - a. No.

2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - a. Yes, waterfowl hunters ages 16-17 will now be able to participate in the youth waterfowl season.

3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?
 - a. This creates a new opportunity for 16-17-year-old waterfowl hunters who have historically not had access to the youth waterfowl season.
 - b. Recruitment for youth hunters under the age of 16 has been high, however a large percentage of youth lapse out of hunting through high school years as other activities compete with hunting. Allowing 16-17-year-old waterfowl hunters to participate in a youth waterfowl season would incentivize and potentially retain those lapsed hunters as well as provide an opportunity for recruiting a new age group.

4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?
 - a. Yes.

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Youth Pheasant Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:55

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 5-6, 2020	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 7, 2020	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 7-8, 2020	Custer State Park

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Season Dates: September 26 - and October 4, 2020

Open Area: Statewide except road rights-of-way

Daily Limit: 3 cock pheasants

Possession Limit: 15 cock pheasants

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Shooting hours are 10:00 am (central time) to sunset.
2. Properly licensed resident and nonresident youth are eligible.
3. Any person who has not reached age 18.
4. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and the accompanying adult may not carry a firearm or actively participate in shooting pheasants.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Modify the season dates from “five consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday of October” to “9 consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the third Saturday of October”. See season dates in table below.

Year	Youth Pheasant Season Dates
2020	Sept. 26 - Oct. 4
2021	Sept. 25 - Oct. 3
2022	Sept. 24 - Oct. 2
2023	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8
2024	Sept. 28 - Oct. 6
2025	Sept. 27 - Oct. 5
2026	Sept. 26 - Oct. 4
2027	Sept. 25 - Oct. 3
2028	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8
2029	Sept. 29 - Oct. 7

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes to proposal: None.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

A petition was adopted as written by the Commission as a proposal to include two full weekends for the youth pheasant hunting season. Public comment is encouraged, and the Commission will take final action on this proposal at the May 7-8 Commission in Custer State Park.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue
 - Why make the change, what are the change alternatives, how will public/stakeholder input be solicited, and how will the change be evaluated if implemented?
 - The proposed change is the result of a petition that was adopted by the Commission as a formal proposal to obtain public comment.
 - Logical change to include two weekends as requested by the petitioner would be conduct the first weekend three weeks prior to the third Saturday in October.
2. Historical Considerations
 - The current youth pheasant hunting season began in 1999 and the mentored hunting program for residents began in 2008. Season was established to provide a standalone opportunity and recruitment tool for youth pheasant hunters.
3. Biological Considerations
 - What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations?
 - Could be somewhat more challenging in identifying rooster pheasants as juvenile pheasants will be one week younger and for juvenile pheasants from successful late nests. No biological effect is expected.
4. Social Considerations
 - Would provide additional opportunities for youth during non-school days to participate in the youth pheasant season.
5. Financial considerations
 - Any change to Department revenue is expected to be minimal.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate?
 - No. This regulation provides additional opportunity for youth to participate in the youth pheasant season.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - Yes, youth would have an additional weekend to be able to pheasant hunt without competition in the field.
 - Youth currently must take off from school to participate in week-day hunts, participate during daytime hours after school when other school activities conflict, or during the one weekend allowed for youth only pheasant hunting.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?
 - This allows for additional time for families to teach and encourage safe hunting practices without competition from experienced hunters in the field.
 - This regulation would provide an additional weekend to allow youth to hunt pheasants during a time of year when school activities can be difficult to work around.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?
 - The youth season is historically under-utilized by youth and families. If the appropriate marketing/advertising/outreach strategies were under-taken, the extension of the youth season has the potential to increase youth and family participation in pheasant hunting.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

**Division of Parks and Recreation
April 2020 Revenue by Item**

	2019		2020		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Annual	2,137	\$ 64,116	2,518	\$ 75,538	18%
2nd Annual	434	\$ 6,510	314	\$ 4,716	-28%
Combo	1,913	\$ 86,079	2,169	\$ 97,623	13%
Transferable	175	\$ 11,404	167	\$ 10,880	-5%
Daily License	1,300	\$ 7,800	2,648	\$ 15,885	104%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	32	\$ 322	2	\$ 15	-95%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	203	\$ 3,045	385	\$ 5,775	90%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	149	\$ 596	269	\$ 1,076	81%
Motorcoach Permit	21	\$ 63	-	\$ -	-100%
CSP 7 Day Pass	2,884	\$ 57,679	454	\$ 9,076	-84%
CSP 7 Day Bike Pass	30	\$ 301	-	\$ -	-100%
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -			
One-Day Special Event		\$ -		\$ -	
PERMITS	9,279	\$ 237,915	8,926	\$ 220,584	-7%
Camping Services		\$ 1,142,203		\$ 1,363,587	19%
Picnic Reservations		\$ 2,004		\$ (40)	-102%
Firewood	352	\$ 1,760	557	\$ 2,786	
Gift Card		\$ 446		\$ 1,125	152%
Boat Slips				\$ 17,393	
LODGING	352	\$ 1,146,413	557	\$ 1,384,851	21%
TOTAL	9,631	\$ 1,384,328	9,483	\$ 1,605,435	16%

**Division of Parks and Recreation
April YTD 2020 Camping by District**

LOCATION	2019	2020	%
Pickrel Lake	23	28	22%
Fort Sisseton	26	22	-15%
Roy Lake	26	101	
Sica Hollow	-	21	
DISTRICT 1	75	172	129%
Richmond Lake	7	35	
Mina Lake	7	75	971%
Fisher Grove	18	3	-83%
Amsden	-	-	
Lake Louise	9	23	156%
DISTRICT 2	41	136	232%
Pelican Lake	19	103	442%
Sandy Shore	1	5	400%
Lake Cochrane	-	4	
Hartford Beach	27	121	348%
DISTRICT 3	47	233	396%
Oakwood Lakes	38	147	287%
Lake Poinsett	29	93	221%
Lake Thompson	67	98	46%
DISTRICT 4	134	338	152%
Lake Herman	39	89	128%
Walker's Point	15	26	73%
Lake Carthage	-	-	
DISTRICT 5	54	115	113%
Snake Creek	89	200	125%
Platte Creek	4	27	575%
Buryanek	40	61	53%
Burke Lake	2	-	
DISTRICT 6	135	288	113%
Palisades	200	292	46%
Big Sioux	153	304	99%
Lake Vermillion	161	381	137%
DISTRICT 7	514	977	90%
Newton Hills	205	441	115%
Good Earth	-	-	
Union Grove	33	71	115%
DISTRICT 8	238	512	115%

LOCATION	2019	2020	%
Lewis & Clark	402	961	139%
Chief White Crane	121	291	
Pierson Ranch	54	121	124%
Springfield	6	9	
Sand Creek	8	-	-100%
Tabor	-	2	
DISTRICT 9	591	1,384	134%
North Point	4	183	4475%
North Wheeler	-	6	
Pease Creek	6	33	450%
Randall Creek	-	-	
South Shore	5	7	40%
South Scalp	-	4	
Whetstone	-	2	
White Swan	-	7	
DISTRICT 10	15	242	1513%
Farm Island	69	228	230%
West Bend	130	100	-23%
DISTRICT 11	199	328	65%
Oahe Downstream	208	294	41%
Cow Creek	59	134	127%
Okobojo	5	33	560%
DISTRICT 12	272	461	69%
West Whitlock	17	25	47%
East Whitlock	2	3	50%
Swan Creek	9	18	100%
Indian Creek	44	118	168%
Lake Hiddenwood	-	-	
Walth Bay	-	-	
West Pollock	7	18	157%
DISTRICT 13	79	182	130%
Bear Butte	16	32	100%
DISTRICT 14	16	32	100%
Shadehill	42	41	-2%
Llewellyn Johns	-	3	
Rocky Point	140	322	130%
DISTRICT 15	182	366	101%
Custer	694	765	10%
DISTRICT 16	694	765	10%
Angostura	724	882	22%
Sheps Canyon	34	71	109%
DISTRICT 17	758	953	26%
TOTAL	4,044	7,484	85%

**Division of Parks and Recreation
April YTD Fiscal Year Revenue**

	FY 2019		FY 2020		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Annual	26,388	\$ 791,653	28,607	\$ 858,211	8%
2nd Annual	6,977	\$ 104,657	6,225	\$ 93,369	-11%
Combo	13,023	\$ 586,041	16,675	\$ 750,381	28%
Transferable	830	\$ 53,974	889	\$ 57,814	7%
Daily License	75,419	\$ 452,515	74,838	\$ 449,028	-1%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	1,394	\$ 13,941	1,553	\$ 15,527	11%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	3,328	\$ 49,920	3,819	\$ 57,285	15%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	11,003	\$ 44,012	11,098	\$ 44,392	1%
Motorcoach Permit	26,360	\$ 79,081	22,392	\$ 67,176	-15%
CSP 7 Day Pass	121,607	\$ 2,432,138	122,773	\$ 2,455,461	1%
CSP 7 Day Bike Pass	17,209	\$ 172,090	15,643	\$ 156,429	-9%
Rally Bike Band	31,384	\$ 313,840	29,364	\$ 293,640	-6%
One-Day Special Event		\$ 12,860		\$ 15,300	19%
PERMITS	334,924	\$ 5,106,722	333,876	\$ 5,314,013	4%
Camping Services		\$ 6,767,132		\$ 7,292,695	8%
Picnic Reservations		\$ 9,576		\$ 6,123	-36%
Firewood	28,826	\$ 144,132	27,586	\$ 137,932	-4%
Gift Card		\$ 30,535		\$ 28,582	-6%
LODGING	28,826	\$ 6,951,375	27,586	\$ 7,465,332	7%
TOTAL	363,750	\$ 12,058,097	361,462	\$ 12,779,345	6%

Division of Parks and Recreation
April YTD 2020 Visitation by District

<i>LOCATION</i>	2019	2020	%
Pickarel Lake	3,394	4,811	42%
Fort Sisseton	2,128	2,694	27%
Roy Lake	7,560	16,404	117%
Sica Hollow	1,112	1,489	34%
<i>DISTRICT 1</i>	14,194	25,398	79%
Richmond Lake	5,367	11,711	118%
Mina Lake	2,765	6,308	128%
Fisher Grove	1,829	1,788	-2%
Lake Louise	3,909	4,572	17%
<i>DISTRICT 2</i>	13,870	24,379	76%
Pelican Lake	5,117	9,780	91%
Sandy Shore	2,420	6,219	157%
Lake Cochrane	329	878	167%
Hartford Beach	17,682	22,914	30%
<i>DISTRICT 3</i>	25,548	39,791	56%
Oakwood Lakes	5,584	7,565	35%
Lake Poinsett	7,209	9,596	33%
Lake Thompson	8,988	10,346	15%
<i>DISTRICT 4</i>	21,781	27,507	26%
Lake Herman	12,984	26,818	107%
Walker's Point	4,823	8,833	83%
<i>DISTRICT 5</i>	17,807	35,651	100%
Snake Creek	12,332	10,878	-12%
Platte Creek	14,141	19,135	35%
Buryanek	4,017	3,988	-1%
Burke Lake	4,806	4,950	3%
<i>DISTRICT 6</i>	35,296	38,951	10%
Palisades	13,739	28,935	111%
Big Sioux	5,525	11,132	101%
Beaver Creek	3,881	6,365	64%
Lake Vermillion	11,337	20,401	80%
<i>DISTRICT 7</i>	34,482	66,833	94%
Newton Hills	13,393	30,489	128%
Good Earth	10,025	18,079	80%
Union Grove	1,491	2,509	68%
Lake Alvin	6,346	19,477	207%
Spirit Mound	6,254	5,415	-13%
Adams	4,465	6,753	51%
<i>DISTRICT 8</i>	41,974	82,722	97%

<i>LOCATION</i>	2019	2020	%
Lewis & Clark	87,694	154,580	76%
Chief White Crane	3,766	3,447	-8%
Pierson Ranch	7,736	9,012	16%
Springfield	12,136	37,213	207%
<i>DISTRICT 9</i>	111,332	204,252	83%
North Point	14,000	14,301	2%
North Wheeler	1,506	2,721	81%
Pease Creek	3,100	3,653	18%
Randall Creek	8,759	13,504	54%
Ft. Randall Boat Club	1,068	1,076	1%
<i>DISTRICT 10</i>	28,433	35,255	24%
Farm Island	27,966	33,463	20%
West Bend	2,752	3,952	44%
LaFramboise Island	19,497	24,220	24%
<i>DISTRICT 11</i>	50,215	61,635	23%
Oahe Downstream	54,279	73,854	36%
Cow Creek	37,024	35,551	-4%
Okobojo	5,946	10,028	69%
Spring Creek	22,626	30,278	34%
<i>DISTRICT 12</i>	119,875	149,711	25%
West Whitlock	2,244	2,969	32%
Swan Creek	3,966	3,485	-12%
Indian Creek	6,608	8,659	31%
Lake Hiddenwood	-	-	
Revheim Bay	11,610	18,028	55%
West Pollock	9,966	15,154	52%
<i>DISTRICT 13</i>	34,394	48,295	40%
Bear Butte	2,993	3,497	17%
<i>DISTRICT 14</i>	2,993	3,497	17%
Shadehill	5,246	4,242	-19%
Llewellyn Johns	559	665	19%
Little Moreau	2,935	1,685	-43%
Rocky Point	7,865	14,665	86%
<i>DISTRICT 15</i>	16,605	21,257	28%
Custer	196,016	221,422	13%
<i>DISTRICT 16</i>	196,016	221,422	13%
Angostura	23,405	28,459	22%
Sheps Canyon	4,774	5,793	21%
<i>DISTRICT 17</i>	28,179	34,252	22%
<i>TOTAL</i>	792,994	1,120,808	41%

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

East River License Allocation Adjustments

Commission Meeting:

May 7-8, 2020

Teleconference

East River Deer and Refuge Deer Season License Adjustment Recommendation

Department recommendation for 2020:

For the East River deer season and Refuge deer season, adjust all “any antlerless deer” tags to “whitetail antlerless tags”.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Based on conversations with a landowner from eastern SD requesting the Commission to change licenses to protect the harvest of mule deer, the department is recommending the Commission adjust all antlerless tags for the East River deer and Refuge deer seasons to be whitetail antlerless tags.

From a population management standpoint, the restriction of harvesting the female segment of the population is most important. This adjustment would provide additional harvest limitations for the fall of 2020.

This change does not require the rule promulgation process as it is not a change to administrative rule. License types and number per hunting unit are recorded in Commission meeting minutes and would require the commission to approve the change and the department can incorporate into the license application process.

The Department and Commission will begin discussions on a broader scale of mule deer management over the next several months with the intention of bringing forward changes and adjustments to mule deer harvest strategies in the spring of 2021 when the next 2-year cycle of deer seasons is considered.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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2020 EAST RIVER DEER

APPLICABLE UNITS		CURRENT CHANGE				CURRENT CHANGE						License Totals			
Unit #	Unit Name	Resident Licenses										License Totals			
		AnyD	AtID	AtID	AD+AtID	2 AtID	AnyW	AtIW	AtIW	AW+AtIW	2 AtIW	RES	RES	RES	RES
		01	03	03	08	09	11	13	13	18	19	1-tag	2-tag	Licenses	Tags
01A	Minnehaha	450	200	0				0	200			650	0	650	650
03A	Brown	1,000	1,000	0				0	1,000			2,000	0	2,000	2,000
04A	Beadle					500		200	200			700	0	700	700
05A	Codington	250	100	0				0	100			350	0	350	350
06A	Brookings	450	100	0				0	100			550	0	550	550
07A	Yankton	300						0	0			300	0	300	300
07B	Yankton		75	0				0	75			75	0	75	75
08A	Davison					200		0	0			200	0	200	200
10A	Aurora					300		200	200			500	0	500	500
12A	Bon Homme	250						0	0			250	0	250	250
12B	Bon Homme		50	0				0	50			50	0	50	50
13A	Brule	100						0	0	800		100	800	900	1,700
13L	Brule	20						0	0			20	0	20	20
13P	Brule							100	100			100	0	100	100
14A	Buffalo	100						0	0	250		100	250	350	600
16A	Campbell	30				400		150	150			580	0	580	580
17A	Charles Mix	100				200		100	100			400	0	400	400
18A	Clark	600	100	0				0	100			700	0	700	700
19A	Clay	200	100	0				0	100			300	0	300	300
22A	Day	600	100	0				0	100			700	0	700	700
23A	Deuel	400	100	0				0	100			500	0	500	500
25A	Douglas					250		100	100			350	0	350	350
26A	Edmunds	700	600	0				0	600			1,300	0	1,300	1,300
28A	Faulk	600	600	0				0	600			1,200	0	1,200	1,200
29A	Grant	300						0	0			300	0	300	300
32A	Hamlin	600	100	0				0	100			700	0	700	700
33A	Hand	20						0	0	450	100	20	550	570	1,120
33P	Hand							300	300			300	0	300	300
34A	Hanson					200		0	0			200	0	200	200
36A	Hughes	175				250		0	0			425	0	425	425
36P	Hughes							100	100			100	0	100	100
37A	Hutchinson					150		0	0			150	0	150	150
38A	Hyde	20						0	0	500	100	20	600	620	1,220
38P	Hyde							100	100			100	0	100	100
40A	Jerauld					250		250	250	100		500	100	600	700
42A	Kingsbury	500	100	0				0	100			600	0	600	600
43A	Lake	300	100	0				0	100			400	0	400	400
44A	Lincoln	200	100	0				0	100			300	0	300	300
46A	McCook	350	200	0				0	200			550	0	550	550
47A	McPherson	500	500	0				0	500			1,000	0	1,000	1,000
48A	Marshall	500	100	0				0	100			600	0	600	600
51A	Miner	400	350	0				0	350			750	0	750	750
52A	Moody	350	200	0				0	200			550	0	550	550
54A	Potter	150						400	400	500		550	500	1,050	1,550
55A	Roberts	500	100	0				0	100			600	0	600	600
56A	Sanborn					350		200	200			550	0	550	550
57A	Spink	900	400	0				0	400			1,300	0	1,300	1,300
59A	Sully	100					250	0	0			350	0	350	350
59B	Sully	20					300	50	50			370	0	370	370
61A	Turner	100						0	0			100	0	100	100
62A	Union	300	100	0				0	100			400	0	400	400
63A	Walworth	50					400	300	300			750	0	750	750
	TOTAL	12,485	5,475	0	0	0	4,000	2,550	8,025	2,600	200	24,510	2,800	27,310	30,110
Unit #	Unit Name	AnyD	AtID	AtID	AD+AtID	2 AtID	AnyW	AtIW	AtIW	AW+AtIW	2 AtIW	RES	RES	RES	RES
01		03	03		08	09	11	13	13	18	19	1-tag	2-tag	Licenses	Tags

2019-2020 REFUGE DEER

APPLICABLE UNITS	Resident Licenses				Nonresident Licenses				License Totals							
	CURREN T CHANGE				CURREN T CHANGE				RES				NR			
	Any D	Any Atl D	AtlW	2 Any Atl D	Any D	Any Atl D	AtlW	2 Any Atl D	RES	RES	RES	RES	NR	NR	NR	NR
Unit	01	03	13	09	01	03	13	09	1-tag	2-tag	Lic	Tags	1-tag	2-tag	Lic	Tags
Lacreek Refuge																
RFD-LC1	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	1	0	1	1
RFD-LC2	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	1	0	1	1
Sand Lake Refuge																
RFD-SL1	20	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	20	0	20	20	2	0	2	2
RFD-SL2	20	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	20	0	20	20	2	0	2	2
RFD-SL3	20	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	20	0	20	20	2	0	2	2
RFD-SL4	0	25	25	0	0	2	2	0	25	0	25	25	2	0	2	2
RFD-SL5	20	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	20	0	20	20	2	0	2	2
Waubay Refuge																
RFD-WA1	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	1	0	1	1
RFD-WA2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RFD-WA3	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	1	0	1	1
TOTAL	120	25	25	0	12	2	2	0	145	0	145	145	14	0	14	14
Unit	Any D	Any Atl D	AtlW	2 Any Atl D	Any D	Any Atl D	AtlW	2 Any Atl D	RES	RES	RES	RES	NR	NR	NR	NR
	01	03	13	09	01	03	13	09	1-tag	2-tag	Lic	Tags	1-tag	2-tag	Lic	Tags
	RES and NR:								159	0	159	159				



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

Online HuntSAFE and HuntSAFE in the Schools Program Update

Taniya Bethke
5.7.2020

Online HuntSAFE Update:

- In response to social distancing orders, GFP stopped offering in-person HuntSAFE certification classes and made the decision to waive the field day requirement for online HuntSAFE students ages 12-15 to be certified. This allowed students under the age of 16 to become HuntSAFE certified using the all-online course.
- With no free in-person classes being held, we worked with our HuntSAFE online vendor, Kalkomey, to waive their online HuntSAFE class fee of \$17.99. Kalkomey gifted us 500 free HuntSAFE online slots to make it through this challenging time. If we run through those, GFP will cover the expense from our PR grant until we can start offering free classes again.
- In the month of April, 182 students took the online class, 137 of which were under the age of 16. (Compared with 226 total certifications in the month of April last year)

HuntSAFE in the Schools Update:

- In order to increase HuntSAFE instructor recruitment and to meet the need for Hunter Education certification for students who currently struggle to make it to in-person classes, GFP developed the HuntSAFE in the Schools curriculum. Teachers can be trained as HuntSAFE instructors and offer the curriculum to students as part of their physical education or agricultural studies curriculum.
- Recruitment of instructors:
 - GFP staff presented to superintendents and school administrators at the 2019 Associated School Boards of South Dakota conference to generate interest in the program.
 - This resulted in countless school board presentations and teacher and school administrator inquiries into the program.
 - GFP staff attended the 2019 SHAPE SD conference for all Physical Education teachers and provided National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) instructor training for teachers. All teachers trained in NASP were also invited to participate in HuntSAFE in the Schools instructor trainings later on that year.
 - Department of Ed requested GFP staff to train teachers in both HuntSAFE and NASP instructor trainings at the 2019 FFA/AG teacher in-services in Swan Lake and Rapid City.
 - Conservation Officers reached out to school boards, school administrators, and teachers in their communities to drive interest.

- Instructors certified to date:
 - 40 teachers and 10 trap/scholastic sporting clay coaches are fully certified in HuntSAFE in the Schools.
 - 10 additional teachers and 5 additional trap/scholastic sporting clay coaches are requesting training in HuntSAFE in the Schools during the summer of 2020.
- Students certified by HuntSAFE in the Schools to date:
 - 281 students have been certified in the HuntSAFE in the Schools curriculum between the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years.
- Next Steps:
 - GFP Summer Teacher Academy is scheduled for July 14-16th, 2020 in Pierre, SD. The event will be advertised in partnership with Department of Education and will provide teachers with a free opportunity to be certified in:
 - HuntSAFE in the Schools
 - National Archery in the Schools Program
 - Fish SD
 - Project Wild
- To be certified, teachers must:
 - Get approval from school administration
 - Complete an application and submit to Patrick Klotzbach or Chad Tussing
 - Complete and pass a background check
 - Complete online HuntSAFE course
 - Complete online HuntSAFE instructor training (90 min).
 - Attend in-person new instructor training (hands-on activities)
 - Teach a class

If you have any questions about the program, trainings, or how to become certified, please contact:

- Patrick Klotzbach, Hunter Education coordinator, at Patrick.Klotzbach@state.sd.us or call him at 605-280-3782
- Chad Tussing, HuntSAFE in the Schools contractor, at SDHuntSAFE@gmail.com or call him at 605-222-6718
- Taniya Bethke, Division Staff Specialist-Education and R3 Coordinator, at Taniya.Bethke@state.sd.us or call her at 605-223-7666

License Sales Totals

(as of May 3)

date updated: 4 May 2020

Resident	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	+/- Licenses	+/- Revenue
Combination	30,165	30,259	27,407	25,143	31,561	6,418	\$ 352,990
Junior Combination	3,077	3,226	2,408	2,329	4,461	2,132	\$ 57,564
Senior Combination	6,005	6,417	6,409	6,322	7,395	1,073	\$ 42,920
Small Game	1,406	1,247	1,280	1,140	1,169	29	\$ 957
Youth Small Game	699	687	700	572	697	125	\$ 625
1-Day Small Game	228	182	167	246	214	-32	\$ (384)
Migratory Bird Certificate	12,127	12,262	11,569	10,227	11,371	1,144	\$ 5,720
Predator/Varmint	1,137	864	895	880	879	-1	\$ (5)
Furbearer	2,104	2,043	2,341	2,499	2,570	71	\$ 2,130
Annual Fishing	26,389	26,688	19,747	17,387	32,808	15,421	\$ 431,788
Senior Fishing	6,756	6,736	5,533	5,140	7,443	2,303	\$ 27,636
1-Day Fishing	866	1,050	697	623	1,411	788	\$ 6,304
Gamefish Spearing/Archery	1,766	1,943	1,924	0	0	0	\$ -
RESIDENT TOTALS =	92,725	93,604	81,077	72,508	101,979	29,471	\$ 928,245

Nonresident	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	+/- Licenses	+/- Revenue
Small Game	2,815	2,121	2,070	2,515	2,576	61	\$ 7,381
Youth Small Game	210	161	138	107	119	12	\$ 120
Annual Shooting Preserve	72	72	64	44	45	1	\$ 121
5-day Shooting Preserve	562	579	559	616	759	143	\$ 10,868
1-day Shooting Preserve	299	217	211	171	173	2	\$ 92
Spring Light Goose	3,964	4,494	4,712	2,810	2,961	151	\$ 7,550
Youth Spring Light Goose	138	159	178	94	122	28	\$ 728
Migratory Bird Certificate	156	182	159	168	203	35	\$ 175
Predator/Varmint	915	911	946	876	729	-147	\$ (5,880)
Furbearer	2	2	4	5	6	1	\$ 275
Annual Fishing	12,305	11,311	10,202	7,924	10,449	2,525	\$ 169,175
Family Fishing	3,821	3,519	3,051	2,565	3,314	749	\$ 50,183
Youth Annual Fishing	536	362	306	270	383	113	\$ 2,825
3-Day Fishing	5,154	4,889	5,148	3,678	3,987	309	\$ 11,433
1-Day Fishing	3,182	3,053	2,237	2,053	3,519	1,466	\$ 23,456
Gamefish Spearing/Archery	462	438	462	0	0	0	\$ -
NONRESIDENT TOTALS =	34,593	32,470	30,447	23,896	29,345	5,449	\$ 278,502
GRAND TOTALS =	127,318	126,074	111,524	96,404	131,324	34,920	\$ 1,206,747