

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
February 28 - March 1, 2019

Chairman Gary Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CT at RedRossa Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Travis Bies, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Scott Phillips, Russell Olson (via conference call), Douglas Sharp, Robert Whitmyre and approximately 65 public, staff, and media were present.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

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

Approval of Minutes

Jensen called for any additions or corrections to the January 10-11, 2019 minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Phillips with second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10-1, 2019 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

No additional salary days were requested.

Bighorn Sheep Auction License

Motioned by Phillips, second by Sharp TO REMOVE FROM THIS ITEM FROM THE AGENDA. Motion carried unanimously.

Resident Nonresident Discussion

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife deputy director, provided an update on the resident nonresident opportunity allocation stakeholder group that worked to develop suggestions on criteria for making fair, reasoned, and balanced decisions when the Commission allocates this opportunity. The Stakeholder Group identified 6 themes: 1.species abundance, 2. demand for licenses, 3.R3: recruitment, retention and reactivation, 4.demand for access, 5.social carry capacity of residents and nonresidents and 6.economics.

Legislative Update

Tony Leif, wildlife division director provided an update on the 2019 legislative session. He reviewed the bills that the Department was working on and how the legislative team found success in getting good bills passed and other bills defeated. He also discussed follow-up changes in administrative rules that are going to be necessary to align with the changes that the legislature made in state statutes. Two bills that are still awaiting legislative action are SB 176 and SB 178. These 2 bills would appropriate funding for habitat projects on private land and provide funding for expansion and improvements at Palisades. Katie Ceroll, parks and recreation division director, presented additional information on the appropriations bill for Palisades.

Locken asked for clarification on the bill regarding disabled veterans.

Leif explained it is a license exemption for individuals who participate in hunts.

Commission Rule Review

Kevin Robling, special projects coordinator, provided information on the need to complete this review per legislative request.

Jon Kotilnek, senior staff attorney, explained he will lead this effort of systematic review of all rules by chapter and subsections which will be brought before the Commission at each meeting.

Sharp asked what the genesis of was. Was there a particular rule that caused concern among legislators?

Robling responded not certain but likely due to the deer license allocation.

Kotilnek said the legislator who brought this forward noted we will be the first of many agencies he would like to see review rules.

Non-meandered Waters

Kevin Robling, special projects coordinator, provided an update on non-meandered waters stating 4,280 acres have been marked closed to public recreational use. This is less than 2 percent of the publicly-accessible nonmeandered water acres across the state and down from the peak of over 5,000 nonmeandered water acres closed in March 2018. The department's goal is to continue providing recreational opportunities for families and outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy South Dakota's great outdoor resources, while also addressing concerns of landowners who own the land under the water. The "Recreation and Respect" campaign and the "Adopt-a-Lake" program have been front and center. The department has been strongly encouraging recreational users to "leave no trace" and pick up all garbage. Conservation officers and other staff making contact with recreational users are handing out trash bags in an effort to keep trash off the ice.

Boyd asked if there are winter adopt a lake opportunities

Robling explained there are no scheduled events but staff did work with the Wildlife Federation to have trash bags printed and distributed to ice fisherman.

Conservation Summit

Robling presented an update on the conservation summit scheduled for March 28th. The Summit is the culmination of a series of forums the Department has hosted over the past year. Governor Noem is planning to attend the Summit and kickoff the day with her vision for the Second Century Initiatives. The Governor's kickoff will set the stage for the day, where we will be discussing wildlife habitat moving forward in South Dakota. Approximately 75 members of agricultural, conservation, sportsmen and shooting preserves, most who attended one of the previous forums, will be invited to the Summit.

There has been good discussion at each of the four previous forums:

1. Sportsmen/Sportswomen Forum - held in Oacoma in April, 2018
2. Shooting Preserve Operators Forum - held in Pierre in July, 2018
3. Wildlife and Nature Forum - held in Pierre in October, 2018
4. Agricultural Leaders Forum - held in Sioux Falls in December, 2018

Much of the discussion centered on creating and sustaining more quality habitat in SD. A common theme at the forums was the recognition that conservation groups, sportsmen and women, and agriculture must work together. They recognized that groups need to have open communication with one another to find ways, which make financial sense, to provide more quality habitat in the state.

The key is getting a diversity of organizations working together towards the common goal of providing more quality habitat for wildlife and making those habitat programs sustainable. We expect positive outcomes from the Conservation Summit that will make a difference for wildlife in South Dakota.

Habitat/Second Century Initiatives

Kirschenmann provided the Commission information on the Second Century Initiative which emphasizes the following: habitat programs to be implemented with both short and long-term approaches, Hunt for Habitat program (or raffle tag for big game species), nesting predator programs (includes the implementation of a bounty and live trap program targeted at nest predators), a specialty license plate with all proceeds going directly toward habitat management and the crowdsourcing of habitat solutions through habitat.sd.gov

PETITIONS

Leif provided information on the petition process and options available for commission action.

Restrict Rifles on Okobojo Creek

Henry Maddocks presented his petition to restrict the use of rifles hunting on GFP property along Okobojo Creek.

Jensen asked how long homes have been in this area and if there have been any issues.

Maddocks said most homes have been built in the last 20 years and no one has been shot, but they do see people hunting deer in the area.

Phillips said it looks like a lot of area they are requesting restriction on that is not near homes. And it was noted there are only approximately 30 homes.

G. Jensen said if we removed the water from this situation this would look like a lot of area in the state.

Leif explained there is one area approximate to the City of Polo that was designated as no hunting when as part of the property acquisition. There is also a thin strip of property near the road at Cottonwood Lake in Spink County.

Boyd said based on the amount of area this would close I cannot support this petition.

Motion by Boyd, second by Phillips TO DENY THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 19-04 (APPENDIX B) DENYING THE PETITION. Motion passes unanimously.

Staff will work with the petitioner to further discuss boundaries.

Make Muzzleloader Deer Licenses Valid During Firearm Deer Seasons

Leif presented the petition submitted by Josh Hagemann requesting the muzzleloader licenses be valid within the same unit and same time period that firearm deer season is open. Leif noted muzzleloaders are already allowed to be used as a weapon of choice during a firearm season.

Phillips said we are told public lands are crowded already so I do not support this petition.

Motion by Phillips, second by Locken TO DENY THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 19-05 (APPENDIX C) DENYING THE PETITION. Motion passes unanimously.

Archery Deer Hunting on Public Lands

Dana Rogers presented his petition to allow any resident or nonresident deer hunter possession an archery, muzzleloader, apprentice hunter, or mentor deer licenses to obtain and possess a free access permit to hunt in specific units. Rogers said the increase in nonresident hunters has caused significant pressure and overcrowding.

Jensen noted this conversation ties in with current discussions on resident and nonresident and it was recommended we discuss this once the criteria is reviewed. Staff will work with the petitioner and bring forward future recommendations.

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO DENY THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bies, second by Phillips TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 19-06 (APPENDIX D) DENYING THE PETITION. Motion passes unanimously.

Nonresident Archery Mule Deer Permits

Dana Rogers presented his petition to create a new rule for nonresident archery mule deer validation permit. He explained this new rule would allow for a maximum of 200 of these permit for nonresidents for draw at a cost of \$100. He said that no other state offers unlimited mule deer permits statewide and that all other states have some restrictions.

Jensen noted this conversation ties in with current discussions on resident and nonresident and it was recommended we discuss this once the criteria is reviewed.

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO DENY THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Whitmyre, second by Phillips TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 19-07 (APPENDIX E) DENYING THE PETITION. Motion passes unanimously

Nonresident Whitetail Deer Permits

Dana Rogers presented his petition to provide unlimited resident any deer and antlerless deer licenses in specific units and allow nonresidents to apply for one any whitetail archery deer permits after first buying a nonresident small game licenses and applying for a specific unit. To hunt mule deer nonresidents would be required to draw an additional mule deer validation permit as noted in the previous petition.

Phillips said petitioners bring valid concerns, but we need to finish with the resident nonresident discussions. He requested the department review these petitions and move into archery concerns soon at the appropriate time.

Sharp said the petitions submitted by Rogers were well prepared and provided good information. He noted that it would be best to hold briefly and address all nonresident allocations together instead of just pieces of it now.

Hepler clarified there are many ideas submitted on what should be done in regards to nonresident changes and it would be better to put together all the ideas brought forward to the commission not just these three.

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO DENY THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Boyd, second by Bies TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 19-08 (APPENDIX F) DENYING THE PETITION. Motion passes unanimously

Nonresident Big Game Fee Increases

Dana Rogers presented his petition to increase the rates for nonresident big game licenses to be comparable to other states. This would also require the purchase of small game hunting licenses prior to submission of a big game application. He again noted the pressure and overcrowding caused by nonresident hunters that result in a negative impact to the resident sportsmen as they compete for access.

Leif said there is a list of licenses in state statute where the commission has authority to issue and set fees and that license fee increases are reviewed and presented to the commission for action annually. The habitat stamp license would take legislative action as it is not on this list.

Bies said we should utilize the process that is already in place to address fee these concerns.

Boyd said she likes the idea of reviewing but now would not be the right time, but at the appropriate time before the next season.

Sharp noted it is realistic to have this completed before the fall hunting season.

Motion by Bies, second by Locken TO DENY THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 19-09 (APPENDIX G) DENYING THE PETITION. Motion passes unanimously.

Nonresident Archery Antelope Permits

Dana Rogers presented his petition to change to an unlimited number of resident any antelope licenses by issued and allow nonresidents to apply for one archery permit after first buying a nonresident small game license. This petition would only allow for a maximum of 150 nonresident archery antelope permits.

Phillips noted prior archery discussions have focused on deer and asked when archery antelope is up for review.

Leif said the commission will be presented with the antelope management plan to the commission for review in 2019 and will include this issue.

Sharp again noted that a standard criteria needs to be established for resident nonresident before we take action.

Motion by Sharp, second by Whitmyre TO DENY THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Whitmyre, second by Phillips TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 19-10 (APPENDIX H) DENYING THE PETITION. Motion passes unanimously.

Use of Rifles for Spring Wild Turkey Hunting

Bruce Bauer presented his petition allowing the use of smaller caliber rifles to hunt turkey. He explained this would decrease the effective range of the rifle and offer more safety while allowing the longstanding tradition of hunting turkey with rifle.

Leif noted the Commission took previous action last year to ban rifles for turkey hunting. He said should the commission choose to accept this petition changes would not go into effect for this year as we are close to the season opening and the rules process timeline would not allow it.

Phillips said he has some interest in this issue in some areas, but because this petition violates rules cannot support. He asked staff to meet with the petitioner again and further discuss.

Motion by Phillips, second by Boyd TO DENY THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sharp, second by Phillips TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 19-11 (APPENDIX I) DENYING THE PETITION. Motion passes unanimously.

PROPOSALS

Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

Kirschenmann provided the recommended changes to the 2019 Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season to modify unit BH3 from “that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River and that portion of Jackson County north of the White River, excluding the Badlands National Park” to “that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River and north of Hwy 44 and that portion of Jackson County north of the White River, excluding the Badlands National Park”.

John Kanta, wildlife regional supervisor, explained the Department was approached by the Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority (OSPRA) requesting an adjustment to boundary of Unit BH3. The request was based on the fact that OSPRA manages a bighorn sheep population that typically occupies the south unit of Badlands National Park in Oglala Lakota County. This respective bighorn sheep population typically resides on tribal property, but at times can make forays onto other property including private, Forest Service National Grasslands and State lands. Individuals from this population also make forays into Pennington County where Unit BH3 is currently open. As a result, there is opportunity for a state-licensed hunter to harvest a bighorn sheep from the herd that OSPRA is managing. The Department agrees to accommodate this request and is recommending that the GFP Commission adjust the unit boundary for Unit BH3 to exclude a portion of lower Pennington County from the current unit boundary to reduce the chance for a state-licensed hunter to harvest a bighorn sheep from this population managed by OSPRA.

Motion by Sharp, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Mountain Goat Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented the recommendation to allocate 2 any mountain goat licenses for the 2019-2020 hunting season.

Motion by Phillips, second by Whitmyre TO ALLOCATE 2 LICENSES FOR 2019-2020 HUNTING SEASON AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Custer State Park Antlerless Elk Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented the recommended change to close the antlerless elk hunting season. He explained The CSP antlerless elk season was opened again in 2017 based on new information on chronic wasting disease (CWD) prevalence rates from both Custer State Park (CSP) and Wind Cave National Park (2016/2017 culling program). At this time, the season was justified to learn more about the CWD infection rate of CSP elk, begin managing at a lower population density in the identified area due

to concerns of over-utilization of forage, and to evaluate and respond accordingly for future management actions.

Through the development of the “draft” CWD action plan, the goal of surveillance strategies in South Dakota is to determine the likely spread of CWD to new units where the disease has not been detected in wild, free-ranging cervids. Without pre-determined research design and management objectives, prevalence rates will not be quantified. If research objectives require prevalence rates or a management strategy will be implemented based on prevalence rate thresholds (i.e., implement management strategy X if prevalence exceeds Y%), prevalence will be estimated by collecting a representative sample with desired levels of precision.

The current population objective for CSP is 800 wintering elk and will general range from 700-900 depending on habitat conditions; the current CSP elk population estimate is 552 (95% CI=483-620). With the current dispersal of elk from this antlerless unit and no identified management response actions if CWD prevalence reaches a certain threshold, there is no current need for this antlerless elk season. Mandatory submission of samples for CWD will still be required from all deer and elk hunters for any future management considerations.

Motion by Sharp, second by Boyd TO CLOSE THE CUSTER STATE PARK ANTLERLESS ELK HUNTING SEASON FOR 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Hunt or Access State Park and Recreation Areas

Tony Leif informed the Commission that Under Governor Noem’s Second Century Initiative, the Department is using crowdsourcing to solicit ideas to create more and better habitat. GFP is using Facebook as the platform to crowdsource habitat solutions and promote idea-driven dialogue for a period of 2-3 months. This platform is free and allows for a transparent submission process, where participants can engage and respond to proposed ideas. If constituents are not on Facebook, an email account, habitatpays@state.sd.us is being provided as a secondary option for idea submission. At the end of the effort, GFP staff and 2nd Century Habitat Foundation members will review all comments and ideas and provide their recommendation for final approval to Secretary Hepler and Commission Chairman Jensen. It is anticipated that there could be multiple “winners” of free hunting privileges or free access to state parks and recreation areas.

Motion by Phillips, second by Whitmyre TO AUTHORIZE A RESIDENT STATE PARK ACCESS OR SMALL GAME HUNTING PRIVILAGES WITHOUT FEE FOR ONE YEAR. Motion carried unanimously.

Special Buck Licenses

Robling presented the recommended changes to the west river special buck season. He explained Per discussions with representatives of the Landowner and Outfitter Alliance, it was requested the department bring forward a recommendation of providing additional hunting licenses under the special buck structure to assure there would be available licenses as experienced in previous years by nonresident hunters drawing leftover licenses. Under the changes to the deer drawing license structure, nonresidents will not be able to pick up licenses originally allocated to residents until

after the 4th draw. In the past those leftover license were available after the 2nd draw and in 2018, 187 “any whitetail” licenses went to nonresidents that were originally allocated to residents. The concern from the Landowner and Outfitter Alliance is that the reduction in nonresident license opportunity would reduce client participation. The proposal would allocate 500 nonresident “any whitetail” West River licenses and 500 resident “any whitetail” West River licenses. The biological impacts are negligible and the licenses are only valid on private land. The generated revenue from this increase in nonresident and resident opportunity would be used for Walk-in area public hunting incentive payments.

Recommended changes: Beginning with the 2020 West River Deer season

1. Establish Resident special Any Whitetail Deer license and fee of \$169.
2. Establish Nonresident special Any Whitetail Deer license and fee of \$554.
3. Special Any Whitetail Deer licenses to be allocated at the greater of 4% of the total resident West River deer licenses that include a “Any Whitetail Deer” tag from the previous year OR 500 for each for residents and nonresident hunters.
4. If a person successfully draws a special Any Whitetail Deer license the licensee will not be able to apply for a West River deer license in the initial and second drawings.
5. If a person successfully draws a West River deer license they may not apply for a leftover special Any Whitetail Deer license.
6. Applicant must have permission from an owner or lessee of private land before applying.
7. Applicant for special Any Whitetail Buck must also include the name and telephone number of the owner or lessee providing permission.

Phillips excused himself from the discussion for possible conflict of interest.

Locken said he receives many comments from people own a private ranch and they want to have family from out of state come back to hunt and wanted to know if this would be included in the nonresident allocation.

Robling responded this would be 8 percent above the nonresident allocation.

Sharp said he thinks the idea is work vetting.

Motion by Sharp, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE 2020 WEST RIVER DEER SPECIAL BUCK SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Hunt for Habitat Licenses

Leif presented the recommended change to establish a hunt for habitat licenses that would allow residents and nonresidents the opportunity to purchase raffle chances though the state licensing system without restriction on the number that can be purchased with the revenue dedicated exclusively for habitat projects.

1. Create one Custer State Park any bison “Hunt for Habitat” license and 3 “Hunts for Habitat” super license packages. The 3 super licenses will each include a tag for one:
 - a. Any Elk,
 - b. Any Deer, and
 - c. Any Antelope.
2. These licenses would be valid at any time and place that a hunting season is open in South Dakota for the big game animal as long as the regulations for the open season are followed.
3. The recipient must be eligible to hold the licenses although any ineligibility due to a previous license draw would be exempt.

4. Recipients will be able to select either of the current or next year as when their tag(s) would be valid.
5. Both residents and nonresidents will be eligible to submit applications for the super tag licenses although no more than 1 of the 3 license packages could be issued to a nonresident.
6. Both residents and nonresidents will be eligible to submit applications for the "Hunt for Habitat" trophy bison license
7. Establish an application fee of \$10 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents.
8. A person may submit an unlimited number of applications.
9. Applications will be accepted on-line only.
10. No additional fee will be charged for licenses drawn.
11. No preference points may be earned or used in the "Hunts for Habitat" drawings.

Boyd asked when people would be able to submit applications.

Leif stated that if passed it would not be until July 1, 2019, but could be initiated sooner in 2020.

Sharp asked if the tag is transferable.

Leif responded state law prohibits the transfer of tags.

Motion by Locken, second by Sharp TO ESTABLISH HUNT FOR HABITAT LICENSES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Trapping Prohibitions

Keith Fisk, wildlife damage program administrator, presented the recommended changes to the trapping regulations as follows.

Amend 41:08:02:13. Traps to be rendered inoperable – Removal of trapping devices.

1. Modify the existing rule to allow the use of traps, snares and associated equipment to be used on public lands and improved road rights-of-ways, through August 31. *(currently May 1)
2. Modify the existing rule so that traps, snares and associated equipment must be actively operated and checked in accordance to trap-check rules.

Fisk explained with the launch of Governor Noem's Second Century Initiatives, in particular the Live Trap Giveaway Program and the Nest Predator Bounty Program; this modification would allow trappers to use traps and snares (which are actively being used) on public lands and improved road rights-of-ways, through August 31. Public lands hold some of the best nesting habitat in the state and in order to remove nest predators during the nesting season, this modification would be needed.

Motion by Boyd, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE TRAPPING REGULATIONS. Motion carried unanimously.

Nest Predator Bounty Program

Fisk presented the recommended change to add a new administrative rule to the bounty chapter which outlines the provisions of the nest predator bounty program. These changes include the following:

1. Eligible species: raccoon, striped skunk, opossum, badger or red fox.
2. Only residents of South Dakota may participate.
3. Animals must be harvested in South Dakota by the resident participant.

4. If under the age of 18 years old, a parent/legal guardian must submit the electronic bounty form on behalf of the youth.
5. Information on the electronic bounty form must be true and accurate.

Boyd asked what happens if people bring in out of state animals

Fisk explained people are required to sign an affidavit confirming the animals were trapped in state.

Phillips asked what if we see skunks without tails

Fisk said staff would work with our conservation officers to follow up and provide a warning for the first offence.

Jensen asked if the department provide information on the effectiveness of bounties

Fisk responded it will be difficult to ascertain the impacts as there are multiple environmental factors each year, but we will know the harvest numbers. There is research on both sides of the bounty and some shows significant impact. We know if you can put enough pressure at a localized level it will boost nest success

Hepler referenced the trapping video with Governor and Lieutenant Governor that was shown at the meeting and noted the broader initiative to get people outdoors and engaged in the outdoor activities.

Motion by Boyd, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO ALLOW LAW ENFORCEMENT OF THE BOUNTY PROGRAM. Motion carried unanimously.

Use of Parks and Public Lands

Bob Schneider, parks and recreation deputy director, presented 11 proposed rule changes to the Use of Parks & Public Lands Chapter. These are the general rules that guide activity on all GFP controlled lands but most of rules in the chapter apply to state park area lands.

41:03:01.02 defines the time restrictions for use of state park system – simply speaking, this is the curfew. It allows people to be in parks late at night for camping, fishing, boating and other intended purposes but not for unauthorized reasons. Currently the curfew is 11 pm during the summer and 9 pm the rest of the year - October to April. The proposal changes it to 11 pm year round.

Commercial activity is allowed in parks through a permitting system. Activity might include a food vendor, a horseback or bicycle tour on one of our trails, a rock climbing school at CSP or Palisades, kayaking lessons at Lake Alvin or a film or photography company making a production in a park area (quite common at CSP). These are for profit activities. The proposed changes to rule 41:03:01:07 Commercial Use Prohibited would do three things. First, it eliminates Ag leases (cropping/haying/grazing) from the activities regulated. This activity is authorized by statute and the rule is redundant. Second, it limits the rule to the state park system – this is where these activities occur. Third, it establishes a pricing structure for the activities that are permitted. For activities other than commercial filming and photography, the fee is \$100 or 3% of gross receipts, whichever is greater. For film and photography, the fee is based on the size of the crew.

41:03:01:15 is the camping stay restriction rule. We limit the length of camping stay to two weeks so that all have an opportunity to camp and prevent undue strain on the resources. The Camping Rules chapter refers to a 14 night limitation and rule uses 15 day language. We would change this rule to use the 14 day night language for consistency.

41:03:01:15 is the rule that states that uncased .22 firearms are prohibited in parks. We would propose to repeal the 37 year old rule. Presumably the rule was put in place to deal with vandalism in parks. With staffing & law enforcement in place today, we don't see the problem and are better equipped to deal with it. Repealing this rule will allow use of 22s in parks for small game during designated seasons in accordance with the state park restrictions.

41:03:01:19 deals with tree stands and hunting blinds on department lands. The proposed change would move the date that tree stands and blinds can be set up from August 25 to August 1 to accommodate the recent change to September 1 of the archery season opening date. Also moves the date that stands must be taken down from Feb 15 to March 31. Oftentimes snow makes it impractical to take a tree stand down by February 15.

Motion by Sharp, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO USE OF PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS. Motion carried unanimously.

Park License and Trail Use Passes

Katie Ceroll, parks and recreation division director, presented the proposed changes to rule 41:03:03:01 or the Park entrance license exemptions rule. We depend on user fees to support the day to day operation of the state park system – the most significant fees being a park entrance license and camping fees. The park entrance requirement is applied broadly but exemptions include non-profit youth groups, veterans group activities, 100% disabled veterans, park volunteers, open house & free fishing weekend in May, religious activities at Bear Butte and the day of the Buffalo Roundup at Custer State park. This proposal would exempt enrolled Crow Creek tribal members and members of their family from the entrance license requirement at West Bend Recreation Area on Lake Sharpe. West Bend has a large campground and is the most heavily used boat and fishing access site on Lake Sharpe. The park also has a popular swimming beach, picnic areas and playgrounds. It is also immediately adjacent to the Crow Creek Sioux Indian Reservation. Outdoor recreation offerings such as West Bend has are limited on the Crow Creek reservation. The greatest management challenge at West Bend recreation area is potable water. We hope to work with the Crow Creek Tribe to find solutions to the water challenge.

Rule 41:03:01:04 sets the time limits on daily park entrance license. The proposed change would make the daily PEL valid until 11pm year around – consistent with the park curfew change to 11pm year round that we discussed earlier.

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO PARK ENTRANCE LICENSE EXEMPTION. Motion carried unanimously.

George S. Mickelson Trail User Service Fees

Ceroll presented the proposed changes to 41:03:05:02 would exempt SD military veterans groups and SD veteran's hospital patients from the GSM trail pass requirement when participating in a group event that has been permitted by the park manager at least 5 days prior to the event. This exemption would mirror a veteran's

group exemption to the park entrance license that the Commission approved three years ago. 41:03:05:03 requires that Mickelson Trail users 12 years of age and older, are required to have a trail pass (annual or daily) in their possession when using the trail and be able to display it to a department representative. This rule also establishes the trail fees, one of which is a \$15 "late fee". If a trail user cannot produce a pass, they must pay a \$15 fee and in return they are given a \$15 annual trail pass. The proposed change would create \$4 late fee option and allow a trail user unable to produce a pass, the option of purchasing either a \$4 daily or a \$15 annual trail pass. This would lessen the penalty and hopefully encourage trail use. Finally, 41:03:05:06 is the rule that defines how the display of the trail use pass. The proposed change to this rule would put into effect the \$4 late fee option.

Motion Boyd, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO MICKELSON TRAIL FEES. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 2:00 p.m. and concluded at 2:07 p.m. The minutes follow these Commission meeting minutes.

FINALIZATIONS

Spring Turkey Archery Hunting

Kirschenmann presented the recommended changes to the spring wild turkey hunting season to close archery turkey hunting in Lake County south of State Highway 34. He explained that in cooperation with the National Wild Turkey Federation and private landowners, GFP is conducting turkey transplants in southern Lake County with the goal to establish a sustainable wild turkey population. Current efforts have resulted in only a few male turkeys transplanted, with additional trap and transfer efforts planned for 2019. Until the population reaches a sufficient size and gender composition, it is believed necessary to close this area to archery hunting. SDGFP will continue to work with partners to trap and transfer appropriate birds to the area and monitor this turkey population.

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION 41:06:13 FOR CLOSURE OF ARCHERY TURKEY HUNTING IN LAKE COUNTY SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 34. Motion carried unanimously.

Turkey Transportation Requirements

Andy Alban, wildlife law enforcement administrator, explained that over the last year, Department officials have been contacted by licensed hunters regarding turkey transportation requirements. Many of these individuals desire the ability to remove the edible portions from the turkey and transport the cleaned turkey in a cooler similar to how some other big game animals are cared for in the field. However, current regulation stipulates that the beard, leg and foot remain naturally attached to the rest of the carcass. The proposed changes to 41:06:03:02

1. Eliminating the requirement that the beard, leg and foot bearing the tag remain naturally attached to the rest of the turkey when transported from the place where taken until the bird has arrived at the domicile of the possessor.
2. Establishing an alternative requirement that the beard, leg and foot bearing the tag simply accompany the rest of the turkey when transported from the place where taken until the bird has arrived at the domicile of the possessor.

3. Eliminating the aforementioned requirement to transport the beard if a person is licensed to take "any turkey".

This would make the transportation process easier and align with other big game transportation requirements found in 41:06:03:06. The turkey transportation requirements would remain waived for birds processed at a wildlife processing facility and accompanied by the receipt or those birds processed at the domicile of the possessor.

Motion by Phillips, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION OF 41:06:03 ON REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF WILDLIFE TURKEY AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Big Game Tagging Requirements

Alban presented the requested change to amend big game tagging requirements in 41:06:03:01 by allowing big game, other than elk, to be tagged on the hock tendon and leg bone OR around the base of the antler/horn. He explained the Department received a petition for this rule change in December of 2018. The rationale for the request related to the processing of big game in the field, wherein the animal is field dressed and either quartered or entirely boned out. Allowing the alternative tagging methods creates flexibility and ease of transport for the hunter while still maintaining adherence to the statutory requirement for the tagging of big game.

41:06:03:01. Tagging required. The locking seal issued with each big game license, swan license, or special Canada goose license is an adhesive tag. The licensee shall sign the tag and date it by cutting out completely the month and day of the date of kill only. The licensee shall attach the tag securely ~~around one hind leg between the hoof and ankle joint of all hoofed big game animals except elk or~~ around one leg of a mountain lion, turkey, swan, or goose. ~~Elk shall be tagged by cutting a slit through the hide on one hind leg between the hock tendon and the leg bone and securely fastening the adhesive tag around the hock tendon directly above the ankle joint. The licensee shall attach the tag securely to all hoofed big game animals:~~

- (1) Around one hind leg between the hoof and ankle joint;
- (2) Around the hock tendon directly above the ankle joint on one hind leg; or
- (3) Around the base of the antler/horn.

Motion by Locken, second by Sharp TO AMEND THE PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE PERTAINING TO MOUNTIAN LION TAGGING. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Locken, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION OF 41:06:03 ON BIG GAME TAGING REQUIREMENTS AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Deer Hunting Season Drawing Structure

Robling provided background on the process and the public input gatherer noting the goal remains to get more hunters their preferred license more often and get more hunters in the field more often. He explained this change could get 1,000 more hunters in the field than previously. He also explained the changes to preference points and draw deadlines. Those impacted will be people who apply for 3 or more license in the draw and if approved by the Commission and interim rules review committee process this would go into effect 20 days later and be implemented in 2019.

Leif noted that should the commission adopt the finalization on the deer hunting season draw structure to note item 6 on the action sheet. This is per the Commission's request to ensure a comprehensive review of these changes is completed in 3 years.

1. Create a combined drawing for the Black Hills, East River, West River, Refuge, Custer State Park and Muzzleloader deer hunting seasons where an applicant that does not obtain a special buck license may submit no more than two applications. Applicants that have a special buck license may submit one application for the combined drawing.
2. Modify the leftover license allocation process for the seasons in the combined deer drawing:
 - a. In the second draw, an applicant may not apply for a leftover license if the applicant possesses 2 licenses for any of the Black Hills, East River, West River, CSP, Refuge Deer and Muzzleloader deer seasons in the first draw. A person with 1 license for these seasons may submit 1 application for a season that the person does not hold a license.
 - b. In the third draw, leftover licenses are no longer pooled in a combined drawing and an applicant may submit one application for each season for which they do not possess a license. Nonresidents may only apply for a license remaining in pools originally designated (8%) for nonresidents (BHD, WRD or Refuge Deer).
 - c. In the fourth draw, licenses remain segregated in their respective seasons and residents may submit up to five applications. Nonresidents may only apply for a license remaining in pools originally designated (8%) for nonresidents (BHD, WRD or Refuge Deer).
 - d. After the fourth draw, all remaining resident and nonresident licenses would be pooled and sold first-come, first- served. There will be no limit on the number of licenses that a person can acquire (like it is currently).
3. Allow applicants to use preference points for both 1st and 2nd choices in draws one through three. First draw applicants must use preference points for their first choice selection (as is currently required). An applicant who uses preference to acquire a license in a season may not purchase a preference point for that season.
4. Preference points for a combined deer drawing shall be issued without cost for any hunter that is or was age 15 or younger during the calendar year when the preference point is acquired.
5. A first-time applicant for a combined deer drawing that is or was age 15 or younger in the calendar year of the drawing shall receive a bonus preference point for that drawing.
6. The Commission will conduct a comprehensive review of these changes in 3 years and will adopt a resolution memorializing that intent at the March 2019 Commission meeting if the changes are adopted.

Drawing	Resident	Nonresident
1 and 2	Maximum of 2 licenses in ERD, WRD, BHD, CSP, Refuge Deer or MZD	Maximum of 2 BHD or WRD or Refuge Deer licenses
3	Maximum of 1 license in each of the WRD, ERD BHD, CSP, Refuge Deer and MZD seasons.	
4	Maximum of five additional licenses for a maximum total of eleven licenses.	
<i>Leftover Resident and Nonresident Licenses Pooled</i>		
5	Unlimited. First-come, First-served	Unlimited. First-come, First-served

Olson said this has been an 18 month endeavor that has been good for department and sportsmen. An important thing to keep in mind is these changes show we listen to the sportsmen and women. This continues to provide opportunity and option to apply for other license. This was a monumental task and he supports it. He thanked all involved and urged the support of the proposal as written.

Phillips agreed this has been a monumental task and supports the changes. He then inquired about youth tags and the possibility of providing a free bonus for first time youth applicants who have applied twice and were unsuccessful.

Robling said it could be amended to say applicants who is or was 15 years or younger and has never had a license for a combined deer drawing shall receive a bonus preference point for the drawing.

Phillips noted this request comes from the comments received and requested the finalization be amended.

Motioned by Phillips, second by Sharp TO AMEND THE DEER HUNTING SEASON DRAWING STRUCTURE FINALIZATION TO PROVIDE A BONUS PREFERENCE POINT TOR FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS 15 YEARS OR YOUNGER. Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Locken second by Olson TO APROVE THE FINALIZATION OF THE DEER HUNTING SEASON DRAWING STRUCTURE 41:06:01 AND 41:06:02 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Bies, second by Phillips TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 19-12 (Appendix J) INSTRUCTING THE DEPARTMENT COMPLETE A COMPREHENIVE REVIEW OF THE DEER HUNTING SEASON DRAWING STRUCTURE CHANGES IN 3 YEARS (2022). Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

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

Wayne Lloyd, Wentworth, SD spoke in regards to nonresident issues specifically the petition introduced by Dana Rogers. He thinks Rogers has some valid points but doesn't want to see the negative connotations toward nonresidents on social media. Noted that most of the people who post these comments are nonresident hunters of other states.

Martie Haines, Faith, SD has questions about outfitter permits as an archery outfitter. Understand there is a stress on public property, but should not limit an entire state for nonresident hunters. It is difficult for them as they have no promise of drawing. Wondering if we can zone property differently or have tags for outfitters. Hoping there is a common ground we can come to.

Larry Nemic, Pierre, SD. Likes to draw rifle license for the area in which he lives. Would like to apply for a West River and hear back on that tag before putting in to draw for a different tag. So if you don't draw the one you really want in the first draw then you can put in for muzzleloader. There should be a limit of two firearm tags for each hunter. If they want more than that they can put in for an archery tag. Also feels GFP does not have accurate success rates. Needs to go back to the report card tags used

50 years ago. Hunts with a bow where there are mountain lions and wolves and should be able to carry a side arm for possible attacks by these other animals.

Dana Rogers, Hill City, SD spoke on behalf of the petitions he submitted noting that the petitions he submitted as a result of conversation at the South Dakota Bowhunters annual meeting. He then spoke to statistics for specific licenses and concerns with nonresident pressure in specific units.

Roger Hatling, Pierre, SD, spoke in regards to the petition to restrict shooting rifles on Okobojo Creek. Said he has a cabin on Lake Pickerel near public ground and have never had a problem. He does not agree with the petition and said we as hunters are losing public ground.

John Simpson, Pierre, SD in regards to the petition to restrict shooting rifles on Okobojo Creek. Has not had a chance to review but understands residents have concerns. Said it was a 16 day season and its like if someone builds a house near a GPA needs to understand where they are building. This has been public use for public access and should be open to as many forms of recreation as possible. If there are concerns they need to follow up with the Sully County Sheriff. As for archery hunting has seen a phenomenal increase of nonresidents because their tags are unlimited. There are now more nonresidents than residents and recommends these tags be limited similar to rifles hunting.

Dayne Weelborg, Estelline, SD spoke in regards to resident nonresident issues. He has hunted 6 different states and 2 provinces and feels strongly as someone who is a nonresident hunter. He has 16-20 years preferences in many of these states. In some of these states it requires 8 plus years to receive a tag. These states also have other opportunities and there is common ground to be found. Unlimited nonresident tags is not common ground and doesn't happen anywhere else.

Doug Abraham, Pierre, SD represents South Dakota Landowner Outfitter Alliance spoke to the deer season draw structure noting it harms interest of the members of his association at there are 187 leftover tags that will no longer be available to nonresidents. Thanks the department for working with the alliance to look at opportunities by allowing for increased resident and nonresident opportunities without a negative biological impact and pressure on public hunting areas while raising revenue for habitat. As for the archery petitions he urged the Commission to look at opportunity for residents and nonresidents while protecting public access and opportunity for both residents and nonresidents as well as landowners and outfitters with the biological data being taken into consideration over personal observation.

Rob Goodman, Kyle, SD spoke on behalf of the Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority stating they would like to see sheep tag auction funds remain dedicated to sheep only. They recently completed projects with SD GFP which would not have been possible without the funds that come from this auction tag that are allocated for sheep. Supports changing the boundary for the unit to moving it to highway 44.

Todd Waldere, Alexandra, SD agrees with two tag proposal for deer. Said he just applied for an out of state tag that cost \$1,000 or more. Stated South Dakota needs

to increase cost of tags for nonresidents to increase funds similar to what other states do.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Adoption of Fishery Area Management Plans

John Lott, fisheries chief, requested the Commission adopt the Fishery Area Management Plans.

Motioned by B. Jensen, second by Locken TO ADOPT THE FISHERY AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS. Motion carried unanimously.

Elk Landowner Preference

Kevin Robling & John Kanta, wildlife regional supervisor, discussed elk landowner preference. Currently wildlife conservation officers (WCO) approve landowners prior to the elk license drawing. Paper applications must be submitted through the mail. Applications come in right up to the application deadline. This puts a time crunch on WCOs and the process can be cumbersome. As such, internal direction will be provided to WCOs to treat elk landowner preference similar to how we look at deer landowner preference. With deer landowner preference landowners apply for a deer license and acknowledge on the application that they qualify for landowner preference. After the deer licenses are drawn WCOs review the list of landowner preference licenses and identify any potential issues with landowner preference and address those issues. Starting with the 2019 elk license drawing, WCOs will review elk landowner preference in the same fashion as deer landowner preference.

CWD Management Plan Update

Chad Switzer, wildlife administrator, presented an updated timeline to the commission which included public involvement activities, when a draft plan would be shared with public, adoption of the plan by the Commission, and when any modified or new regulations would be recommended to the Commission. See table provided below for details.

February 12	Present at GFP Region 4 meeting
February 13	Present at GFP Region 3 meeting
February 16	Present at South Dakota Bowhunters Inc. annual convention
February 20	Present at GFP Region 2 meeting
February 21	Internal workgroup meeting
March 4	Present at GFP Region 1 meeting
March 5 and 7	One hour conference call with known game processors
March 6 and 8	One hour conference call with licensed taxidermists
March 12	Open house in Aberdeen
March 13	Open house in Sioux Falls

March 14	Open house in Huron
March 15	Present at South Dakota Taxidermy Association annual convention in Watertown
March 18	Open house in Rapid City
March 19	Open house in Hot Springs
March 21	Internal workgroup meeting
March 25	Open house in Wall
March 26	Open house in Pierre
April 1	Provide 1st draft plan to GFP staff, stakeholder group and public
April 11-14	Present at the Dakota Territory Meat Convention in Brookings
April - May	Continue any identified communication and outreach needs with stakeholders. Include CWD information and best management practices in deer and elk applications.
May 9	SDPB - South Dakota Focus
May 13	Next CWD stakeholder group meeting
May 14	Internal workgroup meeting
May 14-31	Incorporate feedback from GFP staff, stakeholder group and public comment period
June 6-7	Present final draft action plan to Commission and allow for public comment period
July 8-9	Ask for formal plan adoption by Commission <u>AND</u> present Department recommendations for Commission consideration.
September 5-6	Ask Commission to finalize proposed rule changes that would go into effect for the 2020 deer and elk hunting seasons. Provide best management practices to hunters and public for 2019 hunting seasons.
September 10-12	Present at the Dakota Solid Waste Management convention in Bismarck, ND

Wildlife and Fishery Winter Weather Impacts and Depredation Update

Lott provided an update to the commission on potential impacts to fishery resources due to weather conditions. In particular, Lott focused on lakes that will likely be winter killed and a few others that may have a partial winter kill. Lott also discussed a lower level of fishing activity due to the inability to access many lakes resulting from the amount of snow on and around many lakes.

Kirschenmann provided an update to the commission on winter impacts to terrestrial species, in particular deer and pheasant. Kirschenmann explained that staff are working on over 200 deer depredation complaints across the state with most occurring in the northeast. Staff of all disciplines are assisting with deer depredation efforts. Kirschenmann also explained that staff are receiving concerning calls from the public over deer and pheasants starving and struggling to find food. It was explained that we do not feed wildlife but use short stop feeding of deer in certain circumstances. Kirschenmann stated that if individuals decide to feed wildlife that they consider location

and place in close proximity to winter thermal cover to minimize exposure to harsh weather conditions and predators.

Missouri River Refuge Taskforce

Robling provided an update noting that at the Commission meeting on December 6th it was decided to take a step back and form a public taskforce to assist in developing the criteria and discussing the future of the waterfowl refuge system on the Missouri River. This process is just getting started but we have already received multiple requests from landowners, sportsmen, and business owners to be on this group. He said our goal will be to have several meetings of this workgroup to define a set of criteria for the Commission to review by late summer.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Palisades State Park Land Donation Update

Sean Blanchette, executive director of the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation and Al Nedved, parks and recreation assistant director, presented information on the expansion of Palisades State Park near Garretson.

Blanchette briefed the Commission on the status of land acquisitions referencing a map that was provided to the Commission. In December 2018, the Foundation purchased 80 acres and donated it to the Department with previous approval from the Commission. The Foundation recently closed on a 97.5 acre parcel and has executed a land exchange agreement to acquire an additional 80 acres with the intent of donation both newly acquired parcels to the Department. Once completed, the Foundation will have donated a total of 257.5 acres of property to the Department. Blanchette explained that fundraising efforts are underway and part of the current campaign will be to raise \$500,000 to be put towards development as a match to a potential appropriation that has been introduced in legislation.

Nedved discussed potential development plans for the expanded land base at Palisades. Nedved presented Resolution 19-03 which would authorize the department to accept the Foundation's donation of the newly acquired 177.5 acres.

Motioned by Sharp with second by Phillips TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 19-03 (Appendix A) as presented Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitation of Agenda Items from Commissioners

No agenda items were recommended

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Appendix A
RESOLUTION 19-03

WHEREAS, The South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation owns real estate (Property) described as:

THE SOUTH HALF (S1/2) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW1/4), EXCEPTING LOT H-1 THEREIN, OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 103 NORTH, RANGE 47 WEST OF THE 5TH PM, MINNEHAHA COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA.

and

THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NW1/4 NE1/4) OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 103 NORTH, RANGE 47 WEST OF THE 5TH PM, EXCEPT LOT P-2 OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE1/4), EXCEPT TRACT 1 OF COUNTY AUDITOR'S SUBDIVISION OF THE NORTH HALF (N1/2) AND EXCEPT BOWAR'S FIRST ADDITION; AND
THAT PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NE1/4 NW1/4) LYING SOUTHERLY AND EASTERLY OF THE RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY, EXCEPT LOT P-1 OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW1/4), EXCEPT TRACT 1 OF COUNTY AUDITOR'S SUBDIVISION OF THE NORTH HALF (N1/2) AND EXCEPT BOWAR'S FIRST ADDITION, ALL OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 103 NORTH, RANGE 47 WEST OF THE 5TH PM, MINNEHAHA COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA; AND
THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (SE1/4 NW1/4) AND THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (NE1/4 SW1/4) OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 103 NORTH, RANGE 47 WEST OF THE 5TH PM, MINNEHAHA COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Whereas, pursuant to its wishes, South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation desires to gift and transfer title to the Property to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (Department) for use for the parks division; and

Whereas, the Department has evaluated and determined that the Property would serve very well as a park or recreational area, and

Whereas, the Department is authorized to accept gifts of property for park and recreational use per SDCL 41-2-19 and desires to accept the gift of the Property upon confirmation of the gift by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission; and

Whereas, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission desires to acknowledge the Department's acceptance of this gift of property from South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation for use as a park and recreational area, and further acknowledges the extreme generosity of South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission does hereby confirm the decision by the Department to accept the transfer and gift of the Property from South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation to be used as by the parks division.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission, on behalf of the citizens and sportspersons of South Dakota, does hereby acknowledge and express its deepest appreciation and gratitude to South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation for its generosity, and further acknowledge the outdoor recreational opportunities this gift will provide to South Dakotans for many years to come.

Appendix B
RESOLUTION 19-04

WHEREAS, Henry Maddocks of Pierre, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated February 19, 2019, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:03:01 (Use of Parks and Public Lands) – to restrict rifle use on GFP land near Okobojo Creek 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 the rifle restriction near Okobojo Creek; and

WHEREAS, there are multiple scenarios across the state where residential dwellings are in close proximity to public hunting areas, and in some instances at a higher density than the described area; and

WHEREAS, the Department has no documented safety issues from the area described by the petitioner; and

WHEREAS, the area to be closed requested by the petitioner exceeds the area necessary to address the petitioner’s concern for safety; and

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, Henry Maddocks of Pierre, South Dakota.

Appendix C
RESOLUTION 19-05

WHEREAS, Josh Hagemann of Mission Hill, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated February 19, 2019, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:06:45:01 (General Muzzleloading deer hunting season established) – to alter the muzzleloading season 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 to alter the muzzleloading season; and

WHEREAS, at the time of establishing the muzzleloader season, it was desired to have its own start date and time period independent of other firearm seasons; and

WHEREAS, the use of a muzzleloading firearm is currently allowed as a legal equipment to harvest deer during firearm seasons; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has concern this change will add more hunters on public lands already crowded with current license holders.

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, Josh Hagemann of Mission Hill, South Dakota.

Appendix D
RESOLUTION 19-06

WHEREAS, Dana Rogers of Hill City, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated February 18, 2019, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:06:01:17 (Access permits required for specific deer hunting units and public lands) – change the number of access permits given to non-residents 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 limiting the number of access permits for non-residents; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission is currently conducting a process to establish a set of criteria to consider when allocating resident and nonresident licenses; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission believes their resident/nonresident criteria process should be finalized prior to considering or taking action on petitioned changes; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission will defer these discussions to a later date with the expectation the Department will bring forward alternatives for consideration to address the issue.

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, Dana Rogers of Hill City, South Dakota.

Appendix E
RESOLUTION 19-07

WHEREAS, Dana Rogers of Hill City, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated February 18, 2019, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:06:01 (Application for License) – to create a non-resident archery permit 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 creating a non-resident archery permit; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission is currently conducting a process to establish a set of criteria to consider when allocating resident and nonresident licenses; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission believes their resident/nonresident criteria process should be finalized prior to considering or taking action on petitioned changes; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission will defer these discussions to a later date with the expectation the Department will bring alternatives for consideration addressing the issue.

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, Dana Rogers of Hill City, South Dakota.

Appendix F
RESOLUTION 19-08

WHEREAS, Dana Rogers of Hill City, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated February 18, 2019, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:06:22:01 (Archery deer hunting season established – number and type of licenses) – to restrict the number of non-resident archery licenses issued 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 restricting the total number of non-resident archery licenses available; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission is currently conducting a process to establish a set of criteria to consider when allocating resident and nonresident licenses; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission believes their resident/nonresident criteria process should be finalized prior to considering or taking action on petitioned changes; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission will defer these discussions to a later date with the expectation the Department will bring forward alternatives for consideration to address the issue.

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, Dana Rogers of Hill City, South Dakota.

Appendix G
RESOLUTION 19-09

WHEREAS, Dana Rogers of Hill City, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated February 18, 2019, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:06:02:03 (Hunting License Fees to increase the price of license fees for non-residents 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 increase the license fees for non-residents; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission is currently conducting a process to establish a set of criteria to consider when allocating resident and nonresident licenses; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission believes their resident/nonresident criteria process should be finalized prior to considering or taking action on petitioned changes; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission does not have the authority to create a state habitat stamp; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission and Department will be discussing a license fee package later in 2019 and that would be the appropriate time to consider the suggested changes to nonresident fees provided by the petitioner.

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, Dana Rogers of Hill City, South Dakota.

Appendix H
RESOLUTION 19-10

WHEREAS, Dana Rogers of Hill City, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated February 18, 2019, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:06:24:01 (Archery antelope hunting season and number of licenses) – limiting the number of antelope archery licenses available to non-residents 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 limiting the number of antelope archery license available to non-residents and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission is currently conducting a process to establish a set of criteria to consider when allocating resident and nonresident licenses; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission believes their resident/nonresident criteria process should be finalized prior to considering or taking action on petitioned changes; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission will defer these discussions to a later date with the expectation the Department will bring forward alternatives for consideration to address the issue.

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, Dana Rogers of Hill City, South Dakota.

Appendix I
RESOLUTION 19-11

WHEREAS, Bruce Bauer of Watertown, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated February 18, 2019, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:06:13 (Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season) – to allow restricted rifle hunting for the turkey seasons for the reasons more fully set out in the petition (hereinafter referred to as “the Petition”); and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed and carefully considered the requirements and procedures set out in SDCL § 1-26-13 and the contents of the Petition, including the reasons advanced by Petitioner in support of allowing restricted rifle hunting for the turkey seasons; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission recently took action to remove the use of rifles to harvest turkeys during the spring turkey season after consideration of survey information, public input, and as a proactive approach to prevent a future hunting accident; and

WHEREAS, the suggested changes provided by the petitioner make regulations more complex which is contrary to current efforts to streamline regulations; and

WHEREAS, some of the petitioned changes are lower than established regulations for foot pounds produced at the muzzle capacities which were set to assure firearms are sufficiently powered; and

WHEREAS, the GFP Commission has directed the department to reassess the use of rifles and to bring forward recommendations for consideration later in 2019 that if determined appropriate by the Commission could be in place for the 2020 spring turkey season.

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, Bruce Bauer of Watertown, South Dakota.

Appendix J
RESOLUTION 19-12

WHEREAS, pursuant to ARSD § 41:06:01 and 41:06:02, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) has adopted changes to the deer drawing structure with an overall goal of getting more deer hunters their preferred license more often; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has considered numerous alternatives and has responded to input provided by deer hunters by amending proposals and extending public comment periods multiple times in an effort to find middle ground and compromise; and

WHEREAS, the Commission acknowledges the changes adopted are not supported by all deer hunters, but believes the adopted changes move in the direction of meeting the overall goal; and

WHEREAS, the Commission also acknowledges that final results of a new drawing structure cannot be determined until actually implemented and have gone on record to state that changes will be made if desired outcomes are not met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that with adoption of the changes in the deer drawing structure the Commission instructs the Department to conduct a comprehensive review of the changes in three years (2022) and report to the Commission how the new structure is functioning and if adjustments to the new system are warranted.

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

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

Deer Hunting Season Drawing Structure

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

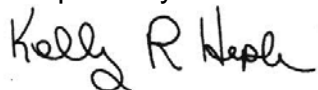
Wayne Lloyd, Wentworth, SD, spoke in support of the deer hunting season draw structure noting it is a good compromise between the avid hunter and GFP. The said he is one of the 12 percent that puts in for more than 2 tags and appreciates the compromise as this is the best solution for the hunter.

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

See attached public comments submitted prior to the public hearing

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Public Comments

Deer License Allocation

Brad Taylor

Fort Pierre SD

bradtaylor40@hotmail.com

Comment:

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

Jim Gruber

Estelline SD

jgruber148@yahoo.com

Comment:

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

Pat Malcomb

Sioux Falls SD

pmalcomb@sio.midco.net

Comment:

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

Nic Edlund

Farmington MN

nwedlund27@hotmail.com

Comment:

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

Dale Johnson
Summerset SD
djohnson@petelien.com

Comment:

I want to comment on the non-resident and youth parts of the deer license allocation proposal. I have seen the profound impact that hunting and the outdoors has on our youth. I have also witnessed the decline in youth utilizing the outdoors. There are a lot of reasons for the decline back one of the biggest is a lack of opportunities. The youth tags and youth seasons are wonderful programs but I believe the waiving of a fee for preference points and the bonus points for unsuccessful youth applicants makes these programs even better. Getting a kid out hunting is the first step. But if they then have to wait for several years to take the next step of hunting with the chance of harvesting a buck, we are taking a big chance of losing them. I have heard some say that this gives an unfair advantage to youth in drawing a tag. Yes it does give youth an advantage and that is the point. It gives them an advantage the same way resident only pheasant season gives residents a chance to harvest birds before non-residents. But you don't hear any one calling that unfair. The fact of the matter is if we don't continue recruiting more youth into the outdoors, this all becomes mute. Because we won't have the privilage of hunting and fishing. PETA and WWF and HSUS are banking on the next generation not having ties to the outdoors. I also fully support not allowing non-residents to apply for extra tags until the 5th drawing. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Dale Johnson

Scott Jamison
Wentworth SD
sjamison@dakotacare.com

Comment:

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

Matthew Langenfeld
Littleton CO
Mattlangenfeld@hotmail.com

Comment:

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

Arnold Veen
Milbank SD
arnieveen@yahoo.com

Comment:

This proposal has a very high public opposition in the original first proposal and was sent back to the GFP for further review/study. As far as I see it you did not make any changes to the original proposal that the public opposed.

In adding the youth portion to the proposal I feel it is a poor attempt to try and run a proposal with very little support.

I would strongly urge the Commission to reject this proposal!!

The original problems still exists in the proposal and adding new sections does not fix those issues.
Thank you for your time. Arnie Veen

Adam Carroll
Rapid City SD
Adamgc3@hotmail.com

Comment:

If this is truly about taking care of the residents... I would like to see residents only have 1st and 2nd draw to receive our preferred tag... after this allow non residents in the 3rd to start applying... make your residents happy before you let these big wig non residents commercialize South Dakota hunting just as you guys have allowed non residents to ruin what use to be great resident pheasant hunting..

Adam Carroll
Rapid City SD
Adamgc3@hotmail.com

Comment:

Let the people vote, you send out a million harvest surveys... what is one survey on yes or no going to hurt

Murdean Olson
Sisseton SD
mvolson@venturecomm.net

Comment:

I am an 80 year old lifetime South Dakota resident who has applied for an east river deer license every year eligible since 1952. There were a few years where a license could be obtained with less than a three year availability period, but generally speaking a three year wait between licenses was most common. As I stated previously, I am now 80 years old. I realize that the three year time period between licenses, at my age, may result in an inability to obtain a license ever again due to potential health or other problems caused by age. Therefore, I would like to suggest a special provision to allow yearly east river deer licenses for 80 year or older resident South Dakota sportsmen who wish only to have the opportunity to enjoy the season and, if fortune is with them, to harvest the buck of their lifetime. Landowners have a special privilege. This would not involve a very large number of requests for this special license such as the landowners application does. I would appreciate very much any consideration you could give to this proposal.
Thank you.

Alex Barrett
Greensboro NC
abarrett@haganbarrett.com

Comment:

I travel to SD every year to pheasant hunt, spending several thousand dollars on lodging, guides, meals and incidentals. I have tried repeatedly to draw a non-resident waterfowl license to hunt the plentiful ducks we see around your beautiful state, but have been successful only once in about 10 tries. I encourage SD to open up waterfowl hunting to non-residents. I believe it would be a further boon to the businesses which cater to hunters.

Jared Nicolaus
Box Elder SD
jarednicolaus@gmail.com

Comment:

I have two kids in the Mentor Program through SD Youth Hunting Adventures, and for three seasons, we have been unable to procure a buck tag for the kids. Although they enjoy going out and harvesting does, we are trying to develop the next generation of hunters, and allowing our young hunters the opportunity to hunt for a buck will be much more beneficial in developing an interest that will last a lifetime.

Maddie Nicolaus
Box Elder SD
maddienicolaus@gmail.com

Comment:

I have been mentored for three seasons with the SD Youth Hunting Adventures program, and have had a lot of fun going out and hunting for deer in the Black Hills and out on the prairie. One thing that I wish I could do is to be able to shoot a buck. I have shot one doe every season, and will not be eligible for the program after next season, and would really like to be able to experience hunting for a big buck, and be able to have the feeling of pride and accomplishment that goes along with a successful hunt. I don't know all the rules and regulations that are involved with these laws and legislation, but I do know that I am one of many kids that would like the opportunity to experience hunting for a buck. Thank you for allowing me to tell you my story, and I hope that kids in the future will be able to experience what I did not get to experience.

Kort Nicolaus
Box Elder SD
kortnicolaus@gmail.com

Comment:

I was able to shoot my first deer this season with the help of the Youth Hunting Program. With the help of my mentor, I shot a white tail doe at a preserve where they needed to reduce their population. It was a lot of fun, and much more fun than the last two seasons when I was not able to shoot a deer. It is really cool to see how a couple of the other mentors got to shoot a buck, and to hear their stories of how they hunted and waited for the right time and the deer that they shot. I would really like the chance to do this, and I kind of understand the points system when my Dad and my Mentor explain it, but I just want to be able to hunt for a buck. Please think about this when you are talking about the points and the future hunters that live here and how the chances we get when we are young will keep us wanting to hunt when we get older. Thank you, Kort.

David Lewton
Rapid City SD
davidlewtton60@gmail.com

Comment:

Please listen to the public that pays your wages! The majority of hunters are not in favor of this proposal, even the sdf&p's own data shows that. I don't know why this is being rammed through. I have no doubt that the you will pass this again. Why? What political reason is this being push so hard for? I am sure that in a year or two the public will find out the real reason! Is it money? What does the state gain? This proposal makes no sense. The true relationship between the number of hunters in the field is the population of deer. Look back 5 to 10 years. The population of deer was larger which in return ment more tags available. More tags means more hunters! Please look back through the data to confirm that to your selves. The data doesn't lie. Next, what does muzzle loader hunting have in common with rifle hunting? Nothing! With only 1000 tags vs 30000 tags available on each side of the river. This is a trophy hunt! The Black Hills took 25 years to turn into a trophy unit. BH has 2500-5000 available tags, nowhere near the prairie tag numbers! The black hills are a trophy unit! Why not combine black hills and muzzle loader deer with the other trophy units like CSP, and refuge deer? Does that make to much common sense? Why is special buck tags(both sides of the river) combined with east and west river deer tag draw? To much common sense again? This is being pushed through way too fast to have some of these common sense things put together. If change needs to happen, let's have it make common sense. I would be totally surprised if the commission actually reads this! I think it is all political and you have your mind made up before the meeting even starts. Please surprise me and email me back that you really read this, each and every one of you. Thanks in advance if you do read it.

Mel Dutton
Faith SD
mel.dutton@faithsd.com

Comment:

A recent press release indicated that nonresident deer hunting opportunities would be pushed back to the fifth draw, giving resident deer hunters an increased opportunity to acquire multiple licenses ahead of nonresidents. I am not sure I understand the proposal but if it gives residents that have a license an opportunity to get a second license before a nonresident has even one, is just plane wrong. I am a large landowner in Perkins County. Last year I had two friends apply for 353C. One a resident one a nonresident. The resident drew a license, the nonresident did not. This was what I expected based on the small percentage of nonresident licenses. I then had the nonresident apply for a left over tag in 49B. The nonresident did not draw a licence in that unit either but the resident drew a leftover license in 49B. There were no buck tags left after this draw so my nonresident friend did not get a license and my resident friend had two. This is absolutely not fair. I feel that residents should have the advantage for their first choice license over nonresidents but once they draw a license they shouldn't get a second one before the nonresident gets their first one. This would be a bad rule change if residents can get multiple licenses before a nonresident can get even one. I feel so strongly about this, that if this is approved, I will close my ranch to any resident hunting

Jerrud Kruse

Ramona SD

Jkrusekbrw@gmail

Comment:

Your new proposal is not fair to all citizens of South Dakota. All citizens should have equal opportunity at each individual season. Just cause someone hunts less doesn't mean they should have a better opportunity at their only choice. This proposal is not giving all citizens equal opportunities at all deer hunting seasons in South Dakota and has no support from the citizens. This proposal is only wanted by the commissioners so they can act like they are some super commissioners. Listen to the citizens of South Dakota and stop this now!

Robert Eddy

Spearfish SD

Comment:

As a hunter and landowner, I fully support the proposal to change the drawing system. I do not feel it is appropriate for one person to have multiple tags while others must be denied the opportunity to hunt. Landowners can always obtain a tag, for their own property, if they do not draw in the standard process and non-residents still can obtain a tag (8%) from the first drawing, that is not being eliminated. I do question the Muzzleloader being included in this proposal, but alteration can be made in the future. Thanks again for your hard work, and know that there are many out here who support the change.

Randy Lemke

Aberdeen SD

Comment:

This seems to be the same system that Minnesota uses and coming from Minnesota I have seen what a disaster this has been. The GFP claims that it is creating 3500 more opportunities to hunt deer this is not true, you are taking from the majority to cater to the few who will hunt only in certain counties. You are penalizing the majority for the sake of a few. that is socialism.

Casey Foster
Sparks NE
berrycreekllc@yahoo.com

Comment:

1/10/2019 SD Game, Fish & Parks Dear Commissioner,
I am a South Dakota landowner, Game, Fish, & Parks Habitat Cooperator, outdoor enthusiast, and conservationist.

The ranch I live on is located in the very southeast corner of Todd County and northeast corner of Cherry County Nebraska. I live in a unique situation where the state line runs through the middle of my property, approximately two thirds of the land is located in South Dakota and a third in Nebraska. Due to the fact that my house sits approximately 50 feet inside of Nebraska, I am a Nebraska resident. Currently there are only twelve Non-Resident deer permits available for all of Todd county. Therefore, drawing a permit to hunt deer every year on my own property is virtually impossible. If I am lucky, I can draw every other year, or every third year. On average I will winter 30 to 40 deer on my property. Managing the herd is difficult due to the lack of hunting opportunities for a Todd county.

Therefore, I am writing to ask that you consider increasing the number of non-resident deer permits that are issued in Todd county.

If you have any question about my commitment to wildlife and conservation Tim Olson was here to inspect the cooperator projects that I am involved in.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Casey J. Foster

Michael Beutler
Rapid City SD

Comment:

I think muzzle loader season should remain it's own separate draw.

Mark Peterson
Aberdeen SD

Comment:

You guys just aren't getting that the vast majority of the public wants nothing to do with this plan. It was a plan developed from poor questions in a poor survey and needs to be dropped. If this gets approved I think you can expect the legislature to be inundated with calls and requests to correct this travesty.

Jack Dokken
Pierre SD

Comment:

oppose

Chuck Klafka
Hill City SD
Klafka.chuck@gmail.com

Comment:

Hello

Can you please clarify if all free youth licenses with Preference are for both resident and non resident youth. I support any and all youth involvement regardless but it's never mentioned.
Thank you.

Toby Hinckley
Sturgis SD
tobyhinckley@ymail.com

Comment:

I think giving 2 chances for a deer license is better

Scott Wittrock
Harford SD
wittrock.scott@gmail.com

Comment:

I would however change mentor hunting back to age 10 and change the preference point availability to those 16 and older. There is no reason a child under 10 needs to be accumulating preference points so early. There are many studies showing that children under even up to 12 cannot handle the "death" of an animal such as a deer. Their brains are unable to process the difference. The change to preference points appears to be a money grab by GF&P.

I would actually favor an elimination of the preference point system altogether, straight up luck of the draw. You would most likely get more people applying.

Thomas Harnois
Pierre SD
Tharnois888@gmail.com

Comment:

Hate to agree with change but you heard us loud and clear. Appreciate that a lot, i will for sure support a change like this! Also this is for the deer tag changes. Has anything been said about caps on archery tags for nonreidents?

Jim Hearn
Rapid City SD
khearn@rushmore.com

Comment:

The new proposal in essence no change at all. I am so frustrated that I have to wait years to hunt close to my home. Easy River areas have significantly fewer areas to hunt deer limiting those that live out west. I now understand that the amount of voters East River is significantly higher than West River voters and the decision was now political. The wait for a Black Hills tag is long so there can no longer be "any" family traditions for Black Hills. Why not allow the choice of two tags both East and West River. Separate Black Hills from your proposal. This will favor local hunters who live in the Black Hills. East River hunters have a higher advantage of hunting close to home. Please allow us that live in the Black Hills the same advantage.

Phillip Johnson
Cantom SD
Phillip_johnson@mail.com

Comment:

With the time and effort the commission and SDGFP-OUTDOORS have spent on the deer allocation we could have educated the entire state on how the current system actually works. As a resident we have the best hunting opportunity around. If I applied for and bought a tag in each state that borders SD I still wouldn't have the same opportunities as I do right now being a resident and playing the draw game. I strongly oppose any change to our current system. It should be left alone, give the current system a couple years to work out any details and see how the cubes system will work in favor or disfavor to the state. We also need to address the non resident archery hunting opportunities to our state. I like seeing them here but there are too many hunters in key areas. An increase in non resident license cost to something more in line with the rest of the western states bordering us and having them limited to a drawing for mule deer is a must.

Corey Johnson
Sioux Falls SD
Coreyjo1@hotmail.com

Comment:

What in the world is this supposed to try and accomplish? It's not going to help anyone get a tag quicker! This is worse than the first proposal you put out.

Matt Anderson
Rapid City SD

Comment:

Why let someone have first choice in two areas? I have been putting in for black hills deer for a couple years now and have yet to draw. I liked the idea of limiting the field with this being first choice as opposed to letting people put first choice

Bruce Behm

Plymouth MN

bruceb@quazarcapital.com

Comment:

I am a non-resident landowner who pays over \$10K/yr. in property taxes, i invite friends to hunt with me, collectively we spend over \$5K/yr. for licenses and tags on deer and pheasants, plus quite a bit of money on other items., additionally i pay for 70 acres of food plots and allow the Fish & Game to study and collar deer on my property, I ask for very little from the State of SD, may i please get some consideration for getting deer tags, i feed them and create habitat for everyone around me. Why not let non-resident landowners get the same consideration as residents for drawing deer tags? thank you for your consideration. Bruce - Ps: you have some of the best CO's I have ever met, very knowledgeable and helpful.

Steve Mehlbrech

Salem SD

Comment:

This is no better than the first change you attempted to do. I still have to wait for the 2ns draw for west river if I apply for east river first. My county will be gone after the first draw. All you did was change the chart to make it look better. This compromise is a joke and I can tell you we are not falling for it. Leave it the way it is. I have been hunting for 15 years and have gone a year here or there without a tag, but its worth it! There are already so many left over tags EVERY YEAR! LEAVE IT THEE WAY IT IS. Stop trying to compromise for the 5%. Not one person complained how it was except generational hunter in a tiny area and outfitters. Please, do not change this! Keep it the same. This is no compromise , You are going to lose more money than you think and the poaching is going to get worse.. LEAVE IT ALONE . Your making the majority severely angry.

Daniel Severson

Chancellor SD

dan@bencoparts.com

Comment:

I think the Custer State park deer License should not be involve in the first option. It should stay separate as it always has

Mark Gunnufson

Marvin SD

Comment:

Very glad that after all this work you seem to have found a middle ground on this! Thank you!

Dustin Berg
Dell Rapids SD
dustin.hollie@gmail.com

Comment:

I still do not understand why we are trying to fix what isn't broken. I prefer to keep it the way it is.

Earl McArthur
Rapid City SD
Kotacal89@aol.com

Comment:

It is refreshing to know that public opinion and input was effective to reach an acceptable compromise regarding the deer licensing process.

Shannon Frericks
Ashton SD
goslinghunter@gmail.com

Comment:

It's really easy, and do it like this! One Buck tag per resident no matter what weapon do you use, they have to choose the East River or West River and Black Hills. All other tags for other stuff like Refuge and extra does should be drawn.

Brett Waibel
Draper SD
info@badriverhunts.com

Comment:

I'm not sure why someone needs to shoot more than 2 bucks in our state, resident or not. I was at the meeting yesterday and listen to 2 guys talk about youth yet they referred right back to them self's. I'm on the board of west river pheasants forever

Chad Boheman
Valley Springs SD
huntchad4@aol.com

Comment:

This still will not allow me to feed my family. You people need to stop trying to please the trophy hunters and listen to the people that use the hunting resources in this state to put food on our tables

Bob Deutz
Marshall MN
bobdeutz@gmail.com

Comment:

Why being a nonresident land owner of Deuel county is there virtually no chance to hunt rifle season for a buck on ones own land. Even if there was preference points or something that would give a person a chance to participate with some sort of realistic chance would be fair. Paying property tax each year to your county and state should give a person a chance to hunt a buck with a rifle on ones own land.

David Strasser
Lennox SD
davegail@midco.net

Comment:

To bad you caved to the hunters that apply for so many licenses, and leave the one license a year person, or youth out of the picture. It is to bad that those greedy hunters carry so much weight with your decision.

Bruce Keppen
Sioux Falls SD
bkeppen@hotmail.com

Comment:

good compromise

Jason Venjohn
Sioux Falls SD
jv.75@hotmail.com

Comment:

Will my preference point still count that I purchased last fall for this coming east river deer season?

Jared Vock
Summerset SD
jared.vock@gmail.com

Comment:

These changes are unnecessary, people can manage their preference points themselves in order to get the seasons they want. I do not want to be limited by some committee as to which licenses I want to be able to get. Depending on the year and financial situations I may be able to hunt more years than others. Furthermore, the muzzle loader should not be snowballed in with this. When you have the multiple draws I run the risk of losing opportunity to hunt in the areas I want to hunt in.

Dayne Weelborg

Estelline SD

daynew@wwtireservice.com

Comment:

I want to commend the commission on this compromise. As volunteers to our great state they have received unwarranted negative feedback that quite frankly is un-South Dakotan. They have listened to level headed outdoorsman who have tried to come up with an unbiased and fair proposal that doesn't meet everyone's expectations, but if you are open minded you can see its pretty darn good. It allows avid hunters to maintain there traditions and friendships across the state, while ultimately adding another 1,000 tags into the mix for the single tag hunters to more often draw there preferred tag. All the while not alienating the landowners who provide the habitat for the game animals we so dearly love to chasea place to eat and sleep. Thanks again to the commission, secretary Hepler "whom I once wanted to lose his job, and now consider a friend" Kevin Robling special projects coordinator, and Wayne Lloyd for his unrelenting desire to find common ground with all parties. You are to be commended for a job well done, South Dakota sportsman and women owe you a debt of gratitude. And in conclusion if and when this passes, lets all stay as committed to finding ways to get more habitat as we were to getting our way on this proposal.

Thank you,

Chris Kessler

Brandon SD

Chrisjkessler@gmail.com

Comment:

It seems this is a better alternative to the first deer allocation proposal given by the GFP. However, I still do NOT believe the muzzle loader season should be included into the new proposal.

David Del Soldato

Rapid City SD

sheyenne97@yahoo.com

Comment:

you should just leave it alone is working just fine as is

Dean Gesch
Sioux Falls SD
dgesch@sio.midco.net

Comment:

I am opposed to the deer license allocation proposal because it provides no chance for non-resident licenses in East River counties. As a resident, I am likely to get my preferred license, or at least my second choice, for East River. However, our long standing deer hunting tradition that includes non-resident friends and family for East River hunting will likely never happen again. The opportunity these non-resident hunters had, which allowed them to get a license at least every couple years in the third drawing, is now gone. In the county we hunt, all licenses are always gone after the third drawing, so a non-resident stands no chance with four resident-only drawings. What is the rationale for adding a fourth drawing? Wouldn't residents already have ample chances to get their preferred licenses in the first three drawings? And, why is West River treated differently with a percentage of licenses set aside for non-residents (East River has no such provision). Why couldn't non-residents at least be allowed in the third drawing and be able to accumulate preference points? Alternatively, why not allocate a small percentage of Special Buck licenses for non-resident applicants (both East and West River) and allow them to accumulate preference points. It may take quite a while to accumulate enough preference points but at least a non-resident would have a chance at a "dream" license. Overall, I am disappointed in no consideration for non-residents for East River licenses. At the very least, non-residents should be treated the same for East River and West River licenses.

Ronnie Jaenisch
Ashby MN
Rjjaenis@prtcl.com

Comment:

As a non resident and want to hunt east river deer what drawing can I apply in? It doesn't say in your proposal. Do we have to wait till last drawing.

John Lindell
Greenfield MN
john.lindell@bakertilly.com

Comment:

I am a non-resident landowner, paying over \$11,000 a year in real estate taxes. I have many family and friends that come out to hunt and fish each year. We spend thousands of dollars on licenses each year, while providing hundreds of acres of food plots, CRP and other habitat for the wildlife. I think there should be some consideration for non-resident landowners who provide food and habitat for the wildlife. If I am reading the deer license proposal correctly, a resident could have up to 11 deer licenses, before a non-resident would be eligible in the 5th drawing, on a first-come, first-served basis. Thank you. John

Tyler Fode
Piedmont SD
tylawfode@gmail.com

Comment:

support

Cody Haugen
Colorado Springs CO
Codyhaugen@yahoo.com

Comment:

Curious to the rational behind not allowing non-resident muzzleloader licenses?

Skip Miller
Columbia MO
S.miller2015@yahoo.com

Comment:

Needs to make it possible for nonresidents to get an east river rifle tag. By the time I am able to apply there are never any available.

Raymond Bender
Sioux Falls SD
rgbend@gmail.com

Comment:

G & F regs are composed by non--hunters who do not have a clue with reality! Why make regulations complicated---G& F want animals regulated--if a resident,allow him/her to purchase one or two license and hunt anywhere in the state--forget the technicalities

Joshua Lieberman
Pierre SD
jtlieberman@venturecomm.net

Comment:

good job ladies and gentlemen.
I'm proud of the perseverance that all have endured during this process.

one very important part that needs to be added or thought into further is emergency declarations. leading into this deer population reduction we were severely impacted by EHD. the last year we had it we lost alot of deer and we got into declaration discussion. This are fundemental building block to ensure we can react appropriately when the time comes.

im just asking for a review that makes sure we have not boxed ourselves in when the time comes.
what happened to us was having to make the call 1 week before season. Anyways good job.

David Lewis
Raymond SD
davidl6811@gmail.com

Comment:

Question: Does this proposed process affect Archery Deer tags. Can I purchase a resident archery deer tag and still be qualified for all the gun deer draws?
Thank You

Suggestion: to enable a better understanding of the amount of deer harvested by county in the state, have you considered an internet or web registration like several states already require. Oklahoma does this for turkey.

Matthew Korstjens
Milbank SD
ringneckchaser@gmail.com

Comment:

When are they going to address the fact that landowners can get 2 tags one for landowner and one during the general draw, in a season while other hunters cannot get any tag in the season. If they are going to give out landowner tags they should not be eligible for half of the tags for the normal draw.

Dan Snyder
Pierre SD
Shunkaska57501@yahoo.com

Comment:

I support leaving it the way it is, we do not need a change. It is about waiting your turn not making it impossible for us avid deer hunters. Thank you!!!!

Scott Gackle
Canton SD
Scott.gackle@hotmail.com

Comment:

I like the original way licenses were going to be allocated. I only hunt one area and it currently takes me 3 years to get a tag. I was hoping the original changes might help get it to every other. I'm not sure how somebody was able to draw east river and west river every year. So not sure how the new changes would effect them, either way I'm for any change that will allow me to get to the black hills more often. Thanks

Allen Schulte

Box Elder SD

allenschulte@goldenwest.net

Comment:

I will start by saying that a board member, from Madison, SD shouldn't be quoted, in regards to nonresident hunters. With that being said, are we improving anybody's chances of drawing with the new formula? Let me give a few scenarios. I am a East River landowner and also own a cabin in the Black Hills. My first 2 choices would be Black Hills and Muzzleloader, I don't care bc I can still get my landowner permit at home. Second scenario, I own a cabin in the Hills, own no land, and that is the only place I prefer to access, I would prefer that license. Third scenario, I live in south central SD, I apply for every license available to me, and usually get 2/3rds of them (some are better than others.) Fourth scenario, I live in East River SD and own no land, I own a cabin in the hills, and can't put my home county as one of my first 2 choices. Fifth scenario, I only have access to public land, I put muzzleloader and hills as my first 2 choices (refer back to scenario 1). Ok, now, what about previous preference points? Do they carry over? Do they gain if I don't draw? What happens if I only draw one of my 2 first choices. What happens if I don't draw any of my first two choices and don't draw on the second draw?

Robert Rowles

Rapid City SD

bohr549@yahoo.com

Comment:

I fully support the first option without modification. An individual should have to pick one season as first choice. I live in the Black Hills and can only hunt every two to three years. Let people hunt where they live. If limited tags are available to residents, then there should NOT be eight percent given to no-residents. Then you take another eight percent to land owner preference, that further reduces my chances as a resident of the Black Hills to hunt where I live. Only winners in this new proposal is the big money people who have connections to hunt east river, west river and Black Hills seasons.

Dennis Micko

Estelline SD

dbmicko@gmail.com

Comment:

I certainly appreciate the new deer licensing proposal and thank the commission for listening to the public input that led to the change. Thank you!

Philip Neuharth

Menno SD

Pneuharth@hotmail.com

Comment:

I support the current deer license proposal. Thanks

Todd Rhew
Hot Springs SD
trhew2@goldenwest.net

Comment:

My question is, and always has been, if hunters are being passed over on any of the draws, then why is there such a thing as "Left over" licenses? Shouldn't these tags go to the hunters that were "unsuccessful" in the draws to begin with? Also, why are non resident hunters getting any tags, when there are residents that have to wait 3, 4, even 5 years before they are able to draw a tag? Start putting the people who live, and pay taxes, in South Dakota first.

Harold Bickner
Kimball SD
BICKNER@MIDSTATESD.NET

Comment:

This is an excellent compromise

Larry Wynia
Yankton SD
lcwynia@gmail.com

Comment:

First draw deer seasons. I think this I'd s great compromise. Just do it!

Bruce Haines
Mitchell Sd 57301 SD
brucehaines@qwestoffice.net

Comment:

Way too many rules!

Cody Ulmer
Menno SD

Comment:

Leave it the same it was, raise the price of out-of-state, and make the bow hunters go into a lottery and not have them guaranteed. It's that simple. Other states charge more than we do, and we gladly pay to go and hunt there because we simply hate all the out-of-staters who come in and pay just as much as we do for a tag.

Eric Gednalske

Pierre SD

eric.gednalske@gmail.com

Comment:

I want more hunters to be able to harvest one deer, instead of a few hunters harvesting multiple.

This relationship must exist to create the next generation of properly conserved hunts.

Bob Lee

Desmet SD

cardinallee1982@gmail.com

Comment:

How in the world can residents keep track of this. I have been applying for resident deer license for years. I have noticed that license for residents not filled have just disappeared.

Examples, this was the first year I applied for Snyder's Kingsbury county. I was denied but when I looked at draw results there were license not filled.

There was no chance to really in a second draw. They just disappeared. This has happened in other countries as well. I talk to land.

Also, our of State tag price needs to be increased.

Frustrated out doorsman.

Gary Lueth

Blooming Prairie MN

garylueth@gmail.com

Comment:

Your contempt for private landowners is mind numbing. You are debating 2,3,4,5 licenses for people that don't own land! Who feeds the deer! No hunting signs if you are from Sioux Falls!

Political idiots! Your contempt for private landowners is mind numbing. You are debating 2,3,4,5 licenses for people that don't own land! Who feeds the deer! No hunting signs if you are from Sioux Falls!

Brian Odde

Mound City SD

brianodde@gmail.com

Comment:

Leave it as is.

Joel Dykstra

Platte SD

joeldykstra@gmail.com

Comment:

This is not good for South Dakota hunters no matter how many times you revise it. Please hear us and drop it.

James Gruber

Estelline SD

jgruber148@yahoo.com

Comment:

for the life of me , this new deer hunting proposal is absolutely hard to understand.. i keep saying let politicians get involved and leave it up to them to destroy a good thing.. number one, and foremost, if the commission was an elected entity most of this would never have happened in the first place.. appointed positions rarely ever work.. number 2, if you really cared about numbers, and this is a simple one... remove this 50% of all licenses going to land owners... many of who do nothing for wildlife, hunt and will continue to hunt on land not leased or owned by them... we see it every fall,.. and how many tickets are written per year for this offense..... few if any.... and why? simple.. politics,, and third... one buck per person per year is enough for anyone... spread it out like you want,,, but only one buck... if family tradition is so important then hunting a doe should not bother any one.....

Brandon Schmitt

Pierre SD

Bigschmitt9@hotmail.com

Comment:

This proposal is worse than the first one. No one should be allowed both an east and west river tag until the 3rd draw. It will not alleviate any of the draw problems as everyone will still apply for east and west river. There is no one that needs a second tag until the 3rd draw. If y'all are going to go with this proposal you just as well not change it at all. If you want to open up more tags eliminate the nonresident leftover draw and only allow them to apply in the first draw after that all leftover tags should convert back to residents only.

Dylan Vogel

Groton SD

Dylanj1000@hotmail.com

Comment:

We as the people who pay your salary do not want any changes to the deer season. This is completely ignoring what we want. You are suppose to be representing hunters not your own views!

Douglas Symonds

Spearfish SD

bettysymonds1@hotmail.com

Comment:

This new approach appears to be more workable process.

Robert Woerman

Brandon SD

drbobw@alliancecom.net

Comment:

Thank you for listening to the public, South Dakota Hunters. SDGFP must retain the support of South Dakota Hunters or there will no longer be a hunter from South Dakota in the field.

Clinton Peterson

Box Elder SD

Comment:

Much better than first however the only thing that really needs changed is the nonresident archery deer should be restricted to 1 tag statewide or a limit on number of tags for nonresident. They slam the public land west river and take a large number of deer from the public lands. Your percentage of deer killed by bow is way off because you are not counting the number of deer that are hit and lost.

James Cantalope

Eureka SD

cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

When third draw happens you should be able to go to same season if you only have one tag, lots people just like to hunt one unit, if you have a east river tag, u might want a second tag there cause your a hunter who prefers not to drive across state to shoot another deer

Arlin Angerhofer

Big Stone City SD

arlinverna@tnics.com

Comment:

Will there still be landowners licenses?

Charles Baldwin

Custer SD

sbaldwin9@gmail.com

Comment:

The original proposal on this issue last year was better in the intent to provide deer tags to more hunters and this just takes it back to easier for one hunter to get multiple tags. I recommend going back to the original proposal for fairness to more hunters.

Kelly Mahoney

Starbuck MN

kellyjmahoney@yahoo.com

Comment:

If I understand this proposal correctly, non-residents will now have an EVEN WORSE chance of getting a license than the previous system where you had to wait for the third draw. I was born and raised in South Dakota. I would love to hunt with my brothers and sister and cousins, but there was NOT A SINGLE rifle license available for ANY non-resident adult in Brule county when third draw finally came. Residents on the other hand could get multiple deer licenses before a non-resident could even attempt to apply. More than once, the only realistic license I could attain was a bow license. Tough to justify this license and a trip home when my family can shoot out to 400 yards but I can only reach out 40 yards. Non-residents coming to hunt means additional spending that is a huge blessing for our state. Why can't non-residents enter into the 2nd draw? I can't be the only home state person who doesn't have a realistic hope of coming home to hunt with family. PLEASE, please, please reconsider this plan!

Glenn Purington

Rapid City SD

glennpur@rap.midco.net

Comment:

Once again the GF+P buckles under to the landowners and ranchers of this state. Now you say they can hunt on they're ranches and have a tag for the Black Hills. I thought you were going to make it more fair and provide more hunting opportunities

Joshua Aman
Minneapolis MN
zocha316@gmail.com

Comment:

I was strongly hoping that there would be an opportunity for non-residents to get an 'any-deer' tag in all counties. I was born and raised in SD and still have a farm there in Edmunds County (east river). Our land is kept local and purposely rented to only local farmers. My grandfather, father, uncles, brothers, etc., have been hunting our land for years. I have taken a job at a university in Minneapolis and since then have never been able to acquire an 'any-deer' (rifle) tag with the rest of my family. It's certainly not the worst case scenario, it's just disheartening to know that every year I still go back home to hunt with my family, pay the higher fees to hunt back home as a non-resident, and yet cannot participate in buck hunting on our farm anymore because I do not have an opportunity to apply for an any-deer tag (rifle) in our county, and most likely will never again be able to, based on the application statistics. It's a family tradition that I can no longer do because I am a non-resident and I don't see this changing anytime soon. The last time I called to talk to DNR about this, they simply said, sorry there's nothing we can do for you. Just very disappointing.

Jason Heintzman
Ipswich SD
daksat@valleytel.net

Comment:

Leave it the way it is, what good is it if you only allow a max of 2 tags when someone would like to get double east river tags as applicable today but then can't apply for west river for same year which in turn would be over the limit of 2 tags total, it would be 3, so now you can only apply for 1 east river and 1 west river and not allow for the 2nd antlerless tag for east river. This most certainly will decrease what you are trying to do and making it harder for everyone to enjoy what we have now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Wyatt Skelton
Bryant SD
wyattskelton@hotmail.com

Comment:

Allow muzzleloader deer season to additionally to be open simultaneously for the two week antelope season statewide.

I know this change is forced upon the hunters and believe it should be evaluated yearly and not in 3 years. Especially if it is a major flop and have to be stuck with it for 3 years before changed or modified.

James Klukas
Hotsprings SD
jamesklukas27@gmail.com

Comment:

All you unelected gfp officials , your surveys are utter nonsense. You are merely attempting to paint a picture that public input influences policy. The purpose of these surveys are purely and solely public relations and a blatant deception.

Andrew Schmidt

Piedmont SD

k8hvntn2@yahoo.com

Comment:

The only problem I see wrong with this bill is it land owners can still apply for two tags also. Landowners automatically get a tag they should only be able to apply for one other tag. Talking to people this is what angers everybody.

Garlan Bigge

Huron SD

gbigge@hur.midco.net

Comment:

Leave it like it also has been.

James Glowacki

Big Sky MT

glowackijim@gmail.com

Comment:

I know that wildlife officials are doing their best to manage the deer population. However, as a non-resident hunter the regulations just keep getting more complicated . It takes some effort to figure things out during the license/draw period

Kelly McPhillips

Yankton SD

kellymcphillips@hotmail.com

Comment:

in addition to supporting this most recent proposal to allow application for two seasons at once. please begin to evaluate and consider the elimination of the preference system and return to simple lottery draw requiring hunters to identify if they did or did not have a license in the previous year. The preference point system can't work and is problematic as i commented in 1985 when it was instituted. The preference systems across the west have destroyed the mathematic probability of drawing a license by artificially diluting the pool. Thank you for your diligent work on difficult problems. -kelly

Tim Brumbaugh

Rapid City SD

dakotatim@yahoo.com

Comment:

Deer Season new first draw limits. I think you had it right the first time, limit everyone to a single first draw tag. You compromised and I understand but you should have stuck too your guns.

Jason Merickel

Wadena MN

jmerickel@merickellumber.com

Comment:

I hunt private land in perkins county and I don't understand why it takes preference points to draw the West River Special Buck. Maybe there is a way to create a seperate tag for hunters that are using an outfitter versus ones like myself that have permission to hunt private ground. I get that you want as many opportunities as possible for your residents, but when I don't draw a tag it doesn't create more opportunity for anyone on the property we hunt. It would also create less competition in the west river draw, by making the special buck license basically first come first serve.

Also in regards to doe tags. I think if the property you are hunting is over a certain size there should be more doe tags available. both years i hunted out there we saw dozens of does each day and we could not get a license because residents eat up all the tags. because of this there are zero does taken off of this property. thank you for your time.

Andrew Farley

Winner SD

af.shibby@gmail.com

Comment:

I am in agreement on the with the first 3 drawings. I don't see why anyone would need more than 6 licenses

Brandon Tekrony

Brookings SD

brandon.tekrony@hotmail.com

Comment:

I support this compromise.

Randall Pratt

Mitchell SD

rpratt@mit.midco.net

Comment:

I am curious as to how landowner gratis tags will figure into this. As with the special buck tag limiting the applicant to a single opportunity in the first draw, a landowner tag should also count against the draw. If not landowners will skew the process and could essentially have 3 applications in the first round. Thank you for your consideration and again I believe the initial proposal may have been the best for all.

Tom Wilcox
Sioux Falls SD
tomwilcox@yahoo.com

Comment:

I see no need to make any change whatsoever to the existing system. I believe this feeling is shared by the vast majority of the deer hunters. I have been a deer hunter for a long time and I'm not aware of anyone that sees a need for a change.

Clark Baker
Sioux Falls SD
clarkbaker27@yahoo.com

Comment:

Leave it alone.....NOW u have made it more confusing

Nancy Wetering
Tea SD
nanc4931@gmail.com

Comment:

Passing this proposal would allow our family (5 hunters) to uphold our annual hunting trips!!

Casey Jensen
Lennox SD
casey.r.jensen@gmail.com

Comment:

In favor!

Brett Hudson
Harrisburg SD
mallard_24@hotmail.com

Comment:

This is a much improved proposal. Good compromise. As a hunter who takes advantage of East River and Black Hills deer in the same year, I support this proposal.

Weary Young

Burke SD

wlysky64@yahoo.com

Comment:

Makes more sense than anything I've seen so far in all the messing around with ideas to make changes. Would like to see preference points actually mean something. I think a preference point should get license before any non preference application is filled.

Ronald Smith

Deadwood SD

rgsmith2@live.com

Comment:

It is my recommendation, for the first draw, everyone applies for 1 rifle license by area, using preference points, including non-residents. Non-Residents are allotted a % of the tags. This method gives equal access to SD residents who have a favorite hunting spot/region, before someone else gets two licenses. The Non-resident % provides out of state family an occasional hunt at home. Thanks for taking input.

Randy Routier

Buffalo SD

Comment:

I just heard through the grapevine of a proposal to limit the number of nonresident archery licenses on private land. If this is true I would highly disagree with this decision. As far as the new rifle license allocation I am fine with it.

Robert Kadlecik

Sioux Falls SD

Bobmarhakad@icloud.com

Comment:

I believe the original one first draw, is the fairest not this second. The original one first draw accomplishes best to give EVERYONE A CHANCE TO DRAW. I sat at a meeting in Yankton next to a man on my left who had 7 deer licenses and the guy to my

Terry Halvorson
Yankton SD
ttllhh4@gmail.com

Comment:

I still don't like the second change still odds are better applying for all separate than having to choose 2 I have deer hunted for last 37 years leave it the same or you will loose more hunters then you think you will gain know myself and numerous other friends and myself have been looking into hunting bordering states next year if this goes through

Travis Donelan
Garretson SD

Comment:

I personally don't mind the new proposal. Keep it similar to the current draw with a couple small tweaks. A complete makeover isn't gonna win anyone over

Don Hantzsche
Summerset SD
Tlwdah@gmail.com

Comment:

Although this is much better then other proposals I still disagree with including muzzleloader season with all the rifle seasons. I believe it should be a stand alone season as it is today just like bow season is. This is a primitive weapons season not a rifle season. I hunt muzzleloader season because I can no longer draw a bow nor draw to load a bolt in a crossbow unless I buy a \$1500 crossbow which I can no afford. With muzzleloader season being lumped in with rifle season the chances of me ever drawing another muzzleloader any tag are slim to none. If your determined to lump it with another season make it bow season.

Jacob Maras
Crooks SD
Jcbmaras@yahoo.com

Comment:

The proposal does not fully define how one would apply for or receive 2 tags in the first draw. Do we get two first choices? Can they both be for east river or can you only apply for two separate seasons. This comment area is not mobile friendly and may prevent some people from fully being able to express themselves. How are preference points allowed to the two first choices? Can they be applied 1/2 and 1/2 or do all preference points need to be applied to one first choice? If we do not get two first choices this (in my opinion) is no better than the previous proposal because you cannot decide where preference points should be applied in a logical manner. I plan my east and west river deer hunting trips separately with different groups of people and this system appears very detrimental to the way I and my friends hunt. A much more logical system would be creating multiple shorter seasons. This would allow more people in the field and scheduled trips would be more reliable on a year to year basis.

Brian Becker

Rosemount MN

becker.m.brian@gmail.com

Comment:

I believe nonresident hunters should be eligible for at least 10% of the overall hunting licenses for the West River, Black Hills and Refuge hunting seasons during the first drawing. I believe that nonresident hunters bring in a considerable amount of revenue to SD during this part of the year that small businesses depend on. I think that making changes to the license application structure for nonresidents may have a negative impact on registration turnout and small business revenues in future seasons to effectively manage the states deer population.

Gary Sedivy

Vermillion SD

karsenedivy@yahoo.com

Comment:

Why not apply for all, but only be able to receive two like you do on elk apps. You will make more money on preference points.

James Cantalope

Eureka SD

cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

Follow up to my earlier comment, in third draw u can apply for same season if you already have a tag in the following, east/ west river deer. Including special buck, black hill deer, all others if u have a tag already u have to wait til 4th drawing to apply in that season again, so in third draw u can apply for one additional tag in the following east west river deer including spec buck, black hills deer, So after the third draw u can have two tags in these three season only for total 5 period

Doug Leschisin

Eden SD

lesch@venturecomm.net

Comment:

This proposal is too complicated for most people. I predict GFP will get a storm of complaints and end up going back to the old drawing system or a less complicated one.

Harry Mitchell

Hot Springs SD

wanesharose1@gmail.com

Comment:

happy with things the way they have been. looks to me that I will get less tags.

Kelly Blair
Milesville SD
blairhwy34@gmail.com

Comment:

I do not understand the rationale behind this proposal. It appears that the GF&P is trying to get more hunters into the field. Why is this necessary? Aren't all or nearly all of the deer licenses state wide already being sold? As a landowner, who does not charge to hunt my place, it seems like getting more people who don't already have a place to hunt out in the field will make the problems of gaining access worse. The hunters who come here have been coming here from between 5 years up to over thirty years. If my hunters don't draw tags, I will not let any new people hunt my property. The way the state of South Dakota ie, the GF&P are interpreting old laws and making it impossible for landowners to keep hunters from walking unimproved section lines to access public lands is causing friction between landowners and the GF&P. In my opinion since these unimproved section lines, and since I pay the taxes on them, the public should not be allowed to force their way onto my ranch. To me this is not only a violation of my rights as a landowner, it to me it is trespassing. To add to this, I have had two major fires on this ranch in the last ten years, one of which was CAUSED by a group of trespassers. I cannot stop these "trespassers" from walking my property, and I can't stop them from smoking and possibly throwing burning cigarette butts away. I can however, control my hunters that have permission, they follow my rules, or they hit the trail. The GF&P need to mend some fences with the landowners, instead of forcing this stuff down the landowners throats. If it aint broke, don't fix it.

Darin Blow
Crooks SD
Darin.blow@dmshealth.com

Comment:

There is nothing wrong with the current system

James Cantalope
Eureka SD
cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

Continued, last and final input on drawing, you should only be allowed one tag in each season of the following. 1 in Custer, 1 in refuge, 1 in muzzleloader if successful, rest up to five for total five overall

Roy Hendrickson
Caputa SD
rhendrickson@nvanet.com

Comment:

Not sure why the change when the hunting public do not want or ask for it to change, I guess a select few have the most influence with those in charge.

Terry Kohrt
Lennox SD
bigt45sd@hotmail.com

Comment:

Once again, the only thing GF&P is interested in is selling more licenses. Deer numbers are down so low everywhere I usually hunt, it is not worth going. Definitely opposed to selling any more licenses. Need to sell less and build the deer herd back up.

Ron Erion
Spearfish SD
rerion@gmail.com

Comment:

I preferred the 1 first draw proposal but I do understand that there was a lot of opposition to the original and I applaud the Commission and SDGFP for listening and accepting a plan that will allow 2 first choice applications.

As I stated, I would have preferred the original proposal.

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

Comment:

really now we are going down this road, leave it as is there is nothing wrong with it

Scott Kuck
Aberdeen SD
kucklaw@nvc.net

Comment:

NO change is needed. As evidenced by the "compromise" you have had to make. The system was never broken to begin with. You have messed around with this proposal needlessly. Just leave well enough alone!

Tom Riddle
Mitchell SD
Riddleandsons@gmail.com

Comment:

Again leave deer licenses as they were ,this is what South Dakotans want,,

Josh Baumann

Stevens Point WI

jbaumann@stpaulequips.com

Comment:

As a former resident, I accrued 4 years of preference points for East River Deer. I moved away in March of 2018 and now sit with 4 preference points that I would love to be able to use! I was writing to encourage an open opportunity for NR hunters to draw buck tags east river. Thanks for listening!

Sincerely,

Josh Baumann

Jeff Peterson

Hartford SD

Comment:

Confusing. Not a solution.

If I, or my son stop hunting somewhere its going to be because we don't have a safe and productive place to hunt, not because we can't get a tag. Type of tag (buck or doe) also does not matter.

Do you know a resident who has stopped pheasant hunting or deer hunting because they don't have a place to hunt, or no longer want to compete on public lands? I do.

Do you know someone who no longer hunts because they can't draw a deer tag? I don't.

Access to all school lands, and BLM with clear boundary markers would help.

James Stengle

Yankton SD

jbstengle@gmail.com

Comment:

As a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB), I find it strange and disheartening that you treat an important but small segment of deer hunters with indifference. My concern is for SD landowners that are non-residents. You make it almost impossible for East River non-resident landowners to draw a deer tag to hunt on their own land. I know of several NR that want to hunt deer on their property that they pay taxes on and actually have created and maintained excellent wildlife habitat. A landowner, whether a resident or non-resident, should be able to secure a deer tag to hunt on their own property on which they pay taxes. Please loosen up your rules to allow these tax-paying owners of lands that they own and have owned for generations to be able to secure a deer license. They are all willing to pay the NR fees but have little or no chance of ever drawing the tag. This is clearly discrimination and it likely will need a court challenge to change your attitude against these NR landowners. Wake up! If hunter numbers are declining, it shouldn't be so difficult for a NR landowner to draw a deer tag on their own property. There are court cases the uphold landowner rights regarding hunting licenses/tags.

Justin Murphy

Lyons SD

justintmurphy@outlook.com

Comment:

Commissioners,

I am writing in regards to the new proposal for the deer tag allocation. I commend the commission and sportsmen who were able to work together and find a compromise that works for everyone. From the beginning my stance was for no change to the system and I was firm on holding my ground. After much open discussion with other sportsmen and research I have concluded that change is inevitable. I believe the current proposal is the best option for both sides. No matter what decision is made there will be individuals who do not agree. It is important to follow these changes closely and to readdress them in three years if the new system is not working. Hopefully we can pass this proposal and move onto more important issues that our state faces such as habitat, quality herd management, and public access. Thank you for all of your hard work and service to the state.

Justin Murphy
Lyons, SD

Jim Riis

Pierre SD

jkriis@pie.midco.net

Comment:

I really like the new proposal for deer licenses & want to thank the staff & commission for all the hard work they did to come up with this.
Hunters in South Dakota have many opportunities & that is because we have such a great staff of biologists & commissioners!

William Duffy

Sioux Falls SD

duffy.bill@principal.com

Comment:

The black powder season should happen before the regular rifle season as it is in most other states.

Jason Seykora

Harrisburg SD

jaseykora@gmail.com

Comment:

I feel that this new proposal is more than confusing at best. If its not broken don't try and fix it. Leave it alone

Julie Janson

Custer SD

Cjascjanson@aol.com

Comment:

By caving in and giving some residents 2 deer licenses while some of us don't get one at all so they can carry on their "tradition" of hunting in two different places, you are completely destroying our tradition of deer hunting. We hunt in one place and only get a license every 2 or 3 years while others get 2 licenses in one year.

This is so wrong. I cannot find words strong enough to express my anger.

You must serve ALL residents of SD by giving everyone an equal chance at our first choice or I'm going to contact my representative.

Kyle Wilson

Mitchell SD

klwilson@santel.net

Comment:

Now I do not argue that change can sometimes be a good thing, I still do not believe that combining everything into a single draw is the answer. This proposed system give landowners preference in all seasons above everyone else as they do not need to apply for their most preferred tag which is almost always going to be where they own land, as they are guaranteed their landowner tag. Now they dont need to worry about applying for their "home" unit in the first draw and can instead apply for a different unit in the first draw because they will fall back on the landowner tag giving them preference over the rest of us have to apply for everything. Maybe my position is out of line, but just because you own land east river and are guaranteed that tag shouldn't give you better chances to draw a black hills tag then the next guy. A landowner tag should count towards your ability to apply for multiple tags in the first draw.

Seth Warner

Gettysburg SD

sdw15magnum@gmail.com

Comment:

I would like to see a proposal that would make recipients of the Apprentice/Mentored tags ineligible for the regular season drawings. From what I have seen the long season Sept-Jan has negatively impacted archery season and the regular season hunting. From what I saw in Walworth county over the last couple years the numbers are way down from previous years, the deer that you are able to find seem to be overhunted. Making those who have gotten a tag for 5 dollars ineligible for regular season tags would help those of us who have hunted for years be able still get a buck tag. I personally know of 14 and 15 year old hunters that had 5 or more tags including the apprentice tag this past year.

Ryan Fliehs

Corsica SD

rrfliehs@gmail.com

Comment:

Please do not change anything with the current deer drawing structure.

Paul Kruse

Brookings SD

murphykruse@gmail.com

Comment:

I don't see the problem with the way the deer licenses we're being handled. I have seen and heard far more opposition to the previous plan you tried to propose and see the same with this plan. I am trying to understand why the change. It's like the board feels they have to do something, if it isn't broke why fix it? If you would spend this amount of time on habitat as you do with changing rules we might not have this problem! You are just making the resident sportsman/women more upset. I would also really like to see how many of the actual board members really participate in conservation and hunting. I'm getting more and more upset with the way SD is handling this. I spend thousands of dollars each year on hunting and it only seems to get worse. I guess I will have to look outside the State for other opportunities! Please figure it out!

Scott Rosenkranz

Sturgis SD

scott.d.rosenkranz.mil@mail.mil

Comment:

I fully support this, I supported the first one. Right now someone by the "luck of the draw" can get 4 first choice tags and another may not get any first choices. We need this to be more equal which will help in teaching younger hunters game conservation. As it stands, if I cannot get the tags I want in the location I want, I may not hunt or my children may not. Those fighting this either typically get all their tags, have land-owner preference and always get a tag, or just assume it is big government and haven't fully looked in to it.

Douglas Eoute

Stillwater MN

deoute@hotmail.com

Comment:

8% for me applying for rifle buck tags especially W. River that I have hunted since 1991 is very low number. Do appreciate being able to archery hunt many of those years. But getting a rifle draw license every other or 3rd year draw is disconcerting. Thanks

Marlyn Krosch

Custer SD

smagick@hotmail.com

Comment:

I preferred the earlier proposal as I would like to get a deer hunting license in the area I live more often I also feel that one deer tag per year per hunter is enough

Russell Andrews
Rapid City SD
styknstring@gmail.com

Comment:

I support the current proposal but I'm not sure about the specifics of preference point accumulation. If I were to apply for WRD and MZD in the first draw and receive my license for WRD; would I receive a preference point for MZD? If so, I would support the current proposal. I feel MZD should not be included in the first draw and be treated like Archery Deer due to the limited number of any deer tags issued for MZD.

Ryan Campbell
Sioux Falls SD
Rkcampbell90@gmail.com

Comment:

There are a few different areas that I oppose with his current proposal. The first being that we are allocating 8% of the deer licenses in South Dakota for out-of-state hunters. I continually hear about trying to get more people in our state involved in hunting yet we are giving away a substantial portion to people outside the borders of South Dakota. As a father of three young children I would much rather see those opportunities for a buck license given to our young kids, our veterans, our elderly or anybody inside of South Dakota who would like an opportunity to hunt before giving it to out of state people.

In addition I would like to know where this desire to change our license system is coming from? It feels like we are making changes for the sake of making changes. The system of cubing the preference points makes sense to me as it allows those who've gone longest without a tag a better opportunity to get drawn in the unit that they would like. We have not given that system any time to see if it will work and help get more people into the field and now we are trying to come up with another system.

Trever Marquardt
Harrisburg SD

Comment:

oppose

Scott Gamo
Cheyenne WY
gamowolk@yahoo.com

Comment:

Dear GFP- as former SD resident I am glad to see that the 8% NON-RESIDENT tag allocation was kept for the West River and Black Hills tags. I am curious why a similar approach has not historically or currently been taken with East River Tags? It would seem from a deer population standpoint the heavier agricultural-based habitats found in East River counties certainly support robust populations of white-tails (certainly landowner opinions, relatives included suggest). Often I have noticed many third-round drawing tags yet available, albeit limited to antlerless or doe tags. To meet population management goals it may benefit GFP to consider ways to increase out of state interest to purchase tags thereby leading to enhanced harvest potentially helping in minimizing very late season depredation issues and other landowner concerns. Part of increasing that interest could include allocating some number of any deer with antlerless tag to better meet population goals and out of state interest. This could also be done in a manner consistent with other states' approach to non-resident hunters with the increase in fee for the tag generating more revenue for the management of the species. Thanks you for the opportunity to comment.

Douglas Hayes
Spearfish SD
hayes3@spe.midco.net

Comment:

You caved into pressure. Keep it to one first choice or you should have left it alone. One first choice includes more hunters getting licenses instead of one hunter getting two first choices. It now takes about 4 years for me to get a Black Hills license, (that's all I apply for) it will remain the same. EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED with new proposal.

Clark Baker
Sioux Falls SD
clarkbaker27@yahoo.com

Comment:

I would like a count who was for or against I still think it is a terrible idea

Troy Stulken

Pierre SD

Comment:

The money need to change the License computer program will be more then two million I would guess. GFP just spent this money last year on changing point system. Problem is not how you draw license. System in place works and one off best in nation. Take money going to waste on new program and use it on the wildlife. People have trouble finding a place to hunt that they can get a tag is the problem. Make more places or better place for the public. On opening day of west river deer season nine different group showed up to hunt one quarter of walk in next to were I hunt. That was not safe for those groups. Some how three deer were harvested without any hunting accidents. Always leftover tags in this area. Just like many units. Just very few public deer hunting spots. The areas that take many years to draw have lots of public land for people to hunt. No changing this problem with what every you do!

Dean Guthmiller

Casper WY

diggoff@aol.com

Comment:

I lived in SD for 35 years and had to move for employment reasons. The way the deer drawings are it takes me 3 years to get a tag as a now nonresident. Giving even more preference to SD residents, when they have eh most options for the least amount of money, is just another slap in the face. No one needs multiple deer tags for any reason other than they like to hunt. any other argument is nonsense. It is not economically feasible to hunt deer for subsistence reasons. It's cheaper to go to the store. As a former resident I always felt like a bastard stepchild when it came to hunting and now it's even worse. There are may people, 4 in our group of 5, that were born and raised in SD and have fond memories of hunting just as the residents do. It's just unfortunate that having moved away now prevents us from enjoying the hunt. Now that is made even more difficult. There are many "residents" who do not have the length of time as a resident as we do but still reap the benefits.

Travis Everson

Castlewood SD

Comment:

For the life of me I am not sure why GFP continues to push this issue. Probably 90% of the people I talk to oppose a change to the current system. The remaining 10% are neutral on the issue. When I ask around about who supports this system I am being told it is people that live in the Black Hills area and want to hunt there (with a buck tag) every year. If that's true that can't be representative of the majority of sportsman in the state. My worry is that this is another example of government (GFP) thinking they know what is best for the public. Well God gifted all of us with the ability to think for ourselves, so please represent the majority on this issue.

Please reconsider,

Travis Tisher

Watertown SD

tisher@datatruck.com

Comment:

I applaud the group for attempting to enhance hunting opportunities. However, in my opinion, if the stated goal of getting more hunters in the field is the measuring stick, the proposals miss the mark. I will give two scenarios specific to me. Prior to significant quantity of licenses cut in Marshall County, my extended family (grandfathers, fathers, uncles, youth, etc) applied for any deer first choice and any antlerless second. Every year, we all had one or the other tag. This gave all 10-12 people a reason to meet at "deer camp". Of course not all harvested deer, and that was not our priority. Sitting on the tailgate drinking hot chocolate with grandpa was the priority. After any antlerless tags were eliminated and any deer cut significantly, we were on a two to three year cycle to draw. Those that did not draw did not make the trip to Marshall County and eventually all but me has quit deer hunting. 11 people lost.

With respect to youth and bringing new hunters to the sport I have three children currently age 12, 16, 18. We all acknowledge other activities make finding time to hunt a challenge for kids (and parents of active kids). Personally we exclusively hunted the first one or two weeks, depending on the calendar, prior to archery season. And the final two weeks after Jan 1 when archery and pheasant hunters were not afield. We hunt public land that is heavily pressured during those seasons. This past year, with archery starting early, and youth season ending Jan 1, unfortunately two of my kids did not harvest deer. We competed with, and lost, to those hunting pheasants and archery deer. Not a complaint, just a fact. I have heard so many other parents say they are not interested in taking their kids hunting because the public land is marched through every day and they don't feel comfortable asking permission on private land. Maybe that's not right, but it is a fact and I feel the same way.

What if we went back to the days where there were more hunters afield? Add license numbers, add any antlerless tags. I wonder what this would do to deer numbers. As stated earlier, my group of 12 did not fill 12 tags. I know the harvest data proves the same for other groups as well. It seems to me the focus is moving toward appeasing those who are trophy hunters rather than the families and friends who hunt together.

Perhaps it could be practical to block parcels of land for new or youth hunters only. Not all season, but perhaps a couple weeks. Especially late in the year when deer yard up and provide great opportunities for those who are not so experienced.

The proposals on the table are confusing. Consider fishing regulations in the state. We are coming full circle from time decades ago with statewide limits, through years of body specific limits, back to (nearly) statewide regulations again. In the name of simplifying regulations. Why are we running the same route with game regulations?

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on why I feel hunter numbers are down, and unfortunately, with confusing proposals that do not address the root causes, will continue to decline.

Joseph Creager

Rapid City SD

Comment:

Why was the change implemented? The system seemed to be working fine. If it ain't broke don't fix it.

Paul Lemair
Sioux Falls SD
pdlemair@att.net

Comment:

support

Dennis Leland
Mitchell SD
dennisleland@me.com

Comment:

I have purchased a number of preference points over the years for tags in the hills and west river with plans to apply in the future. I am concerned that I will lose all of them with this proposed change.

Dennis Leland
Mitchell SD
dennisleland@me.com

Comment:

I cannot see how the proposed change will get more residents licenses. The high demand areas will still be high demand and folks who only want to hunt in one area will still only hunt in one area. If they don't draw a tag for that area they will wait till next year (just like they do now) rather than apply for a low demand area. It does appear that out of state hunters are given a better chance with the new system as they can apply in first round competing with resident hunters, this will result in residents NOT drawing their desired area more often.

Greg Hieb
Brandon SD
greg.hieb@gmail.com

Comment:

Committee members,
Stop. I urge you to just pause. Think this through. Your proposals have caused much consternation to all SD deer hunters. What is your motivation? What is your agenda?
If your honest motivation is to get more hunters afield, this new legislation fails. You have clearly failed to outline exactly how these changes will accomplish your stated goal. The bottom line is that you are in charge of allocating a very desirable limited resource of SD deer tags. This needs to be accomplished in an equitable way. The system already exists. Don't complicate it.
You cannot legislate hunters into tag prosperity. They need to buy preference points. They need to study draw statistics. They need to study the public land atlas. They need to knock on doors. They might even need to travel. They need to be open to other opportunities ie. archery, muzzleloader. If they are not passionate enough to "find a way", they are not passionate enough. Period. For "They", it is just easier to be a loud complaining minority. This is what you are catering to. The system already exists. It is not broken. It is fair. Where will it stop? What crowd are you going to placate next at another's expense?

Eric Bauer

Volga SD

ebauer40@gmail.com

Comment:

I applaud you for listening to the public. Everyone should have a chance to hunt where they'd like, but the initial proposal was far too restricting (realistically only one season per year for buck tags). Changing to two per year is a reasonable compromise in my eyes.

Josh Robertson

Minneapolis MN

herme@hotmail.com

Comment:

I would like to propose a special license draw for native sons of South Dakota. For those born and raised in the state and who got a higher education from a state university be given a drawing opportunity to receive in state hunting privileges at out of state license costs. As is done with waterfowl and other permits a drawing could be conducted to randomly draw 100 licenses per year to receive this tremendous benefit but must qualify and prove the above needs. Birth certificate and official diploma from a state university or technical school.

Tyler Henderson

Marvin SD

tyh1@msn.com

Comment:

The public is clear we don't want any changes to the structure, the preference point system works and keep this in place. This will negatively impact hunter. I have not met one person who supports this proposal. Why is the commission so insistent on changing it.

Matthew Anderson

Hartford SD

jetboatboy@hotmail.com

Comment:

Please stop trying to limit deer applications and trying to change the deer draw structure. The new and past proposals are not wanted by the people of South Dakota and serves no benefit. The proposal would chase away hunters and make the deer draw more complicated then it needs to be.

Loren Koehler

New York Mills MN

koehler123@arvig.net

Comment:

why should somebody get 5 to 8 lic an someone else cant get one lic make it so everyone can enjoy the great state of south dakota

Philip Mittleider

Watertown SD

philip_mittleider@hotmail.com

Comment:

It really just needs to be left status quo. Nothing was wrong with the current system. The first one seemed liked an underlying ploy to make sure non-residents were almost treated as resident and there were licenses left for them. I'm not opposed to the non-resident hunter, but I am opposed to forgetting the in-state resident who spends money here 12 months and not 12 days. Listen to the voices of the resident. The lottery system works, the current process works. Let's just keep working together on other pressing issues.

Greg Peterson

Clear Lake SD

petegang@itctel.com

Comment:

I appreciate the commissions good faith efforts to find a compromise on this issue. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find any information on exactly how existing preference points will be handled. Do they stay in the same units? The unfortunate thing about trying to compromise is that an already very complicated proposal keeps getting more complicated. Please consider the public input you are receiving in support of or opposed to this proposal - even if there is an opinion that "uber deer hunters" are just wrong. I trust the commission's intentions, but it seems to me that we may be fighting an uphill battle to fix something that's not broken.

Mike Norton

Rapid SD

nortonmichael1922@yahoo.com

Comment:

East river should never be allowed to hunt a week after west river prairie opens. They always come out here causing problems and blasting anything with horns a week early before their season starts. Its only fair both west river prairie tags start at the exact same time.

If i don't special buck tag? Then do i get to put in for west river as prairie as my first choice and black hills whitetail as my other first choice deer?

Demetri Sengos

Sioux Falls SD

dsengos@gmail.com

Comment:

The new hunting proposals are ridiculous, for many reasons! The changes will directly impact hunters that hunt on both sides of the river, it will take away years of family hunting trips/tradition and effect those who have worked and tried for many years to obtain hunting permission on land. Let's get real, the only reason this proposal is on the table is to draw more non-resident hunters, this will directly impact hunting access to certain areas as most private land owners will capitalize on big game hunting privileges on their land. For example, maybe I'll kick the 5 archery hunters off the land we own and advertise \$2000/person limit of five tags only archery to out of state hunters. This would be easy, 100% fill rate send them photos of past big deer taken, done! So, where do the five previous loyal hunters go? Who cares right? Wrong, it needs to be balanced and balanced is what we have in place now. These changes will only have a negative impact.

Dennis Dekraai
Arlington SD
walleye_dek@msn.com

Comment:

I feel that preference points and land owners should be the main contributors to drawing a licence. By giving licences to people that haven't tried to draw a tag for nearly as long is wrong. I think that the number of 1st choices should not matter as long as the person has accumulated enough preference points. Also paying for preference points is very expensive. To me by not allowing a person with the most preference points not to draw a tag is just a way for the GFP to make more money and cost the average hunter more. So I support the more 1st choice options.

Markus Nelson
Concord NC
Markus.Nelson@Hendrickauto.com

Comment:

This new deer licensing is very poorly thought out! You should be concentrating on getting deer populations up not if residents can have 15 deer tags and the nonresident can maybe have one! Nonresidents should be able to get extra tags at the same time as resident hunters! This is crap! Old system will always be better than this!

Larry Livingston
Fairburn SD
papalarry55@yahoo.com

Comment:

first choice deer application, I think you should have kept it at one on first draw. giving everyone a better chance at drawing their favorite location. The people that want all the multiple locations are not hunting to feed their family or enjoying the outdoors, they just want to brag about how many deer they killed and waste a lot of them

James Winkels
Rapid City SD
Winks450@msn.com

Comment:

Leave the application process alone, it's not broken.... Focus your efforts and money on saving our elk and reducing cat numbers.

Pamela Winkels
Rapid City SD
Winks450@gmail.com

Comment:

Leave the application process alone.

Megan Winkels

Rapid City SD

Meganwinkels@hotmail.com

Comment:

I oppose any changes to the current system

James Gonsor

Webster SD

Jagonsor70@hotmail.com

Comment:

In comparison, NASCAR had a perfectly good format for the points system to decide the season champion. They changed, they claim for the better, they have been constantly changing it trying to make it better, it is a joke!

It works, leave it alone! No need to try setting the field to allow out of state hunters to get in on first draw! The GF&P should concentrate on making "public" fishing areas accessible, they are either blocked by overgrowth of trees and shrubbery or so weedy that it is impossible to fish them. I have tried taking my grandchildren fishing from shore, after attempting several "public" areas with no ability to access i contacted a landowner and was granted permission to access on his private property!

Stop worrying about out of state, disrespectful people and concentrate on the youth of south dakota! Keep in mind, not every person can get access to water and not everyone owns a boat!

Grayson Bust

Kentwood MI

gtbust@gmail.com

Comment:

I am a non-resident archery hunter and would like to understand the impacts to the non-resident archery draws. The proposal does not specify any changes, which I take to mean that this only applies to rifle/gun seasons. Please clarify. Thank you.

Lloyd Pukis

De Smet SD

lloyd.pukis@gmail.com

Comment:

SD is first state I have lived in that a state resident may not receive a deer tag if he wants one. first drawing and 5th drawing and preference points makes this system much more difficult than it has to be.

For the general deer season all residents should be able to get 1 deer tag(either doe or buck) if they are eligible before anyone(land owner, archery, mussel loader) gets a second tag. Because of the size of county's in SD that criteria is just another burden that does not need to be there.

Daniel Kopitzke
Zimmerman MN
kopitzke@izoom.net

Comment:

We have a tradition of hunting SD West River as non-residents. It has already become tough to get desired tags over the past 5 years. We have adapted and hunted new zones picking up leftovers in later draws. We don't need to shoot bucks to have a great time out there, but I am afraid these changes will, in the next year or two, create a situation where we cannot draw any tag in any zone. I am afraid that will cause my core of young hunters to find something else to do or someplace else to go and effectively end our SoDak hunting all together.

Kevin C Ward
Andover MN
Kctward@comcast.net

Comment:

Please just be sure to keep nonresident in the loop the best ways you see fit so we too can keep the traditions of hunting with family and friends both of which are Residents if South Dakota and nonresidents of your great state. Supporting the good people throughout the entire state while traveling to and from our hunting destinations also enriches your local economy and if you limit nonresident too much or delegate tags for only specific limited season leftovers you may lose us as hunters/tourists/enriching the lives of your great state. Best Kevin

Bradley Olson
Dell Rapids SD
olsonranchs@outlook.com

Comment:

I strongly Oppose....We have a great system in place leave it alone.

Brian Bohlmann
Yankton SD
Bjbohlmann@outlook.com

Comment:

Leave the original draw the way it is. Why would you commissioners push this change onto the majority that do not want it? If you commissioners like controversy join Congress in DC. Leave it alone!

Andrew Mcdonald

Pierre SD

amcd627e@yahoo.com

Comment:

With the proposed changes you day will put more hunters in the field. Are you upping the number of tags? If not you are not putting any more hunters in the field than with the old system. I don't understand why the old system isn't working. With the preference system people will draw a tag when there turn comes. Everyone needs to understand that.

How do you know that the new system will guarantee hunters more opportunity? How do you know that hunters won't all apply for the same tag and end up with the same situation tour trying to get away from? SDGFP should have always put its residents first! I understand that non-residents bring revenue into the state but you can't put the people that live here in the back seat.

I can't believe you are charging our youth for a preference point. They are the future of hunting. With out them you won't exist!

James Cantalope

Eureka SD

cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

I oppose, there nothing to gain, its same, you buy your points and apply for your tag with the multiplier and you get your tag when your turn comes up, it will be no different why change it, now your forcing people into units that might not been there, and you could pickup a additional tag in same unit on third draw, leave it alone, there's not a person I talked to that wants it changed!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jim Godfrey

Brandt SD

jimg0424@gmail.com

Comment:

Your options easy river/special buck and west river /special buck...is this for special buck only tag for east and west river??

I never have understood the need for this special buck tag on private land only.

Please clarify!

If I can continue tradition of hunting west and east river season of my choice I would favor this, but only under the same way it has been for years. Deer tags have been drastically reduce east river and chance to draw is extremely difficult.

Jeremy Schroeder

Winner SD

Lazyjs97@hotmail.com

Comment:

The hunter should be a resident of the county in order to get 2 licenses they are applying in. Should not be able to receive a license in 2 different county's .

James Cantalope

Eureka SD

cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

I oppose, there nothing to gain, its same, you buy your points and apply for your tag with the multiplier and you get your tag when your turn comes up, it will be no different why change it, now your forcing people into units that might not been there, and you could pickup a additional tag in same unit on third draw, leave it alone, there's not a person I talked to that wants it changed!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Eric Nesheim

Baltic SD

eric_mesheim@yahoo.com

Comment:

As an avid hunter I apply for almost all of the deer licenses and I feel that my rights as a resident would be taken away with the new proposal.

Jason Barbee

Hartford SD

Race8dad@yahoo.com

Comment:

It's not broke, dont fix it...I've deer hunted in sd for over 30 years and my children for over a dozen. It's always been a family and friend tradition to get together and figure out what and where to apply for east and west river deer tags. We would research the public land access and quality along with out chances of drawing. Yes public land is all we have to hunt. It used to be good quality land with not so much pressure. Not the case anymore. Not saying all, but most is overrun and over grazed. It's very discouraging. I think the department should be spending more time and resources on that than a tag system that works fine for people who do their research on what tags to send in for. People who are complaining about not being able to draw the tags they want are not doing that.

James McMahon

Sioux Falls SD

Jamcmahon4029@gmail.com

Comment:

Updated deer season draw: I am in favor of the updated draw. I like the idea of being able to apply for two seasons in the first draw, and am a fan of the layout for the second and following draws. Thank you or taking comments and efforts in revam

Shawn Tyrrell
Desmet SD
styrrell@centurylink.net

Comment:

oppose

Tim Klein
Sioux Falls SD
23tlklein@gmail.com

Comment:

If I keep my preference points and can use them in the next year or 2, I can live with this change. Preference points. What happens to all the preference point that I previously purchased? I have several for west river, black hills and east river. Do I lose them?

Brock Hoagland
Pringle SD
brockh@goldenwest.net

Comment:

I support the proposed change to the deer season whereby a hunter can only apply for two seasons in the first draw.

Alex Waltman
Sioux Falls SD
alexwaltman850@gmail.com

Comment:

Even as a hunter who could potentially benefit from these changes, as I only apply for one county, I strongly oppose this change. Even though I am a one county hunter now, I won't be in the future. No one wants these changes yet you seem determined. The "results" you sent out in the mail from the focus groups (which I attended) were total and utter garbage. You had us answer multiple questions on the survey at the end of the group and then cherry picked the two or three answers that you could twist to show false approval for the direction the state wanted to go. It's obvious the state is going to force this down our throats regardless of the strong opposition and this is shown through the deceit many of us saw when these "results" were sent out in the mail. So, be that as it may, why not just grow a set and say your going to do this regardless of if we like it or not and stop lying. I expect this of government as a whole but I expected better from Game Fish and Parks.

Joel Muellner
Cottage Grove MN
j.muellner@comcast.net

Comment:

As a Minnesota resident, I completely understand the conflict of resident vs non-resident issues in regards to feeling that the game and fish of my home state belong to me the taxpayer. I have hunted in SD on family land for the last 21 years, purchasing small game licenses and leftover rifle doe tags. I am still a very happy hunter. What I have concern with is that I as a non-resident have absolutely ZERO chance of ever attaining an East River rifle buck tag. My most pressing concern however is that while SD is generous enough to allow \$10.00 rifle doe tags to my kids, they never have had the chance to pull the trigger on anything with horns in the last 4 years. My boys have ethically passed on lay up shots at 160" bucks during those years. The goal of SD game and fish is to keep people coming back, especially the recruitment of kids to the sport. Throw the kids a bone and allow them to harvest a deer with horns.

Todd Mezeske
Parker SD
Tmezeske@hgreps.com

Comment:

Doesn't seem right that residents get opportunities for multiple tags before I would get a chance at a deer tag. As a non resident I provide more that just some income for Game, Fish and Parks when I hunt in SD but for several local businesses as well.

Tyson Gau
Alexandria SD
tcgau09@ole.augie.edu

Comment:

There is nothing wrong with the tag system that is in place now. This is barely comparable to the first change that you wanted to put into place. If people want to hunt deer, there are numerous options for them to do so. All of us that draw multiple tags a year have to go through the same system that the people opposed to our current system, the only difference is that I and everyone in my hunting party aren't afraid to spend a whopping \$5 on a preference point if we are unsuccessful on our first option. If people ventured out and spent an extra \$5 for preference points they would find that it increases your option for the next year. But instead they don't do this and wonder why they can't draw a tag in a county known for nice deer. That leads me to the next thing, everyone is more worried about killing deer that go on the wall rather than enjoying the outdoors. Hunting is turning into some big competition where whoever can post a picture of the biggest deer on social media "wins." Changing our current system is not the answer if you ask me and many others. Please do the majority of our great state's hunters a favor and leave it how it is now.

Have a good one,
Tyson Gau

Paul Johnson

Buffalo MN

pjohnson0825@gmail.com

Comment:

As a non Resident hunter I'm pretty much assured a license just every 2-3 years. Making a non resident wait until the 5th draw for leftover licenses is foolish. Making me choose between a special buck and a regular west river license pretty much kills my chances for an every year license. The revenue you will lose by killing the hunting for non residents is a tremendous amount. I spend 286 or 540 dollars for a license every year plus what I put into the economy of SD when I'm there. I've been coming to SD deer hunting as a non resident since I left in 1986. I hope you rethink your decision. Thanks Paul Johnson

Paul Kruse

Brookings SD

murphykruse@gmail.com

Comment:

this is a terrible idea this there was nothing wrong with the current licensing. This only caters to the one or maybe two license deer Hunter.

Kevin Stoterau

Tea SD

kstoterau@gmail.com

Comment:

I don't understand why GFP is so strict about Black powder tags. I live in Lincoln County. I know there are allot of deer in my county. Archery tags are almost a give me. Black powder hunting, requires noise, scent, and movement control much like archery, yet I have not gotten one for years now. Regular rifle tags can be filled out beyond 500 yards. Black powder you have to be much closer, much like archery. I am career Military, Retired Army, and a disabled Veteran. I served 32.5 years in the Military and am retired now. I do allot of hunting to save money on meat at the grocery store, due to my lack of income I used to make.

I understand there are many things I don't understand or know. I would just like to know why you don't give out more Black powder tags Please? And thank you.

Respectfully,
SFC Kevin Stoterau (Ret.)U.S.Army

Paul Niederbaumer

Faulkton SD

paulniederbaumer@yahoo.com

Comment:

Making trouble for landowners. No good reason for change. Especially when adding Custer State Park in on one of the two choices. Custer state Park drawing is a miracle tag. A once in a lifetime tag. Not to mention with the limited tags to draw for you should be able to retain your preference points without applying every year or refund the hunter.

This proposal is poorly executed. We have too many hunters that have no permission to hunt on private ground using vehicles to harass deer. In Faulk county this has become a way for people to hunt. I feel the winter kill on deer will be higher because of the added vehicles that will push deer. Not to mention the stress it gives landowners who are raising their kids to hunt the correct way, having their rights be trampled.

A suggestion to law changes that need to be made is that hunters, whether land owner or otherwise cannot be driving through a field or on a no maintenance road during hunting season. Unless retrieving a dead deer. I've had 20 to 30 incidents of trespassing during deer season alone. This is because of pickups being used to hunt. I feel that nonresident and resident non landowners should have permission from a landowner before they even apply for a license. Counties should have number of licenses distributed to non resident and residents non landowner by amount of public ground that county has.

I have yet to hear anyone who feels this proposal is good. Talking with other landowners in area they have all agreed if this passes we will not work with the GFP anymore. The landowners have seen that you favor non residents for hunting pheasants and deer before the landowners who actually give permission. Landowners are tired of it and will shut down hunting county wide.

Benjamin Jones

Sioux Falls SD

Jayhawker.jones@gmail.com

Comment:

Thanks for putting kids first. Seems well laid out to me.

Spike Jorgensen

Tok AK

spikecy@gmail.com

Comment:

#1. Really like the emphasis on youth hunting and access. If anything it should be stronger so every youth that wants to hunt big game can have at least a doe tag for antelope or deer on their first draw. (Nationally we are losing hunters and over commercializing hunting. Credit should somehow be given to land owners who support free hunting for any youth.) Every youth should be able to hunt one animal before any of us get two tags for any big game species.

2. I am not a trophy hunter as such, but do enjoy hunting and taking large mature animals.

This as a part of maintaining a very viable and healthy gene pool of truly wild and not privately farmed game animals.. At one time I had taken the second largest antelope and the 10th largest Alaska Moose. And since those have taken several even larger with a bow and rifle that I have not registered. Thus I appreciate good management by professionals who understand predator and prey relationships. Wolves and lions need to be controlled and managed so our youth and humans have big game to enjoy as well. Over population of lions in the Black Hills and the threat of no controlling wolves, eagles and other predators is critical. We need to support good sustainable management of the populations we use and some managed predators, but they should not have a get home free card.

#3 As a land owner resident in the past and non resident now my properties support over 100 deer, and a few antelope and elk (20 or so). And with the help of NRCS we have very much improved the agricultural and wildlife habitat and will continue to do so.

Best wishes.

Cory Hansen

Brandon SD

idealcor@yahoo.com

Comment:

Thank You. Thank you for listening and reacting. This was a very hard and long process but I appreciate you being proactive instead of reactive. This now allows my family tradition of decades to continue, which is of utmost importance to the continuance of my children being involved in this sport.

Mark Bellum

Watertown SD

yote1963@yahoo.com

Comment:

I used to be the biggest fan of GFP. I would brag to my out of state friends about how well our game and fish were managed. Now, after watching you boondoggle the fishing situation to appease the landowners and neglect locals their legal rights to water, I'm not so sure. How can you give the Reitz family \$8000 and charge out of state fisherman pennies for a season pass?

And now I have to pay a fee to get my preference point when I apply for a tag? Poor management at its best. And now you've made getting a deer tag almost impossible. It looks like your next step is to make it even harder. There are plenty of deer out there. I've hunted pheasants in many places and always see ample deer numbers.

I don't know why you're so interested in appeasing the landowners? Most hardly let anybody hunt their land anyway. I used to have lots of private land to hunt around Watertown, and most of it has been shut down.

I beg you to go back and put the in state sportsman first.

On a positive note, I do appreciate all the public lands that are available to hunt. I use them exclusively.

Mark Bellum

Dave Vaughn

Rapid City SD

dvaughn@hughes.net

Comment:

I was in support of the original proposal where a person had to choose one first choice tag. I live in the Black Hills and hunt near home. I would just like to be able to hunt where I live. I do not have the time or resources to hunt east river and rarely would I even apply for west river. I always apply for BH and it would be nice if I could have a tag more than every 2 or 3 years. I support the compromise because it is better than nothing. I do also apply for CSP, MZ and refuge so I will use one of those tags as my second choice in the first draw. I appreciate the commission listening to public comments when making decisions.

Thank You

Dennis Jones

Siuox Falls SD

dmjones@sio.midco.net

Comment:

It seems new leadership whether in the GFP, Education, Administrative or Public Services etc. always think they need to make changes to get their name in the history book. They think they must show they are progressive. The old draw system isn't the greatest, but the new proposal is not as good and will cause a lot of the problems, many already identified. We don't need more hunters from out of state. Right now many in-state find it hard to locate a place to hunt. Bow hunters are great hunters, but are killing a large portion of the good bucks before the majority hunt in November. etc. etc. Need more money, just raise the in-state license fee \$20. Don't shoot so many does, the numbers are down, I know because I have plenty of land to tell. Good Luck.

Darrel Reinke
Ft. Pierre SD
darrel@reinkegray.com

Comment:

Two tag proposal

Thank you for now proposing a two tag deer drawing system. It is a fair compromise that I feel most of us who were opposed to the earlier proposals can accept. In the future, when such controversial ideas are thought about, I would strongly encourage the department to seek out Sportsmen and women's ideas in the beginning. Early open communication and dialogue would have gone a long way to avoiding a very contentious issue that this one evolved into. Thank you for your service.

Shannon Frericks
Ashton SD
goslinghunter@gmail.com

Comment:

Can it! Follow Kansas GF&P format and be done with it or leave it alone!

Dan Bridenstine
Lead SD
dbridenstine@live.com

Comment:

I think the one tag proposal was great. I love in the blackhills and would like a better chance of drawing a tag each year

Terry Osborn
Aberdeen SD

Comment:

As a resident that has hunted both east and west river for over 25 years I was very dissatisfied with original proposal. The compromise is a wonderful solution that addresses everybody's concerns. Great job GF&P and thanks for listening.

Mark Nelson
Boyceville WI
waywest@centurytel.net

Comment:

This proposal continues to prevent former South Dakotans, like myself, the ability to hunt East River deer with our land-owning resident family members.

Marshall Drexler
Harrisburg SD
mdrexler@vastbb.net

Comment:

If this worth the controversy it is causing. The GF&P may be trying to make it better for hunters but may be turning people away from deer hunting. I am 61 years old and am not going to keep applying multiple time for deer license. Keep it as is. Hunting don't need controversy. We have enough of that in our government know. Let it settle down.

Jordan Miller
Canton SD
Jordan@run2gun.com

Comment:

This is a joke correct? The majority of sportsman and women do not want change to the current system. You already made change to the system with our points.

Your agenda has been facinating to watch over the past year and the "ploitical routes" you have taken to try and pass this garage.

How much tax payer money has been wasted on this?

I hope this one crashes and burns in legislation as well.

Jared Jeratowski
Parker SD
Jtowski02@hotmail.com

Comment:

Still trying to change a system that works great. Why not worry about our rights to the lakes that we played to stock that we can no longer fish. Or the fields that we pay to lease but allow the farmers to cut for there cattle and could find a mouse on after the fact because there is no cover left. Still so much more to work on and worry about but so concerned with not listening to the people of the state. It's just gonna make people start doing it in a not so legal way more often. But hey keep screwing the people that's what your good at.

Harry Mitchell
Hot Springs SD
wanesharose1@gmail.com

Comment:

I see no point in this proposal. I will lose more deer hunting tags. why have you came up with this ludicrous idea? more money? there are plenty more issues you could spend your time on, such as road hunters, I can tell you how to stop them.

Darin Ross

Aberdeen SD

darin@aberdeenchrysler.com

Comment:

It doesn't really matter what the vast majority of us hunters think, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks are going to listen to us they are only it this for a small group that will benefit from this Hunting lodges and people that shut down land for out of state hunters. Thanks again South Dakota for selling out ! It's a shame.

Bruce Lowe

Long Lake SD

twogunbruce@gmail.com

Comment:

I have emailed GFP on three different occasions to offer an alternative means to your current draw method, and I've not received a single reply. At least one of you might think outside the box, and contact me.

Terry Zolnowsky

Piedmont SD

Zolnowsky5@q.com

Comment:

Keep it simple! First choice, only one season. If someone wants more deer, let them get a tag on the second, third, or fourth drawing! Your making it too complicated!

Todd Monson

Bennett WI

Toddbmonson@yahoo.com

Comment:

I support the youth proposal, but not the rest. There are plenty of hunters afield already and the non-residents pay the freight with hard to draw tags.

Duane Hinman
Groton SD

Comment:

I believe the initial change to be able to only apply for one tag in the initial and second draw was a better option. This allows for more people to have a chance at drawing a buck/any deer tag every year, or every other year. Why do some people believe they need to draw multiple buck tags every year? This year, I was unsuccessful at my any deer tag, but did draw an another less deer tag. I applied for any deer tags in both East and West River deer units and was unsuccessful in both however, two individuals I work with drew an any deer tag in both East and West River units. With the original new deer draw, it would increase everyone's chance for at least drawing one any deer tag, so why change the rules to accommodate "entitled" individuals thinking they should be able to draw multiple any deer tags. The only option I can see is to separate the draw for any deer and any antlerless, so people could still apply, but receive no more than one any deer tag in the first two draws. Just my two cents.

Charles Wald
Rapid City SD
ca_wald@yahoo.com

Comment:

hunter should only be able to apply for one deer license on first choice

Dave Huffman
Lemmono SD
hbarbconstruction@gmail.com

Comment:

I think this is a step in the right direction. It's a bitter pill to swallow for me as a 40 year resident of Perkins county to be unsuccessful in drawing an any buck tag more years than successful and have to watch the non Perkins county residents hunt deer and antelope.

I think there should be ONE first choice drawing where you should have to pick one unit within the entire state for your first choice and NOT be able to apply for first choice for multiple regions like east & west river, black hills etc.

It's not fair to the residents of the unit that just want to hunt the unit they live in to get bumped by non residents that are just trying to gather up as many tags in different regions as possible. They should either have to draw that tag as 1st choice of all the units in the state or draw the tag as a leftover in the 2nd draw if they are trying to get multiple tags.

The current draw is not fair to the resident (of the unit, not necessarily the state) who just wants his or her home unit.

Bill Rentz
Rapid City SD
billrentz@icoud.com

Comment:

Thanks for all the hard work, now we will see if the effort actually works. If so, it will be a success, if not it will have been an enormous waste of time. Let's hope for the best.

Rick Frey
Hill City SD
deerfieldlake1@gmail.com

Comment:

opposing would simply be a waste of time!!

Gene Brockel
Mobridge SD
ebrockel@abe.midco.net

Comment:

I am a landowner in cambell county all of the hunters I have talked to in Walworth and Campbell counties are against the change

Fred Carl
Rapid City SD
fkcarl@rap.midco.net

Comment:

I supported the recent changes to the deer application process but oppose this proposed change. The idea is to get more people opportunity--not to provide more opportunity for one person. This proposed change starts to backslide towards where we were. Give the current system a chance and then evaluate

Justin Inhofer
Sturgis SD

Comment:

Leave the deer draw like it was there were no problems with it. You should of been giving the preference points to kids along time ago, they are the future of hunting in our country. I say every kid under 16 gets their first choice always if you want

Kevin Schoepf
Blackhawk SD

Comment:

Really does not matter what anyone says. Game and fish has made up there mind just like changing cow elk seasons so no one would bother bull hunters. Which came about from some gap big shots.

Jason Heintzman
Ipswich SD
daksat@valleytel.net

Comment:

The question still has not been answered, with all the proposed changes is a applicant still able to apply for double tags right away as it has always been? If you can apply for all tags first time around the options for a second tag is unknown. Please answer the question if double tags are still available.

Matthew Troyer
Farmer SD
troyerhomeworks@gmail.com

Comment:

I really like the proposal of bonus points being free for hunters 12-15 and even though this was not part of the present proposal, dropping the minimum age for mentored hunters I also strongly support.
I think the current license allocation proposal strikes a good balance between giving hunters more opportunity to get their preferred hunt but not narrowing the options too much for hunters who hunt various places across the state every year

Jeremy Lowe
Rapid City SD
Jllowe1599@gmail.com

Comment:

Thank you for making the changes in the current system. This will allow myself, kids, and family to carry on our tradition. Thanks again

Kurt Juedes
Wausau WI
Kurtjuedes@gmail.com

Comment:

I'm a nonresident and like the rule change- would also like to see a 3 point rule possibly entertained for people over the age of 18

Jim Dehaai
Keystone SD
Sodakviking@hotmail.com

Comment:

Although I supported the first proposal more where only one area could be applied for in the first draw this is probably a good compromise. I just hope with this new proposal the odds are still good to draw that same area every year. I don't need multiple areas to hunt every year, just one.

Raymond Ruff
Spearfish SD
rayruff@midco.net

Comment:

Why do we have to compromise when I think there is mostly opposition to the change. Just can't leave well enough alone. Sometimes no change is the best action

Charles Courtney
Humboldt SD
cwc.tex@gmail.com

Comment:

The number of deer that are in the state isn't represented in the allocation. This needs to be part of the process. There are many other states that you are allowed only one tag. Change is hard for all involved. The decisions need to be based on how the state wants to manage its herd. Are we going for quantity or quality?

John Walsh
Bismarck ND
Walsh@bis.midco.net

Comment:

Question for you, why is it that an out of stater can apply for a West River Special Buck Tag but not an East River one?
Currently there is no way I can get an East River Buck tag, even if these chances I would still not be able to get one.
At least allow an out of stater get in on the second draw, nothing but doe tags are left by the forth draw.

John Duffy

Oldham SD

jduffy03@hotmail.com

Comment:

I have honestly been against this change from the very beginning but I have spoke with and met with many people involved in this process and the newest proposal is their way of trying to compromise with the "serious deer hunter" that still wants to be able to hold more than 1 QUALITY firearm tag the same year (i.e. an East River and West River tag both or any combination of 2 of the firearm tags). You could have gotten leftover tags in the previous proposal starting in the 3rd drawing but weren't as likely to actually be where or what you wanted to hunt so the previous proposal was likely to only be 1 QUALITY firearm tag per year rather than a better chance at 2 QUALITY firearm tags now.

At the end of the day, some level of change is going through whether we like it or not and this is the best compromise I've seen so far. Would I still rather leave the system the way it is? Absolutely! Will it stay the same? No. Not even if 80% of us don't want it to.

The commission and GFP have good intentions with the change and this will still get roughly 1000 more people deer hunting every year. I'm willing to give up my 3rd firearm tag to make that happen. I will still be able to get a good opportunity to hunt with 2 quality tags from either ER Any Deer, WR Any Deer, or Muzzleloader Deer that I currently hunt now (or others that I dont currently apply for like BHD, CSP, RFD). Before this latest change I was going to have to pick between East River deer and West River deer. That wasn't a choice I wanted to make. Hopefully now many of us will not have to.

The commissioners and GFP have been beaten up a lot over this thing, and I was one of the people very upset at first and even upset throughout most of the process, but the more you learn about the reasons for this and the desire for some type of change (even though most of us were happy with the old system or thought some change was OK, but just not this much change) the more you understand why they felt change was necessary for hunter retention and keeping our sport alive for future generations. They are trying their best to do an impossible job; making everyone happy. Thank you to the GFP and commissioners for listening to the "more serious deer hunters" the last couple weeks with this compromise proposal (and the "less serious deer hunters" over the previous year) and coming up with some level of compromise, even if it still doesn't make most happy on Facebook it shows you are trying to listen and do what you think is best for hunting in SD long-term. People are going to complain no matter what and I'm probably one of them ! ??

Ed Nelson

Erwin SD

dakotalabs9@yahoo.com

Comment:

Non-Residents should NOT be allowed to draw ANY Permits UNTIL ALL Residents have the Drawn Their Permits !!! PERIOD !!

Roger Inman

Pierre SD

rogerinman@mncomm.com

Comment:

I preferred the original proposal that let you pick only one season in the first draw and not eligible for the 2nd. Its a step in the right direction. I have friends who have not received tags and others that get all. Those not receiving become the potential hunters that we lose. By losing hunters we are creating an opening for outside views of hunting to encroach on us that do enjoy helping with conservation/harvesting of animals. As a landowner I would have liked to have seen where landwners guests could pay a transfer fee to the GFP so friends or family from out of state could partake in a big game hunt. This could be a plus money for the dept. I as a landowner do not want the dollars but would love to be able to transfer my (conservation) tag to another so hunting can be promoted. I would attend meetings but timing never seems to be such that it is possible. Thanks for your work.

Tim Pravecsek

Winner SD

bowhunterinsd@yahoo.com

Comment:

I went to the first meeting on this change and was 100% in favor of ideas of change. The complaints about not getting multiple "Buck" tags in my opinion is a poor argument, think of the residents of my county "people living and paying taxes in our county go years without a "buck" tag, most settle for a doe tag. If you are real hunter you will try other methods if you are unsuccessful in drawing a rifle Buck tag.

Gaylord Strivens

Pickstown SD

Instrivens54@gmail.com

Comment:

why should any hunter be lucky enough to draw more than 2 deer tags when so many unlucky would draw no tags. why not limit to maximum of 2 tags?

Quincy Brech

Mitchell SD

Comment:

Why Change a program that isn't working. The lottery is fine the way it is.

Patrick Rosenbaum

Jefferson SD

a5x5hunter07@yahoo.com

Comment:

Leave the way the drawing is and just allow more tags. Plus stop waiting money on unproductive walk in ground such as cattle pastures grazed down to nothing greagory county for starters and picked fields . Stop lining pockets and start buying ground and manage it.

Jason Mitzel

Crooks SD

Comment:

This whole change is a joke. You are not doing anything that will allow people to get there perferred liscence like you said. It is just a feel good move to seem like you are. Leave the draw system that we currently have been useing in place. I only apply for one big game liscence a year but can see this is a joke so leave the system alone.

Doug Furness

Brandon SD

dwfurness@yahoo.com

Comment:

The current system works if you are not hung up on one county or hunting unit. I have never had a problem getting a tag.

Rick Hanger

Sioux Falls SD

hangfire49@sio.midco.net

Comment:

The newest deer tag proposal seems to be a fair compromise. It allows multiple tag apps while still providing more hunters a chance at a good tag. My preferred choice would still be no change, but I feel we all can live with this newest plan.

I would say, adopt this plan and see how well it works for a few years before implementing any other changes.

Richard Eisenzimmer

Hot Springs SD

Vulcan.classic@hotmail.com

Comment:

One hunter should not have several deer tags in one season. That means other people are at home not getting to hunt. Non-resident hunters should not be in a draw with resident hunters. At my age, 64, it would be nice to be able to use a cross bow.

Mark Krenn
Sturgis SD
neverswet@yahoo.com

Comment:

I was not in favor of the initial proposal but am in favor of the current proposal. Thank you for digging deeper into this very important subject.

Clark Baker
Sioux Falls SD
clarkbaker27@yahoo.com

Comment:

leave alone

Kelly Eilers
Canton SD
kjeilers89@gmail.com

Comment:

.JUST LEAVE IT ALONE It works....you get them all sold and you are not going to attract any more hunters...if they want to hunt they will apply.....dont try to fix something that isnt broken

Russ Nurnberg
Watertown SD
russnurnberg@gmail.com

Comment:

My opinon on this topic is that changing the drawing method (especially with 2 first choice seasons) will not "Increase Opportunity". I have spoken to many other hunters regarding this and almost every one has stated the same opinion. The reason people are not hunting is two fold 1) Limited public access in certain areas (private land is amost impossible to gain access to). 2) The overall cost in general has gotten to be more than some people can afford. I do think this new proposal is better than the first, but personally don't think it will achive the desired result.

Paul Eidsness
Sioux Falls SD
paul@eidsness.net

Comment:

support

Robert Whitcraft

Andover MN

bob.whitcraft@comcast.net

Comment:

Seems as if residents have long-enjoyed a strong preference in the deer draw. As in my prior comments, this proposal seems unnecessary and does not factor what the added non-resident restriction will do to overall attitudes about spending money in SD. It may be 'revenue neutral' for deer licenses only but GF&P has no way of determining broad non-resident reaction to this proposal as related to other hunting, fishing, and recreational spending.

Haar Darren

Rapid City SD

Comment:

This is a great plan. I'm sure the very avid hunters will push against this compromise again because they will want to be able to hunt all of SDs regions. However they need to remember that most of us are "casual hunters" and only apply for one zone or two. For the casual hunter it is hard to stay interested/engaged in hunting when you only draw a tag every other year or less. Over time this lack of engagement will result in the loss of hunters. Loss of hunters equals loss of support for hunting. We need to keep the big picture in mind and make sure or regulatory structure keeps people engaged in hunting and thus supporting our right to hunt.

Ross Fenske

Sioux Falls SD

fenske87@gmail.com

Comment:

support

Gary Geiken

Lennox SD

gkgeiken@gmail.com

Comment:

This proposal still is not fair. We are 1 state not east river, west river. While myself and other family members go 2-3 years between licenses, others are getting 1-3 tags almost every year. We are not encouraging our grandkids to start deer hunting due to this set up.

Keith Christianson

Volga SD

walleye621@outlook.com

Comment:

I prefer the proposal for 1 tag draw in the first draw. I believe I would have a better chance of drawing my buck tag. If I want a second deer I will apply in the 3 draw for a doe tag. Please leave as it is.

Darcy Kuyper

Platte SD

Comment:

I think the new proposal is great !

Kim Geiken

Lennox SD

gkgeiken@gmail.com

Comment:

I have never understood how I have to wait 2-3 years to get a tag when many others I know get a couple tags every year.

Shawn Baker

Sturgis SD

sbbowhunter71@gmail.com

Comment:

I liked the system the way it was , I grew up hunting in Wisconsin and my last 10 years I lived in WI I didn't hunt at all because there were so many people . It was an army of hunters all over public land . It was not even fun because people would

Gary Hendrickson
Belle Fourche SD
ragary@rushmore.com

Comment:

I believe the initial proposal by GFP should be kept in place. The concern was getting hunters their first choice unit. This current proposal does not increase the odds of a hunter wanting to apply for the one unit they prefer. Lets take a BHD applicant and that is all they want is BHD. This proposal still allows multiple applicants to compete with that BHD applicant really not increasing their odds to obtain a BHD lic. I know there are ERD applicants that are the same only wanting their home county. After the first draw all hunters will have a opportunity to compete for leftover units. Obtaining that first unit choice is important to more hunters then you think and the vocal ones opposing the initial proposal are being selfish in obtaining as many tags as they can. another thing to look at is limiting buck licenses to 2 per person. If you have ample opportunities to harvest 2 buck it should be a rewarding season and if you want more deer for meat then buy doe tags. I understand this is a difficult situation and you will never please everyone but you started out with trying to increase hunters odds of obtaining their first choice lic. and now you have compromised that. Pick a topic you have a chance of being most successful on and stick to it. Trying to piece meal a system will only hurt your results in the long run.
Gary

Shawn Baker
Sturgis SD
sbbowhunter71@gmail.com

Comment:

I liked the system the way it was , I grew up hunting in Wisconsin and my last 10 years I lived in WI I didn't hunt at all because there were so many people . It was an army of hunters all over public land . It was not even fun because people would

Shawn Beck
Castlewood SD
sjbeck_75@yahoo.com

Comment:

I think everyone should be able to apply for multiple seasons if they wish. I also think the whole purpose of the points was to keep it fair and by charging for points, I believe it undermines the purpose. I think points should be given as they used to be and if gfp isn't making enough money than the price of the tags should've gone up instead of charging us 'to be fair'.

Bob Roth
Aberdeen SD
Rothbo@abe.midco.net

Comment:

Why don't you make it if you apply for west river on first choice then you can't apply for east river on the first round and vice versa. Then you could also apply for any of the others on the first round. There are to many hunters that only apply for just one unit whether it be east or west that don't get a license because a lot of hunters think they are entitled to both???

Vaughn Sudrala
Rapid Cuty SD
Vsudrala@gmail.com

Comment:

Maybe consider a special FLINTLOCK muzzle loader season for a week during the end of archery season. Hunters that draw a muzzle loader tag could hunt at that time. Flintlock only at that time. I think this was the intention of the muzzle loader season in the first place. With the new inline muzzle loaders it is not really a traditional hunt anymore.

Corey Hokanson
Huron SD
C.hokanson@hotmail.com

Comment:

Ppl should only be able to apply for one in the first draw not 2 and I think u should take some of the land owner tags away to or only let the direct land owner be able to claim that not distant relatives like ppl are doing now that would leave more for the general public

Douglas Eoute
Stillwater MN
deoute@hotmail.com

Comment:

As a long time nonresident hunter, I respectfully submit that we as non-residents are not getting a fair chance in drawings for deed tags at only 8% of tags allowed. And having to wait for 3rd round for leftover tags unfairly regulates nonresidents to second class citizens. Give us an reasonable chance at drawing success. Thanks

Curtis Roeszler
Marysville CA
roeszler@comcast.net

Comment:

originally from south dakota but living in california for 45 years. applied first time non-resident in 2018. Have to say that south dakota has always managed deer herds better than california. That said I am not a trophy hunter so have always hunted for the meat not the glory. california does not allow doe hunting so we had a good hunt in 2018. so not for or against and can surely understand resident concerns. Your field office was very helpful for east river for 2018 so will leave it to South Dakota wisdom to do what's right since California has no wisdom any more. and plan on moving back home to south dakota to retire in couple years so will be resident hunter in a couple years anyway. and no doubt you are seeing more non resident applications because of conditions and regs from the western states with low success rates. even though non residents move from 3rd draw to 5th draw I am still confident that S.D. will do what's right for all concerned.

Robert Salazar

Rapid City SD

bsalazar@rushmore.com

Comment:

You guys make it sound like if you only have these limited number draw that every one whoe puts in for a tag will get one and that's not it at all..your still giving out a limited number of tags and poor joe blow over here thinks he and his family are all going to get tags because of this....you guys are really wanting people to buy preference points so you don't have to give out tags and your still getting money ..i have been hunting along time since 1981 and my boys all hunt and ive gotten a lot of people into it and some even back into it..but you guys are turning it into a rich mans sport buy charging 40 dallars a tag and you usall have at least 2 tears preference befor you get that tag...and when was the last time there were any leftovers in the black hills unit..and prairie any deer tags other than whitail and then you have to have private land to h7nt or your screwed....i love hunting with my family to but we all understand the luck of the draw system.and your trying to cater to a few that don't understand it and your going to start losing a lot of hunters because of it....i remember the day you went to knart bought your tag.over the counter for 12 bucks and hunted...the deer aint bigger and you don't get any more meat off them. I waited six years to get a black powder tag so im pretty mutch done with that and so far I got two years preferences for the hills..so im thinking its almost not worth it....hope you guys get it figured out soon ..thank you for reading ...if you do....thanks again

James Theis

Rapid City SD

wjtjm@centurylink.net

Comment:

After being unsuccessful in drawing a Black Hills deer tag for the past 5 years, I believe this proposal will give me a far better chance to draw one for the upcoming season.

Chris Solum

Sioux Falls SD

csolum@hotmail.com

Comment:

This is a great idea and will give me and my family a better chance to get tags to hunt our private land

Kim Wagenman

Spearfish SD

kwag@rushmore.com

Comment:

I think your statistics show the vast majority either moderately or strongly support the goal of providing a system that gives the best chance for every applicant to get their tag or their first choice. I think its giving in to a small group that still want two first choice tags which will mean more folks will be denied their one choice. Also just makes a complicated system even more complex.

Mark Perry

Sioux Falls SD

mlperry44@sio.midco.net

Comment:

You have listed that first time youth hunters would get a bonus point the first time they apply. Please think about that. My son has applied for west river, east river and black hills for 2 straight years without attaining a buck tag. By allowing First time youth to have the extra points you are placing them ahead of or at the same level as youth that have already been in the system. You should address the group of youth that have been left out the past few years and that have never attained a buck tag. Many people also do not realize that a youth can attain points before they actual turn 12 and draw a tag. We didn't realize that and I have hunted for over 50 years. Please make this fair for the youth. My son has continually lost interest in hunting deer since he has not had the opportunity to get a buck tag. Please keep it fair for all.

Please revise to the following.

"First time youth hunters and those youth hunters that have never attained an any deer or buck tag would receive a bonus preference point"..for the 2019 season.

Also the system is more complicated then ever. What was wrong with the first proposal? Everyone would have had an opportunity to get one of the 5 main deer licenses, ERD,WRD, BH, or SB or muzzleloader? ...correct...

This makes sense. I typically do not have time to hunt multiple units and if I was given the option for a quality hunt in one of those 5 deer license categories (each year) I would be very satisfied with the system. These proposals seem to be driven by those individuals that what to "hog=up" as many tags as they can get and shoot as many bucks as they can everywhere. I believe most people would be happy with one quality tag a year and then if there are left over tags after everyone has had a chance to get one, the people that want multiple tags can have at it.....seems much easier. The youth should be placed ahead of these individuals that get multiple tags. The youth are the future of hunting and without them our sport will die.

Also, more explanation needs to be given and more examples of how the system would work. Please post some scenarios for all of us to look at...."what ifs"

This issue is a big deal for those of us that go 2 years without attaining a buck tag and those of us that only have public land to hunt on. When you hunt public land your not guaranteed anything but the opportunity. Thank you,

Cary Goodman

Rapid City SD

carygoodman@hotmail.com

Comment:

I approve of this proposal

Justin Whitehead

Mitchell SD

jstnwhitehead@yahoo.com

Comment:

How will preference point accumulation work? Will there still be preference points for each season separately? Will preference points only be gained if unsuccessful in the first draw?

Russell Deneui
Chancellor SD
rdeneui@ymail.com

Comment:

Focus on youth and residents most important . Agree with giving more hunters an opportunity .

Tyler Spomer
Pierre SD
Tspomer@midco.net

Comment:

For the most part I support the changes being made. However I would like to see consideration for non-resident operators. While technically still a resident of SD, we are moving to ND. My wife's family owns and operates 1600 acres in Campbell County. My wife is the farm manager, making the day to day decisions concerning the farm. We both regularly work on the farm. We feed and manage more than 95 cow calf pairs. We routinely are involved in haying, fencing, weed control, etc... on the farm. Because we will be moving to ND we are no longer able to hunt on our land. I feel we should be able to get landowner licenses so we can hunt only our own land. I don't care about hunting anywhere else in the county. The number of non-resident landowner operators has to be small. If this wouldn't work then I would propose a "come home to hunt" option for former residents. I love SD and it always be home but the options for me to hunt deer appear to be limited at best. Thanks!

Bill Mcgrath
Spearfish SD
z7billm@gmail.com

Comment:

I was all in favor of having one preference for first draw and that is what was proposed. Now we are moving back to where we were by being able to apply fro two first draw. The people like myself who live in the Black Hills generally what to hunt the hills. It would appear you are trying to appease the people who want to be able to hunt there back yard and still take a trip to the hills where we have a huge amount of public land available for all. I believe you were headed in the right direction but now I have lost all faith in the process once again. Again I will be limited to the years I wil draw a tag for the Black Hills where I have lived and hunted my entire life.
Bill McGrath
Spearfish

Riley Gilbertson
Waubay SD
rileyfirelord@gmail.com

Comment:

I see nothing wrong with the system in place. I feel like if nothing is wrong do not try to fix it. I feel like GFP is trying to get more out of state hunters in and for deer hunting I do not support that.

Bryan Tweedy
Piedmont SD
btweedy@hotmail.com

Comment:

Change the archery deer start date back to late September. It doesn't help the deer. Also, start some type of limited draw for non residents for archery. This would provide overall better opportunities and is the right thing to do.

David Park
Howell MI

Comment:

This ultimately hurts the LandOwner that leases hunting privilege to non-residents. If I don't draw a license I don't go and don't pay the lease. The residents in the area are unwilling or unable to pay the lease fee. This year I saw more deer than ever before.

Barc Smith
Marion SD
Barcsmith1959@gmail.com

Comment:

The second proposal is much better than the initial proposal. Good job and thanks for all your time on the commission

Richard Edenstrom
Aberdeen SD
dickeden1@yahoo.com

Comment:

Perhaps the commission should consider awarding "bonus" preference points to "senior citizens".

Richard Hyronimus
Beresford SD
rhyro@live.com

Comment:

This will increase the apps for special buck license and encourage preference point sales both revenue positive.

Darin Pekkala

Bryant SD

familyseven10@gmail.com

Comment:

Two of my boys and I did not draw buck deer rifle tags this year, it's the fifth time I haven't drawn in 20 years. That's the only problem I've had with hunting here . I don't think you should have to buy a preference point to guarantee a tag. I have 8 kids and we are big hunters I don't want them to get disgusted with these rules and lose interest. There's a lot of unnecessary changes being made. P

Rob Heisinger

Parkston SD

Comment:

I honestly think you are trying to fix something that isn't broken. It is almost impossible to find ground to hunt West River and unless it is public. More hunters saturating public hunting is only going to lead to less success and more frustration. In the long run you will end up with less hunters in the field.

Raymond Oyen

Lead SD

rayoyen@hotmail.com

Comment:

If you allow 2 choices first draw I still won't be able to get my Hills license and that's all I want

Josh Olson

Lemmon SD

Comment:

The one draw system is the only way to correct the problem we have. Double dipping will not increase odds but by a very small amount. Get it Changed ONCE so you don't have to go through this again. There is absolutely no reason someone should possess more than 1 buck license until left overs. South Dakota is SOUTH DAKOTA. Stop segregating east west and black hills. One draw per unit of choice. Every other state is that way. It's time we get with the change. I will settle for nothing less than 1 draw. And I speak loudly for everyone out west. If it don't change expect more land to be locked out and miss managed.

Joel Farnham

White Rock NM

jefarnham@comcast.net

Comment:

How much difference is it going to make pushing the non-resident opportunity for leftover licenses to the 5th draw? This proposal is less welcoming to me as a non-resident deer hunter.

Greg Schweiss
Rapid City SD
schweissrc@aol.com

Comment:

I think the change to allow hunters to apply for two licenses in the first drawing is a significant improvement from the original proposal. While I still prefer the current system, I could now support the proposed changes, whereas I was strongly opposed to the initial proposal. The new proposal would now allow my kids and I to participate in our annual Family west river deer hunt, while still having a chance to occasionally draw a Black Hills Deer tag.

Derrick Reifenrath
Custer SD

Comment:

oppose

Russell Brown
Watertown SD
maclover@wat.midco.net

Comment:

This sounds like a good proposal. Keep in mind more importantly is the number of deer in each county. With the destruction of habitat by farmers on a continuous basis, by tiling, filling in low lands, and removing tree claims in grant, deuel and codington counties Has significantly impacted the number of deer we see during hunting season. As the DNR you need to address these issues immediately, To ensure quality deer hunting opportunities for our children and their's.

Jason Lee
Cresbard SD
jlee@venturecomm.net

Comment:

2 opportunities in the 1st draw seems to be fair enough. Only 1 would be absolutely unacceptable. Thanks for listening to the residents of SD who hunt.

Bruce Jones
Rapid City SD
BJONESSD@AOL.COM

Comment:

IF YOU WANT MORE HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES. GO BACK TO ORIGINAL PROPOSAL OF ONE PREFERRED LICENSE AREA.

Adam Boomgarden
Hurley SD
Adamboom1@gmail.com

Comment:

Changing the drawing system is dumb and must only be for a few people that are unhappy that they don't get the tag they always want.

Chris Nelson
Pierre SD
Chrisbinsd@yahoo.com

Comment:

I oppose the current proposal and support the original as proposed by GFP staff. Many hunters want more opportunities and to increase youth participation. The original proposal may do this. My opinion is that it is worth a try. If it doesn't work, then alternatives giving multi-first-pick choices can be reinstated.

Gary Lueth
Blooming Prairie MN
garylueth@gmail.com

Comment:

Recognition of Lanowners rights HAS to be part of any licensing system. It doesn't matter how many tags the Sioux Falls residents get if they don't have private land to hunt. Landowner tags now or the no hunting signs go up and the Sioux Falls crowd. The farmers and ranchers are very angry they don't have a voice. Wake up or you will have a serious issue.

Don Weber
Milbank SD
cdweb@wat.midco.net

Comment:

The proposal that would allow a hunter to apply for two of the six deer seasons in the first draw is already a compromise. When will the compromising end?

Aj Pollock
Gregory SD

Comment:

Keep the lottery drawing system. It works just fine. One motive for the proposal is to put more hunters in the field. How do you do that AND give out the same amount of tags? Public land is already crowded, hunters walk over hunters every time.

Eric Lie
Spearfish SD
doerlie@hotmail.com

Comment:

one first choice is enough-many seasons overlap - Better odds of getting a first choice instead of no license at all.

Lynn Voss
Sioux Falls SD
lynn22@sio.midco.net

Comment:

The system how is working just fine, leave it the way it is.

Mitch Munneke
Corsica SD
Sara.mitch@hotmail.com

Comment:

I really dont think you are going to get many extra people into the field also the people of South Dakota have spokenwe do NOT Want change!!!!!! Listen to us!!!!!!

Brian Cotten
Watertown SD
Cottenb@hotmail.cim

Comment:

I really wish you would leave refuge draw out of this and have it on its own. This tag is very difficult to draw the way it is and is extremely limited. Please do not include refuge draw into this application!

Richard Hartland
Winner SD
rkhartland@yahoo.com

Comment:

I feel it works fine the way it is, but if you staggered the draw dates, we would regulate ourselves on how many tags we apply for, we all know we only have so much time. I applied for Hills license this year black powder license this year and special Buck license this year, I was unable to draw any of them, I have 15 points in the black hills area, so I understand what it's like not to draw a tag, But at least I always have chance for one of three, so my support is for leaving it alone,
thank you.

Brian Parsons
Harrisburg SD
brparsons@midco.net

Comment:

This proposal will have just the opposite affect and reduce the number of hunters in the field by restricting them to fewer tages in areas they prefer to hunt.
I most definitely appose opening buck tags in the first draw to non resident hunters. All this will accomplish is turning our resident deer hunting into all paid deer hunting. If it would pass I would start a petition to stop this action.

Rodney Heinrich
Rapid City SD
rrheinrich@midco.net

Comment:

there are those of us that only have the hills to hunt and we can go years without a tag. I went two years a friend went five years. applying for one tag in first drawing will give us a better chance of getting a tag on a regular basis

Scott Olson
Mission Hill SD
scott.olson@mtmc.edu

Comment:

The system that is in place now is better than what is being proposed I think. The youth already have numerous opportunities to get started hunting. We need to be able to apply for all seasons as in the past.

Robert Winter
Yankton SD
bcwinter@vyn.midco.net

Comment:

I do not think the special buck should be included with east/west river first draw.

Dennis Engel
Sioux Falls SD
marcia,denny@hotmail.com

Comment:

how would this help you get a license, if there are like only one or two hundred licenses in a popular area ?

Pat Malcomb

Sioux Falls SD

pmalcomb@sio.midco.net

Comment:

Leave as is, this is not needed. why aren't bowhunters included in this they automatically get two buck tags and a few doe tags. If you are going to limit rifle hunters this is only fair. I say again leave as is.

Brian Garbisch

Summerset SD

brian.garbisch280@gmail.com

Comment:

This proposal still does not address the underlying issue of the "preference point" system that the department has tried to fix with the gimmick of cubing points. I find it hard to believe that that hunters will have a better opportunity to draw their desired license, especially for people who desire to hunt West River including the Black Hills. The Black Hills is only one unit and West River deer is multiple units. But not all West River units are equally desired. Until the department installs a true preference point system, it seems that you are giving false hope of actually drawing a preferred license. This includes all species and licenses in which preference points are accumulated.

I would agree with having a small percentage of licenses for available for people with no preference points, even if you just restrict that percentage to youth. But by having everyone in the same draw pool, no matter the preference points, isn't working. Example, no one with less than 5 preference points should draw a tag before someone with 15+ years, period. The Wyoming nonresident system may not be perfect but at least a person knows when they have a good or absolute chance of drawing.

Looking at the age distribution of who submits multiple applications, you can see that the age groups that do are the groups that potential have the knowledge, physical capability and financial means to hunt multiple areas and seasons. This also means that they are traveling around and contributing more to the economy throughout the state. I am all for providing more hunting opportunities for youth, which can be accomplished by my previous statement of setting aside a percentage of licenses for them. Also, the older folks that don't necessarily want to travel very far or only want to do one hunt, a portion could be set aside for them in which to apply.

I would rather you address this issue by actually fixing the draw system for all species in a way that is straight forward and fair. I would think that more people would be satisfied with actually knowing how many years it may take them to draw their desired area license than hoping that a new random draw system will work.

Thank you for your time.

David Herrboldt

Menno SD

Comment:

I am in favor of applying for 2 of the 6 deer season's on the first draw.

Shane Stanley

Hot Springs SD

hunterfan_31@yahoo.com

Comment:

This is very stupid.your taking our choices away and chances to get a tag for the unit you want as a 2 ND choice

Jim Larsen

Hot Springs SD

jimlarsen433@yahoo.com

Comment:

If for instance I received a tag for both first choice license, the way it is explained is that I am allowed only 1 more tag in any second drawing. I would hope this is not the case.

Jason Haskell

Aberdeen SD

j.kr@nrctv.com

Comment:

I am mostly for the proposal, but oppose the Muzzleloader. I'm not exactly sure how the SDGF&P views/manages the ML hunt. As a primitive weapon I feel that it is wrong to make it so hard to draw and to run it after rifle. I do like that it is a longer season, but feel that there should be a window after archery, but before rifle that begins the ML season. It can then run congruent with rifle and possibly extend beyond also. I also feel we would benefit from delaying the rifle season a week. It always hits too close to the rut. We would have better quality statewide if we allowed those buck to breed in peace before the season starts. Just a couple of my thoughts. Thanks for listening.

Jason Jones

Covington VA

ibejay2982@aol.com

Comment:

So how are preference points going be used? Are previous points still valid? Everything separate or all points grouped together?

Jason Collins

East Grand Rapids MI

jdcollins43@gmail.com

Comment:

The changes you propose for deer hunting will probably make it more difficult for me to draw a non-resident tag. For that, I'm sad and ask you to reconsider. I've been "vacationing" in S. Dakota during the fall for 20+ years and during that time I've made friends, spent money and I've even gained a rooting interest in your high school football playoffs that grace the TV in every bar during November. As you make these changes please consider the timing of your draw to be before or close to other states that have good deer hunting. That will allow me to better plan my fall. I want to continue my non-resident tradition of hunting S. Dakota, and I'd hate to see you have a "late" in the calendar year drawing, and I forego your tag because I've already drawn (and purchased) an alternate tag for a different state.

I love hunting your state because of your rich resources, quality management, and the strong hunting heritage carried on by your residents. Keep it strong and I'll be there as often as I can so I can continue my out of state tradition. Thanks for the hospitality South Dakota.

Curtis Gustafson

Huron SD

crtgustafson@gmail.com

Comment:

I am assuming I could apply for East River Deer and West River deer in the first drawing.

Mary Hershberger

Blackfoot ID

ghersh@ida.net

Comment:

We have hunted SD for the past 20 years but will no longer hunt your state or stay in your motels or eat at you restaurants. Due to our slim chance of drawing in we will not be back to hunt.

Robert Vansickle

Watertown SD

rvansickle57@gmail.com

Comment:

deer tag allocation changes.....this new plan will give me less opportunity to put deer meat in my freezer...its not about trophies for me I live for the hunt and the meat provided!! This new deer tag allocation is rediculous...im in it for the hunt and the meat and appreciate living in SD....and having the opportunity to feed my family on venison!!! With your new plan it will restrict my ability to get 3 or more tags !!! Not sure what you are trying to accomplish w this !!

Julio Medeiros

Natrona Heights PA

Jfmedeiros939@gmail.com

Comment:

I am commenting on the proposed changes for deer hunting license. While I am in favor of a fair process for all, it seems that this new procedure would further limit non-resident chances to obtain deer tags. Having been a resident and now a non-res

Gerald Anderson

Owatonna MN

Grandy74@gmail.com

Comment:

11 resident tags while many in our party go without...the land we lease will never be open to locals. Too many have abused it. I'm sure this is the case in many places. So a 25 year tradition will be lost, the ranchers will lose revenue. But some residents will have 11 tags!!

David Del Soldato

Rapid City SD

sheyanne97@yahoo.com

Comment:

this will not get you more people hunting it is good just as it already is done I think you will just anger your base of hunters maybe that's what you want

Daniel Wittrock

Sioux Falls SD

innerarms06@gmail.com

Comment:

I THINK A LOT BETTER THE FIRST PROPOSAL OF ALLOWING ONLY ONE OF THE SIX SEASON

Ronald Tobin

Gettysburg SD

Ronniedtobin@yahoo.com

Comment:

The general public is not in favor of these changes fish and game needs to stop asking our opinion because you will do what ever you want. Stop

James Strachan

Chancellor SD

jamesstrachan2105@gmail.com

Comment:

I do believe that as when I grew up that deer hunting was a family tradition. It's sort of like christmass. It was a family affair. I personally could care less if I killed another deer but it is important to kids. In today atmosphere I believe that most parents unless they get some kind of license won't participate. I do and I'm not even a parent, I take a week off. And take some kids hunting. My suggestion is to combine a traditional muzzle loader season with gun season (notice I said traditional muzzle loader ,round balls ,no scopes, make it flint lock if you must,) just issue buck licenses for it, I've hunted with them for years there effective range is about equal to these new bows. Everybody gets a license you get more money, and has little if any impact on deer populations. Cant attest to the rest of the state but deer herd is up in southeast SD compared to previous years about back to normal a little short but close, didn't find any dead deer along creeks this year, cut down on doe licenses a few more years and it will be back to normal. Lots of little bucks that will amount to nothing and the 4 or 5 monsters would be a good idea to thin out the little bucks. You've got deer but I really dont understand your philosophy on growing the herd. You are not going to kill all the bucks in 2 weeks. Better to take your kid hunting than hunt your kid!

Sue Crooks

Astoria SD

sue.crooks1985@gmail.com

Comment:

Bottom line as a land owner, there are way to high of a deer population and its needs to be cut in half!! I allow any mentoring/youth that ask to hunt as long as they follow our rules for how they act/proceed on our land and several town people that like to hunt. SO don't make your first reply to me to "let people hunt your land", we allow deer/geese/and trapping to several individuals. This holding back and decreasing tags in eastern South Dakota and stating population is down due to disease is not good enough. I have too much deer and geese damage on my land as the population is just too high. Double or even triple the ones you are issuing now since you have cut the numbers so much the last few years and to me, that is still not enough. They numbers in the herds I see in a 40 mile radius as I travel is incredible. There are so many, they aren't even scared to bed down in my yard. I want to see the number of tags/licenses increase for residents and non-residents both.

Ivan Umberger

Lower Brule SD

Lowerbruleroads@hotmail.com

Comment:

I would like to see west river resident have first chose on west river season before every one get to throw their hats in. I've lived and still hunt in Gregoy Co, with all the good walk in hunting we have lots of east river hunters making it more difficult to draw on low license years. Most hunters don't like not being drawled in your own back yard while many stranger hunt there, thanks

Arlyn Abrams
Beresford SD
AJABRAMS@BMTC.NET

Comment:

support

James Lietz
Brookings SD
jblietz@brookings.net

Comment:

Looks like the old under the table dealings. You are not providing me with more hunting opportunity. giving more out of state hunters to come and make individuals who charge for out of hunters more money. ruining south dakota state residents family traditions. All for the almighty dollar. How many pieces of silver do you need.

Ken Grosch
Sturgis SD
Kenegrosch@yahoo.com

Comment:

support

James Stengle
Yankton SD
jbstengle@gmail.com

Comment:

As a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB) and long-time hunter, I am concerned that your plan discriminates against a small but important segment of the hunting population. That would be East River Non-Resident (NR) LANDOWNERS. Under the present and proposed system, any NR can apply for East River (rifle) tags only if there are any leftover from the last drawing. There is no other options for NR Landowners. This seems terribly unfair to those NR Landowners that want to hunt on their own property but seldom, if ever, get the opportunity to even APPLY for a tag because there are none available. Those NR Landowners pay considerable taxes on their land. Their lands support wildlife and wildlife habitat. Even though they own the land, pay taxes on their property, and support wildlife/wildlife habitat on those properties, they are discriminated against by the system. That is a terrible system that does not allow a landowner to hunt on their own property. The number of NR landowners is small in comparison with resident landowners. A portion of the overall tags could easily be allocated to NR landowners. If they are not purchased by the landowner to hunt on their own property, the tags could then be included in the leftover draw and opened to anyone. Just saying because discrimination is wrong. A tag allocation for NR Landowners should be developed so that at the least they have an opportunity to apply for a tag to hunt their own property!

Bob Lee
Watertown SD
Bl@wat.midco.net

Comment:

Two any deer tags is enough people are spoiled in South Dakota they think they should have all they can get for any deer the two is great plenty thank you for doing this.

John Wilson
Rapid City SD
jkw4002@gmail.com

Comment:

I see people that will put in for bh and wr deer and only receive 1 deer permit any way. so what is the difference in putting for SB/ WR or SB/ HD what is the deal with the SB permit. I never put in for that permit. You are just look out that trophy hunters. Just like when you upped the size limit on trout a few years ago. You were looking out for the fly fisher-man that had a hard time catching big trout. Joke

Thomas Larson
Parker SD

Comment:

Nothing wrong with how the draw system is now. Drawings should remain separate. Most the people that say they never get a tag forget to send in or don't understand the preference system.

Scott Olson
Custer SD
sdolson092404@gmail.com

Comment:

support

Ron Schuch
Rapid City SD
rscschuchs4@gmail.com

Comment:

Having grown up in east river I hunt both east and west river seasons. I will now have to choose between both seasons. The county that I hunt east river NEVER has left over tags for an any deer license. This would mean having to choose between east or west river seasons and never hunting one or the other again. This doesn't work for me.

Wayne Shanks

Colton SD

Wshanks56@hotmail.com

Comment:

I support the new deer license proposal with one exception. As a land owner in Minnehaha co I highly suggest going to slug only and eliminate rifle in the entire county. Minnehaha county rural is becoming very populated. Both me and my newborn have had close calls from rifle bullets. Hole in barn and bullet hit close to my feet. To a point I don't want my grandkids outside during season. Please consider request. I'm an avid hunter that is concerned for safety. Don't wait until someone is seriously injured.

Bobby Pudwill

Milbank SD

Bobby.pudwill@gmail.com

Comment:

This compromise approach and the expected results is a significant improvement over the original proposal. I would recommend however that this proposal is given a two year trial prior to becoming a permanent solution.

Jeff Whillock

Ab SD

jwhillock@abe.midc

Comment:

This compromise makes very good sense to me. I appreciate the opportunities that this will provide -- for both more hunters to have opportunities and also those who want to hunt more than one area to be able to apply for two on first draw. Well done! Thank you for the collaboration and listening.

Bryan Schnell

Rapid City SD

pir@rap.midco.net

Comment:

I have tried to - and believe I have- read everything you have distributed about this proposal, both from your website & media stories. I have called the GFP Chairman & Kevin Robling . My question is:What about my existing preference points that me and my active duty military/law enforcement sons (all SD residents) have been accumulating for many years? Mr. Robling assured me they would not be lost, and stated that they needed to get the word out better about that, indicated he was going to do so (2+ months ago) and still no definitive written word. WILL WE LOSE OUR PRE-EXISTING PREFERENCE POINTS OR NOT? Is it yes; no; or maybe? The fact that you have never addressed this outright -that I have seen, maybe I missed it- makes me very concerned about the forthright motivations behind this deal. I am not a conspiracy guy....but I just want a straight answer, in writing, on the record. Can you please answer the question that many hunters and I have discussed, with NO ONE having seen a published answer. Thank you for your answer or directing me to the previously published written public citation clarifying this aspect. Respectfully, BHS

Jeremy Nettifee
Sioux Falls SD
jerenet1341@live.com

Comment:

Please leave the current system in place. There is nothing wrong with it.

Lee Whitcraft
Webster WI
leew@schooltechbiz.com

Comment:

I have hunted or applied to hunt in South Dakota the past few years. I continue to accumulate preference points for West River rifle and always seem to be fighting a moving target that gives much more opportunity to resident hunters.

I understand you want to retain and increase resident hunter applications but you are discouraging us non-residents.

I hope you reconsider your stance on limiting non resident hunter opportunities.

Justin Smith
De Smet SD
justinsmith_99@hotmail.com

Comment:

I like this far better than the original version having said that I still feel you are trying to fix something that isn't broken! I suggest adding the preference point benefits for kids that you've added to your proposal to the current draw system

Randal Turbak
Rapid City SD
randy.turb@gmail.com

Comment:

The Compromise Proposal for deer hunting licenses is much better than the original proposal that mandated an applicant choose only one hunting season. I approve of this.

Ted Judd
Fowlerville MI
mjbldrs@gmail.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose this proposal. As a non resident deer hunter of 25 years I have hunted a few different west river units but have spent most years on a ranch in Jackson county. The time I have spent there has been wonderful for me but beneficial for the ranch as well. Every year along with a lease fee I take on projects to help out around the ranch. Making it more difficult for non residents to hunt in SD would likely have many negative affects that may easily overlooked. I hope many of the ranchers that count on the non resident leases are aware of what is going on before it is too late for there voice to be heard.

Matt Stephens
Rapid City SD
Royko68@rushmore.com

Comment:

I thought the prior proposal was a better approach to getting more hunters in the field. With this new proposal, we Hills hunters will still be squeezed out by those hunters applying for both Hills and WR.

Joseph Bowman
Piedmont SD
damnidanyway@protonmail.com

Comment:

I feel and have always felt that the single first choice allocation originally introduced is a fair and balanced method of license allocation. The people that are complaining of it not being fair are the ones that draw multiple tags yearly at the expense of other preference point holders. If this was to be a truly fair allocation, archery would be included in the first choice allocation. It is ridiculous that with the modern advancements in archery weapons that this season continues to have licenses provided on an unlimited basis.

Gaylord Evans
Hot Springs SD
max.evans8@aol.com

Comment:

You guys are doing a Great job keep it up.You are doing what is best for now and the future generations .

Tom Riddle
Mitchell SD
Riddleandsons@gmail.com

Comment:

Leave Deer season apps alone,I not sure why this commission is so possessed on changing the season apps. Listen to the hunters they want it left alone

Clint Peterson
Box Elder SD

Comment:

You need to start limiting the non-resident tags before you limit the resident. Non-resident can get East River and West River Archery tag, Black hills tag and West River tag all in one year. They should at the least be limited to one archery tag.

Ernest Getty
Rapid City SD
gettyec1948@gmail.com

Comment:

In the past 5 decades I have had the opportunity to apply for numerous any,or buck, deer tags in the first drawing. Odds being what they were I could usually draw 1 or, sometimes,2 buck tags in that first draw usually with the help of preference points.

I fear if I am unsuccessful now with only two deer season choises that most, if not all, buck deer tags will be gone for the second draw period.

Thank you.

Ernest Getty
Rapid City SD
gettyec1948@gmail.com

Comment:

I do not support limiting the deer application process to 2 choises.

My concern is, what happens to my preference points in the other seasons that I can not apply for in the first drawing ?

If there are no buck-deer tags left in the second draw in the seasons I was not allow to put in for in the first draw because of the 2-season limit do those "other" second season preference points just sit there?

Will I be able to buy a preference point in the second draw if there are no buck tags left ,and, I don't apply for a doe ?

Will I be able to use all of my accumulated deer seasons preference point for the season, or two, I do put in for in the first draw ?

Thank you.

Dennis Winters

Pierre SD

dwinters22@pie.midco.net

Comment:

I am in favor of the original proposal to allow only one application in the first draw in the hunting season of your choice.

Dan Snyder

Pierre SD

Shunkaska57501@yahoo.com

Comment:

Starting this summer my opinion has not changed in leaving the system alone. I help a rancher, over 100's of hours donated labor for the right to hunt on his property, your data showed only a 6% increase in a chance of a draw, I have 1 year of preference. East River West Sully any deer I have 5 yrs of preference were there are only 100 licenses of any deer, and half go to land owners. Land owners feed the deer all yr I have no problem but again in this unit my odds wouldn't increase much. Than with 3 yrs of preference with muzzle loader I am about to draw again. If I can only apply for 2 with no guarantee, why not leave it be, my chances to get west sully and muzzle loader will be good this coming year because I have patiently waited my turn, if not than maybe next year. As a teacher today kids in Pierre are very active, fishing, hunting its Ok for them to also wait their turn, its something taught at home.

Daniel Conrad

Rapid Ciry SD

d_boone71@hotmail.com

Comment:

I would like to keep it the same. 50% wanted change but 50% where happy. Don't change just to change. Change if it is right. Youth shouldn't have an advantage over older hunters. I have paid my dues and deserve tags that I never got when I was young. I am the one paying the money!!!!

Shaun Thomas

Tyler MN

sthomaselectric@hotmail.com

Comment:

As a nonresident, with family that owns land east river I am not able to ever get a rifle buck tag. I pay about 9 times more then a resident and am willing to pay that. It is not right that I can't even have a chance at a tag. The land is in Hughes. County. Or make a land owners tag transferable for a price

Stephen Turner
Rapid City SD
smturner60@rap.midco.net

Comment:

Look @landowner tags also,are they only too hunt there land for the depradation?Seen there's a group 7 them that dont,also trying to get archery servay too down load. It doesn't work, thanks

Michael Bowman
Rapid City SD

Comment:

You started out to spread out the deer licenses and make it easier to get the ONE you prefer. You say you lost support but that is untrue--only the people who were getting multiple tags are upset. Now you are back to square one. Basically GFP caters to archery and east river deer hunters. End of story.

Mitchell Bradley
Rapid City SD

Comment:

Resident hunters should be given priority over nonresidents. Each hunter should only be allowed one buck tag per year. There are too many tags given out. Every public area is overcrowded, it is not safe.

Kyle Couchey
Mina SD
sdcouchey@gmail.com

Comment:

Stop changing what is not broken!!! This goes for every other change you guys keep trying to do.

Chad Blodgett
Black Hawk SD
Jerx0313@gmail.com

Comment:

Just leave it the way it is. I haven't talked to any one that supports the new proposal. If you wanna change something, how about you do more for veterans like other states do!

Donald Hinson
Jacksonville FL
dphinson@comcast.net

Comment:

have commented before. own 1400 acres in west river. pay taxes and invest in community farming and ranching same but cannot get landowner tags due to not being resident. would like to see landowner tags allowed for non-residents if they own 1000+ acres or some other way such as increased preference points for non resident landowners.

Steven Frooman
Rapid City SD
sfrooman@gmail.com

Comment:

I opposed the rifle deer license allocation proposal the Commission approved in November 2018. While I remain unconvinced of the need for any changes*, the proposed structure as of the end of the January 2019 meeting does not have the same flaws I objected to. Accordingly, as long as nothing changes from the proposal as presented on the GFP website 1/19/2019, I support its adoption and finalization at the Commission's February 28/March 1st 2019 meeting.

* As long as any rifle deer tags are available as leftovers following all the drawings, I believe it is misleading at best to say that people are unable to hunt because they "couldn't get a tag". No, they couldn't get as good a tag as they wanted. Big deal. And for what it's worth, I know from personal experience that a satisfying hunt can be had with leftover tags. My 2017 hunt was with a 35C13 tag I bought as a leftover and I had a great time with plenty of opportunities to fill the tag.

Rob Flannery
Yankton SD

Comment:

Looks like a, swims like a, and quacks like a duck, its probably a Deer.
The "why" has not been addressed for the catalyst and reason for change.

Robert Hettinger
Pierre SD
bobbyhettinger@hotmail.com

Comment:

What's going to happen to the already low deer populations when everybody gets their tags? Will tag number still be regulated?

Doug Baltzer

Mitchell SD

douglinda_b@centurylink.net

Comment:

The revised format is an improvement over the first drawing change proposed but I still do not want to have to chose a preferred license in the first two drawings. I would rather the system stay as it currently is.

Louis Vaughn

Rapid City SD

Invaughn@rap.midco.net

Comment:

There is nothing wrong with the current process. Leave it as it is!

Marty McClure

Martin TN

martymcclure161@gmail.com

Comment:

I have family in South Dakota and its very hard to impossible for me to get a tag.. the 8% is not enough! Non residents bring in a lot more money to your state and should be given a better chance to get tags, not put dead last. If it wasn't for non-residents sending money to hunt your state you would have a hard time founding any of your projects and to give us only 8% and put us dead last in the options is a slap in our face!!!

William Jennings

Etta MS

wcjsrj@yahoo.com

Comment:

I myself personally grew up in South Dakota and I want to start by saying I love what you have done to manage and grow quality bucks. However I am a little irritated that there is only 8% of the tags allocated to non-residents. I feel when we (non-residents) come we are helping the local economy. We stay in a cabin at Mountain Meadows resort in the black hills. We eat out in Hill City, Deadwood. I do not see where that non-resident number could not be raised to 15%. We generally draw a tag about every 4 years now. It use to be every other year. I can only assume more hunters are applying is why the time lapse has changed on our successful drawing of a deer tag.

Mike Taylor

Comins MI

manmtaylor@gmail.com

Comment:

you are making it harder and harder for nonresidents to get tags ? must be you don' want our business

Thad Nafzuger

Pierre SD

Thadnafziger@yahoo.com

Comment:

While I feel no changes were necessary to the drawing system to begin with, I know many felt the same way I did through various forms of communication, social media, etc. The powers that be (commission) surely seemed bent on pushing this proposed change, regardless of the public outcry (that evidently was loud enough to put the brakes on the original proposal) & believe me I spoke to many, & was an attendee at one of the original focus groups-it seemed that nobody wanted this change. Now we have a revised addition to this plan that albeit is slightly more favorable in my & many's eyes, it is still a fix to a non-problem that wasn't broken. For once at least enough harping & clamoring from "the people that pay your salaries" (if you are truly license dollars funded-doubtful) stopped or at the very least amended yet another unnecessary change, that would appear to be driven by the need to continually change & tinker with things for a couple reasons, & one of them being, in my opinion, to justify an entirely over staffed with unnecessary positions-department of game fish & parks, & to follow recommendations from a commission that has entirely too much power, does not represent the everyday sportsman/woman of this state, & needs to be reigned in, either disbanded or at the very least be held accountable by making entrance to this commission solely through a vote of the resident voting population of this state, then & only then would I be in favor of this commission & any recommendations they would make. At the rate of sounding petty, congratulations (and only with a heck of a lot of upset sportsmen/women expressing their concern on this issue) on making a compromise that was at least a little palatable & representative for & of the people you folks are supposed to represent

Branden Abeln

Groton SD

Comment:

Focusing on the youth I definitely agree with. As far as the other changes in the draw structure I'm very skeptical. Some of us live for deer season to put meat in the freezer and try to shoot bucks. If the buck part is getting reduced a guy will have to start going out of state to get them.

Kenneth Nigg

Watertown SD

kjnigg@midco.net

Comment:

I have a lot of family land in Roberts County that I can Deer Hunt. When I was younger I would get a tag for Roberts everytime I applied. Now I am lucky to get one every 2 to 3 years. This adds a lot of expense and travel for my Son and I. When I have to drive a long distance and stay in a Motel. I have to leave a lot earlier. Then before opener I have to go scout just to have an out of state pheasant hunter park next to me, knowing someone is in this spot hunting, and walk with their dog thru my hunt. This happened 3 times last year. It is just frustrating knowing I have a couple 1000 acres of private family land that I am the only one that hunts, when I can get a tag. Something needs to change.

Patrick Rosenbaum
Jefferson SD
a5x5hunter07@yahoo.com

Comment:

Do away with the drawing of deer tags for the black hills and go back to buying over the counter and do away with the buying preference points and allow more tags in every unit

Bret Brown
Sioux Falls SD
bbrown68@me.com

Comment:

Once again I can hardly understand the season proposal. I feel that until the deer population is back to where we want it that people should only have access to one tag per year, and one drawing per person with two choices and a second drawing for leftover tags. This would allow everyone the same chance until the population is back to the point where we could have multiple tags.

Another thing that I would like to see is one tag for all seasons. What I mean by that is, a single tag that could be used for archery, firearm, and muzzleloader seasons. This would help hunters actually have the ability to hunt when they had time. As a seasonal worker I barely had time to hunt during the firearms season due to the nice weather, and subsequently did not have many opportunities to fill a tag that I had finally acquired after many years of applying. I would have liked to be able to take that tag into muzzleloader season as well.

Speaking of muzzleloader season, I don't understand the idea that we cannot use a scope on a weapon that is already inferior to regular firearms. I feel that this rule should be changed to allow hunters the best chance to not leave a wounded deer in the field.

Thank you for your time and the wonderful job everyone does for our state resources.

Sincerely,
Bret Brown

William Locken
Lead SD
wjlocken@gmail.com

Comment:

I see you gave in to those greedy people who think they have to have more than one buck tag to be happy. Meanwhile we still have hunters who can't get their preferred tag just so someone can have more than one tag.

Scott Peterson
Sioux Falls SD
north2dakota@sio.midco.net

Comment:

This appears to be a good compromise, time will tell. I work in the sporting goods field and I hear hunters bragging how they received 5 - 9 tags and then filled two with no intentions of filling the other tags. The next hunter I speak with tells me they didn't get a tag or they only got one and are upset. A change is needed and this is a step.

Bob Schneider
Sioux Falls SD
rjs5555@yahoo.com

Comment:

If I'm reading the current proposal correctly, ONLY landowners will have ability to apply for 2 licenses within the 1st draw (i.e.: need authorization for "Special Buck" licenses). Is that correct? FEW hunters are landowners! if that's the case, in my opinion, this "compromise" is a joke!

Gordon Pierson
Columbia SD
e

Comment:

why is one person allowed to get so many licenses , one person does not need over 2 or 4 not 10 plus , why don't you address this problem , there is not many deer to start with then you let the slob hunters run wild

Scott Engle
Independence MN
scott.engle@mchsi.com

Comment:

I have hunted in South Dakota for 20 years and have enjoyed many enjoyable deer and antelope hunts. With this new proposal, I see deer hunting in South Dakota becoming an every 5 year experience (if even that often). Being left to the final draw leaves few options and it has taken a minimum of 2-3 pref points to draw in my area. When in state, I spend over \$1000 per trip in your state, plus license fee (\$280). This is money your state and its businesses will forgo and drive me to other states in the interim years. This proposal is a bad idea for the economic development of South Dakota's tourism industry.

Jerry Travis
Brandon SD

Comment:

I have always hunted east and west with family and would hate to see that tradition end

Christopher Hannah
Hill City SD
mtcity1878@yahoo.com

Comment:

For my family these tags supplement our food for the year. Last year we didn't receive any tags due to people outside of our region getting them. We cannot afford to go anywhere else to hunt. By adding additional seasons to the first draw, my family has a reduced chance to get a tag at home. I believe if you want a tag from where you live, it should be your first choice. there shouldn't be two first choices, it just doesn't make sense. If you want to go into someone else's territory, your territory should be sacrificed. this shouldn't be about money, but be about what's right.

Rick White
Summerset SD
Whiterick43@gmail.com

Comment:

Why must we change anything? I feel residents would be happier if the only change made was to lessen the number of nonresident tags while keeping the draw system the same

Bill Berry
Rapid City SD
Bill.berry81@yahoo.com

Comment:

How come all the changes being made are tailored towards east river hunters. A simple fix would be to have the east/west river rifle seasons to open/close at the same time.

Arlan Smedsrud
Chancellor SD
smedsrudarlan@yahoo.com

Comment:

I don't think Custer Park and Refuge should be included in the draw proposal. I believe you should limit landowner preference to one choice. I don't want any nonresident hunters. This seems like an effort to maintain the current GFP budget after the loss of many non-resident pheasant hunters. Why are we always trying to sell everything that the residents of this state love. I live here because of the opportunities that are here, stop trying to squeeze every cent out of this state. Make budget cuts.

David Mines
Yankton SD
davidmines4831@gmail.com

Comment:

Why won't you listen to the sportsman of this state? Your last terrible proposal generated 84 pages of comments. Roughly 262 comments with only 19 in favor. So about 7% of those who care enough to comment like your new plan yet you keep pushing forward with these changes. Our system works fine now. Adopt some of the ideas like the points for youth and let us accumulate points and apply for what ever season we want.

Alex Whitcraft
Saint Paul MN

Comment:

As a non-resident who applies yearly in order to have an opportunity to hunt species of deer not available in our state, I find this a decision that can only lead to negative consequences. It's a decision that will haunt SDGFP for years to come. Not only will you drive out non-resident hunters, you are going to be the reason why the number of sportsman continue to decline. These proposed regulations don't promote ethical hunters, they encourage road-side, flashlight, and illegal hunting. For those of you that hunt out of state and go through the preference point process year in and year out, does it make sense to increase restrictions??? By doing so, you're significantly reducing state income that would otherwise be there. If you want to promote hunting and hunter safety, you need to allow everyone an opportunity to share in the experiences.

Cherril Brown
Rapid City SD
cd.brown@rap.midco.net

Comment:

I think the latest proposal of SD residents being able to apply for 2 of the deer seasons at application time certainly would get my vote and my spouse's vote as well. Thanks.

Dan Kaup
Mitchell SD
dskaup@gmail.com

Comment:

The new proposal is an improvement over past practices as more individuals have the opportunity to hunt. It was nice to be able to apply for so many permits, but not necessary, especially when so many apply and so many are turned down. Some are complaining that they can't enjoy family activities, but I don't see why not...they can still go but just can't shoot. Not a problem.

Wade Gubrud

Gary SD

wade.gubrud@pioneer.com

Comment:

More non-landowners need an opportunity to draw a license. It took me 9 years to draw a statewide muzzleloader tag. I can buy a non-resident tag over the counter in MN. My family and I will be doing more deer hunting in MN in the future. Moved to SD 25 years ago looking forward to the hunting experiences and have watched my deer hunting opportunities get worse every year especially east river.

Darrel Knutson

Rapid City SD

knutsondak@rushmore.com

Comment:

I think your first idea of applying for 1 choice out of 6 was the way to go.

Douglas Kindelspire

**Leola (Mailing Address Is Forbes,
Nd) Live In Sd SD**

dkindelspire@valleytel.net

Comment:

support

Doug Nelson

Chamberlain SD

dn1stop@hotmail.com

Comment:

New system will be a joke. Just have to go out of state to get my hunting in

Michael Fuhrmann

Shakopee MN

Michael.fuhrmann23@gmail.com

Comment:

I get where you want more hunters, but also making it harder for non residents to get a license isnt going to make anything better. You will lose alot of hunters to nebraska and wyoming. We spend alot of money as alot of others from out of state do. I think you will have a drop in non resident applications. And a drop in these small towns getting money from non resident hunters staying there .

Brendan Matthew
Sturgis SD
bub0452@yahoo.com

Comment:

Does this new proposal allow a hunter to apply for two tags in the first draw, and still apply for preference points for other license. For example, if I apply for West River Deer, and Black Hills Deer in the first draw, will I have the opportunity to apply for a preference point for Muzzle loader? If this is not the case, then I probable will never hunt with a muzzleloader again in the state as you will be forcing me to choose between applying for it (to accumulate preference points to eventually draw the tag) and the one of the other hunts I have been doing for 40 years! Sure, the guy who like to hunt with muzzle loader only will love this, as he will get the tag more often, but in the end, you upset one group of hunters to make another group happy. You have even said you do not expect to really see any more tags. Long story to just say please let us continue to accumlate preference points for the hard to get hunts. I am prefectly happy not hunting the hills or west river for a year if it is replaced by the oppurtinity to get the muzzle loader tag.

Robert Lewis
Trent SD
buckangyla@yahoo.com

Comment:

Not only are whatever these changes are totally confusing to me, but what was wrong with the previous way of applying. I saw nothing wrong with it...

James Buteyn
Sioux Falls SD
jnbuteyn@gmail.com

Comment:

Would you be in favor of increase chances, Of course I'd like to have the Vikings in the superbowl every year as well. It is a poorly written question to elicit a prescribed response. This is flawed from the start. Black Hills was geared only to one group but expanded to all (again flawed.) First choice has decreased as Blue tongue went through. Antelope odds decreased as well. I went from multiple tags to one every other.

3. One application means EAST river. the majority live there and don't want to travel. So why change it for the whole state?

14. You have hunters that applied for 9,604 licenses that can no longer submit those. Those hunters are not being treated fairly. There are plenty of tags if you want to shoot a deer, you just have to find a new part of the state.

20. There will not be additional hunters, it will be the same pool. I just can't submit 4 tags across the state. I will be further down the list for East River, and never hunt close to home.

This has been shot down after GFP refused to listen to hunters. It went to the State and got kicked back. Please leave this alone. Deer numbers cycle and this only serves to export tags for non-resident. they could not apply east river before and now will be eligible. The only increase will be non-resident. Please listen to those who have asked you to leave it alone. You are doing fine, don't change anything.

Brig Knott

Hudson WI

bknott@mmm.com

Comment:

A portion of your logic is to continue the tradition of families being able to hunt together. You are not factoring in SD families where kids have moved out of state. Your current license proposals makes it almost impossible to plan family deer hunts west river when non-resident licenses are 8% of total and you rely on a point system to eventually get drawn.

Raymond Powers

Kimball SD

raymondpowers@live.com

Comment:

the old system has worked for years. leave it the way it is.

James Cantalope

Eureka SD

cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

Your still applying within the unit (season) of your choice, there is no difference!!!!!!! Why change it

Brett Andrews

Aberdeen SD

brett@huffconstructioninc.com

Comment:

There are no issues with the current system. I feel that this subject has been drug out far too long. The new deer draw proposal is almost unanimously opposed by SD hunters yet it continues to be pursued by the commission. If non-resident money is driving this, increase non-resident fees. I apply to many western states and SD has one of if not the cheapest Non-resident fees. Please listen to your resident hunters and voters, do not pass the new deer draw proposal. Focus your time and efforts on matters for conservation, habitat restoration, and programs to get more volunteers and youth into the great outdoors. Do what is best for South Dakota, make it a better state.

Paul Maassen

Watertown SD

paul.maassen@bpi.build

Comment:

Something should change, I grew up on a farm in SD and am to the point of not even applying anymore. I've shot two deer in the last decade and only because it takes 4 sometimes 5 years to get a license. I think that's deterring a lot of people from choosing to hunt in South Dakota.

Jim Sasse
Aberdeen SD
wisesasse@gmail.com

Comment:

affect this will have on preference points and if I have two buck tags am I still allowed to purchase a doe tag

Chad Vetter
Frederick SD
cwvetter@nvc.net

Comment:

I have been hunting deer in SD for over 30 years now and would have to say that the number one issue at this time is the health of SD deer population. SD continues to oversell its applications for revenue purposes "my opinion" and not so much based on the deer population. I tell my kids stories of all the deer that used to be around and how much fun it was able to go out and stalk deer into a slough and usually on the first day of deer hunting one would be successful. Them days are long past SDGFP. I'm not prepared to support additional changes that limit SD resident hunters and the youth of this state. I saw the first proposal as an attempt to limit resident hunters and allow nonresident hunters an increased number of applications because lets face it as the rural population decreases there are less and less resident hunters applying for those applications. Before I would support addition nonresident hunting I would like to see an effort of SDGFP or this darn State put some effort in getting urban hunters into the fields.

David Carda
Yankton SD
davidcarda@kolbergpioneer.com

Comment:

I like it the way it is with the current system. Please leave it as is.

Joseph Gregory
Rapid City SD
mickey@q.com

Comment:

One person does not deserve more than one license per year for an antlered deer when I can only get a license every three years. Several national hunting magazines have recently published in-depth stories about the decline in the numbers of hunters in the field annually. Only being able to hunt every three years is hardly worth the effort. If a hunter wants more than one license the second license should be only unantlered. I have seen too much wanton waste from people with more than one license.

Todd Rhew

Hot Springs SD

trhew2@goldenwest.net

Comment:

You are implementing this system against the wishes of almost ALL sportsman, statewide. When are the people whom this effects going to get a say in this? As far as Non-residents are concerned, as long as there is ONE resident hunter that doesn't draw his preferred tag, then there should be NO non-resident hunters even considered. This is where people are convinced that you are considering non-residents over tax paying residents. Many times I have been passed over on Black Hills tags, my home area, and plenty of deer, only to see out of state tags hunting in this area. Frustrating to say the least. Leave the system alone, make all preference points free(as they should be), and put tax paying residents first, not last.

James Whelan

Cadillac MI

jwhelan@mhc.net

Comment:

Please clarify dates in table. Also, I support the initiative. Aggressive management is the only option to halt CWD. Also please consider making landowner permits transferable.

Michael Keeton

Pierre SD

michaelkeeton10@hotmail.com

Comment:

Don't change the way it is. The youth portion of the new proposal is the only thing worth keeping.

Mark Peppel

Pierre SD

Markpeppel@gmail.com

Comment:

I am not in favor to the change to the original proposal. I wish it would have been left alone and everyone only gets one first choice in the first drawing as originally proposed. Very disappointed. Sure some people would have had to change where they hunt but the way the system is now makes it extremely difficult for people who do not have a place to hunt to start a tradition with their friends and family.

Brad Day

Maple Grove MN

brady@firstclasscorp.com

Comment:

Please provide opportunity for non residents to purchase a buck tag on land they have ownership in. Non Residents currently have very few opportunities to purchase and receive a buck tag East River. This proposal sounds like it will make it even harder for a Non REsident to get a buck tag. I own land in SD and it is hard for me to hunt on my own

Travis Hansen

Worthing SD

thansen87@yahoo.com

Comment:

The system we have is not broken. People need to realize that certain counties will not have enough tags to please everyone. No one I have spoken with supports the changes.

Matt Field

Brookings SD

matthewjfield78@gmail.com

Comment:

Will having a archery tag limit a hunter to 1 tag in the first 2 draws? Or will can you have a archery tag, and 2 additional tags in the first two draws?

Randy Malterud

Lead SD

Comment:

I highly support changing the deer drawing to 1 tag in the first drawing vs the current proposal of 2. The current compromise of 2 is not a significant enough change to make a difference. If you want to recruit/retain hunters, they need to be able to draw a preferred tag frequently to keep them interested. Why should a person be able to get 2 preferred tags before another person gets 1? Those people who want the 2 preferred tags because of "tradition" are greedy. They still can have both hunts most years, but may be limited to shooting does on 1 of the hunts. It should not eliminate the hunt for them. Have the courage to make this right for all hunters and limit first drawing tags to 1.

Justin Schwarz

Ankeny IA

jschwarz@hanifentowing.com

Comment:

What happens to all the preference points nonresidents had before this change? Did we just donate our money/points and kicked to the curb? I've read this proposal a million times over and in the East River county I hunt in with my resident family, I'll never have a shot at getting a buck tag. Very disappointing. North Dakota will be getting my money from now on.

Kurt Schweiss

Rapid City SD

kschweiss@fmgengineering.com

Comment:

I believe that the vast majority of hunters who apply for more than one deer tag in the first drawing don't apply for more than two. Therefore this decision by the SDGF&P won't change much of anything. It was a political move designed to look like a compromise.

Several years ago I purchased a small piece of land (80 acres) just for hunting. I get my first choice deer tag every other year. I can't do much hunting anyway, because I have to spend all of my time chasing off trespassers. I wonder how many of them have multiple first choice tags in their pockets while I'm hunting on my own land in the middle of rugged-river-break-mule deer country with a leftover whitetail tag in my pocket. Because of this I may never purchase or apply for a hunting license of any kind in the state of South Dakota again. I am seriously considering selling my land, putting the money in an account and using it to do all of my hunting out of state. I won't give the state of South Dakota any more of my money than I absolutely have to. By the way, the only people who think that one person getting two first choice tags while the next person gets zero is fair, are the people getting two (#SELFISH!!!!!!!). Subtract one hunter from the field.

James Suedkamp

Pierre SD

moriverseeds@mncomm.com

Comment:

Its Ridiculous that GFP plays to a few disgruntled high society hunters who will require the rest of us real hunters to abide by their requirements. Its terrible that GFP staff can't even explain this new negative direction!

Torrey Wahl

Selby SD

twahl@webwater.org

Comment:

Why are you trying so hard to change something that works fine the way it is, my guess is there is an agenda to figure out some way to allow the GFP the ability to sell more deer tags to nonresidents and commercialize big game hunting just like pheasant hunting, just leave the tag situation alone.

Christopher Gruenwald

Redfield SD

christophergruenwald@gmail.com

Comment:

It's a better idea than the original to only allow 1 application. A buddy and I try every year to go out west river as well as hunt east river. Sometimes we draw tags and sometimes we don't and we pick up some leftovers instead, but at least we had to opportunity to apply for the seasons. One year we even got lucky enough to draw tags for black hills, west river and east river. I don't feel getting a deer tag is all that difficult with the original system we had in place. Elk tags area completely different story, but we have a limited resource of elk.

Steve Moses

Rapid City SD

Jdslr@rushmore.com

Comment:

I do NOT want a change but I can see you are going to shove this down our throat anyway just like rapid city you can vote it out but if they want it they just do it any way but take muzzle loader and custer state park

Steve Moses

Rapid City SD

Jdslr@rushmore.com

Comment:

DUPLICATE

I do NOT want a change but I can see you are going to shove this down our throat anyway just like rapid city you can vote it out but if they want it they just do it any way but take muzzle loader and custer state park

Jaret Biel

Aberdeen SD

jaretbiel@hotmail.com

Comment:

Still disagree with the attempt in compromise since the majority is not in favor of any changes being made. We should not lose the option to apply for multiple tags. For you to include Black Hills, Muzzleloader, Refuge and Custer State Park is just wrong. You need to listen to the public and leave the system alone. Anyone that is an avid hunter does not want this change as it is not benefiting the hunter.

Keith Geiken

Lennox SD

Comment:

The new deer license draw. East river and west river rifle should be one draw. This is all one state, not two states. A lot more people would get a license, if you could only apply for one rifle license. If there are left over tags, then a person

Craig Niemann

Volga SD

craigniemann2018@gmail.com

Comment:

2013 GFP sold 159,117 total tags on 109,857 licenses

2017 GFP sold 117,030 total tags on 103,388 licenses

This represents a 36% decrease in Tags from 2013-2017.

This represents a 6% decrease in Licenses from 2013-2017.

I compiled the data on the SD 2018 Deer Draw results for both ER and WR. The data set represents the "01" or "any deer" tags for the tag units that require at least 1+ preference point. These tags could also be referred to as the "PREFERRED TAG" Also included is the ER and WR Special Buck Statistics. The percentage represents the percentage of people with those points that were successful in drawing. Not included are limited issue draw units. All other deer tags not on this list you can draw with 0 preference points.

ER 2+ pts

Tag Percentage

05a01 93

12a01 69

16a01 100

17a01 35

59a01 27

61a01 41

63a01 78

ER 1pts

Tag Percentage

01a01 85

06a01 49

07a01 3

13a01 16

19a01 88

22a01 96

23a01 98

29a01 25

33a01 13

36a01 72

38a01 22

43a01 35

44a01 6

46a01 58

55a01 96

62a01 58

WR 2+ pts

Tag Percentage

15a01 90
20a01 50
21a01 29
27a01 38
30a01 22
30b01 43
35c01 56
45a01 100
45b01 44
58a01 37

WR 1pts

Tag Percentage

02c01 4
21b01 98
24a01 67
27b01 24
35a01 51
39a01 85
53a01 35
60a01 61

WR Special Buck 1pt

Tag Percentage

WR101 93

ER Special Buck 1pt

Tag Percentage

ER101 96

Look at the data. If it takes you 4+ years to draw a tag like I've seen mentioned I ask what tag are you applying for? If it is on my list attached then talk to your commissioners about doing away with the lottery draw and go to a true preference point system so you can at least draw the tag every 1-2 years. If it's not on this list then you are applying for a limited issue area.

THE ONLY WAY YOU ARE UN-SUCCESSFUL IN THE CURRENT SD GFP DRAW SYSTEM IS BY APPLYING FOR ONLY 1 TAG.

For the past 5 years I've received 4-5 any deer tags in SD. 2018 I received 5 tags with my muzzleloader tag, which took me 6 years to draw. Guaranteed Archery ER and WR. Lottery draw for rifle ER and WR. I utilize the special buck for both ER and WR every other year. I apply for the county tag every other year. The counties I apply for are 1+pt preference counties. Meaning you will only draw that tag 1x/every other year. I have never applied for a Custer or Black Hills tag. Every year I apply for ER, WR, Refuge, and Muzzleloader. Always get my ER and WR tags.

Special Buck tags up to 2017 were 100% guaranteed with 1pt. Now they are just under 100%. I have my preference points set up so I can draw an ER and WR rifle tag every single year on my first choice tag. This doesn't include my 2nd choice WR tag which I always draw, this is typically an "any whitetail only tag".

One thing I want to make very clear. The new proposal doesn't guarantee you a tag for ER and WR; it doesn't even guarantee an ER or WR tag. It does guarantee you the opportunity to apply and possibly draw an ER and/or WR deer tag.

The state gfp anticipate 1,000 more hunters will have a tag with this 2nd proposal. That represents less than a 2% increase across the state. I personally don't think they will achieve this number. Look at the draw results and how many people applied for tags without a chance of getting them. Every tag I listed above had people applying for it with zero preference points. Guaranteed not to get a tag. They should have applied for a different tag if they wanted to hunt a deer. There are plenty of first choice tags you can draw with 0 preference points. This shows that these people don't understand the current allocation system or they only want to hunt a specific tag.

The reality is this: Many deer hunters want to hunt certain counties/tags only. Which means the amount of applicants will stay the same or increase for those tags. 80% of applicants that are unsuccessful on draw #1 don't even apply for draw #2. Why or how does this new proposal address that problem?

This would be my proposal to make a change if the state is so hard headed and committed to making a change:

- 1: Give every landowner as many tags as he or she wants for herd management on THEIR LAND ONLY. This does not include leased/rented ground. Only owned ground or land in a family trust. The amount of money and time they sacrifice to maintain a deer herd should allow them as many tags as they want.
- 2: That landowner can donate the tag/tags or he can use them himself.
- 3: Do away with "landowner preference tags" and allocate those tags to everyone. This should open up more tags for non landowner applicants. If a landowner wants to hunt public or private land other than their own, they can apply and will be included in the draw just like a non land owner.
- 4: Leave the 6 individual draw applications just as they are.

Last but not least:

- 1: The state needs to do a better job at making land-locked public ground available to the public hunter. Either through land swaps or access easements.
- 2: The state needs to do a better job at allocating financial resources for public land. There is a lot of public "Walk in" land that is extremely small and holds no wildlife, over grazed/hayed and holds no wildlife, or is a bean field that holds no wildlife. Spend the money on better land.
- 3: Game Production areas can be managed much better. Many GPA areas have no food plots and if they do most are not managed properly. ie: not fertilized, not sprayed for weeds, etc
- 4: Stop grazing GPA ground to the dirt. If you want to take the grass off then burn it, hay it, or graze it after nesting is over. Aggressive spring grazing does the wildlife nothing.

I'm all about spreading the wealth and getting more people in the outdoors. People need to experience getting close to wild animals. I just feel that all this time, 3+years, and all this money is a waste if it is only going to result in maybe 1,000 more people or 1.5% more deer hunters.

2013 GFP sold 159,117 total tags on 109,857 licenses
2017 GFP sold 117,030 total tags on 103,388 licenses
This represents a 36% decrease in Tags from 2013-2017.

If you want more people to have an opportunity to experience deer hunting then do a better job at managing the natural resources and increase the deer herd. That is money and time better spent than trying to get a tag in another 1,000 peoples hands while pissing off 90% of the hunting population and deflating the faith they have in our SD GFP.

Wayne Thuen
Rapid City SD
wayne.thuen@midco.com

Comment:

I liked the first proposal of trying to make it much easier to draw a preferred tag in the area wanted. I strongly support your efforts to make drawing a tag in a preferred unit of choice and increasing our odds of drawing a tag.

James Zeck

Sioux Falls SD

jzeck2@sio.midco.net

Comment:

I would prefer that you leave the deer application as it is. I feel the changes being proposed will harm resident hunters in favor of non-resident hunters.

Darren Swenson

Madison SD

Comment:

Leave the system as it is now.

Robert Coyle

Summerset SD

clintcoyle50@gmail.com

Comment:

This about tags, your really going to hurt those that live on wild game, why mess with something that's not broke, it just like when you changed the hunting atlas map now I can't even use it. It was perfect before you changed it, if it's not broke

Todd Brown

San Diego CA

TCBROWNIE@GMAIL.COM

Comment:

It's unclear to us how the proposed changes will affect our ability to secure a non-resident bow hunting license moving forward? My friends and I have been hunting deer/pheasant and waterfowl for the last 10 yrs and look forward to that continuing. We spend plenty of money in SD with licenses, even more in the local communities when we get there on lodging, food and other fun supplies! Without that deer tag we won't do the trip. Hope you all understand the implications of not just the monetary side but the ability to showcase your beautiful state to avid hunters across the country. We live in San Diego and look forward to our trip all year. It's understandable to prioritize the opportunities of SD residents, we just hope you all understand the value that non-resident hunters bring in the overall scheme of things. Thank you.

Thomas Whitley

Doland SD

Twhit0889@gmail.com

Comment:

I do support the change in many ways, but some of the things I don't understand is why do the out of state hunter's get 8% over the resident in West River Black Hills and Reservation area's has it always been this way or just this way now? I also believe as residents we should have the ability to half of the seasons so 3 out of the 6 instead of 2 out of the 6! I like how we are capable to get more tags in the later drawings! Many families including my own hunt to feed not only ours but others in the communities!

Tim Weigel

Aberdeen SD

dexterweigel@gmail.com

Comment:

In an effort to make license more available the landowner preference should be eliminated. Can still use landowner tag (on their own ground). But not reduce odds for non-landowners. Every one in the same bucket. Should also go to a true preference point system. A small portion of license would still be available in random draw. This would allow sportspersons to plan and schedule for the different units they may like to hunt. This drawing odds/ results in this should also be available to view.

Rob Brooks

Dakota Dunes SD

robb@siouxcityford.com

Comment:

I feel it is stupid to change the current application process for deer hunters. If people don't know how to work the current system in their favor through preference points, that is their fault. Don't ruin it for rest of us.

John Evenson

Springfield SD

johnevenson3885@gmail.com

Comment:

I think it was fine the way it was.

Eric Grenz

Rapid City SD

egrenz@hotmail.com

Comment:

I support putting all 6 license types in one draw and allowing 2 apps. I like the free points for youth hunters.

Brian Wherry
Herreid SD
brian.wherry@k12.sd.us

Comment:

It is absolutely ridiculous to put muzzleloader into the same draw against rifle seasons. They are different weapons and after the rifle seasons. Makes no sense. It is already a disadvantage shooting primitive and after rifle seasons are done. Pull that out of the proposals!! In fact, don't change a thing!! Get youth involved if you want more hunters.

Christian Freeman
Sioux Falls SD
Freemo51@outlook.com

Comment:

Your giving a bonus point to kid which i dont like because your teaching them to only shoot bucks there is nothing wrong with shooting a doe! I do like that its free for them! But to me to pick up extra money you should raise prices on elk and deer if you check other states its alot higher and our out of state tags are way to cheap! Montana is way higher and so are the other boardering states! Also your not soloving the real problem is there are to many hunters in to little public land. I have a hard time off getting off the road (close the designated roads! And add more walk in programs)!

Steve Wiege
Rapid City SD
stwig1347@gmail.com

Comment:

Although I was against any changes to the current draw, I would support this new proposal over all the others that hv been proposed thus far.

Roger Heintzman
Aberdeen SD
r_heintzman@hotmail.com

Comment:

I could loose 2/3 of my hunting opportunities with the proposal.
Now you are using under 15 youth as pawns just to pass your pathetic proposal.
How stayed awake at night to come up with such a unwanted change.
Leave well enough alone.

Ryan Patterson

Aberdeen SD

ryan3290@hotmail.com

Comment:

Hello I am writing you tell you I am opposed to the deer allocation. The only benefit to this is to help kids get out into the field. No way does this new proposal help the deer population and it bad for South Dakota sportsman as there will be some sportsman go along with it because we all see the writing on the wall. We see that no matter how many sportsman speak up against the deer allocation are still going to make a change. The current "old" system we have works and there's no need to change it. Leave it as it is and if you want to try and get kids into hunting then go a head and pass the part for the kids but leave the rest as it is now.

Douglas Kingsbury

Lawton IA

Loesshillsbow@aol.com

Comment:

Need way more non resident west river deer rifle and antelope tags.

John Brockmueller

Irene SD

Jd.brockmueller@plantpioneer.com

Comment:

I think you should have stayed with your original proposal where they had to apply for 1 license in first drawing. Otherwise I support this current change.

Merris Miller

Lennox SD

coyotedoc3@hotmail.com

Comment:

Although it is disappointing that politicians kill an idea that most people are in favor of, at least GFP has continued to improve things with this compromise approach. Hopefully, this will pass. I hope with the passing of this, the GFP will work on the next issue that needs fixed with deer seasons in SD.....Landowner Preference tags. Anyone with a landowner preference tag, should be required to hunt on their own land. At the very least, they should not be able to hunt public land! This is an issue, and should be fixed. Thank you.

Brad Waage

Vermillion SD

brad.waage@usd.edu

Comment:

Why do non resident hunters only get to apply for West river tags. There is no East river tags on the first draw.

Travis Hendricks

Vivian SD

sdpheasanthunt@yahoo.com

Comment:

support

Dusty Waldron

Pierre SD

Comment:

oppose

Jack Dokken

Pierre SD

Comment:

oppose

Ray Konz

Brandon SD

ray@adrianstatebank.com

Comment:

i see no reason to change to a new program.
please leave it as it has been.

Craig Ellman

Salem SD

crellman@hotmail.com

Comment:

Changes do not address greatest problem with current system. Rich Landowner special advantage set at 160 acres. See article 6 of state constitution. Every year,"out of county and out of state" hunters get licenses that in (county resident) hunters are denied.

Jason Van'T Hul

Harrisburg SD

Jvanthul@outlook.com

Comment:

As a hunter in the state of South Dakota, it takes me 4 years to Draw a rifle tag under current rules. I only hunt public ground, so areas where large amounts of public ground exist get to be many hunters first choice.

I support the new allocation plan. I would even support those that what to buck hunt with additional tags can enter more then twice, but the cost of the additional tag is at non resident rates. Use th excess tag revenue to provide additional walk in areas in the state. I also suggest gfp increase tag costs across the board.

I realize people will complain about the cost of the tag, but no one complains about the \$200 sika pants and \$200 sika shirt and \$150 danner boots they bought to hunt with.

Good luck. GFP does a good job. I appreciate you listening to the public.

Robert Watts

Rapid City SD

robert.watts@state.sd.us

Comment:

1 Still dumps excess hunters in areas where locals can't get a tag in the unit they live in. 2 Still puts the burden of nonresident hunters in the BH's unit and west river units ,when are the east river hunters going to have to be burdened likewise.3 left over tag sales to people who all ready have multiple tags just crowds more hunters on what little public land there is.4 Whether anyone at the GFP thinks so or not it just makes them look like they don't care about anything but selling tags. 5 Mentor tags to teach kids to hunt without the pressure of competition is good for our kids but why sell these tags for \$10 to nonresidents for their kids, if they can come from Minnesota to hunt expense wise they can pay \$100 for the tag period.

David Jorgensen

Wagner SD

Comment:

Since you feel that you have gotten enough input that you feel the need change the current application process. I find the current proposal of applying for two tags in the initial drawing far more acceptable than your original proposal. I know you have gotten input on both sides of this, so if there is a need to change this is a decent compromise.

Bo Moysis

Utica SD

Bo_moysis@hotmail.com

Comment:

Why fix something that's not broken! Leave tag drawings the way they are! Thanks have a good day

Gary Larson

Deadwood SD

glarson@safordlab.org

Comment:

Keeping traditions on Family hunting kind of left along time ago when the draw started

Randell Kenner

Piedmont SD

Comment:

I am submitting my support for the GFP Commission proposal passed on 1/11/19. Allowing hunter to apply for two of the six deer seasons in the first drawing is an excellent compromise. Thank you.

James Bencoter

Parkston SD

dmbencoter@yahoo.com

Comment:

I feel there should be no preference points so that everyone every year has a chance for a deer license. a game warden said that it costs more to keep track of preference points then the money you receive so why have it.

Harold Bartsch

Owatonna MN

bartscha@yahoo.com

Comment:

My hunting partner and I have applied to hunt deer in West River zones for over twenty years, and seldom get picked on the first draw even with multiple preference points.
We pay full price for leftover licenses just to see our Ranching friends, but this change almost nullifies our chances of getting drawn.
Since my hunting partner will be 80 and I will be 79 this year, our chances of getting to use our preference points will be close to zero.

Steve Moses

Rapid City SD

jdslr@rushmore.com

Comment:

Also have non residents archery start October 1 give residents a month to hunt with out getting ran over by non residents

Jerome Gau
Rapid City SD
gaujerome1@gmail.comD

Comment:

I was in agreement with the original proposal. Increasing the first draw to two applications will not improve the odds for Black Hills hunters. With the decline in the numbers of hunters, its important to allow as many hunters as possible to obtain a license. For Black Hills hunters I believe the odds will remain at about 3 years to draw a license. Also since the wild game belongs to the state, as many hunters as possible should be allowed to harvest at least one animal.

Jerod Hudelson
Sturgis SD
JEROD@RUSHMORE.COM

Comment:

I am against any changes to the deer allocation process. This process that GFP is doing on this proposal is the biggest mess I have ever seen.

Trent Neu
Sioux Falls SD
neumoose@hotmail.com

Comment:

Seems like this is a better option than choosing just 1 season. Multiple reminders(emails) to apply before the deadlines would be appreciated. I like the current system that is in place, however I can understand how this will increase odds for success in some areas. It will be interesting to see how it is viewed in 2022 when it is reviewed. I still believe if you have 3,4,5 plus preference points you should be in a different bracket instead of just cubing the preference points. Each point increase in preference should be a different grouping. Someone with 2 points should not be in the same grouping as someone with 3. 3 shouldn't be with 4's etc. Thx Example the muzzleloader tag this past year.

Mark Clausen
Pierre SD
mark.clausen@dot.gov

Comment:

I would like to be given an explanation of how I will be able to use my existing preference points with the new system. Currently I have 4 preference points for WR deer and 3 preference points for ER deer. Can I only use them for the deer season I acquired them in, or would I be able to use them in different seasons (Ex. - say use 7 preference for ER deer)??

Bradley Beavers

Jefferson SD

brad@dakotamechanical.com

Comment:

This is more of a question than a comment. I am an East(Union Co.) and West(Gregory Co.) river landowner. I am also a part in a west river hunting lease in Butte county. Will I be able to get a Butte county tag and also get a landowner tag for Union and Gregory County. I do not see anything in the structure to address this. Thank You

Donn De Boer

Chamberlain SD

Comment:

The current system has worked well for years. No need to change something that is not broke.

Jim Detoy

Rapid City SD

jsdetoy@yahoo.com

Comment:

Have quit deer hunting in SD after not getting a license in 3 years. Put it back to what it was .Paying for a point is not for me.

Louie Genzler

Aberdeen SD

louiegenzler@gmail.com

Comment:

There are no deer on public hunting ground , and to get farmers and ranchers to give permission is next to impossible! I hunt in Potter county

Scott Nielsen

Sioux Falls SD

sniel732998@hotmail.com

Comment:

to many licenses sold for the number of deer in units as it is

Gerald Bobzin
Hill City SD
bobzinklan@msn.com

Comment:

I want the tag system to stay the same. But if you are going to change it don't put Custer state park, and muzzleloader in the new system.

Daron Peterson
Humboldt SD

Comment:

I would like to see you leave it the same as it's always been

Phillip Eide
Centerville SD
phillip.eide@iw.net

Comment:

i just don't understand the benefit of changing the current system.

Joel Reil
Rapid City SD
1fuzzie54@gmail.com

Comment:

You are loosening residents because the cost versus the wages paid in South Dakota!!! Maybe all we need is nonresident tages make the game an fish happy! What a bunch of BS on your new proposals on tags for South Dakotans. Bad bad bad

Todd Dathe
Brandon SD
Todddathe99@yahoo.com

Comment:

I believe the fairest way to allocate the licenses is to create a system where everyone has to pick the license they would most like to have as their first choice. The current system results in some people getting several of their first choices and others getting none. Making the first drawing a true first choice drawing ensures that each hunter can target the season that is most important to them. Yes this will result in change for some, however, in order to make the system more fair there will have to be change. I view the changes to the elk draw as positive for the same reasons. Hunting should be something that is open to all not just the few who have the most influence. Please try to consider the average person that has limited financial resources in your decisions

Dalton Mcnutt
Doland SD

Comment:

Still have no idea why we are trying to fix a system that isn't broken? Okay the lottery like everyone else! I feel habitat is a bigger focus than this yet you do nothing about it. What a joke, I'll be hunting in other states

Kevin Forrester
Sturgis SD
k4ester@yahoo.com

Comment:

The original proposed changes actually provided opportunity for youth hunters to draw a Black Hills buck license because hunters would have to prioritize their first draw preference. The changes now proposed still allow for application for their favorite East/West River Deer and still be in on BH Deer draw. Based on the published draw statistics the only thing this proposal does is make youth preference points free. It will not change the timeline to actually draw a license. I know my kids have soured to hunting because the only license they can get are antlerless.

Brian Frybarger
Rapid City SD
bafman59@gmail.com

Comment:

This proposal offers plenty of opportunities for hunters to obtain tags while preventing certain parties from stock piling tags, either for themselves or to "pass along" (sell) to their friends, guests, etc. This should ensure tags are actually being used by ethical hunters, not for those seeking to profit from deer licenses. To determine success of this program, implement a mandatory post-season reporting system on deer taken, day hunted, locations, and so on.

Terry Mixell
Brandon SD
mix007@alliancecom.net

Comment:

I support this proposal however I was in favor of the first proposal limiting a person to their first choice. Since that was shot down I feel this is a good compromise but again reduces a persons chance of getting their first and preferred choice. Thank you for your time.

Bruce Evans
Rapid City SD
BSE36@HOTMAIL.COM

Comment:

It sure looks like more fortunate individuals who have access to private land want to be able to apply for East or West River and Hills Deer are dictating policy. Initially you were going to require a person to choose one deer application in the first drawing, that would be more fair to public land hunters who rely on the Hills as their main deer hunt. Once again those of us who live in the Hills area and had traditional deer camps with friends and family for years will again be forced to take a back seat to hunters who aren't willing to give up their East or West River tag for a chance to hunt the Hills.

Steven Ahrendt
Sioux Falls SD
rosemariea@sio.midco.net

Comment:

I believe your original proposal to limit hunters to one tag on the first draw is the correct approach, if in fact, your goal is to get more hunters an opportunity to deer hunt. The comments (objections) you posted would be the selfish, me first ones one would expect. Hunting tradition is not based on how many tags one draws, but on one's ability to hunt. Your proposal is not complicated and if it can't be understood by an individual, then maybe they are too dumb to have a rifle in their hands. As a Hunt Safe Instructor, we often hear that the opportunity to hunt is not available for a variety of reasons. Preference points are great but they aren't the same as drawing a tag. Don't compromise – there is no reason too.

Doug Sippel
Groton SD
douglas.sippel.68@gmail.com

Comment:

There is nothing wrong with the way it is. Everyone has the same chance for getting a tag. You are penalizing the the hunters who like to hunt different seasons by not letting them at least have chance of getting an any deer tag in each season. I don't mind shooting does but I at least want a chance at a buck tag. If this goes through my kids and I will only send in for two tags instead of four each. We will also quit buying preferences. If people are whining about not getting their favorite tag then maybe they need to expand their ways of hunting deer and enjoy other ways of pursuing.

Adam Golay
Sioux Falls SD
adamgolay@yahoo.com

Comment:

Even though letting people still hunt both east river & west river in the same year for bucks is better than the original proposal it still is not better than what we already have. We have a system that works that never needed to be fixed in the first place. It was never broken. Hunters need to take advantage of the preference point system that South Dakota has to offer if they want to draw their preferred deer license. I still to this day have yet to meet 1 person that is in favor of changing the deer license structure that we already have. I know people that hunt 1 season per year & they don't even want it changed because they might want to hunt 3 or more seasons at some point. My concern at this point is that this new proposal will affect my ability to buy preference points for west river the same year that I draw a west river special buck & vise versa if I draw a special buck WR then I won't be able to buy a preference point for west river deer that same year. I would like to know if I can still do this as I can on the current allocation where you can hunt all 6 seasons. I am all for GFP making money but this might threaten their preference point system & bring in less money for preference points as I buy them a lot & so do all my hunting family & friends.

Randy Campbell
Flandreau SD

Comment:

If this has worked fine for as long as I've been applying. Why is there a need to change. Everybody has the same chance of drawing a license as I do.

Jarrett Perry
Rapid City SD

Comment:

support

David Dolan
Hermosa SD
ddreferee@hotmail.com

Comment:

Now that you are allowing a hunter to apply for 2 deer applications I can support that. I for the first time in many years did not draw any tags. I was disappointed but I enjoy hunting with my son and friends both east and west river. Not drawing this year is part of the process. I encourage you to allow the current compromise.

Tyler Henderson

Marvin SD

tyh1@msn.com

Comment:

I do not support the measure, the majority are not in favor of change, why does this need to be pushed through. No changes are required, the system works.

Nathan Fossell

Sioux Falls SD

fosselln@hotmail.com

Comment:

As I look at this, I like it a lot more. I would like to see muzzleloader excluded from this as it is a different weapon of choice. I'd also like Custer removed as it is a quite unique ecosystem. Other than that, I appreciate you working with us

Michael Hughes

Mound City KS

michael_h_66103@yahoo.com

Comment:

I am a non resident hunter and have hunted west river deer season for over 20 years and i have seen tag draws become more and more limited. I would like to see more tags available and possibly elk tags included.

Doug Alvine

Watertown SD

dougalvine@hotmail.com

Comment:

By changing the proposal to allowing hunters to put down 2 deer seasons as a first choice, you might as well leave the deer allocation process the way it was. West River Deer is the most competitive season with East River Deer, so now hunters will put down both as a first choice, which will not help hunters get one or the other, which is what we have now. I mainly hunt East River and get a license every 2-3 years. I thought by hunters having to choose one season as their first choice, it might help me get a license more often. With the compromise, I don't think it will help much at all and makes it a wasted effort. Stick with picking one as a first choice, not two. Thanks.

Butch Funke

Brandon SD

b.funke51@gmail.com

Comment:

As a landowner and wildlife advocate ,I feel we are being left out and not represented in our State. Our current Governor (Noem) has not given any thought toward land owners and what we give to wild life in our state!also being a one party (republican) State. We have lost all Democratic government in SD!it is a one party rule....

Aric Craven

Winner SD

ariccraven@yahoo.com

Comment:

Original option was a much better option. Make people choose between an east river tag and the west river tag for their primary choice. The new option again East River hunters can have their cake and eat it too. Need to make the East river and west river seasons the same time. Then one does not get to go to West River shoot whatever runs in front of them then go back to East River and trophy hunt. Just like you put it in your own words people want to come out to West River and enjoy then also go back to East River and do it again. I have a 12-year-old daughter that didn't even draw West River tag on her first deer season last year because there wasn't enough tags, this isn't right and if there was a few less east river hunters Double dipping I'm sure she would've drawn one just fine.

Bryan Parks

Rapid City SD

bnparks@rap.midco.net

Comment:

East river deer tags should also be subject to the same amount of out of state licences as west river and black hills.

If the draw dates were the same for all of the mentioned seasons (which they now will be) AND if all of the season dates were the same for all of the mentioned seasons, this entire back and forth about licencse allocation would probably be self regulating.

Jared Pearson

Summerset SD

docjcpearson@gmail.com

Comment:

I don't feel the system needs to be changed. There are plenty of opportunities to obtain licenses in SD.

Larry Gadbois
Sioux Falls SD
LGAD361859@AOL.COM

Comment:

My family and I have been hunting deer in South Dakota for the past 60 years. We have enjoyed the application system throughout the years. Please do not change the drawing system. Why change something that is not broken? thank you for listening to us hunters.

Paul Van Bockern
Sioux Falls SD
Pvb@midco.net

Comment:

It's a good compromise. A way to advocate for young hunters, gives more resident hunter an opportunity to draw a tag yet does allow for a reasonable number of nonresident tags.

David Hodina
Rapid City, Sd SD
hodinadc@rap.midco.net

Comment:

I hunt the black hills only. People that hunt only one season still have to share the tags with local prairie hunters. I thought this new system was to help everyone get their first choice. Now it is choices.

Jeff Carlton
Hill City SD
Wildcatroad@yahoo.com

Comment:

Deer tag changes: I don't think you ever explained why changes in the old system was necessary.

Shawn Pliska
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

The current deer allotment for tags in place is fair, it gives everybody the same opportunity to choose what they want to do. At no time has sportsmen and or women of South Dakota want this proposal in any form it has been shown. 86% opposed this proposal from the last commission meeting in January. Any lost opportunities are detrimental to the people of South Dakota.

There is no compromise as far as I am concerned on this proposal. The majority should always rule how any issues are resolved that concern the public.

Please stop pushing this onto us. Put your focus on something else, like Predator control.

What we all want is to leave something behind, we want to keep South Dakota traditions the same for hunters now and future generations.

Thank you for your time.

Josh Hagemann
Mission Hill SD
jghagemann@hotmail.com

Comment:

Dear Members of the Commission,

I still disagree that a change needs to be made. I also disagree with the way the "research" was conducted and presented.

I also understand that the Commission is dead-set on making a change. You want to cater to the few people that were upset that they couldn't draw their one favorite tag every year.

That being said, I believe the latest iteration of the deer licensing proposal is a fair and true attempt at compromise.

The only change I would make is to let nonresidents apply for additional tags (beyond the 8%) in the 4th draw. I've never had a problem with nonresidents getting a chance to hunt, especially when they are getting a chance at tags that are clearly not in high demand.

Thank you,

Josh Hagemann

Alan Gibson

Dulac LA

Ajgibson@charter.net

Comment:

To my knowledge South Dakota has more private land than public and one factor I see missing in the new proposal for nonresidents would require a nonresident to obtain a signature of a land owner as to apply in draws . I have seen an increase in out of state guides having clients get licenses and landowner's .nonresident family and friends being unable to draw causing landowners to end up with no hunters and out of state guides offering landowners less than fair values to hunt deer on the resident landowners lands.

Without the resident landowners participation there would be less deer and thus less opportunity for all hunters resident and nonresident . Any questions please feel free to contact me . Thanks for allowing my comments.
Alan Gibson

John Meyen

Rosholt SD

rosholtinsurance@yahoo.com

Comment:

First leave the deer license drawings as they are. The current system works, and let's see what effect cubing has before you change anything else. Also the youth don't need free preference points and they can wait until they are old enough to apply. We already do too much for them. Do you really think they'll keep hunting after they have to play by the same rules as the adults? I doubt it! I have some friends from Michigan that said their state has done this and all it does is ruin hunting for the adults and once the youth have to play by the adult rules, they quit hunting. Raise your nonresident license fees.

David Miller

Ovid SD

Dlmiller5@yahoo.com

Comment:

I am a mon resident hunter. I believe you are making it harder for me to hunt and vist your state. I have hunted the perkins county srea for yesrs and I'm afraid you are deny me that opportunity with your changes

Christopher Baldwin
Belvidere SD
sdbeguy@gmail.com

Comment:

I attended the South Dakota Stockgrowers meeting in Rapid City last Fall. I heard the presentation given by GFP reps. I felt that was a fair plan.

I feel now like the Commission has caved to the influence of the most advantaged segment of the deer hunting population. Many hunters with less time and resources, can not take the time and money to travel to other parts of the state to hunt different seasons.

Myself as an example. I hunt West River deer only. I have four different WRD Units within 10 miles of my home. In the past, I have gotten a tag in the first WRD drawing, then applied for a second tag in the third drawing, again WRD. My family will eat two deer a year.

I understand that under the latest plan, I could still do the same in the fourth drawing. My objection is: I thought the idea or goal of changing the draw procedure was to give people who were not drawing tags regularly in their preferred unit/season a better chance to draw. I am all for that. But what I see now, is a more advantaged (rich) person can obtain 3 licenses in 3 different seasons through the third drawing, while a local less advantaged, locally hunting, person can only obtain one. Fair?

The advantaged person is taking license opportunity away from others. How is this fair? Again, I thought the GFP plan I heard last Fall was fair. The subsequent ones, no.
Thanks for the opportunity to express myself.

Steve Greenfield
Watertown SD
s_j_green2002@yahoo.com

Comment:

You had a solid plan that would have helped thousands of hunters get deer tags more often, but for some reason you caved to the vocal minority of hunters. I was hoping to have a chance to get a tag more than every 2nd or 3rd year. By allowing hunters to apply for both east and west river deer in the first draw you destroyed any benefit of the new system. The point was to get more people one tag and less people several tags. I do not approve of the "compromise" and feel it is barely different than the current draw system.

Brooks Gehring
Bozeman MT
bkg132@gmail.com

Comment:

I am most proud to say I grew up in South Dakota, but your opportunities for non resident east river deer rifle hunting are pathetic.

I have been a Montana resident for 35 years and would love to come back to the farm to hunt deer with family members, but the opportunities are ZERO.

How about putting up 1-5% of any given deer license available to nonresidents. Let us buy preference points. Charge a substantial amount for the coveted nonresident license if you must (that's what MT, WY, and CO do). Make some substantial extra revenue for the state with a minimal sacrifice to residents. At least consider making it available to former residents with family still residing in SD (sponsor type set up like AK). Pheasants may be king in SD (and yes, I do come back to hunt pheasants), but I strongly believe you are losing easy revenue and denying potential awesome family time for those of us with ties to South Dakota.

Daniel Scherer

Rapid City SD

DANIEL.H.SCHERER@GMAIL.COM

Comment:

I preferred the version prior to the most recent amendments, yet still believe this to be better than the allocation method that has been in place.

Brent Reilly

Hartford SD

brent.reilly@yahoo.com

Comment:

I'll start on a positive note; I truly LOVE the recommendation to enhance the odds of our young hunters to draw deer tags sooner. This is fantastic and something all SD deer hunters can rally around. That said, I find it troubling based on the timing that it was clearly added as a sweetener to get this proposal in an attempt to push it through the legislative review process. This enhancement can be added at any point and does not need to be attached to this radical change to the deer draw.

This is yet another example of what has become the key issue in the eyes of many sportsmen and sportswomen which is a lack of trust and confidence in GF&P leadership and the GF&P commission. Here we are again, with the commission forcing through a change to the deer tag process. The fate of this change seems to have been long ago decided by the GF&P leadership and now in the face of immense public opposition you have turned to desperate tactics. Listening to the meetings, the commission talks openly about massaging the name of the proposal to "deer tag process" because it's less authoritarian sounding than "deer tag allocation". Absolutely bizarre, call it whatever you want, it is what it is. These are nothing more than Washington, DC style pork barrel politics, whatever it takes to get it passed.

Unaddressed Items

- The commission members should disclose during the Conflict of Interest discussion what deer seasons they and their family have applied for or hunted in the past two seasons. If the commissioners and those closest to them will benefit from the proposed changes by improving their draw odds it obviously should be disclosed. To my knowledge no such disclosures have taken place.
- It appears from a webpage and video for River View Lodge that Commissioner Phillips has a commercial deer hunting business on what is stated to be a 20,000 acre ranch near New Underwood, SD. The website also states they get \$6,000 for any deer hunts versus \$3,900 for whitetail only hunts. By the GF&P's own data, the proposed changes to the draw process would improve a client's odds of drawing an any deer tag. Has this conflict been disclosed? Do any of the other commissioners own or benefit from commercial deer hunting operations? Has the GF&P studied the impact the proposal will have on growing commercial deer hunting in SD? What safeguards can be put in place to prevent transferable licensing down the road? When you get to the core of these changes and who is pushing so hard for them that is the next logical step. I first saw this rough framework for the tag drawing process in SD about 5 years ago in a 30 minute You Tube video. The presenter was a deer hunting outfitter in SD and WY. Interesting how we got from there to here. Can the commission explain to the state's deer hunters how this is apparently a random coincidence?
- Positions on the GF&P Commission are appointed which cutting to the chase means you need to be a sizable political donor and/or politically well-connected to be asked on the commission by the Governor. I could be wrong but it doesn't appear there is a random working class type person on the commission but rather it is filled with large landowners, CEO's, attorneys and others that tend not to reflect the masses. I'm not naïve; it's the nature of Governor appointed commissions. However, when these types of coincidences with ties to commercial deer hunting come to light, especially given that this topic has faced significant public push-back; add in the fact that the conflict of interest disclosures have been weak or non-existent it doesn't lead SD deer hunters to have a lot of confidence in the process given we have zero recourse.
- Has the commission considered putting the same restrictions on landowners as it does on non-landowners by limiting them to one tag including the own land tags? There is nothing in this proposal to keep a land owner from getting an ER and/or WR own land tag but still being able to apply for 1st draw 1st choice muzzleloader in

the regular draw. Surely this isn't the intent of the commission...is it? If unaddressed that is a large portion of the tags that won't go to new, unique hunters which has been sold as the reason for this change.

- How many of the commissioners and their family members are landowners or benefit annually from the land operator exemption to apply for landowner preference? One curious thing about the entire process is that any changes to the landowner advantages have gone unaddressed. I believe firmly in landowner rights but the current set-up is over the top in favor of landowners in their ability to double dip via the regular draw and having access to own land deer tags. One has to question why and I think it has a lot to do with the make-up of the commission given it's disproportionately made up of folks from areas more likely to be biased toward landowners.
- Why don't you get the unbiased input from all SD deer hunters on the exact proposal by way of a hunter survey now given this topic is front and center. Make the survey questions fair and not leading and see what the hunters have to say. These can be done quickly if you only wanted to listen to the feedback. If the GF&P is so confident in its proposal and that it only negatively impacts about 30% of deer hunters why doesn't it do a survey now addressing the exact issue in its final form? The GF&P claims that a vocal minority is raising a fuss, prove it instead of relying on 2010 and 2014 survey questions that marginally relate to the final proposal.
- Did the commission consider sun setting these changes to end after 3 years? There is a written statement that the commission will continually address any needed changes but the commission will continue to turn over in this period of time. The commission has probably learned how hard it is change something once it is in place.

Predictions Based on Proposal Passing

- Dramatic increase in commercialized deer hunting in SD. There will be more outfitter type hunts but also the exclusive hunting rights on more land will be leased up.
- A strong majority of the muzzleloader tags will go to landowners who will also get an own land rifle tag to hunt the exact same ground. I strongly suspect this is where the vast majority of the muzzleloader tags will go unless addressed as most non-landowner hunters will first try to pull the rifle tag and if unsuccessful switch to muzzleloader for their 2nd choice but the tags will be gone.
- Loss of quality Walk-In Program land that the state leases because individual hunting groups will pay more for exclusive access to it. This will further stress the public hunting opportunities available which will lead to less quality public hunting and more regular folks leaving hunting.
- The GF&P will continue to ignore the increasing numbers of non-resident archery deer hunters that come in and pressure the quality public hunting areas before the rifle seasons. Once the commercialized deer hunting operations get established it will pull even more non-resident archery hunters in. The GF&P can't shut it off or slow it down because they will need the tag money due to lower preference point revenue.
- There will be even more manipulation of sham share cropping arrangements so hunters can gain advantages in the landowner draw processes.
- Humans are smart and they will adapt their license application preferences which will throw off all the GF&P's projections. The new unique hunter projections will prove to be overstated and even the people now supporting the change will become increasingly frustrated. Then no one is happy.
- The ultimate losers are two-fold. The regular, non-landowning SD deer hunter that has hunted for years with family and friends in multiple SD deer seasons. The second loser is the small SD towns and Black Hills towns that make some decent money from out of town SD deer hunters every November. With these changes, there will be a bias for current multi-season hunters to hunt the season closer to home and not make that cross-state trip and all the spending that goes with it.

I believe the GF&P and the commission should reconsider this issue. I'm not saying the deer draw can't be improved, it probably can and some great ideas have come up in the process. But I believe it's wrong with a change this big to not have all stakeholders have to give something up, it's all coming from multi-season deer hunters. The way the entire process has played out I believe the decision was long ago decided and the public meetings etc. are simply check the box procedural issues. The only check and balance for the voters is the legislative review process and thankfully some of them had the nerve to question why the hunting public is so against this yet the GF&P leadership seems so intent in trying to pound this through.

One commissioner has brought up numerous times a young hunter that came up to them and said it's not fair some guy gets 3 buck tags and I didn't get one. My first thought is that is a very precocious teenager to be focused and studying the deer draw tables like they apparently are, wow! Second, using the GF&P's own data 256 hunters drew 3 buck tags in 2017, this is ~ 0.5% of deer hunters and one would need A LOT of built up preference points to draw that many buck tags. Fact - no hunters are drawing 3 buck tags year after year in the first draw as is being insinuated and only folks that hunt less demanded units draw even 2 buck tags with any consistency. Perhaps I'm missing it but I don't see the outrage in this situation. Fact is I'm not aware of any state where residents are guaranteed to draw a high demand firearm buck tag every year in their preferred hunting unit.

If the change is adopted, there will be many children now that are part of deer hunting groups that will fall apart that won't be deer hunting moving forward. There will also be young hunters in split families that will get to pick their "preferred" deer tag which for them means picking between hunting with mom's side or dad's side of the family. Who in this process has been a voice for them?

It would be refreshing if the GF&P leadership would spend its time focusing on important issues that unite deer hunters instead trying to fix something that isn't broken. The biggest threats to hunter participation aren't the current draw system but rather the continuing decline in quality access as farms and ranches continue to get bigger in much of our state. Also, what is being looked at with CWD as that noose continues to tighten around our state from our neighbors and the SW corner of our state which threatens all deer hunting? Point being, we have real issues to address that are going to require the help and unification of all stake holders in the deer hunting equation. The leadership of the GF&P should be focused on how to pull deer hunters together instead of tearing us apart. Instead of doing that, the commission has again repackaged the proposal and my guess is will attempt to lean on new members of the legislative review process now that we have some new legislators in Pierre and attempt to handle it that way.

Mike Dosch

Wolsey SD

mbdosch@hotmail.com

Comment:

Leave the way deer applicants are submitted alone, this has worked for years the way it has been working , why ruin something that has worked for all these years...

Jason Fischer

Cottonwood MN

Jasonfischer@charter.net

Comment:

I think it is absolutely insane to allow a person to draw several tags from one area before allowing a person who wants one to not get it. I have a son that has been applying for a nonresident west river deer drag for two years. He has not been drawn but we hunt with people in our group that are non residents that hold 7 deer tags. One anydeer and 6 whitetail any deer tags. My son cannot even get a any whitetail tag. This is insane. I understand you want to protect your residents but really. I also had 4 other non residents in our group that did not get a tag. I have hunted in 8 states and no one does anything like this.

Richard King

Oak Hill VA

rking@wbbinc.com

Comment:

Your "compromised approach" remains unfair to non-residents, and South Dakota is forgoing a lot of revenue for the department and the local economies.

Did you mean to say "COMPROMISED" ("accept standards that are lower than desirable") or "COMPROMISE" ("an agreement that is reached by both sided making concessions") APPROACH.? "Compromise" seems most correct"

Marty Muchow

Aberdeen Proving Ground MD

marty.l.muchow.mil@mail.mil

Comment:

As a SD resident on active duty in the Army, I was concerned under the previously proposed draw structure I would only be eligible for 1 tag. I support the current proposal as it will give me the opportunity to continue to be issued tags for both East and West River deer.

Marlys Hanten

Hartford SD

marlyshanten@gmail.com

Comment:

I like the compromise allowing 2 licenses. One of my largest concerns are something that gfp has no control over. It is: there are numerous hunters that apply for any deer tags year & again whom don't shoot a mule deer. So why do they apply for Any Deer? I want the mule deer and can't get any deer tags.

Other

Leslie Larson

Miller SD

anncecilia93@hotmail.com

Comment:

So many of these areas have absolutely no true habitat that will attract pheasants. So there should be criteria that the farmer has to produce to qualify before it is accepted!!!! No pheasants no pay!!!

William Podoll

Aberdeen SD

Comment:

There is no need to make changes every year. Personally I can't keep up with them. Just because one group hollowed you people seem to jump.

David Prater
Lexington KY
dprater@email.uky.edu

Comment:

I am 76 years old and have hunted SD since 1969. My son now joins me to hunt pheasants each year. I really appreciate your concern for conservation and efforts to maintain all wildlife populations. In over 40 years of hunting, this was first year to be able to duck hunt. Hope you can improve those chances for out of state hunters annually.

Thanks
DP

Jon Colw
Lake City MN
Jonkathcole@gmail.com

Comment:

Please consider allowing nonresident duck hunters to choose 2-7 day periods to hunt within their zone. It is not practical to have to hunt 10 straight days. Or allow 2-5 day periods similar to your pheasant season. Thank you

Don Tooley
Rapid City SD
ferret54@outlook.com

Comment:

I called GFP to let you know I saw a deer with a broken leg. I was told they would just leave the deer alone. (suffering, and hobbling on 3 legs) If you wanna kill deer so bad.. Please put this miserable animal out of it's suffering.

Bob Koscak
Rapid City SD
bobbyk@rap.midco.net

Comment:

Immediately STOP the tripling of preference points that you initiated last year! You are trying by this latest action to help young hunters into the game by giving them early preference points, thereby acknowledging and trying to correct your past decision. Do what's right; get rid of the tripling of existing preference points! You can still give young hunters these extra points you are proposing, although it does nothing for new hunters who are a bit older. Be fair to them too; STOP THE TRIPLING!

William Reiser
Wagner SD
areiser@hcinet.net

Comment:

on the revenue aspect, why do I have to pay an agent fee when I purchase my license on my home computer.

Justin Murphy
Lyons SD
justintmurphy@outlook.com

Comment:

I strongly support the Super Tag proposal. These tags can generate a good amount of revenue for habitat. Habitat is lacking and continues to disappear from the landscape. Getting out ahead of this issue will make huge impacts for future generations of sportsmen in South Dakota. As a resident of this great state I enjoy the many opportunities available to me. Like it or not those same opportunities should be available to nonresidents as well (obviously in moderation). I enjoy being able to elk hunt the western states and one day hope to hunt Alaska. If nonresident opportunities weren't available I would never get to enjoy those hunts.

My personal thoughts on how to work the Super Tags.

1. Open to both resident and nonresident for all tags available
2. Tags offered: Elk, Bison, Deer, Antelope, Turkey
3. \$10 per entry with unlimited entries. Same price for everyone
4. Do not offer a Super Tag bundle. Raffle the tags separately
5. Closely monitor how the raised revenue is being spent
6. Raffle the tags early in the year so people can properly plan there fall

Justin Murphy
Lyons, SD

Louie Genzler
Aberdeen SD
louiegenzler@gmail.com

Comment:

Why do disabled Vets have to be 100% disabilities to get free camping at State Parks in SD, starting at 10% would be good?

Kevin Forrester

Sturgis SD

k4ester@BlackHillsTrails.org

Comment:

RTP Motorized/Non-motorized monies being spent for Snowmobile Trail Groomers when non-motorized uses are specifically excluded from use. Research through the Federal Highway Administration has shown that the SD GFP who is the administrator of the SD Recreation Trails Program have awarded themselves significant amounts over multiple years to purchase groomers for the Snowmobile Trail System. The funds came from the allocation set aside for Motorized and Non-motorized combined. Since the groomers are for the Snowmobile Trail System and Non-motorized users are excluded from using the system the award of funds for mixed use is questionable at best.

Don Cain

Arlington SD

dc57212@gmail.com

Comment:

Just received the "GFP News: Game, Fish and Parks Fisheries Plans" and was shocked and very disappointed to see where you have taken it upon yourselves without any contact with me, to reclassify my privately owned farm to a "Managed Fishery" with "Public Fishing Access". I'm referring to your new "Highway 81 Northeast" pond as you call it.

This also is known as Brookings County, Bangor Township, Section 30-110-52 based on my tax records.

Your web site lists it as a "Managed Fishery" When did this take place without me knowing about it?

Your web site lists it as "Public Fishing Access".

How is that possible without crossing over private land which is also known as trespassing, in order to gain access.

Is this your new way of working with landowners?

Angela Dixon

Poplarville MS

angelafd61@gmail.com

Comment:

Can you tell me when WLF&G is going to make PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THERE actions when KILLING ANIMALS THAT THEY SHOULDN'T? Such as the Female greywolf killed on 01/09/2019. There guns SHOULD be taken away, permits revoked/lifetime & a hefty fine. Th Gaming MUST DO something. She was to far out. If he COULDN'T SEE DON'T KILL.

Lee Cooper
Council Bluffs IA
cbcoopers@cox.net

Comment:

I see that you are removing the past restrictions on bass on Roy Lake. I believe this is a very poor decision. My bass club has come to Roy and region every year since 2002. I have also had my sibling and spouses up there 5/6 times for a week. Roy is the only lake my club agrees to come to every year. We drive the 5-6 hours because of the quality of the fish there. We can go elsewhere to fish numbers, but Roy has been a great lake for the quality of the fish we catch. I believe this change will harm that quality. Bass fishermen believe in catch and release. We are also aware that many of the walleye fishermen there see them as trash fish and will keep many of them. Tourists will keep and eat many also and the size of the average fish will shrink. If that happens, then Roy becomes just another lake, pretty, but 5-6 hours away. I believe the amount of money coming to area will severely decline, as I have talked to several bass men who generally agree. We see it as a chance for a trophy smallmouth, or at least a number of really good fish. I would regret not coming to the Roy Lake area. I enjoy it a lot, but my funds are limited. I'll go where the club goes.

Jim Ivers

Crooks SD

a.herefishyfishies@yahoo.com

Comment:

Please note that I have well over 15 years experience spearfishing in fresh and salt water while freediving and using scuba. Please note that freedive spearfishing is considered one of the worlds most dangerous sports due to something called shallow water blackout. Despite this, it is very rewarding and challenging to confront fish on their own terms without a lot of bulky equipment.

Per current SD regulations, the spear must be rigidly attached to what is known as a 'gun line' on the speargun, not to exceed 20 feet in length. Despite the ease with which someone can reel in a large walleye from the boat, some fish, especially large carp, are far more powerful than a diver underwater. Trust my experience on this, a large fish not 'stoned' by a head or spine shot is fully capable of pulling the diver down at will. A freediver is therefore left with the choice of following the fish down, or letting go/losing a \$600 or \$700 speargun. At depth, the pressure in the diver's lungs magnifies the available oxygen. At 33 feet, there is double the available oxygen. Thus the diver feels comfortable hanging onto the speargun for too long. As the diver surfaces, oxygen levels in the lungs drop precipitously and the diver can black out near or at the surface. This results in almost certain death, even if a buddy is available. This happens all the time on the coast where spearfishing is common. On scuba, spearing a fish late in the dive that drags the diver down can result in excess nitrogen built up in the blood. Upon surfacing without sufficient air left in the scuba tank to decompress, the nitrogen fizzes like in a soda can, the blood forms clots around the bubbles, and significant joint and neurological damage occurs (the 'bends'). Some of our lakes here are two or three hundred feet deep (by actual depthfinder measurement). A diver dragged deep can easily become disoriented, and cannot read the depth gauge or compass easily holding a speargun. Another issue is that scuba divers use a 'buoyancy compensator' (BC) filled with air to achieve neutral buoyancy at depth. If dragged down by a fish, the air in the BC becomes compressed, the diver becomes negatively buoyant, and starts to sink rapidly. Trying to fight a fish, determine the depth, and adjust buoyancy under these conditions is very difficult even for experienced divers. Thus the diver cannot determine the maximum depth nor control the ascent rate. Both of these are required to prevent the bends.

I am not really sure why the 20' gun line restriction is in place. If you fire a bullet into the water, it will only go a couple feet before sinking to the bottom. If you fire a speargun from common equipment used, 20' is farther than the effective lethal range. You should try it sometime. Go to some body of water and fire a speargun at a target with a 20' gun line and see what the penetration is. Thus I don't consider a fixed gun line to be a safety device, more like a device destined to kill a diver.

If you are worried about a speargun being fired in the air, the recoil is substantially more than a rifle due to the mass of the spear, and can severely injure the spearfisher. My guess is the spear would break the gunline anyway. Finally, archery gear is allowed and has far more range in air than any speargun.

Therefore worldwide there are two common solutions to the problem. Gun lines are still used, but instead of being rigidly attached to the speargun, they are attached to a spear mounted reel or breakaway float line. Thus after the fish is speared, the diver can return to the surface safely and 'play' the fish as in rod and reel fishing. A floatline is safer than a reel BTW, and also serves to mark the diver's location.

Therefore I consider the 20' fixed gun line rule to be far more hazardous than any imagined danger of a spear going across a reservoir and hitting a swimmer.

Therefore I would like to suggest modifying the rules to require a 20' max gun line, but to allow a reel or breakaway float line to be used for safely retrieving the fish.

James Pease

Bend OR

pease.jim@gmail.com

Comment:

As a frequent non-resident bird hunter in S.D. I would prefer season licenses in place of your short term ones. Seven days is not helpful to non residents who plan a longer stay. And trying to figure out dates is a pain. So how about a reasonable price for a season bird license?

Resident Nonresident

Steve Cherkas

Edgemont SD

sacherkas@msn.com

Comment:

As a resident landowner (233 acres) in fall river county I would like to see the ability for my family (son, daughters, nephews, nieces, brother in law, etc) from other states to be able to come hunt my land only (not hunt unit in general) where they do not have to go thru a draw. Similar to how the landowner resident deer license where it is cheaper than full hunt unit access.

James Kinser

Denver CO

jkinseriii@gmail.com

Comment:

If you want non resident input, then email out surveys that solicit non resident opinions. We aren't going to drive to SD for a meeting. My input is that SD is no longer worth driving to for pheasant hunting. Licenses are too expensive, the merchants gouge us knowing it's pheasant hunting bringing us there, the hunting limits are too low and the quality of hunting has been mediocre at best for the last 10 years. I won't be back.

Charles Crowell

Conway Springs KS

ccrowell@txtav.com

Comment:

My family have been coming to South Dakota to pheasant hunt for at least 20 years and after last year we have decided we will not longer return. The people are rude and do not want hunters there and we haven't had much luck the last few years with getting many birds so we have decided to hunt in Nebraska. We hunted there this year on our way back from south Dakota and had much better luck, the people were friendly and helpful and the license's were cheaper. I am taking the time to write you this so maybe you will understand that yes the state wants out of state hunters to come up and spend money and hunt but the residents do not want us there and we as a family are tired of traveling to south Dakota and spending a lot of money for few birds and deal with rude unfriendly people. The residents/farmers are not buying into wanting hunters in their state and until you can change that I fear you will lose more hunters. Thanks for your time and happy hunting. Chuck

Joe Gonzalez

Easton PA

joeg@thechildrenshome.org

Comment:

I wanted to comment prior to the upcoming hearings involving the opportunities for non-resident hunters. I have memories of hunting your beautiful, well managed state on a few occasions. I have an active application to hunt deer this fall as I write this commentary. My thoughts are as follows: I am hopeful that you decide to allow a certain number of non resident hunters to pursue big game as you have had in the past years. I have noticed that the bulk of the deer permits allocated are for resident hunters and rightfully so. That being said, I have cherished the opportunity to hunt S.D. and certainly do not mind waiting my turn to be drawn. I do realize the revenue that out of state hunters bring in, the folks that rely on that income yet recognize your need for some balance for all involved. I am hopeful that the results of your hearings will still include some options for old, N. R. hunters like me to pursue deer in your fine state. I look forward to that trip every two/three years and really at this stage do not want to go elsewhere. Also, I would hope that you discuss a crossbow season and that impact for both resident and nonresident hunters as it would generate income, allow more options and provide varied management results of the deer herd (depends who you talk to) and possibilities afield. Thank you for allowing me to voice my thoughts. I have never done this sort of thing before anywhere but wanted you to know how important your decisions made from these hearings will be on nonresident hunters as well. Thank you, Joe G.

Nicholas Hluchy

Baton Rouge LA

Nicholas.Hluchy@brrehab.com

Comment:

I would like to offer input on the topic of Resident/Nonresident opportunities. I was born and raised in South Dakota and following graduate school, opportunity led me away from South Dakota. I return regularly to visit family and friends and routinely make it a point to either hunt or fish. Since I have been away, I have been able to experience some things other states have been doing to encourage a lifetime of continued support outdoor activities. I would suggest that the Commission consider discussing lifetime licenses and/or native son/daughter options. Both encourage greater participation in the outdoors and would increase the opportunity for men and women to visit South Dakota for outdoor activities.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate the opportunity to offer input

Bob Anderson

Bismarck ND

andersonbob504@gmail.com

Comment:

I read with great interest the minutes of the past meeting and as a former resident, who pheasant hunts in the Pierre area and fishes in the Mobridge area, I would like to offer the following for your consideration.

Comparing non-resident fishing vs. non-resident is difficult at best because you can park a camper or tent, use a 14' Lund and fish 80% of the lakes in eastern South Dakota. The fishing license is annual with lake access being unlimited. The resource is managed by the GF&P, with landowner participation at a minimum.

Non-residents using a "commercial hunting" guide service or game farm are not the cause of the heartburn & and hard feelings experienced by the residents. This is caused when the residents must compete with non-residents using public shooting areas, walk-in's & road ditches. Back in the 70 and 80's, people from Sioux Falls & Rapid City were considered non-residents by the locals when they hunted at Winner & Presho. Times have changed.

I would suggest the following:

1. Have an option available for non-residents for three 3-day hunts vs the current two 5-day hunts. This would allow the multiple trips with young hunters.
2. The SD GF&P will need to take an active role in providing food plots and in some cases (releasing pheasants) in the public shooting/walk in areas as the guide services are presently providing their clients. This needs to be done thru out the season.
3. The guide service/game farm will become a dying business model due to the IRS not allowing entertainment expenses to be deducted by businesses in 2018. Companies will not host client events or weekends where the costs are \$1500/customer. This will affect local motels, restaurants, convenience stores and bars. Future sales tax income will be noticeable.
4. There are several middle & high school students joining trap/shooting clubs within the school system (I would market this group as the next generation of hunters) both out of state & local.

The South Dakota department of GF&P has a reputation of being fair to sportsman, but I am not sure this is the case with US Fish & Wildlife service. Commercial goose hunting along the Missouri River is almost non-existent compared to previous years due to some of the rules by the Fish & Wildlife.

The same is true with the wildlife refuges such as the Sand Lake Refuge where hunting would improve if a management "burn program" was instituted. This would result in improved relationships with adjoining landowners.

Good luck with your decision making, there are instances where some problems do not have a fix when you need to have someone (landowners & residents) sacrifice to benefit (non-residents & out of towners).

Milton Eisiminger

Pensacola FL

jimeisiminger@sio.midco.net

Comment:

Was a resident of SD 1983-2017.

Would like to continue to hunt/fish in the state.

Would like to see habitat preservation emphasized rather than further marginalization of non-resident sportsmen.

Chris Erickson

White Bear Lake MN

zcamp3@gmail.com

Comment:

Background... For years the SD non-resident hunting requirements have been, "...The small game lines or youth small game license is valid for two periods of five consecutive days..."

The Issue... I totally understand and accept the thought that the state of SD would like to limit out of state hunting for 10 days which I accept... Yet, for out of state residents like myself that would like to hunt SD three times or more the requirement to purchase a second license for \$130 +/- is a deterrent and in some cases will limit the number of visits that out of state residents will make to SD...

My proposal... My recommendation would be for the state of SD to continue the 10 day day limitation for out of state hunters, BUT let them choose the 10 days in which they want to hunt. It could be for 10 Saturdays, a 5, 3 and 2 day period or for an 8 day and a 2 day period... It doesn't really matter it simply is 10 for a total of 10 days....

The Cost... The current system is set up for 2 five periods, yet I have to believe that that cost of simply changing the programming of the license system would be minimal... A simple pick list from a calendar in which you select 10 days shouldn't be that hard...

The Benefit... With less of a deterrent, I believe SD will have more hunters, more \$\$ spent on gas, groceries, hotels, restaurants, etc... SD is well aware of the huge economic impact of hunting, why not try to eliminate the deterrent as a result of the 2 five day license periods..

If this is an issue in which any of the state legislative or Commission would like to take up, I think it would be greatly beneficial... Additionally, I believe the waterfowl license is for one 10 day period.... This is also certainly something worth exploring...

Thanks for bring this to the attention of the applicable commission and or legislative members...

Kevin Taft

Port Orchard WA

k_taft@hotmail.com

Comment:

Hello, I have been on both sides of the Resident/ Nonresident licensing requirements in South Dakota. I grew up in SD and graduated from Custer High School in 1996, I joined the Navy that same year. I did enjoy the benefits being an Active duty service member gave me being able to acquire hunting and fishing licenses. However I retired in 2016, and lost all of those benefits. I now purchase my non resident small game licence to hunt pheasants. I would like there to be some sort of program for retired veterans, or disabled vets. I have 60% disability. Montana has a program called "Come Home to Hunt" where they give Vets that were once residents of the state resident pricing so they will come back and hunt. I would like to see SD do something similar. I would like to be able to hunt some big game. I had 4 points in the elk draw that I lost. Can SD come up with a Program for Vets that enlisted from SD and retired else where to be able to Come back and hunt for resident prices? Thank you.

Justin Faris
Cincinnati OH
Justinfaris05@gmail.com

Comment:

I love that you guys are trying to invigorate the hunting community. It's so important to carry on traditions. One thing that concerns me is that I was born in South Dakota and my family has kept land in Lyman county for over 100 years. I grew up running around that land and have hunted since I can barely remember. There is nothing in place to give someone like myself a edge over a traditional non resident. Every year I am in a draw that gives me less than a 50 % chance to hunt on my own families land. I would love to see this addressed so I can share my love of hunting with my 11 yr old as he grows up, on the land that has been a part of our family for so long. Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Ryan Campbell
Sioux Falls SD
rkcampbell90@gmail.com

Comment:

As you gather this February to discuss how to allocate our state resources to out of state hunters, I would encourage you to think about what the goal is in regards to big game in South Dakota. With such a limited resource and your stated goal of getting more South Dakotans either into hunting or back into hunting I don't understand why we allow any out of state hunters to obtain a big game hunting license. I am old enough to remember the good old days, when we had plenty of deer and could get a tag for east river, west river and the black hills almost every year. You could buy your black hills deer at the local gas station. Now, it takes several years to get a tag to hunt deer in this state for many units. I have 3 young kids that like to hunt, but like most of us, they want the chance to hunt bucks with their dads, uncles and grand dad. There should be NO out of state big game licenses until the 4th round of drawing so South Dakotans have the chance to get tags before out of staters. Protect our hunting tradition in South Dakota!!

Bryce Schoulte
Presho SD
Bschoulte@gmail.com

Comment:

I believe it's unfair to "nonresidents" like myself. I currently live out of state but I still spend a lot time on the family farm. I look forward to hunting season every year but it's very hard to get tags.

Joseph Peschel
Phillips NE
jwp@hamilton.net

Comment:

Why aren't nonresident landowners allowed landowner deer tags----they still feed the deer on their land and pay S.D. property taxes.

Brandon Jadwin
Rochester MN

Comment:

Why are you making it more difficult for NR to hunt your great state?

James Delker
Soldotna AK
jddelker@aol.com

Comment:

I was born and raised in South Dakota and graduated from SDSU and spent the majority of the first 30 years of my life as a resident of the state during which time I enjoyed a plethora of hunting and fishing opportunities in this great state. My career path pulled me out of state and I have been in Alaska for the past 15 years. I have tried to return almost yearly to hunt with my family and friends and have not complained once about the fees to access game. I expect to pay more for same opportunity afforded to the residents of the state. That being said I have been frustrated with the NR license opportunities being so restrictive. In particular the NR waterfowl license is a crap shoot at best. The northern flight is unpredictable and scheduling a trip home to "time the flight" is nearly impossible. It seems like more birds are holding longer to the north in Canada and North Dakota and the blowing through SD more quickly than the past. Having only 10 days (not divided) to attempt to hunt is stupid and truly limits potential access for non-residents to hunt throughout the season.

More of concern to me is the lack of access to Deer tags. I truly feel residents should be given preference over NR hunters, but not to the exclusion of NR hunters entirely. Despite having relatives with acres of private land, I have not even had the opportunity to draw a buck tag East River in over 15 years. Personally I think this is ludicrous. As much as I appreciate eating good doe meat, I cannot believe I will essentially never have access to another SD buck license as long as I live here in Alaska.

I am part owner of a residence in in our hometown SD that my family owns (some residents/some non-residents) W use the basecamp "lodge" where we congregate various times each fall. We had hoped to invest in crop ground nearby to keep our family hunting traditions intact for all our family, living both near and far. We had recently made and offer to purchase a large section of land and we were looking at ground that was a combination of crop ground and wildlife habitat. In the end the deal fell apart as it made little sense to invest in land in SD. I elected to invest that money in a property in another state where hunting restrictions did not preclude me from hunting on my own property. How dumb is it that I can own land, manage it for abundant wildlife, and yet not be able hunt that same land for well populated species of game?-- just because my residency lies elsewhere?? Your regulations are discouraging investment in SD and forcing NR hunters to look elsewhere for their opportunities.

As much as I would like to return home to hunt next fall, I am planning my deer hunt somewhere other than SD.

I am exploring an opportunity to hunt on private ground in Colorado where NR hunters have a good chance to draw all types of deer tags despite their residency. As you push former residents away from their heritage and family hunting opportunities, consider all of the lost income for SD businesses that you have sent to other states that do provide NR's with hunting opportunities.

I have heard at least one state offers a return "home to hunt" licenses, where former residents who have family still in the state can obtain licenses as if they were residents. I'm not sure how the logistics and parameters work for this program but just find sad that my "home state" is essentially precluding me from hunting opportunities-- on family ground we have hunted for generations. I understand the pressure to protect opportunities for residents, but it is BS when I have hunted alongside residents who legally shot multiple bucks in the same year with archery, east river, west river, muzzle loader tags, etc ...when I can't even get a buck tag every 3rd or 4th year??. Regardless of your intent to protect opportunities for residents your lack of empathy and concern for NR hunters is saddening...at least to this former resident.

Jim Delker DVM

David Fraim

Davison MI

dfraim70@charter.net

Comment:

As a long time out of state hunter, I believe it should be easier for out of state hunters, not harder. I believe property owners should have licenses to issue to their hunters compared to how much property they own. It costs them alot of money if out of state hunters are unsuccessful in the draw.

Spring Turkey Hunting Seasons

Ronald Stephenson

Oklahoma OK

Ron@gsaokc.com

Comment:

Several of our annual Pheasant party have dropped out of going because they no longer are able to pursue A Turkey on the opening for the last 4 years.

Bret Brown

Sioux Falls SD

bbrown68@me.com

Comment:

It is nice that u are considering changing this law as it would still be hard to get away with poaching if the beard and feet were required to accompany the carcass.

I would however like to caution the eagerness to keep introducing populations into areas that don't have them. Turkey are very territorial and will drive Pheasants out of areas that they take over.

Don't believe me? Ask residents in Michigan that watched a flourishing population of pheasants disappear as the turkey population exploded to the point that they are out of control and the pheasants are gone. I saw it first hand as I moved there for awhile for work in the 2002-2011 time frame. If you would like to see an example of it locally, just drive out to the Sioux Falls water treatment area on Sycamore St. I've counted nearly 100 birds in that area at the same time during the spring. Coincidentally, I rarely see pheasants in that area anymore.

Like I said earlier.....just a cautionary tale that I have experienced and am experiencing again, and as a hunter I would much rather have the pheasants than the turkeys in my pheasant areas.

Thanks again,
Bret Brown

Turkey Transportation Requirements

Steve Griffith

Brandon SD

Pringrif@alliancecom.net

Comment:

the proposed changes for the transportation of turkeys for hunters is much needed and overdue! I am in favor of making these proposed changes.

Lawrence Webinger
Lacrescent MN
webinger@acegroup.cc

Comment:

Yes finally a good idea long in the making. Making it easier for non residents to transport their bird home .

Gary Gilbertson
Saint Peter MN
oakleaf@hickorytech.net

Comment:

Just trying to have a dialog about crossbow hunting during the archery season for seniors. A number of states are now allowing the crossbow for the archery season for seniors who have difficulty pulling back a bow. Thanks for your consideration.

Jams Wipperfurth
Sauk City WI
jwipp4@gmail.com

Comment:

I come from Wisconsin to hunt turkeys. The proposed rule change would make it much easier to transport turkeys back home and allow me to conform to the law.

Martin Wiernusz
Ossian IA
DOCMARTY@ACEGROUP.CC

Comment:

Very logical. As a hunter from Iowa this really helps us out. Thanks.

Richard Nelson
Apple Valley MN
rcnelson@arthurchapman.com

Comment:

As an out-of-state hunter, this would be a very welcome change. It is hard transporting the entire bird when getting home.

George Wilkes
Grand Marais MN
gwilkes@boreal.org

Comment:

This would be a huge improvement ! It is very difficult on a long hunting trip to keep the meat fresh while keeping the foot and beard attached. So much better to allow separation of those parts, and I can't see a lot of violations occurring because of this change.

Donald Wojciechowski
Rapid City SD
don.woj@gmail.com

Comment:

ALSO, please consider adding a fall archery only turkey season beginning around mid Sept or 01-Oct. It is unfair to archery hunters they must hunt fall turkey only during gun deer seasons.

Donna Bares
Sturgis SD
jbares@rushmore.com

Comment:

I support this change as I would prefer to be able to bone out the parts we keep and place on ice as soon as possible after the kill rather than having to wait until getting to a domicile as I usually have other family hunting and it is 60 miles to my domicile

Donald Holznagel
Mora MN
Mrdsbp@hotmail.com

Comment:

I always skin my wild turkeys and to be able to debone my bird and freeze it in individual quart bags along with the beard and spurs would be a great improvement as far as maintaining the palatability of the meat

Levi Muhl
Hastings MN

Comment:

Hunting turkeys in SD is a yearly tradition. However traveling over 10 hours and harvesting a Turkey early in the trip can be quite difficult to cool and preserve the Turkey through our trip and the way home. I support the current proposal as this will help with our travel logistics.

Robert Winter

Yankton SD

bcwinter@vyn.midco.net

Comment:

This is an excellent proposal. Not only for those traveling a distance, but also for when a turkey is taken in hot weather.

John Dunn

Eau Claire WI

dunnjc@charter.net

Comment:

Last spring I shot a beautiful Merriams on the 2nd day of a 7 day hunt. We were tent camping and had no easy way of keeping the carcass cold. Luckily, the weather was cold enough to keep the whole turkey from spoiling. It would have been much easier to cut up the turkey and keep the required parts in a cooler.

Janet Schultz

Minnetrissa MN

janetcschultz@gmail.com

Comment:

support

Edward Mcgee

Keystone SD

mcgeehfactor@hotmail.com

Comment:

support

Mike Kervin

Brookings SD

Cmkervin@hotmail.com

Comment:

Great idea and makes a lot of sense. Also, thank you for your part of stopping rifle hunting of turkeys. The sport is so much safer without long shots .

Marv Rooney

Stillwater MN

ml_rooney@msn.com

Comment:

New reg proposal makes sense. Also strongly favor requirement to have a phone in registration procedure

Craig Sinclair

Waconia MN

craig1outdoors@gmail.com

Comment:

Thank You!

Lawrence Webinger

Lacrescent MN

webinger@acegroup.cc

Comment:

Very good idea should not be an enforcement problem.

Public Comments

Deer License Allocation

Robert Eddy

Rapid City SD

Comment:

I would like to begin by thanking you for challenging this topic and encourage you to make the best decision that benefits a majority of the states sportsmen and women.

I would encourage you to oppose this current compromise allowing hunter to apply for 2, first-round licenses. In reality, a hunter is allowed an additional Archery licence totaling 3 possible antlered deer licenses just during the first-round. The proposed compromise has complicated the system with too many variables. Help make this an equitable opportunity for everyone to obtain a licence before allowing a single hunter to obtain multiple firearm licenses.

Please support a 1 licence, first-draw for future deer hunting opportunities. Despite the very vocal opposition from a minority of opponents, many wish to have a simplistic application that provides everyone a chance at a tag first. There will be leftover opportunities for those wishing to extend their own season.

Robert Eddy

Rapid City SD

Comment:

I would like to begin by thanking you for challenging this topic and encourage you to make the best decision that benefits a majority of the states sportsmen and women.

I would encourage you to oppose this current compromise allowing hunter to apply for 2, first-round licenses. In reality, a hunter is allowed an additional Archery license totaling 3 possible antlered deer licenses just during the first-round. The proposed compromise has complicated the system with too many variables. Help make this an equitable opportunity for everyone to obtain a license before allowing a single hunter to obtain multiple firearm licenses.

Please support a 1 license, first-draw for future deer hunting opportunities. Despite the very vocal opposition from a minority of opponents, many wish to have a simplistic application that provides everyone a chance at a tag first. There will be leftover opportunities for those wishing to extend their own season.

Thank you!

Terry Spaans

Rapid City SD

terry.spaans@sdsmt.edu

Comment:

SD Game Fish & Parks give out way to many out of state hunters for Deer License and there needs to be a better way of handling this. Your lottery system has to be set up better. No reason why a 12 to 14 year old can get better tags when I did have three years preference until this year. I also have a problem with your lottery system with ELK. 12 to 14 year old can get first draw and I have 20 years preference and can't get one. Its messed up.

Daniel Kuyper

Madison SD

dan.kuyper@kibbleeq.com

Comment:

oppose

Gary Gruber

Custer SD

clawantlerhide@hotmail.com

Comment:

I thought this proposal was suppose to give more hunters, especially the young kids a better chance to get a tag.

But when you give us two chance that just cut our chance in half. I don't think you accomplished anything. One year I might get no tags and the next year I get two tags.

I think you guys caved to the game hogs.

And another thing while you have my dander up,why do you keep moving the east river season later and later? Don't you know global warming is over. The east river season keeps getting colder every year. I can't even get the wife to sit with me anymore because its been so cold. And if you don't want the next generation to become just road hunters with there heaters on then you better think twice about this late season. I hunt public land and sit out in the elements. I don't have one of those fancy tree house stand with heaters and windows. Start it a week earlier instead of later when you have a possibility of some warmer weather.

Its usually warmer out west then back east.Swap with them.

I found my first fresh deer shed when I was a kid on December 2, harvesting antlerless bucks doesn't help manage deer either.

Signed,

Gary Gruber Custer SD.

Michael Wenande

Mitchell SD

mwenande@andersencorp.com

Comment:

As a family, we always apply for East & West River deer. We have close friends that we hunt with on both seasons and it would be unjust to have to pick one over the other. Everyone should have the option of applying for first draw on both of these seasons. However, I do not agree with allowing a hunter to apply for another license within a unit (county) in which he already has a tag (whether it's the 4th or 5th round draw).

Kevin Hayes

Rapid City SD

Comment:

Why would put muzzle deer hunting in that category. It is completely. Diff type of hunting. Also how are u going to do preference morris I already have for your preferences still can't get a muzzleloader

Shannon Bruggeman

Tea SD

shannonbruggeman@yahoo.com

Comment:

What a complete waste of time. The people spoke and were clear about wanting this change, but the loudest voices in the room are all that mattered. This current proposal isn't really a change, huge amount of money wasted, and proves to me my time commenting on these issues is a waste. SDGFP is gonna do whatever the commission decides, not what people want. Except of course the vocal minority.

Rich Heiman

Canistota SD

chard@goldenwest.net

Comment:

This Proposal is better than the other with only one in the 1st draw, but I would like to see some additional options. Why not let us purchase preference points for the other four seasons in 1st draw. The reasoning would be to improve our odds when a person would like to alternate there primary two selections from year to year or if successful the prior year and preference points start over. I think this would still give everyone a better chance as in the past, as a person would be limited to only two 1st draws in a given year but would not completely remove some of those family traditions of hunting. I know some will forgo applying all together in one or more of the seasons with your current proposal. Maybe give first time applicant preference if you want to give others opportunity and to draw their attention to hunting. Maybe these have all been discussed but thought I would share my thoughts.

Cory Lacina

Elk Point SD

Comment:

THIS IS A MUCH BETTER IDEA THAN YOUR FIRST PROPOSAL. IT WILL ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO FOCUS ON WHICH SEASONS THEY REALLY WANT TO HUNT, WHILE STILL ALLOWING THEM TO HUNT DIFFERENT AREAS IN THE STATE.

James Cantalope

Eureka SD

cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

Final, it's my final comment, what I'm getting is the people I ask think that this new change is going to guarantee them a tag in the unit they hunt, so you better let everyone know this draw is no different now then in the past, its still the same process, actually less chances to get deer tags!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Torrey Quella
Zimmerman MN
torrey.quella@gmail.com

Comment:

I have been hunting the East River deer area (specifically Campbell County) for a number of years. There has NEVER been any out of state Buck tags available for non-residents. But in years past you have many leftover tags for 2 antlerless deer. It looks like you are trying to actively cull the deer population. Why not open the antlered tags a little for non-residents as well.

Jack Dokken
Pierre SD

Comment:

oppose

Kelly Eilers
Canton SD
kjeilers89@gmail.com

Comment:

Please please leave this alone. There is nothing wrong with what we have. Dont try ro fix something that is not broken.

Bill Hadsell
Brookings SD
bill.hadsell@daktronics.com

Comment:

Feels like you have it right now. Great work listening to us.

Ray Konz
Brandon SD
ray@adrianstatebank.com

Comment:

is it possible to make it a little more confusing????

i just hope you are not opening the door for more commercial (pay to hunt) deer hunting.

Brett Lebrun
Brookings SD

Comment:

There is nothing wrong with the current draw system. If people are upset because they can't draw a buck tag in a specific county every year they need to step outside their comfort zone and hunt other places. Don't ruin the opportunity for us who are willing to put in the homework and draw tags in places we may have to travel to. This system is going to help anyone who is wanting to draw a high demand tag every year. Leave it the way it is

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

Comment:

This system gets more convoluted all the time because you are trying to please everyone.

- 1 - Residents should have absolute preference over non-residents.
- 2 - A person should be able to submit only one application the first draw.
- 3 - Second draw one application if they didn't get license the first draw.
- 4 - After that apply for as many licenses as wanted.

Make it simpler -not more complex!!!!

James Gonsor
Webster SD
Jagonsor70@hotmail.com

Comment:

It is perfectly fine as is, i would also like to see the elimination of purchasing preference points. Earn them, stop catering to money and nonresidents!

Joe Casavan
Watertown SD
joecasavan@hotmail.com

Comment:

I am opposed to this, or any change to the current deer season drawing process.

Doug Nelson
Chamberlain SD
dn1stop@hotmail.com

Comment:

why is custer state park deer tags included and do the preference point just go way? Or due we get our money back??? Is this what will happen to the elk tags next? Forcing more hunters for big game to go to other western states!!!! Go back to the old

Dave Redlin
Watertown SD
dave@dpc.us.com

Comment:

Can the new drawing procedure be any more confusing? Who is the person that came up with this idea? This is way more difficult than it needs to be. If it's not broken...then don't fix it!!

Eric Reisenweber
Sioux Falls SD
ereiser13@hotmail.com

Comment:

I am in complete agreement with the current deer license proposal. It still leaves plenty of options for everyone that wants to hunt deer, plus it adds opportunities for more hunters afield. I strongly encourage the nonresident license allocation to remain at 8%, and I would really like to see the nonresident archery tags follow that same 8% margin. I am not opposed at all to inviting nonresident hunters into our state, and I do encourage it. However, we will lose more and more access as residents, the more nonresident hunters we license to hunt.

Darcy Kuyper
Platte SD
darcykuyper@gmail.com

Comment:

This sounds like a great plan !

Blake Jensen
De Smet SD
blake@dakotalandcommunityinsurance.com

Comment:

What is the likelihood of an average Eastern SD Unit or Season not being completely filled within the first draw?

Bruce Eldridge
Chamberlain SD
bseldrid@midstatesd.net

Comment:

I think there is nothing wrong with the way we have done it in the past and have not heard anything to make me believe that we need to change anything

Tom Hoffman
Hot Springs SD
tomandeva@goldenwest.net

Comment:

I have been very negative about this entire issue ever since the citizen planning process started. It did bring out some important issues but it then appeared the Commission went their own way. This latest proposal established more common ground and should satisfy more of the hunting public. Thanks to the Commission for listening to us and making the right decision.

Jason Haskell
Aberdeen SD
j.kr@nrctv.com

Comment:

Muzzleloader, as it is restricted in SD, should not be thrown in with all the other rifle seasons. It is a primitive weapon and by restricting use to open sights and basically one shot it should have its own draw. It also should be easier to draw than once every 5-7 years. I also feel it should be given a window prior to rifle season but after archery and then run congruent with and slightly beyond the rifle season. Rifle season should be shortened and/or delayed. I'd be curious to see what the percentage of deer taken on that first weekend of rifle season are. Deer are still rut-crazed and have seen little pressure. Adding a muzzleloader prior to rifle puts a little pressure on the deer allowing Muzzleloader hunters a chance to get out and closer on deer that are less pressured and give the deer a bit of a "heads-up" to the impending rifle season. I think that this would also improve quality of the deer in SD. There needs to be a priority to those hunters who are willing to work harder for their hunt through the use of primitive weapons. Thanks for listening to my thoughts.

Clinton Sieben
Scotland SD
Clintonsieben@hotmail.com

Comment:

I still like the way it is today but I would support this draft it is better than the first. I don't feel you are going to get more hunters in the field you are just going to limit the amount of tags people get that like to hunt already

Kenny Robbins

Spearfish SD

Machman_76@hotmail.com

Comment:

Seems confusing, why don't you just leave it alone!! The system isn't broken. Every South Dakotan has the same opportunities.

Ronnie Jaenisch

Ashby MN

Rjjaenis@prtcl.com

Comment:

Why change? The way it's set up now works. What you are trying to do is so confusing for a nonresident do I apply third drawing or fifth. Just leave it alone.

Thomas Riddle

Mitchell SD

Riddleandsons@gmail.com

Comment:

gain please leave license system as it was in previous years, old saying is if it ain't broke don't try to fix. It's not broke. Disappointed this commission does not hear the masses

Lindsey Anderson

Hot Springs SD

yourcar@gwtc.net

Comment:

Since the Statewide Any Deer Muzzle Loader Season is so limited in the number of permits available, it should be included in the early draw along with the Special Buck Season. An applicant should be able to apply for either of these on the same application, but only one. If successful, then the applicant would be allowed to apply for only one additional license type in the following First Draw.

Loren Lunning

Centerville SD

lorenlunning@gmail.com

Comment:

just leave it alone. why are you even messing with it .worked this many years. just gonna make more people find a different pass time

Ethan Zakrzewski

Brandon SD

Ethanzakrzewski@gmail.com

Comment:

This will be a Great way to get more new hunters in the field and Is a great idea. Let's get caught up with the rest of the western states.

Lennard Hopper

Spearfish SD

Comment:

This has really been a three ring circus act. I don't mean to sound cynical but the proposals have changed so many times now, I have lost track. I took part in a focus group last spring, and GFP was taking a very calm and collected approach to revamping our drawing system, but now it seems like last minute desperation to get something passed. I feel like it would be better to go back to the drawing board instead of forcing something through this year. I also think we need to take a more critical look at who any proposed change actually benefits. I don't think any system that requires the average hunter to follow through 5 drawings is serving the resident public well. It might leave a lot more tags open for non residents, but I thought our game resources were managed for the benefit of residents first. Just my two cents.

Robert Deutz

Marshall MN

Comment:

Non resident land owners are paying property tax to your state and have zero chance of a rifle tag for east river bucks until the 5th draw is ridiculous. There is not a license left after the 1st draw. Whoever is making these decisions are being extremely selfish. Why not have a chance like west river non residents have. At least it is a chance.

Keith Christianson

Volga SD

walleye621@outlook.com

Comment:

I do not like this proposal because I hunt locally and with allowing hunters two draws in the first round it takes away my chance to draw my preferred tag. Please consider the last proposal, it provided my a better chance for a buck tag. Those who want east and west river tags allow on buck tag and one doe tag. They then can continue the traditions they have hunting with family or friends in both side of the state,

Steve Baldwin
Custer SD
sbaldwin9@gmail.com

Comment:

This still doesn't adequately address the issue of some hunters getting multiple tags while most go without any. I still say it should be one deer tag per hunter and spread them out. You are listening to a few loud voices that like to harvest many deer every year and that just isn't fair.

Tyler Tarbox
Watertown SD

Comment:

Leave it alone. The SDGFP has already had so much more negative feedback on this than positive. Time to start listening to your SD residents. And quit raising SD resident licenses every year and start dramatically raising non residents. There is absolutely no reason that non residents can come to the state of SD and fish for the year with paying such a minimal fishing license fee. This alone is absolutely ridiculous. SDGFP needs to concentrate more on the sportman and women of this state and quit worrying more about non resident. This should be one of the easiest fixes to get accomplished and raise more money for the outdoors of SD

David Duffy
Oldham SD
dkduffy1980@gmail.com

Comment:

I was originally NOT in favor of any changes in the deer licensing system. I do think that this newest proposal is a VERY GOOD compromise for every one involved!! Thanks to the commissioners and Kevin Robling for working together to come up with this compromise. It was nice to see that we could come together on a plan that everyone should support. Thanks, David Duffy Oldham, SD

Rich Fiedler
Selby SD
rfiedler@venturecomm.net

Comment:

It seems like our local residents (which do not qualify for landowner preference) are having difficulty drawing tags for our own county because there is so much non local competition from other SD residents. It never used to be like this. Why couldn't there be a county resident level of preference added to the system. Most of our local residents only apply for one tag per year and it's for our county since that's where they have always hunted. It's a shame that they can't draw a tag, but someone who has never even been here before can get draw one?

Scott Kuck
Aberdeen SD
kucklaw@nvc.net

Comment:

Dear G, F & P: The fact that you have to send out this "Understanding" once again reinforces the following facts: 1. This proposal is a "fix" for a system that was never broken; 2. The hunters in this state have overwhelmingly voiced their opposition to a change in the deer license draw system; and 3. You have failed miserably in listening to the very people who buy the licenses that pay for your salaries. Wrapping this latest proposal in the blanket of helping the youth hunters is also shameful. I fully support the addition of the youth draw benefits that have been proposed, but believe that it was added for the sole purpose of trying to gain support for this proposed change to the draw system. You could have added the youth proposals years ago. It certainly would have helped my two teenage daughters draw a tag.

Please make sure that this e-mail is included in the public comments section for the next commission meeting. I have previously and continue to oppose any change to the deer license draw system that has served the hunting public of this great state very well for several decades. Once again, stop trying to fix something that is not broken.

Frank Williamson
West Linn OR

Comment:

I've enjoyed hunting South Dakota for almost 40 years and would like the opportunity to rifle hunt my own property in Eastern South Dakota. Why can't there be allowances for South Dakota land owners that are non-residents.

Steve Eide
Mount Vernon SD
sd57328@yahoo.com

Comment:

Don't fix it if it isn't broke.

Leave it alone already.

Jeff Jundt
Lake Orion MI
cobramach1@hotmail.com

Comment:

I'm going to repeat my original reply, but this is so disappointing to me that this is going through like it is because you've effectively made it so that I can no longer hunt in South Dakota on my several generation family farm that I own.

I am not even sure where to start with this letter in regards to the upcoming changes proposed for deer in South Dakota. I grew up on a small farm/ranch in northeastern South Dakota and up until this year, my mother was still living on the farm. She was diagnosed with terminal cancer a couple months ago. In fact, this is the first year that I have not hunted on our family farm because I am caring for my mother in Michigan where I live. I have not lived in or been a resident of South Dakota since 1998 and have been hunting on our family farm as a non-resident all the years since. With the changes that are being proposed, there is essentially no chance that I will ever get another rifle deer tag for my county ever again in my lifetime if I have to wait until the fifth draw! Having to wait until the third draw like I do now has been hit or miss the past few years due to fluctuations with the deer population and numbers of tags as it is.

I guess what I don't understand is how South Dakota is so well known for inviting out of state hunters in to bring money to the economy, yet they don't offer the same to other hunters. I guess that is only if it is pheasant hunting. All other hunting, a non-resident is no longer treated the same way and those of us who grew up on a generational farm but happen to live out of state are punished and cannot even hunt on our own land for deer with a rifle. That is kind of a shame that former residents and landowners, in my instance, are treated this way.

I like how South Dakota manages their deer because they manage it by the county unit which is much better than how deer are managed here in Michigan where I can buy my licenses and hunt anywhere in the state. That never made any sense to me because it puts a lot of pressure on certain areas and not enough on others. This was the first year that I hunted in Michigan since I moved here 11 years ago and it is only because I was unable to hunt in SD this year except for pheasants. Looking over the proposal, it is kind of outrageous that a single person can obtain up to 9 deer licenses!?! Nobody is eating that much deer in a given year no matter the size of your family. Therefore, they must have to give most of it away. These extra deer could go to non-residents in the third drawing as it has been so it continues to bring us in to hunt and spend money in the local economies, which I do every year.

Which brings me to another point. If you are going to go with this type of system that is fine, but at least allow a landowner to purchase tags to hunt on their own land. When my dad was still able to hunt with me, we hunted throughout our county but once his health deteriorated before he passed away I stuck to just hunting on the family farm and never left it and had always been able to get my deer there. I implore you that if you do make the proposed changes to add in a provision to allow landowners like myself who live out of state to be able to hunt on our family land. I would be perfectly ok with that, as I do not feel the need to hunt in the rest of the county. I was planning to build a new deer stand to put on my property, but in light of this, I likely will switch to elk hunting out west or down south from here on out. I will be giving another state and their local economy my money, which is a shame since I love South Dakota so much and own land, which I could hunt on for my deer each year. It is a tradition for me and this proposal is effectively killing that tradition. It puts such a sour taste in my mouth that I'm unsure if I want to continue coming out each year for pheasant hunting. I made two trips each year to SD to hunt, one for pheasant and one for deer, in fact this past year I made a third trip out for Black Hills turkey and was thinking about coming out again next spring to try my luck but again, with all of this coming down the pike, I've canceled my spring turkey hunt as I don't want to continue giving the SD GF&P my money any longer since they no longer care about all hunters.

I get why there might be some pushback to offering landowners a tag is that the residents then "feel" like deer are being taken away from them and they're worried that people are going to come in and buy land for hunting. The little bit of that land that may be purchased for those reasons is miniscule and the people complaining about landowners are ones that are never going to own any land anyway in the state so it makes more sense to make additional money off of a non-resident landowner. I don't have a problem paying the higher cost. I just want to be able to hunt on my personal land.

Please reconsider this proposal or at the very least allow family landowners such as myself the opportunity to hunt on our own land.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeff Jundt

Monique Newcomb

Rapid City SD

mozy444@aol.com

Comment:

The current draw system works fine. Leave it alone. This proposed system simply limits the number of applications one can submit, thus diminishing the chance of getting even one tag per year. I do not want the proposed system. I have talked to at least 20 friends who all do not want the proposed system. If someone is having a difficult time drawing a tag using our current system, it is because the number of tags available continue to decrease.

Shane Voss

Hurley SD

shane.voss@k12.sd.us

Comment:

We went through this with the first proposal. The sportsman do not want our system changed. There is nothing wrong with the current system.

David Hankins

Lafayette IN

dhankins@purdue.edu

Comment:

Ive hunted SD deer for 45 years, both as a resident (military) and now a non-resident. Where is the improvement in this change? Very confusing! And if you want to increase the number of deer hunters in SD, then hunters that don't have tags should draw before a hunter can draw a 2nd tag....let alone letting them have 11 tags! thank you,
Dave

Paul Niederbaumer

Faulkton SD

paulniederbaumer@yahoo.com

Comment:

You are limiting our rights to apply for as many tags as we want with an equal chance at getting drawn for a license.

Clarence Wohlwend
Spearfish SD
grizzlynut@ yahoo.com

Comment:

I served on a so-called focus group in Belle Fourche . The results of the focus groups are being discarded by the useless politicians who have control over any policy changes. I will never again participate in what has become a public participation joke!

Lee Kinney
Onida SD
kinneyl@icloud.com

Comment:

This is a lot better then the first draft.

Chris Duklet
Watertown SD

Comment:

I'd make one change to this and have non-residents draw for a limited amount of archery tags. During elk season in the Black Hills I ran into more non-residents archery deer hunts wearing orange stomping all over the Hills than I did other elk hunters. Reports out of Harding County were equally poor as all South Dakota hunters saw were non-resident hunters in what is traditionally nice quiet places to hunt deer. If your goal is to increase the number of resident deer hunters who get a tag, decrease the number of non-residents who can buy an unlimited amount of deer tags.

I'd also change the archery season back to a later start date. The deer and the elk this fall were pressured way too much in the Black Hills. It made elk hunting, which I thought was the premier big game hunt in South Dakota, a poor quality hunt.

Clark Baker
Sioux Falls SD
clarkbaker27@yahoo.com

Comment:

This proves what a mess you guys have made. When you send this alledged explanation out. This is even more confusing. Leave the old way alone!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Joel Farnham
White Rock NM
jefarnham@comcast.net

Comment:

Why do you need 5 draws? Why not simplify the draw process down to 2 or 3?

Nick Gerjets
Brookings SD
ngerjets@gmail.com

Comment:

I feel that it would make the most sense to do away with archery season tags. If you draw a tag for any portion of a block (east west so on) hunt that whole block with a bow. Get a deer great your done hunting for the year. Or if rifle season comes and you have not filled, hunt your specific unit with a rifle. Continue on to black powder the same way. I have to think this allows you to give more tags as a whole, at the same time gaining more control over harvest numbers. The last I knew bow tags were still unlimited over the counter. If so my suggestion would let the other season hunters have a chance at a tag at the same time if there were left over tags a bow hunter could buy more after a second drawing.

Garlan Bigge
Huron SD
gbigge@hur.midco.net

Comment:

Leave it like it always has been.

Dennis Engel
Sioux Falls SD
marcia.denny@hotmail.com

Comment:

what a hassle this would be, leave the current draw in place, but add free preference for the youth. this will not help you get your preferred license when most will still apply for their preferred choice. and who wants to buy preference points for third or fourth choices

Beth Dokken
Pierre SD

Comment:

oppose

Maddox Dokken
Pierre SD

Comment:

oppose

Bradley Olson
Dell Rapids SD
olsonranchs@outlook.com

Comment:

Born and raised here been hunting 52 years. This was such a waste of time and money to force a change on us we didn't want. I guess you can go party now you forced it through. Thanks for hampering my final years of hunting South Dakota. Now how about doing something that is needed like predator control.

Doug Van Bockern
Renner SD
davanbo@gmail.com

Comment:

I don't want eleven licenses. The postage alone would be cost prohibitive. Just leave it the way it was. By the time you are done drawing it will be time to put in for next season.
Whatever you were trying to fix, you missed the mark.
Maximum of 7 people are happy with your changes, the rest of us are made to feel dirty about wanting to hunt

Jim Detoy
Rapid City SD
jsdetoy@yahoo.com

Comment:

It is getting more and more complicated to hunt in SD.

Scott Bader
Aberdeen SD
Bades@abe.midco.net

Comment:

It seems that every time GF&P is trying to make changes to their sub-sections, they are always TAKING AWAY more rights from residents that live in this State. We live here, work here, play here, let our kids see this great State for the natural resources that we have and every year, proposed changes are not beneficial to anyone except tourism. Let tourism stay out of our Sportsman revenue and make decisions to benefit us for once.

Gary Major
Lithia Springs GA
gary.major55@gmail.com

Comment:

It doesn't appear you allow non residents to get an East River deer license. I don't mind waiting until the 3d draw and only getting a doe tag but I like to come home to SD and hunt on our own farm.

Ron Hulzebos
Harrisburg SD
ron2ponds@gmail.com

Comment:

I agree with changes being made to the deer draw structure with the exception of having the Custer deer application included in the first 2 choices. With a draw chance at less than 1%, this license should not be included in the 2 license restriction on the first draw. Thanks for anything you do to make this once in a lifetime type tag a possibility in the future.

Andrew Mcdonald
Pierre SD
amcd627e@yahoo.com

Comment:

I oppose this proposal very heavily. If you, the gfp are trying to drive hunters out of this state you are succeeding. Many of my friends and family have expressed concerns about the proposal and how it will end family traditions of hunting together due to being limited on the number of applications that can be applied for. For myself the decision is easy. If the proposal goes through im going out of state and will no longer support or hunt in this state.

Clayton Larson
Selby SD
cmlarson@venturecomm.net

Comment:

Leave the seasons the way they have been for years. It was shot down once and something else just comes back again and again. Listen to your resident hunter and not the out of staters. I get tired of hearing how much money they bring in. I live here I don't buy gas, beer and shells for one weekend, I do it year around !!!!! Cator to the resident.

Ronald Funk
Tucson AZ
rrfunkaz@yahoo.com

Comment:

Why in the world would you allow residents to have 11 licenses and so severely restrict nonresident tags? Where do tags gain SD the most dollars anyway?? I've purchased nonresident tags for many years and really do not feel that there is proper distribution of opportunities to hunt for nonresident big game of upland birds.

Mike Kluth
Mount Vernon SD
mike_kluth08@hotmail.com

Comment:

I would like to know how much money has been wasted on this going back and forth back and forth and having all these meeting where people were invited to attend. I have not seen one good proposal. Quit changing things that arent broke and put the money into in the lakes that need to be cleaned out and stocked with fish and spray for thistles on walk in areas if you want to do something other then wasting thousands of dollars an getting nowhere.

David Del Soldato
Rapid City SD
sheyanne97@yahoo.com

Comment:

you should just leave it alone or do what you first offered with only one choice on first draw

Vern Falconer
Arlington SD

Comment:

Why don't we make it as complicated as we can !?

Bob Koscak
Rapid City SD
bobbyk@rap.midco.net

Comment:

I hope this makes sense to you, because I don't think you could have done it in a more complicated way.

William Phillips
Sturgis SD
billp@rushmore.com

Comment:

I am life-long resident of Meade County SD and an avid Hunter/Sportsman along with a wife and two children who also hunt both west-river and Black Hills units. I am also an outfitter in Meade County and have been for 15+years. We control approximately 15,000 acres of private land in Meade County. We take approximately 8-12 non-resident hunters every year, we also have at least that many residents and kids that hunt every year. My frustration is when I see 200-300 left over any-deer tags in Meade County 49A every year, and every year half of our out of state hunters can't even get one tag! Then I watch the same residents end up with 2-3 tags in addition to tags in other counties! Or I see the countless residents driving up and down the road with no place to hunt, when I ask why did you get a tag in this unit then? "because I saw all the leftovers" or "I didn't draw a hills tag" on and on and then we have to deal with people poaching and trespassing non-stop. I felt the system the GF&P almost went to that had a first choice and then out until everyone had a first choice would be a much better system. Yes residents would not get 5 tags! But they would most likely get to hunt the place most important to them, or have a better chance at Hills tag if that's the only place they have to go. To me, offering three rounds of drawings for residents before Non-residents get an option is ridiculous! Most don't have a place to hunt and the tags are getting wasted! At least most non-residents that are putting in for the tag are planning a trip, staying in hotels, and spending money in our local economy and HAVE A PLACE TO HUNT if they could just get a tag. I'm not saying I feel they should have the same options as resident's, but 8% of the original until the 5th round does not make sense. Thanks for listening,
respectfully,
Bill Phillips

Don Hantzsche
Summerset SD
Tlwdah@gmail.com

Comment:

I know I am beating a dead horse but I am still opposed to including muzzleloader season with the rifle seasons. I have heard the main reasons for includ it is to reduce the number of applicant's for the muzzleloader any tag. To prevent it from becoming a once in a lifetime tag. If that is the case I understand the need for action. But would need to see the data supporting such a move. What is the hunter actual success rate in filling this tag. Would that support more muzzleloader tags? Bottom line I just don't think it belongs in a draw with rifle seasons.

Russell Simonsen
Yankton SD
simonsenrl@hotmail.com

Comment:

I believe this is a fair lottery system

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

Comment:

This helps with the 3 Rs of hunter recruitment

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

Comment:

leave it be

Tim Schrank
Pierre SD
timschrank@hotmail.com

Comment:

If I already possess 2 preference points, what advantage is paying for any more?

Dean Ritter
Harrold SD
Ritter8275@yahoo.com

Comment:

If you allow nonresident buck tags in the first draw it will lead to what we have with pheasant hunting. Paid hunting . Most South Dakotans can't afford to pay to hunt. Nonresidents don't have a problem paying \$5000 to 10,000 to hunt deer but we can't.

David Jacobs
Canton SD
Dajacobs@iw.net

Comment:

Non-residents should not be allowed to apply for any licenses until after the third draw. It's hard enough to draw the desired license. You should be supporting in state hunters before catering to out of staters.

Quit trying to reinvent the wheel - the license system was fine until you started cutting licenses and trying to change the system.

Terry Halvorson
Yankton SD
ttlhh4@gmail.com

Comment:

I have been deer hunting for some 35 years what it is going to do if it changes to new app process will eliminate me for deer hunting in sd most all the places I apply for their already is just one draw my odds will be worse if it changes , i myself and a lot of my friends will be forced to hunt other states because we can apply and get tags 95% of the time in other states, so in other words dont fix something that isn't broken to make a few people happy in almost all the meetings us sportsmen are against it wasnt it about 70 % against it and 30% for changing it ????

Joe Arbach
Hoven SD
joe.arbachins@venturecomm.net

Comment:

This proposal is very well done. Good job all involved.

Lee Whitcraft
Webster WI
leew@schooltechbiz.com

Comment:

I think again a non resident firearm season with an 8% allocation will continue to reduce the opportunity to draw a license. I have 5 preference points for west river. Did not get drawn last year again. I love deer hunting western SD

Tim Chelgren
Sioux Falls SD
tjchelgren@gmail.com

Comment:

Muzzleloading season will again suffer. East river pushed into a full week in december. Late season moved to the end of the month. This leave only 1 weekend for muzzleloaders to safely set in a tree line or other cover. There is no ground blind hunting when there are high powered rifle hunters road hunting shooting at anything that moves. Why doesnt muzzleloading get moved to late oct, early nov? Why is east and west river overlap. We dont want that.

Joshua Schmidt

Aberdeen SD

jjschmidt2270@gmail.com

Comment:

If change has to occur, this proposal is much better than the first. This will not impact my current hunt preference over the last several years. I like the idea of being able to apply for two seasons in the first draw.

Daniel Ferrell

Belle Fourche SD

57717

Comment:

Only one liscence per draw on the first two draws

Pat Schulte

Rapid City SD

Ggrazing@icloud.com

Comment:

Muzzle loader and refuge should not be included,don't like any part of the proposal or the lowlife way you got your info,i did the original survey and you worded it so no matter how we answered you could interpret it how you wanted

Daniel Langbehn

Huron SD

dan.langbehn@midco.net

Comment:

support

Romey Bromwich

Madras OR

pinshoot@gmail.com

Comment:

As a former resident and now non resident hunter of SD. have hunted almost all 17 western states as well as my friends. EVERYONE OF US declared we would give up our points, super points and multipliers to just go back to a draw and you get it or you dont.

Its a game of mathematics that DOESN'T WORK. There are units in Oregon that I will never be able to hunt because 20 points plus multipliers means EVERYONE has 20 points plus multiples. The same for Arizona and other states. Its a slow death to a problem where hunting numbers dwindle more and more every year. I myself have over 20 points plus multiples in Arizona, I realize now by being pointed out from a PHD Mathematician with ALLLLL those points and ALLL that money spent its is a mathematical impossibility to be drawn.

One member of our group had 28 points in a unit, if he was to draw he would now be nearly 70 years old..

Concider that when you go down this mathamatics trail. Eventually the public will tire of buying points and multipliers and SDGF&P conservation money will dwindle so tags fees will go up and force more to not put in, this is how we loose the North American Conservation Model.

Brett Stekl

Letcher SD

brettstekl@gmail.com

Comment:

I'm not sure what the proposal is trying to accomplish anymore. It seems like the GFP is trying to push something through just for the sake of it. I believe the current system works fine.

Duane Hinman

Groton SD

Comment:

I am a little disappointed in the latest deer draw proposal. When the original deer draw proposal was approved I was excited to see a draw system that would increase the odds for everyone to draw one of their preferred tags.

It appeared to solve the general issue of having a select group of individuals receiving multiple any deer tags, when many people would end up with zero of their preferred tags. The original proposal clearly identified how more individuals would be able to receive a preferred tag every year. Now it seems the original plan is being scrapped based on a select few peoples complaints. It looks like we're going backwards with the newest proposal making it worse than it was before any of these proposals were initiated. From the outside looking in, I think a lot of people wasted their time for nothing. The same people will end up receiving two any deer first choices while everyone else will have to settle for the leftovers. Just my opinion from where I stand.

Jonathan Schied

Huron SD

tlrook2bchamp@gmail.com

Comment:

I support everything in this proposal but one thing. I do not agree with people the age of 15 or younger getting free preference points. That is swaying the system to far to one side. There are those of us who have been hunting for years dealing with mostly the same rules and a little change from time to time is necessary but at an equal playing field. If they want a preference point they need to buy one and only receive the one they buy. I believe you are gunna lose faith in existing hunters with the system if you give people 15 and younger free bonus preference points. What that is saying is that they can apply for preference points and get 2 instead of one. For a guy like me who has paid his way for preference in say elk for 8 years now totaling 8 preference points a kid at the age of 11 could have 8 preference points in elk as well in half the time. That is completely unfair. I understand your concern with bringing in more youth which is great, but this isn't the way to achieve that goal.

Darrell Nicholas

Spearfish SD

redhillranch@wyoaac.org

Comment:

Are there landowner - rancher deer license available without drawing ? For us.

Rodney Larson

Sioux Falls SD

rodneysfsd@gmail.com

Comment:

The number of hunters that will benefit from the proposed changes will be so small it will hardly be worth making draw system so complex. The current system worked just fine and was very easy to understand as well as explain to a rookie. I'm almost certain somebody didn't get a first choice license and his buddy got both east and west river choices so this person who must have some influence at the state level has forced all these unnecessary changes.

James Callahan

Madison SD

leesales@rapidnet.com

Comment:

you are not clear about what you are doing to the youth season. Are you seriously going to throw them in the draw. If so that is a giant mistake.

John Moon

Creighton SD

Jtmoon57790@yahoo.com

Comment:

Instead of making the draw so complicated why not simplify it and offer land owner tags they can sell to other hunters? Many other states offer this strategy. It would free up your special tags and also help the landowners manage there deer herd better.

Heath Siemonsma

Humboldt SD

siemonsmaelectric@yahoo.com

Comment:

oppose

Jeff Allen

Piedmont SD

Mtclmr@gmail.com

Comment:

Too complicated!

Miles Clark

Oacoma SD

miles_clark@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Fred Carl

Rapid City SD

fkcarl@rap.midco.net

Comment:

I supported the original proposal and still do--but not this version. In order to spread the hunting opportunity around, first draw should be one application for the primary season of choice. The only people being limited would be those that are used to hunting in multiple seasons--while it helps to get those in the field that only hunt a particular season and end up waiting for 2-3 years or more to draw that tag.

Robert Wollman
Yankton SD
bwoollman@iw.net

Comment:

Your explanation I received by Email is very clear and easy to understand. I believe you made it very, very, fair for all hunters. thank you for your hard work.

Dorn Severtson
Cologne MN
DORNJSEVERTSON@GMAIL.COM

Comment:

Hi,

I own a functioning farm in Jerauld County and have since 1999. I am a non resident. I have never been able to buy a buck tag in the 19 years I have paid taxes and supported the SD economy. I realize residents should have preference, but as a land owner, I would like to have the possibility of a buck tag once every 5 to 10 years or so. Even if I have to buy preference points and be patient, please consider the investment and commitment I have made as a land owner and allow some option Est River.

Thank you for your consideration

Derrick Nelson
Hayti SD
Mwgrind@icloud.com

Comment:

I feel this is a fair way to draw for rifle tags. Thanks for your time. But there is a huge issue with nonresident bow tags. If I have my numbers right SD gave out 4000 nonresident bow tags. Yes that's a lot of income but we could do a cheap habitat stamp that every body that buys a tag or lisenca in SD has to pay to create some income. I believe ND gave out 680 nonresident bow tags last year. It's hard for residents to draw a special buck tag and when we do we go hunt on our public land that are over run by nonresident bow hunters. I spent 45 days last season out hunting and seen it first hand. Thanks for your time.

Robert Brown
Brainerd MN
Llbrown@charter.netnon

Comment:

A resident can have up to 11 tags but a non resident landowner is excluded from even applying for a east river tag. That's fair? Would like to take my grandson but he's excluded-yet he helps manage the land for deer. Is that fair? No-it's ridiculous!

David Peck
Cherokee IA
delmag1942@yahoo.com

Comment:

The first draw looks like it is about back to the ways it was/should be. The leftover draws are still a smoke screen. Just make it all resident only as SDGFP knows that there will be none leftover from the NR pool. Letting the residents have up to 11 tags prior to letting NR have a shot at the leftovers is ridiculous. Might want to just go back to the way it was and left it alone. That being said open the ER to NR....as there is little doubt that the ER hunters are the ones that have pushed for this.

Mark Knudtson
Deadwood SD
mkknudtson@yahoo.com

Comment:

I would suggest limiting Draw 1 applications to only one instead of two, which would increase each applicant's chances of drawing their preferred license more often.

William Podoll
Aberdeen SD
WKPODOLL13@GMAIL.COM

Comment:

\$\$ that is all I see. Just keep changing so things get all fouled up. I read the changes 3 times, don't like them. Go back to the way it was several years ago.

Alex Heilman
Sioux Falls SD
alexheilman31@gmail.com

Comment:

This is worse than the first proposal that I opposed, if you want to have the opportunity including a once or twice a in a lifetime hunt like Custer state park is ridiculous. Your essentially throwing away one choice every year. If you like to apply for every tag like I do. The current system is the best system and allows for the most opportunities to residents.

Al Shea
Rock Springs WI
Wisheas@gmail.com

Comment:

I am an OOS hunter who has bow hunted in your wonderful state for many years. I appreciate the outreach you have done to keep all of your customers informed of proposals for changing the draw. However, it is never obvious to me if you are talking only about rifle hunting, or if the changes include bow hunting as well. I strongly recommend you start every update with a clear statement that the changes effect rifle hunting for deer only.

Thanks!

Trever Marquardt
Harrisburg SD
Tgm5309@gmail.com

Comment:

If it's not broke don't fix it.

Brad Bond
Rapid City SD
Bondbassmaster@gmail.com

Comment:

Sign it!

Mark Lottis
Gold Beach OR
info@5starcharters.com

Comment:

would still like to see consideration for non resident land owners for tags to hunt on there land only . with so many draws before a non resident can even apply, makes almost impossible to be able to hunt on your own land. thank you

Joseph Gregory
Rapid City SD
mickey@q.com

Comment:

NO ONE PERSON SHOULD BE ALLOWED MORE THAN ONE ANTLERED DEER LICENSE PER YEAR. UNDER THIS LATEST PROPOSAL SOME COULD GET TWO ANTLERED LICENSES WHILE OTHERS SIT HOME WITH NONE. THIS IS TOTALLY UNFAIR. NO ONE, NO ONE, NO ONE PERSON SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE ANTLERED LICENSE PER YEAR PERIOD!!!!!!!

Jim McCullough

Osseo MN

jimmccullough123@gmail.com

Comment:

I hope that any upcoming changes will still allow a good chance for non resident hunters like myself a chance to harvest antlerless deer. Interest in antlerless deer harvest is starting to grow more accepted and if the State wants to protect bucks for the residents I am ok with that. But if few residents apply for buck tags in a selected area, then non residents should get a crack after a few drawing. From what I read- it seems that resident hunters may be able to possess up to 11 tags before non residents folks will be open to apply? If true, this seems way out of bounds and prone to unethical hunting and possibly the trading or selling of extra tags? To me- there seems to be a risk that commercial operations may benefit most from such a change or resident heavy allowcation? I cherish being able to harvest a deer late in the season and to tie it into a pheasant hunt. With a recent increase in the deer herd where I hunt (Northern Brown Co.) I sure hope commercial hunting does not start to dominate policy here. There seems to be plenty to go around and with non residents numbers going down, why start to restrict non resident numbers if the goal is herd managment and fair opportunity. There was little to no hunting pressure when I went the last weekend of the season. Perhaps if needed, limit non residents for the initial opening weekend but then open it up more 3-4 days after- if there is a current problem to deal with... Just not sure it is such a big problem currently? Is there widespread pressure to change the current system or just a smaller minority of very vocal residents? I will never hire a guide or go to a commercial ranch if that becomes the case and will look to move my deer and perhaps pheasant hunting to other states- if we start to get severely restricted! Thanks for the opportunity to express my opinion!

Jim McCullough

Vernon League

Platte SD

vjleague@midstatesd.net

Comment:

you do not need more one licenses in one unit

Donna Bares

Sturgis SD

jbares@rushmore.com

Comment:

I find it ridiculous that anyone would want/need 11 tags especially for one season.
I feel that no one should have more than a total of 5 tags in any one year no matter where or how they hunt

Ron Freeman

Mitchell SD

ron.freeman@ujs.state.sd.us

Comment:

On the surface this seems complicated and not nearly as easy as the old system.

Larry Dempsey
Rapid City SD

Comment:

The proposal is being made far more difficult to understand than the current process. Keeping it simple for everyone to understand is better.

Tom Bielmaier
Rapid City SD
tom.bielmaier@rcgov.org

Comment:

If I can apply for two licenses in the first draw, what was the point of changing the system? I attended the Public presentations and left thinking you would have to apply for 1 season that you really wanted. I walked in with a chip on my shoulder, I walked out liking what I heard. This is not what I heard. Perhaps I misunderstood. I realize that no decision had been made at that time, but the presenter was selling us on a plan that was not this one.

Kelly McPhillips
Yankton SD
kellymcphillips@hotmail.com

Comment:

this new alternative should make the new process palatable to most. unfortunately, the only thing that will cure the mathematical ailments of our big game drawing system is to eliminate the preference system.

Gregg Yonkovich
Aberdeen SD
gjyonkovich1@mmm.com

Comment:

Can applicants purchase preference points for more than two seasons during the first draw? Example: don't want a deer tag this year, but want to improve odds for drawing tag in future years.

Ryley Thill
Johnstown CO
ryley_thill@hotmail.com

Comment:

Seems as though you guys finally listened on a somewhat realistic proposal, so thank you. I was wondering if you have ever considered any type of program for prior residents? Maybe either a discounted rate or better yet, a different draw class for prior residents who are now non residents? I was thinking if you were a 20 year resident of the state of South Dakota you would qualify for this consideration. Just a thought considering if you were there that long, you probably have family still there so it would be nice to have a little better opportunity to hunt with them sooner than in my case has been every 7-going on 10 years now

Doug Baltzer

Mitchell SD

douglinda_b@centurylink.net

Comment:

To complicated, to many drawings. By the time you get to the third and forth drawings all that will be left are areas that no one is interested in and antlerless tags in areas with no access.

Paul Kruse

Brookings SD

murphykruse@gmail.com

Comment:

No, there is nothing wrong with the current draw that we currently have!! Why are you continuing to try and change it. Absolutely no changes needed!

Matthew Christopherson

Mitchell SD

mattcarter1421@gmail.com

Comment:

It's not broke and your second new proposal still is bad

Brian Severson

Canton SD

Bpseverson@hotmail.com

Comment:

I don't believe muzzleloader and refuge deer should be included in the new draw system. They are special late seasons. If a guy is too apply for east and west river deer by the time he gets to apply again the muzzleloader buck tags will be gone. Muzzleloader is not a guaranteed hunting season due to weather in South Dakota.

Craig Holden

Pierre SD

craig.holden@state.sd.us

Comment:

IF in the first draw a resident applies for a preference point only for one area, would that resident still be able to apply for 2 tags to use that year (say, pref pt for special buck, then apply for East & West River tags)?

Justin Mettler
Sioux Falls SD
Mettler18@hotmail.com

Comment:

Just leave it alone it's gonna mess everything up for a good 5 years not knowing the draw odds. Current system works good besides for a few counties and tags, but we will have happy people with any drawing. Seems like there is a small percent of people in favor of the change, but somehow we keep getting different proposals coming through so I clearly is just a couple peoples opinions seeming to matter more than the rest. It seems clear there is a different reason other than just higher drawing odds to push this bill through. Sick of all these different changes and dragging youth into this to try and get a this bill past. Let it rest for awhile again and don't keep putting a damper on a great state to hunt in.

Mark Ervasti
Chamberlain SD
servasti@yahoo.com

Comment:

Nobody needs 11 deer tags. Come up with a better proposal or leave it the way it is

Bruce Behm
Plymouth MN
bruceb@quazarcapital.com

Comment:

How can non-resident landowners get preference points for East River deer. Have you considered preference for non-resident landowners that own over 160 acres of land?
Thank you for your consideration.

Kenneth Brown
Sioux Falls SD
Dicksiouxfalls@hotmail.com

Comment:

I oppose the deer drawing proposal

Spike Jorgensen

Tok AK

spikecy@gmail.com

Comment:

Dear Commission and Commissioner

Shot my first deer in SD at age 8 and we virtually lived on pheasant some times of the year.

The trend is to accumulate points so one can hope to hunt some time in their life. So ranch/farms in S. Dakota sell to the rich so they can hunt themselves or ranch and do not allow hunting.

These trends to me are backwards. Game belongs to the state Not just rich actors or uban billionaires.

Every child age 8 to 18 should have first perferance for every species for that 10 years or we will not have any hunters except the rich and elderly to hunt. Eventually none.

This sytem should get every child into the field and streams. It does not even approach it. Although I see you are trying.

Sincerely

Spike

Gerry Anderson

Owatonna MN

grandy74@gmail.com

Comment:

Still unbelievable that a resident can have 11 licenses before most non residents can have 1. We pay local landowners a significant amount for hunting and spend a great deal locally to support local business.

Why not ensure anyone who wants one license gets one before someone gets 11.

Steven Johnke

Garretson SD

skjohnke@yahoo.com

Comment:

Not sure why this continues to get brought up when over 80% of the people who would be affected oppose it. Is there some political reason?

Please leave the drawing as is!!!!

Ronnie Jaenisch

Ashby MN

Rjjaenis@prtcl.com

Comment:

What drawing can a nonresident for east river apply in. The new laws dont tell you. Why can't you leave it alone it works. Or just change for west river.

Ronnie Jaenisch
Ashby MN
Rjjaenis@prtcl.com

Comment:

What drawing can a nonresident for east river apply in. The new laws dont tell you. Why can't you leave it alone it works. Or just change for west river.

Harold Bartsch
Owatonna MN
bartscha@yahoo.com

Comment:

There's no leftover non resident licenses available in the 8% allocation after the first drawing, unless it in reservation zones.

By the fifth drawing the residents have already bought up the unlimited leftover drawings.

Paul Pierson
Belle Fourche SD
ppierson@spearfishfp.com

Comment:

I oppose the 2 choice 1st draw option that has most recently been proposed. This still allows hunters 2 tags (ie 1 special buck and a black hills) and another hunter who only hunts Black Hills to not draw a tag. If everyone only gets 1 choice than there will be a greater chance tags remain for 2nd choice options which would be when a hunter should be able to draw a 2nd tag. I support the last version of 1 choice per draw.

Brian Rosa
Beulah MI
BRIANROSA29@HOTMAIL.COM

Comment:

I don't understand the reasoning behind a resident being able to hold 11 licences before resident and non resident tags are pooled when many non residents recurve their one and only tag when the tags are pooled. I have been traveling to South Dakota to deer hunt for roughly 22 years always with my father as a family trip. It makes me sick to my stomach that we might not have an opportunity to continue this tradition while a resident holds 11 licences and essentially taking all of the tags away from non residents. Many many times we haven't been drawn on the first draw and have been fortunate to get our only tag when they are pooled. With this structure I fear that will be a thing of the past. Some of the very best experiences and memory with my family have been made in South Dakota and that is a testament to the quality of management and wildlife in your beautiful state. I hope I am wrong and people will not purchase licenses just to keep other people from getting the opportunity to hunt but I know from experience here in Michigan that people will do just that. Thank you for listening to my comment and thank you for the many great opportunities you have provided me and my family in the south Dakota outdoors. If you want more insight from a non residents point of view I would be willing to talk and help in anyway I can.

Thank you,
Brian Rosa

Stephen Haider
Madison SD

Comment:

oppose

David Fischer
Brandon SD
dbfischer@alliancecom.net

Comment:

The proposal seems very confusing to me. Trying to keep track of all of the different drawing deadlines seems like it would be difficult.

Tom Melick
Sioux Falls SD
tmpayup@sio.midco.net

Comment:

I guess I am neutral on this issue now as long as it is a trial period and not etched in stone. I would also like GF& Parks to do some research on what hunters actually go hunting. I realize you take surveys and get a response from some not all. I've known people that never go hunting even when drawing a tag for a deer. This takes away an opportunity from someone else. I hate to see check in stations like other states but i hate seeing even one opportunity missed for someone.

David Schwantz
Elko New Market MN
p47dman@mchsi.com

Comment:

Are you NUTS???? Try to make it so that no one hunts anymore why don't you. My god in the same paragraph you state the you can apply for 2 licenses and then in the next line you state that you can only apply for 1 license. Never hunt SD again, you have lost 2 customers.

Gary Say
Spearfish SD
garysay@rushmore.com

Comment:

Draw one should have two chances for drawing a preferred license. Allowing the special buck license drawing to draw first and if not successful get two more chances in the first drawing is giving those folks 3 chances for licenses.

Thomas Temple
Burnettsville IN
tcetem@yahoo.com

Comment:

Who ever typed this new set of rules for S. D. should go back to school. This is very confusing and misleading. There needs to be a more competent way of explaining this.

Mark Peterson
Aberdeen SD

Comment:

You are still trying to fix a system that isn't broke because of a vocal minority that believe it is their right to have a buck license every single year. You do not have public support at all for these changes yet still continue down this path. Please stop, start over with a new survey that has much more in depth questions prior to proposing changes of this nature. If the original survey that supposedly generated this effort would have eluded to the proposed changes I am 100% certain you would have lost all support in the survey stage.

Robert Brown
Waconia MN
Llbrown@charter.net

Comment:

After the 4th draw a resident can have 11 tags yet a non resident landowner who manages their land for deer is excluded from a east river tag. Seems a little unfair. North Dakota has non resident landowner tags-so should South Dakota!

Brooks Goeden
Yankton SD
bcgoeden@gmail.com

Comment:

Much better, thank you

Shane Muller
Crooks SD
SHANEMULLER543@GMAIL.COM

Comment:

Keep it the way it was! If the new structure was to pass, I will lose access to the private land I hunt. Landowner oppose this and have told me they will shut down their land for all hunting.

James Chadwick

Sandia TX

jachadwick@gmail.com

Comment:

Has the economic impact on the smaller communities for lodging, meals, groceries, and entertainment been considered? As a former resident and still a land owner in South Dakota, I regularly try and bring my family group hunting in southern Jackson county(if we draw tags). When we are there, we spend a lot of money in the Martin and black hills sections of the state. We are only 6 people and spend a couple of thousand dollars . That's revenue that our community will never recoup. I can't imagine how many hunters will be taking their money to other States that will welcome the financial impact that Hunters bring with them.

Also, I would love to see the landowner qualifications changed. Although we now live and work in another state, we still pay our taxes on our land and some of that take money no doubt is used for GFP programs. Because we currently only get drawn once every 3 or 4 years, the quality of the deer herd is affected by inbreeding and over population. If changes are going to be made, let them be smart changes based not solely on citizenship status but on economic impact as well.

Karen Englehart

Bison SD

karenllew@sdplains.com

Comment:

Are you really proposing a system that will allow one resident hunter to obtain 11 deer tags? Don't you think that is a bit gluttonous? I don't object to two or three deer per hunter but I truly believe that 11 is a bit over the top!

Robert Smith

Jacksonville FL

rleesmith@gmail.com

Comment:

I think the 8% non resident licenses is considerably smaller than most states. You also give non residents that own land no consideration in being able to obtain a license to hunt deer on their own land. You can own 10000 acres of land in SD, pay taxes, hire many employees and contribute to the SD economy, but unless you can draw a non resident license with long odds you can't even hunt a deer own your own land. Doesn't make sense.

Kevin Robinson

Ralph SD

Binson@nddupernet.com

Comment:

Leave it as it is.

Susan Chytka

Burke SD

schytka@gwtc.net

Comment:

Good Evening,

I'm not sure how the people in charge are keeping everything straight with all the changes that are being made to the deer seasons for 2019.

After my husband passed away 5 years ago, I kept our hunting operation going for financial reasons. I live in Gregory Co, which is Unit 30 and has a split season. My hunters come for the first season of deer hunting which is the first weekend of Nov. They are from Michigan and Minnesota and have to put in for vacation time early. They know that the season has always started the first weekend of Nov. With all the changes you are making, please leave these date alone for Unit 30, Gregory Co. West River Deer. I see no reason that it has to be changed.

Sometimes change is good, but sometimes it's best to leave things alone.

Robert Brown

Brainerd SD

Drbob@abcfamilychiro.com

Comment:

A resident can have 11 licenses after the fourth draw yet a non resident landowner who manages their land for deer is excluded from the draw. Not reasonable at all-grossly unfair to the landowner who pays taxes and takes the time, effort and expense to manage for wildlife! North Dakota has non resident landowner tags so should South Fakota. Bad enough to have to fight the trespassers and poachers-then have no chance for a tag-really unfair!!

Tracy Freeseaman

Estelline SD

tracyfreeseaman@hotmail.com

Comment:

I still fee Non-Residents should NOT be included in the first draw!

Jim Gruber

Estelline SD

jgruber148@yahoo.com

Comment:

all i can say is that it looks to me like after all the bickering and time wasted,,,, nothing is changing... the greedy ones who want it all will continue to get their way..and those less fortunate are left in the dust again... get rid of the 50%land owner allocation, it stinks... and i am a land owner. secondly... 1 buck per season per hunter is enough... and if tradition is so important, then i am sure they will not mind hunting does with their extra licenses.. enough of this 5 draws, and up to 6 licenses per person crap..

Dean Sternhagen

Tabor SD

dntsternhagen@hotmail.com

Comment:

Although this is better than the first proposal it still makes no sense! You are penalizing the avid hunter who applies for all the seasons and giving the novice hunter an advantage that probably only applies for one or two seasons a year. It's fair the way it is currently, everyone has an equal chance for each and every season.

Ray Pearce

Spearfish SD

clanhead1@yahoo.com

Comment:

too confusing. make simpler - - i.e. submit for any and all you want, but receive only one license each drawing. if you receive one, you're done. if you receive none, then apply for leftover licenses. repeat as necessary.

Shane Taylor

Rapid City SD

shane.taylor@nm.com

Comment:

I Strongly support the new application proposal for hunting deer in South Dakota. Actually I would support having just one opportunity in the first draw rather than 2. I would also support Archery deer being included in the first draw. this will Create more opportunity for all to draw the desired tag they wish to have.

Brant Sundall

Philip SD

brant@gwtc.net

Comment:

If you're going to allow two first choices you may as well leave the draw as is. This defeats the original intention of allowing more people a better chance of drawing their preferred tag. I hunt only the Black Hills. I'm not there to "kill" a deer. I'm there to hunt deer. Most "double-dippers" are road hunters (I know several). When the Black Hills first went to a draw system there were few applicants. A serious hunter could expect to draw a tag every year. Now that the buck ratio / size is built up these opportunists want a chance at them. By allowing two first choices you're giving the double-dippers a chance for two tags while people who only want to hunt one season could, and at least every other year, probably will, end up with none. Thank you

Rich Sundberg

Alexandria MN

rich@sundbergoutdoors.com

Comment:

The proposed changes to the 2019 deer hunting regulations will not result in better opportunities for resident or non-resident hunters, it's setup in such a way that the quality of deer hunting in SD will be greatly diminished. If I understand the proposed changes correctly, it's possible for a resident hunter to shoot up to 12 or 13 deer - all of which could all be bucks. Allowing this will definitely affect the number and quality of bucks that a hunter will see in the field. No hunter needs to, or should be allowed to shoot more than two bucks in any given year. If a family needs more meat for the freezer, then let them shoot does, which the state is overrun with. I personally lease a large ranch in Lyman County and only three of our hunters were able to draw buck tags in 2018 and only a couple received doe tags. We have far too many does, which need to be thinned out, but we can't since tags for non-resident hunters are near to impossible to draw. If we can't get tags, our rancher will be affected since they rely on our annual lease payment and even worse, the hotels, restaurants and retail establishments will suffer huge losses due to the reduced tourism income that non-residents bring into the state each year. If anything, South Dakota should reconsider allow party hunting, so that hunters will still come to the state to hunt, even if only a couple of hunters in a group draw buck tags. I agree that residents should be able to draw their favorite tags, but within reason and not at levels that will result in severe financial impacts to the state, land owners and business owners. This entire proposals needs to be revamped to ensure that all hunters can continue to enjoy a great experience hunting deer n South Dakota.

Jeff Berg

Sioux Falls SD

jeberg@smithfield.com

Comment:

I have emailed before on this topic. I do not understand the reasoning behind the proposed changes. From what I have learned, there is a majority of hunters that oppose these changes. I am asking you to consider what the majority of hunters want and do not change what has worked for many years. Upsetting South Dakota resident hunters does not make any sense. Changing something just to change does not make any sense and just because it is different does not mean it is better. I have always been proud to say that I am a hunter and fisherman from South Dakota because of our great state which includes everything from our resources to how they are managed. Please do not spoil this with unneeded changes to the deer hunting seasons. Thank you.

Jon Haverly

Sioux Falls SD

haverly@sio.midco.net

Comment:

It appears that someone wasted much too much time on this and is desperately trying to salvage this complication on deer license draws. It is a completely unnecessary change and should be discarded in its entirety.

Justin Pliska
Sioux Falls SD
jjpliska@gmail.com

Comment:

South Dakota is unique in there deer seasons we have a quite a few. Terrain is very diverse, allowing us to have 3 unique rifle seasons black hills, west river, and east river. This doesn't include the state park tags, and refuges. Some tags are harder to get than others. But now that change is on the horizon. I don't agree with the deer proposal, only allowing us to apply for 2 deer tags in the first draw. I am "that guy" that gets 4-5 deer tags a year but I draw a lot of units that are overlooked. I hunt majority of public land, I research, scout this areas months in advance. I look at draw statistics and plan my hunts based on numbers. Number of public land acres, kill percentage, and number of tags given out. I don't just hunt my grandmas back 40. So when I hunt a new county I have already given the state my tag fee. I than go to these small towns and buy food fuel lodging. These small town don't rely on hunting as an economical stand point but it brings in extra revenue. Do I feel bad for someone when they don't draw a tag, sure, it sucks but it's part of them game. I don't just do this in our state I do it in many. To the guys who whine about not getting a tag for 3 years branch our pickup a left over any whitetail tag and go explore new country you don't have to burn any points and you could find a new honey hole. But this society has turned into lazy mode and no one wants to work for anything. I find it very dissappointing that we are going to give into the lazy people and help them better get there back 40 tag which statistically might not even work. Leave this the way it is already no CHANGE. More people oppose this topic than ever before, so LISTEN to us HUNTERS!

Paul Everson
Castlewood SD
Sandra-everson@hotmail.com

Comment:

I do not support a change to current the current system.

Dan Forster
Howell MI
forster870@gmail.com

Comment:

As a former SD resident (1962-1985) and current Non-resident West River Deer hunter since 1991, I am concerned that this new ruling puts non-residents at a significant disadvantage to drawing a license compared to the current system. Currently, the 8% non-resident licenses are always gone after the first drawing. At the 3rd draw all available resident licenses not drawn in 1st & 2nd drawing are available to non-residents. New proposed ruling will not make undrawn resident licenses available to non-residents until the 5th drawing. We have relied many times on drawing a license in the 3rd drawing as usually there are 100+ licenses available in area 41A. Hard to believe any licenses will be left after residents can apply for as many as they want in 4th drawing. This will make it very difficult for a group of 5 of us to get licenses like in the current system. With the significantly reduced licenses available in the last few years, it has become very difficult to draw anyhow. In 41A, the ranchers and we as hunters think the reduction in licenses is not warranted. Whitetail does are over populating and antlerless licenses should be avaiable again, as well as, double lic tags. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Jeff Lyon

Burke SD

jefflyon25@yahoo.com

Comment:

After following the deer tag debate and remaining silent this is my take. I feel that the initial proposal was as fair as you can ask for. I was surprised and miffed that it wasn't passed. As a Gregory county resident an being 1 of the 3500 that was denied a tag, I'm left wondering?Has common sense and fairness lost out to greed and nearsightedness. Its hard for me to hear that its family tradition to go out west deer hunting when I have to watch the biggest buck I ever seen on my family land. It kinda feels like going to a local steak feed only to be told there out of steaks. While you watch a group of out of area people finish supper then get frozen steaks to go because its "family tradition" to grill steaks at home next weekend. I guess the new proposal is a slight improvement. I'd like to see something in the future that addresses local people a better opportunity to hunt in there back yard and or those that really would like to get that one tag.

Lance Gerth

Brandt SD

lancegerth@outlook.com

Comment:

I think we can all agree that there is no public support for this proposal and this would be a good time for it to go away. The time and money wasted on this would have been better spent somewhere else.

Tony Sieber

Spearfish SD

tonys@golddustdeadwood.com

Comment:

Please continue to add Lawrence County to Unit 2 for Canada Goose season stretching into February for upcoming seasons.

Michael Rogers

Deadwood SD

captainmikerogers@gmail.com

Comment:

Why does the Special Buck Tag have to be included in the new tag Allocation system? It appeases the land owner and has no effect on other hunters nor the application process!
Non resident tags should also be available on the East River, same percentage should be allocated for every unit!

Sean Fulton
Rapid City SD
Fultonphoto@yahoo.com

Comment:

There are too many nonresident archery hunters using our public lands and since the archery season was moved to sept 1 there seems to be even more pressure. Please limit the number of nonresident archery tags on public lands and raise the fees.

Jason Taylor
Fort Pierre SD

Comment:

I would ask that the commission rejects this license allocation proposal and leave it as as it currently is. Yes I do think that this new proposal is better than the original proposal and is a compromise, but why not let the new preferences point system work for a couple of years and then gather the data on how the preference point system worked. Until the deer herd comes back to where it was 8 years ago, there will always be hunters that will get turned down 2 years in a row.
Again I oppose any change to the draw system and aske that the commission leaves it as is.
Thanks

Rob Skjonsberg
Ft. Pierre SD

Comment:

I reside in Ft. Pierre and am a landowner in Jones County. I am writing to express my support for the plan coming before the Commission to increase the non-resident deer hunting licenses in South Dakota. While I do not offer commercial deer hunts on my property, I do support the position of the South Dakota Landowner and Outfitters Alliance, as it is an important tool for landowners to be able to enhance their existing ranching and farming operations with non-resident deer hunts.
Farming and ranching is a tough occupation, especially today. On my own property, it's imperative to have multiple revenue streams and the flexibility to exercise those options - just to cover input costs. From my point of view, the current proposal(s) from the SDGFP have placed an undue burden on both landowners and many sportsmen/ women. The current plan will unquestionably result in a reduction of tags that landowners can rely on for non-resident commercial hunting, thus resulting in additional financial harm. This opposition may be one of the few that unites a large number of landowners and sportsmen, alike. Consequently, I believe it's prudent to consider the proposal coming before you in order to find an improved compromise that may better satisfy the competing interests.
Your corrective action is needed to correct the situation . The plan of the South Dakota Landowner and Outfitters Alliance, in concert with SDGFP, will partially mitigate the concerns, provide additional revenue to support resident hunting and habitat, while also avoiding an increased burden on public hunting grounds.

With respect , I encourage you to support an increase in non-resident hunting options on private land in South Dakota.

Douglas Christensen

Ashton SD

suechr@nrctv.com

Comment:

I feel that a person should be able to acquire just 2 licenses, the remainder of the left over license should be left open. The Game and Fish Department is trying to acquire revenue instead of protecting the wild life. I feel 11 licenses is ridiculous, no one needs that many.

Douglas Christensen

Ashton SD

suechr@nrctv.com

Comment:

I feel the Game & Fish Department is looking for revenue from non residents and I feel that non residents should not be able to acquire a license on first drawing as several SD residents do not acquire a license on the first drawing.

John Duffy
Oldham SD
jduffy03@hotmail.com

Comment:

Dear GF&P Commissioners,

I have honestly been against the deer tag allocation changes from the very beginning; however, I have spoken with and met with many people involved with this process over the last year and the newest "2 tag" proposal is a fair way of trying to compromise with the most "serious/passionate deer hunters" that still want to be able to hold more than 1 QUALITY firearm buck tag the same year (i.e. an East River AND West River buck tag BOTH or any combination of 2 of the firearm buck tags). I now support this change whereas I did not support the previous "1 tag" proposal.

Yes; you could have received leftover tags in the previous proposal starting in the 3rd drawing but they weren't as likely to actually be where you wanted to hunt (maybe a brand new county where you don't already have permission or landowner relationships built) or what species you wanted to hunt (whitetail only tags in an area that is mainly mule deer); therefore, the previous "1 tag" proposal was realistically like to be only 1 QUALITY firearm tag per year rather than now with a better chance at 2 QUALITY firearm tags with being able to hunt bucks both East River AND West River, which is what most of the passionate deer hunters wanted and weren't getting with the previous proposal(s).

During this process, I realized that at the end of the day some level of change was going through whether most deer hunters liked it or not and this newest proposal is the best compromise I've seen so far. Would I still rather leave the system the way it is? Absolutely! Will it stay the same? No; not even if 80% of us want it to. I feel that the GF&P Commission and GF&P have good intentions with this change and this will still get roughly 1,000 more people deer hunting every year. I'm willing to give up my 3rd firearm tag to make that happen. I will still be able to get a good opportunity to hunt with 2 quality tags from either ER Any Deer, WR Any Deer, or Muzzleloader Deer that I currently hunt now (or others that I don't currently apply for like BHD, CSP, RFD). Before this latest change I was going to have to pick between East River deer or West River deer hunting. That wasn't a choice I wanted to make. Hopefully now many of us will not have to.

Thank you to the GF&P and commissioners for listening to the most "serious and passionate deer hunters" at the beginning of 2019 with this newest compromise proposal (and also listening to the "less passionate deer hunters" over the previous year or two that just want 1 tag) and coming up with some level of compromise between both groups, even if it still doesn't make some hunters happy on Facebook it shows you are trying to listen and do what you think is best for hunting in South Dakota long-term. Again, I was against any change initially, and would still prefer no change, but this latest proposal is good enough for my stubbornness to accept some level of change that would benefit more South Dakota deer hunters but will still not take away so much from the other passionate deer hunters that the previous proposal would have otherwise changed deer hunting very negatively for.

Best Regards,

Ross Swedeen

Rapid City SD

reswedeen@yahoo.com

Comment:

Esteemed SD GFP Commissioners,

First off, thank you to the new commissioners for taking on the responsibilities of being a SD GFP Commissioner.

I got a little long winded on the last email. I will definitely save you all from a book this time! After 2 years of this seemingly never ending topic rolling on, it astounds me how many people still do not truly understand these changes! That is very evident from reading all the public comments this morning. I guess the old saying of "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make them drink" continues to have merit.

This current proposal is better than the last one in regards to all the seasons being combined. However, the current proposal is worse off than the last proposal as a hunter now has 2 first choices. This will allow hunters to "double dip". That is exactly what got us into this situation to begin with!

I still believe the original proposal of having all the deer licenses in one "bucket" with 1 first choice was a far better proposal. It would have allowed the most unique SD deer hunters to draw a deer license in any given year. Which contributes directly to all of the 3R objectives (Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation). The original proposal would have had the greatest positive impacts on the drawing odds as well.

This current proposal is absolutely an compromise. I understand the value of compromise. However, compromise is not necessarily warranted in all situations. This just may be one of them. 67% of deer hunters in South Dakota are one license applicants (35,140 of the 52,633 applicants in 2017). We are reducing the additional unique SD deer hunters that would have otherwise not drawn a 1st choice license by roughly 66% (3000 down to 1000). Purely for the benefit of the roughly 8% of deer hunters that draw 2 or more first choice licenses (3,985 of the 52,633 applicants in 2017). I was one of those 8% in 2018. Truth be told, I was one of the 0.6% that drew 3 or more first choice licenses.

I supported the first proposal. I supported the last proposal. I support this current proposal too. All were/are better options than our current system. Please support this proposal (or some form of it) as well.

Once again, I would like to thank you for tackling this very contentious topic. No matter your decision, there will be large percentage of unhappy deer hunters. I truly wish you the best of luck!

Ken Krieger

Burke SD

oakcanyonranch@goldenwest.net

Comment:

From what I understand, with the new regulations, it will be harder for Non-residents to draw a deer tag.

Restricting non-residents to less opportunities to draw a tag does not make any sense. If resident haven't established a relationship with land owners by now... having more opportunities to draw a tag will not secure them a place to hunt. Non-resident hunters will shift and hunt in other states where deer tags are available ... some of which are apply and receive a tag.

Wake-up South Dakota GF&P Commission, use some common sense and oppose the new restrictive draw regulations!

Clifton Stone
Chamberlain AZ
cstone@midstatesd.net

Comment:

Lets give it a try.

Brian Baumgartner
Sioux Falls SD
treegardener@sio.midco.net

Comment:

The description of preference points in your email is too vague and fails to help me understand how this change affects preference points and a persons chance of success in the first drawing. It is my understanding that this proposal is about improving a persons chance of success in the first drawing.

Currently I have about 5 pref. points for ERD. I do not have any for WRD nor any of the other five seasons allowed in the first draw. Since all six seasons are pooled in the first draw, are the preference points then also pooled or do they remain season specific?

For example; If I apply for only one season in the first draw, lets say WRD, and I am unsuccessful, do I then receive a point for only the season I applied for; WRD? I assume that I would not have been able to use the 5 preference points I currently have for ERD.

If this is true, I don't see any difference in the new proposal as apposed to the old system. There is effectively no change in a persons chance of success in the first draw. At this point the only change I can see is that all of the applications happen at the same time. That's nice but no big deal to me.

Thanks for your time. I look forward to a better understanding of how this new application system provides positive change.

Other

Cartor Carlson

Aberdeen SD

cartorkcarlson@hotmail.com

Comment:

This is being sent in regards to the issues and rulings regarding the use of leg hold traps. Our family loves the outdoors and we spend countless hours hunting and fishing in our great state. In regards to trapping, especially leg hold traps we have some major concerns. We live in the country, however close to Aberdeen. We are not opposed to trapping, but do feel there is a time and a place where it should be and not be allowed.

We live within the three mile radius of Aberdeen and there are a number of families in our area and most have pets. Last winter our dog got caught in one of these traps close to our home and spent over 24 hours in it while the temperature was around a minus 20 degrees most of this time. He survived, however had to have part of his foot amputated by a vet because of this event.

In addition to this our son's dog got caught in one of these traps in a public hunting area during pheasant season. This area is close to town and get lots of public use.

Again, we are not opposed to trapping, but do not feel these traps should be used in populated areas close to town or in public hunting areas during certain hunting seasons. To us this is only common sense. I am sure that these types of issues happen more often than you may think .

Thanks for your attention to this issue.

Cartor Carlson
Aberdeen, SD

Tony Sieber

Deadwood SD

Comment:

I'd like to send a quick thank you to the SDGFP Commissioners for adding Lawrence County to Unit 2 this past season for Canada Goose hunting. As an avid waterfowler, it was a great benefit to be able to hunt geese into February this past season in Lawrence County. I was able to take my 14 year old son and some of his friends on numerous hunts after X-mas this year which made for great experiences in the outdoors.

Please continue to add Lawrence County to the Unit 2 Canada Goose hunting for late season opportunities.

Greg Schroeder

Hill City SD

**gregschroeder.muleyhunter@gmail
.com**

Comment:

I oppose auctioning off a bighorn sheep tag near Badlands National Park. Any revenue gained from an auction will not increase resident access to Bighorn Sheep tags, only continue to give wildlife to the highest bidder. Allow the residents of SD to continue to have a one-of-a-kind experience for a trophy sheep, not just the wealthy.

Paul Roghair

Kadoka SD

tallpaulr@hotmail.com

Comment:

I regret that I will not be able to attend this meeting due to work requirements which I cannot avoid and miss. The SDTWS meeting is scheduled for this same time and I am attending it for work please forgive my absence and do not take it as my lack of passion on this topic.

I would like to further address the committee to plead for the use of rifles to be returned for the Spring turkey season. First of all the stats show that less than half the people who hunt are worried about it. Thus the use of decoys that are more lifelike doesn't worry people. I know that they are well made, however they are not equipped to move like real live turkeys. Each rifle hunter takes that responsibility on themselves to know for sure what they are shooting at which rests with the hunter not the State. If I remember correctly one should be sure of the target and what is beyond it, not "don't worry the rules will keep you from doing anything dangerous just follow them." Give the sportsman some credit and responsibility, we all still drive cars and people get killed in them all the time, do you want to ban a type of car that has more potential to get in an accident?

Second it seems as a matter of personal preference and opinion about how much enjoyment is had by said rifle turkey hunter. You may not find it fun but others do it seems unfair to press ones definition of fun on others when it is not hurting them or inhibiting their ability to pursue game. Also as far as ammo use, I have not had any problem eating my turkeys for years and not blowing them up. Please I ask you to consider this request for what it is, an effort by some to force their style of hunting on the rest of us. If for instance I feel that everyone should hunt deer with a shotgun and not rifles because its more sporting and safer, do I have the right to press a rule in to take the rifle away from everyone? No I do not its a matter of opinion, the turkey populations do not suffer from the use of rifles, rifle hunters (few) don't take extra birds out of the population just because they use a rifle, the tags are what they are no matter how they are harvested. Each hunter has the right to choose what they want to do within the rules to harvest a turkey, please do not keep this new rule because some turn their nose up at a method that has been used here in South Dakota for years, from my understanding not all GFP is behind this change but the ones that aren't must tow the line because of who you work for.

I have enjoyed taking several turkeys with my six year old son and was able to do so because I could use a rifle. The areas hunted provided better use of a rifle, the turkeys did as well and he got to enjoy it with me. I feel saddened that it has a chance to go way and I will have to tell him we cannot share that experience anymore because some believe it is not a "sporting way" to hunt turkeys. Not everyone gets the same thrill from scouting hours and hours and getting up super early to call birds off the roost. Some may prefer to glass the countryside, find the game and sneak into position for an opportunity, they are both methods of hunting and thus please do not keep a new rule that takes a method out of play not for any good reason besides the some "TURKEY HUNTERS" doesn't like it.

In a time of losing hunters would not taking away one more way of hunting hurt the hunting community? A rifle can be a great tool for those not equipped to absorb heavy recoil (youth and disabled in particular). Help the sportsman of South Dakota out and allow the choice. You can't make a law that says a landowner has to allow the use of a rifle, but they can let you if you want, when they don't care, why should the rule makers?

Furthermore, the last fatal accident in SD for turkey hunting was with a Shotgun! So that makes the shotgun safer than a rifle? Ask to look at the data, better look it up for yourself about how safe (or concerned about safety) Turkey hunter surveys have always swung back and forth on this issue, but that makes sense that it is less likely to get surveys from people who only use rifles and are very passionate about it if there are less of

them, it seems that basing decisions on a sample of 540 out of 8750 could really swing the results either way depending on the number of rifle hunters who got to fill out a survey (I for one did not) If you want a true look put it on the turkey application and require everyone to respond when they apply for a tag, then you would know but that would take a great amount of time and money. 13% of spring firearms hunters are moderately concerned and 7% are very concerned about hunting in the spring with a full body decoy. 54% are NOT CONCERNED.... So are people saying that rifles need to be out because they feel unsafe or because it's a preference??? I think it should be compared to how safe deer hunters feel in rifle season using a full body decoy. We all do not want to see people hurt while enjoying the South Dakota outdoors, but it happens. Like the last turkey fatality.... Shotgun so they have safety issues as well. If we all want to be 100% safe, then build a bunker at every ones house and hide in it, my point there is danger in everything, don't continue to limit peoples enjoyment of this sport under the guise of unsafe, to push the agenda of some.

Consider leaving rifle use out of the Black Hills where most accidents are likely to happen because of the greater hunter density and terrain, if not that then possibly on all public hunting areas and leaving private land open to the rifle. The stats don't show more or less favor there, I believe because the people who wanted the rifles out want them out everywhere, and those who hunt with them are few enough in number that when split up in their opinions on it don't show the same statically. Rifle hunting on private land allows the landowners to hunt as they wish; several I have talked with where still totally unaware of the change. Also I believe, continuing to ban rifles it will feed into the attitude that some landowners already hold that a person should not even buy a tag because turkeys are pests. Private lands provide the hunter with a more reasonably controlled situation, I see the potential for a hunter of questionable ethics to be riding down a Forest service trail in the Black hills, spot a guys turkey decoy set up and drop a rifle out the window to shoot one. Yep that's a problem, however on private land unless you have permission to be there, there is less LEGAL chance of that happening. (yes given people poach on private grounds, but rules the restrict the one whom abide by them does not stop that) In these areas hunters should know if there are other hunters around and adjust accordingly for safety if that is truly the concern. I have never had permission form a landowner who either told me whom either told me who else was hunting or I did not ask if there were others hunting, in addition to what I was hunting with. My opinion is that the life like decoys and safety are an excuse to press some peoples or groups hunting preference and opinions on others which seems unfair and unnecessary and we have now bought into it.

I would love to see rifles returned to the spring season; yes I know it would be for the 2020 season if so. But with their return also see a simplified version of the rifle regulations to include.... Any rim or centerfire rifle cartridge greater than 1 inch in length and less than 2.5in. The upper limit would not have to be there but this would be a really simple rule to use. No charts about ammo and Foot Pounds of Energy, but a ruler. Wyoming does this for their season with Rimfires, why not use what works for them. Thank you for your time.

Paul Roghair

Kadoka SD

tallpaulr@hotmail.com

Comment:

I Strongly strongly strongly (not sure how to emphasize this enough) OPPOSE any action that leads to the Badlands Unit of the Big Horn Sheep area being valid for the auction! 1 time is all our history since the BHG came back here did a SD resident get a chance to harvest one, and now Some may want to sell that off to the rich! Not even leave it alone for the same amount of time that the Black Hills populations where? Also were would this money go??? what more can pouring more money into the sheep program do? Unless they can buy more sheep so they can issue more tags to RESIDENTS. Please don't sell out our SD sportsman. Unless we like the idea of tame world records being handed out only to the rich. Makes a ton of sense right?

Al Kraus
Rapid City SD
Bowguy@hotmail.com

Comment:

Nonresidents are ruining the public lands and the quality of our mule deer.

Jon Olson
Sioux Falls SD
jbolson426@yahoo.com

Comment:

I am very much in favor of limiting nonresident archers for both deer and antelope seasons. The ND model is a good starting point.

Wyatt Skelton
Bryant SD
wyattskelton@hotmail.com

Comment:

Have muzzleloader season open for same length as rifle antelope season. Then reopen at current date in December.

Wyatt Skelton
Bryant SD
wyattskelton@hotmail.com

Comment:

Cap the number of mule deer that may be taken by nonresident archers.

Wyatt Skelton
Bryant SD
wyattskelton@hotmail.com

Comment:

Cap tags at approximately (8%) of resident tags sold. Not 2018 total tags sold because 3018 was a large increase in nonresident tags. This is attributed to SD being a unlimited cheap out of state tag where nonresident can shoot mule deer. More mule deer are shot by nonresident than residents!

Wyatt Skelton

Bryant SD

wyattskelton@hotmail.com

Comment:

SD is currently a cheap unlimited tag for archery. Raise tag prices to be comparable to surrounding states like IA and MT. Raise amounts across the board for all nonresident licenses.

Wyatt Skelton

Bryant SD

wyattskelton@hotmail.com

Comment:

The amount of nonresident pressure is affecting the quality of the hunt for residents and overcrowding on public lands is reducing game to be found on public land.
Reduce nonresident pressure.

Wyatt Skelton

Bryant SD

wyattskelton@hotmail.com

Comment:

Public land is overcrowded and over pressured by large numbers of out of state hunters. Resident hunter experience is suffering and game is pressured off of public land. Cap number of nonresident antelope tags.

Jerry Travis

Brandon SD

jt653byu@yahoo.com

Comment:

I have 2 prior Long time residents of SD that bowhunt with me every year and they are not wealthy people. I hate to see hunting become a rich mans sport. I do support limiting NR licensing absolutely.

Resident Nonresident

Daniel Tracy

Vermillion SD

dan.tracy@usd.edu

Comment:

Why are we allowing non-residents ANY tags ahead of exhausted resident demand (draws 1-3 at least). It is already difficult to draw licenses in my county of preference WITH preference points (about 1 out of 3 years). SD residents ALWAYS deserve the best chances at drawing a tag, particularly in a county where they live or own property.

Turkey Transportation Requirements

Ross Swedeen

Rapid City SD

reswedeem@yahoo.com

Comment:

Please support the change to the turkey transportation requirements. The current transportation requirements place unnecessary burdens on the hunter with little to no positive effect to negate poaching.

Clifton Stone

Chamberlain SD

cstone@midstatesd.net

Comment:

support