

**Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission**  
**May 2-3, 2019**

Chairman Gary Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. MT at Custer State Park Event Barn in Custer, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Travis Bies, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Scott Phillips, Russell Olson, Douglas Sharp, Robert Whitmyre and approximately 50 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.

Phillips asked for clarification on the conflict of interest if you disclose a conflict if you remove yourself from the discussion or just the vote.

Jon Kotilnek, staff attorney, stated it would be appropriate to remove the Commissioner with the conflict from the discussion and the vote so they do not influence others.

Phillips removed himself from the special buck discussion and vote.

**Approval of Minutes**

Jensen called for any additions or corrections to the April 4-5, 2019 minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Olson with second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4-5, 2019 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

**Additional Commissioner Salary Days**

Two additional salary days for Boyd were requested for attending the bighorn sheep workgroup and palisades stakeholder meeting.

Motioned by Phillips, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS. Motion carried unanimously.

**License List Request**

Chris Petersen, administration division director, presented a license list requests to the Commission from Tim Lund with Lake County Pheasant Hatchery from Madison, South Dakota for a full fee license list request for all shooting preserves. It was noted this request is for one-time use to distribute promotional materials to sell pheasants.

Motioned by Olson, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST. Motion carried unanimously.

**Budget FY2020 Overview**

Petersen provided the Commission and overview of the FY2020 budget and walked them through the state government budget lifecycle. He explained how the

State of South Dakota's formal budget process is not a projected based budget or a performance based budget, but mostly based on funding source. With components that are driven by zero based project budgeting and program activity/performance.

### **Public Involvement**

Dr. Longmire led a discussion with the Commission regarding the role of public involvement in decision-making. The discussion focused on who participates in public involvement efforts and some of the constraints to public involvement. Some of the key talking points were:

In public engagement, issues that are emotional, passionate, and important are the ones people work hardest for. Decisions are often between competing benefits that society views as good. Decision makers must decide the reasonable balance point given what is known. When the decision becomes a choice between two or more values, it is no longer simply technical. It can be messy, sometimes hard, and often uncomfortable.

The public will become involved according to their perception of the seriousness of the issue. People typically do not participate unless they perceive their interests to be affected. In this regard, the fear of loss is a stronger motivator than the joy of gain. Despite best efforts to involve people some will choose not to participate; therefore the public involvement process should employ multiple techniques and opportunities throughout the lifespan of an issue to hear from a cross section of the public that is as representative as possible. Who participates may change multiple times during the course of the decision-making process. As a decision comes closer and closer, typically more people will chose to participate. This is often because the potential benefits and costs become more visible and more people see themselves affected by the decision.

There are no one-size-fits all public participation program. Public participation programs should provide several meaningful opportunities for the public to become involved throughout the course of an issue. Where one technique is weaker another is stronger. If each technique is a component in a more extensive process, then many of the weaknesses of a technique can be lessened; however, if the process relies primarily on a single technique, the weaknesses are likely to be pronounced.

### **Habitat/Second Century Initiatives**

Kevin Robling, deputy secretary Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife deputy director, provided an update on Second Century Initiatives as follows.

**Crowdsourcing for Habitat Solutions:** Received over 750 emails and 300+ members joined the Facebook Group page. Present top ideas to Governor Noem by early July. Announce selected idea winners in August and award them with their choice of a park entrance license or a small game hunting license for the upcoming year.

**Hunt for Habitat:** Raffle off 10 big game licenses (3- three license packages and 1 CSP Bison) Raffle ticket sales will start July 1, 2019 and the first drawing will be held mid-August. Auction off the bighorn sheep license that would be valid for both the elk mountain and badlands unit at the 2019 Governor's pheasant hunt in October 2019.

**Trapping Awareness and Education Campaign:** Educational material and videos as well as best management practices illustrating predator removal and trapping techniques are available on the GFP website. A social media and targeted email

campaign was implemented on April 1 in conjunction with the nest predator bounty program providing additional ways to educate and inform new and current users. Thirteen trapping 101 classes across the state using live traps begin on April 3 and additional classes in Rapid City and Sioux Falls are being scheduled.

**Live-Trap Giveaway Program:** 5,500 participants registered for free live traps in a 10 hour timeframe on March 1. Traps are currently being distributed and all 16,000+ traps should be fabricated and distributed by October 1, 2019.

**Nest Predator Bounty Program:** The program runs from April 1 – August 31 unless the \$500,000 expenditure cap is met first – then the program will close. >8,000 tails have been submitted by more than 750 participants. The program is focused on getting families outside to ensure South Dakota’s outdoor heritage remains strong for the next 100 years. Second Century trapper photo contest has been underway since April 1; using the hashtag #SecondCenturyTrapper. There will be 5 grand prize winners who receive a GFP live trap to include lures and other trapping items.

**Second Century Habitat Fund:** Converting the current SD Habitat Conservation Foundation to the Second Century Habitat Fund. Reorganization of board members. New by-laws and articles of incorporation have been drafted. Branding will be updated and a formal press release will be distributed documenting the change. First Second Century Habitat Fund meeting scheduled for mid/late-May.

**Second Century Working Lands Habitat Program:** Program rollout to begin first part of May. Short-term goal is to have 5,000 acres enrolled by July 1, 2019. 5-yr working lands program that establishes perennial nesting cover. One-time \$150.00 incentive payment, free seed provided to producer. Can be hayed or grazed after August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**New Sources of Revenue for Enhanced Habitat Funding:** Develop an action plan that targets specific companies, organizations and businesses at the state and national levels to make a request for significant monetary donations expanding the Second Century working lands habitat program. A specialty habitat license plate will be evaluated during the 2020 legislative session. In the interim, a habitat decal will be available for purchase after July 1, 2019. This decal will be available as a vehicle window decal, but also could be placed on a boat, trailer, ice shelter or other piece of equipment as a mobile billboard. Creation of a habitat stamp or “conservation certificate”. Evaluate alternatives and draft potential legislation for the 2020 legislative session. Create enhanced donation opportunities towards the Second Century Habitat Fund on GFP’s licensing system and website.

### **WDM Program Review**

Jason Simmons, Governor’s Office policy advisor, informed the Commission of an external review of the South Dakota’s Wildlife Damage Management and Animal Damage Control Programs that will be conducted by the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI). He explained this review is to evaluate the efficacy of the services provided. WMI will evaluate the past 10 years of the two programs, including program policies and procedures; program operations and services; administration and organizational structure; budget and revenue sources; communication and outreach (internally and externally); transparency and accountability efforts; and identify strengths and weaknesses. In addition, WMI will conduct public surveys and interviews with GFP staff, the Animal Damage Control Policy Advisory Committee, GFP Commissioners and other stakeholders.

## **Non-meandered Waters**

Kevin Robling, deputy secretary, shared that currently 2,995 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. An access agreement was finalized with the landowners of Reetz Lake and the lake is now open to the public from May 1 – Sept 30, 2019. 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 garbage. The goal is to get more than 15 adopt-a-lake clean-up events scheduled during the summer of 2019.

## **Foundation Update**

Sean Blanchette, Foundations Director for the Department provided a brief update for the two nonprofit Foundations that support the Department’s mission. The South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation recently entered a purchase agreement to secure 10 additional acres of property at Palisades State Park. In addition to all previously purchased parcels, this latest acquisition completes the current vision for expansion at Palisades. The South Dakota Habitat Conservation Foundation will hold a board meeting in the near future to contemplate changes to its Articles of Incorporation as well as its Bylaws to provide for a name change to the Second Century Habitat Fund, a reduction in the size of the Board of Directors as well as to allow direct involvement of the Governor in the Foundation, and to provide an opportunity to appoint Legislators to act in an advisory capacity to the Board. The Habitat Foundation is also currently working with Department terrestrial staff to structure and implement a landowner habitat program to enroll acres in to habitat agreements.

## **Commission Meeting Schedule 2020**

Sharp express his concerns in regards to the location of Commission meetings and having two meeting back to back in the western part of the state.

The Commission was provided with copies of the criteria and considerations used when scheduling meetings and other factors taken into consideration such as season setting schedules.

## **PETITIONS**

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

## **Boat Restrictions on Deerfield**

Ken Edel, Rapid City, SD presented his to modify the 5 mph restriction on Deerfield Reservoir to be 25 mph. Edel said Deerfield is the second largest lake in the Black Hills (420 acres) and is an underutilized resource because of an outdated restriction and lack of management by other controlling agencies. There is no underlying reason why the 5-mph regulation exists or its intended purpose. I believe many years ago it was merely a nice gesture to give anglers a lake without the pestering of other water activities. It may have been a nice gesture 35 years ago, but the regulation is no longer practical. Winter activities allow unrestricted travel on Deerfield, snowmobiles cruise down the lake that are dotted with ice fishermen and ice houses, and have done so for years without any problems. Ice racing on the reservoir is

annual event as well as other activities. Data indicates the reservoir is underutilized during the summer months. Creel survey conducted in 2016 during the month of August, at the summer peak of water activities; indicate a total of 38 surveys were conducted with 32% of them boaters. That's approximately 12 boaters were surveyed. Deerfield reservoir is 74 years old and is a valuable resource. It was only 5 years ago that Deerfield finally got a serviceable boat ramp with a dock, thanks for federal dollars from the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, and Walleyes Unlimited, It's time to make some changes and allow the public a chance to better utilize this resource.

Motioned by Phillips, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE PETITION. Roll call vote: Boyd-yes; Locken – yes; Bies - no; Olson- yes; Whitmyre - yes; Phillips – yes; Sharp- yes; Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 7 yes votes and 1 no vote. Motion passes.

### **Restrict Spearing of Bass on Pactola Reservoir**

Ken Edel, Rapid City, SD presented his to rescind the spearing of largemouth and smallmouth bass year-round. Edel explained Spearing of largemouth bass in Pactola was implemented sometime in the 1980's. Over the years the spearing pressure of bass has taken its toll on the bass population. For many years Pactola supported a decent bass fishery for traditional anglers, but that no longer exists. The bass population has been depressed for a long time, and comparison data is mostly unavailable that would indicate the decline in the bass population. Bass in Pactola are difficult to obtain data, due to the clear water and bass being relatively net shy. Data does indicate the large population of bluegill and rock bass. Reestablishing the bass population would help control the increasing panfish population. We tend to pass regulations and then forget them, until the negative impact is realized. It takes years to develop a fishery of any species, if the bass are protected, they will rebound and provide opportunity for traditional anglers once again. Pactola has always been a self-sustaining bass fishery. As the department is looking for ways to increase angler interest and provide angler opportunity, you have to be willing to make changes that will allow that to happen. This commission has an opportunity to make a regulation change that is long overdue.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE PETITION. Roll call vote: Boyd-yes; Locken – no; Bies - no; Olson- yes; Whitmyre - yes; Phillips – yes; Sharp- yes; Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 7 yes votes and 1 no vote. Motion passes.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Public Hearing began at 2:04 p.m. and concluded at 2:22 p.m. The minutes follow these Commission meeting minutes.

### **OPEN FORUM**

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

Tom Krafka, Rapid City SD spoke in regards to bighorn sheep. He said bighorn sheep are special to him and he continues to apply in South Dakota and other states. Worked with the group to make the bighorn sheep tag for auction with funds going back

to the bighorn sheep management. The new plan would only make a small addition to the funds current spent on pheasants, but it would be double what is spent on bighorn sheep currently. This change would also require a standalone auction and be an expense to the state. Feels the entire bighorn sheep auction plan should go before the public for comment and the Commission for approval

Representative Tim Goodwin, Hill City, SD spoke in regards to trapping noting he has never seen so much excitement for a program. He said the vocal minority are complaining but to hold steady. He noted that he made the recommendation to include opossum in the bounty program. He noted that 744 were recently caught even though people do not realize that we have opossum in South Dakota. He also mentioned there are Indian grounds in Custer State Park that are over 10,000 years old. He would like to have the Commission visit it if they are interested and thinks it is an area of interest.

Wayne Lloyd, Wentworth, SD spoke in regards to bighorn sheep. He supports the sheep program and as a business man he looks at the sheep as an asset to be used for other programs not just for sheep. He also noted that other programs support sheep funding. He said this money can be used to increase habitat that will help all species.

**FINALIZATIONS**

**Resident Nonresident Criteria (Administrative Action)**

Leif presented resident/nonresident criteria administrative action which will be used to consider future license allocations; however, when using the criteria it is understood that not all items would need to be addressed.

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO CREATE THE RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA. Motion carried unanimously.

**Deer Hunting Seasons**

**East River Deer Hunting Season**

Kirschenmann presented the recommended changes to the East River deer hunting season as specified below.

1. Adjust resident license numbers from no more than 21,075 one-tag and 5,250 two-tag deer licenses to no more than 24,510 one-tag and 2,800 two-tag tag deer licenses.
2. Establish Units 13P (Brule County), 33P (Hand County), 36P (Hughes County), and 38P (Hyde County). These units are for antlerless whitetail deer licenses and would be valid on private land only; all public lands are closed to license holders within these respective units, including Walk-in Areas.

Year	Buck Tags	Doe Tags	Total Tags
2017-2018	18,855	12,715	31,575
2019-2020	19,085	11,025	30,110

Buck Tags (+5%)  
Doe Tags (-13%)

Motion by Phillips, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION OF THE EAST RIVER DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:21. Motion carried unanimously.

## West River Deer Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented the recommended changes to the West River deer hunting season as specified below.

1. Adjust resident license numbers from no more than 15,340 one-tag and 3,320 two-tag deer licenses to 12,308 one-tag, 5,220 two-tag deer licenses and 400 three-tag deer licenses.
2. Establish Units 15P (includes that portion valid within Unit 15A of Butte County), 27P (includes that portion valid within Unit 27B of Fall River County), and 45P (includes that portion valid within Unit 45B of Lyman County). These units are for antlerless whitetail deer licenses and would be private land only; all public lands are closed to license holders within these respective units, including Walk-in Areas.

Year	Buck Tags	Doe Tags	Total Tags
2017-2018	16,175	5,805	21,980
2019-2020	15,895	8,053	23,948

Buck Tags (-2%)

Doe Tags (+39%)

Motion by Boyd, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION TO THE WEST RIVER DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:20. Motion carried unanimously.

## Black Hills Deer Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented the recommended change to adjust the number of resident licenses from no more than 4,300 one-tag deer licenses to no more than 4,800 one-tag deer licenses.

Motion by Olson, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION TO THE BLACK HILLS RIVER DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:19. Motion carried unanimously.

## Refuge Deer Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented the recommended changes to the Refuge deer hunting season as specified below.

1. For Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, adjust the number of resident licenses from no more than 25 one-tag deer licenses to no more than 20 one-tag licenses.
2. For Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, adjust the number of resident licenses from no more than 150 one-tag deer licenses to no more than 105 one-tag licenses.
3. For Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, modify the season dates as follows: WA1 would open for ~~8~~ 9 consecutive days beginning seven days before the beginning of the East River deer season; WA2 would open for ~~8~~ 5 consecutive days beginning on day following the end of WA1; and WA3 would open for ~~7~~ 9 consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of WA2.
4. Make an allowance for antlerless archery deer licenses to be valid for the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge.
5. For unfilled antlerless deer licenses for the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, change current rule from "nine consecutive days beginning on the Saturday following December 25" to "nine consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL5 season".

Kirschenmann noted the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge currently has 2 of 3 seasons open. The recommended changes to the respective season dates would allow for the current open seasons to run for 9 consecutive days and include two full weekends for licensed hunters.

Motion by Phillips, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE REFUGE DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:36 & 41:06:22. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Custer State Park Deer Hunting Season**

Kirschenmann presented the recommended changes to the Custer State Park deer hunting season as specified below.

1. Increase the total number of one-tag licenses from no more than 64 to no more than 88.
2. For Unit CUD-2, change from muzzleloader only to any weapon.

Motion by Bies, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE CUSTER STATE PARK DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:41. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Archery Deer Hunting Season**

Kirschenmann presented the recommended changes to the Archery deer hunting seasons as specified below with a recommended change from proposal to keep unit 50A for Unit ARD-LM1 closed as there are no antlerless firearm licenses issued for this unit.

1. For Unit ARD-LM1, close units 59A and open units 05A, 11A, 11B, 17A, 18A, 22A, 23A, 25A, 32A, 39B, 45B, 48A, 50A, 55A.
2. For Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve, increase the number of access permits for antlerless whitetail deer from 25 to 30.

Motioned by Olson, second by Bies TO AMEND THE ARCHERY DEER SEASON KEEPING UNIT 50A CLOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sharp, second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION OF THE ARCHERY DEER HUNTING SEASON AS AMENDED 41:06:22. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Season**

Kirschenmann presented the recommended changes to the Muzzleloader deer hunting seasons as specified below with a recommended change from proposal to keep unit 50A for Unit ARD-LM1 closed as there are no antlerless firearm licenses issued for this unit.

1. For Unit MZD-LM1, close units 59A and open units 05A, 11A, 11B, 17A, 18A, 22A, 23A, 25A, 32A, 39B, 45B, 48A, 50A, 55A.

Motioned by Olson, second by Locken TO AMEND THE MUZZLELOADER DEER SEASON KEEPING UNIT 50A CLOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Whitmyre, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION OF THE MUZZLELOADER DEER HUNTING SEASON AS AMENDED 41:06:45. Motion carried unanimously.



## **Deer Hunting Seasons – Hunting Unit License & Access Permit Allocations (Administrative Action)**

Kirschenmann presented the recommended change in administrative action to allocate deer hunting licenses and access permits by unit for the 2019-2020 hunting season.

Motioned by Bies with second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVES ACTION ALLOCATING DEER LICENSES AND ACCESS PERMITS 41:06:45 (Appendix A). 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.

Motion by Sharp, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION OF THE 2020 WEST RIVER DEER SPECIAL BUCK SEASON 41:06:02 & 41:02:20. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Public Water Zoning**

Mike Klosowski and Mark Ohm, wildlife regional supervisors, discussed three public water zoning proposals:

### **Compton Cover No Wake Zone – Stanley County**

Add a “no wake zone” at Compton’s Cove in Stanley County. This area is just

north of Marion's Gardens, in Fort Pierre, on the Missouri River. This restriction was requested by the public and would add the same safety measures to Compton's Cove as Marion's Gardens

Motioned by Olson, second by Phillips TO ADD A NO WAKE ZONE AT COMPTON COVE 41:04:02. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Putney Slough – Brown County**

Modify the "no boating zone" dates on Putney Slough Game Production Area from October 15 – December 31 to October 20 – December 31. Modifying this public water zoning rule will marry up similar restrictions in the rest of the state.

Motioned by Phillips, second by Locken TO MODIFY THE NO BOATING ZONE AT PUTNEY SLOUGH 41:04:02. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Long Lake – Codington County**

Modify the "no boating zone" year round on Long Lake to open year round. This will allow more recreational opportunity, specifically fishing, as the north end of the lake has the most 'fishable' water. The lake is managed by the northeast aquatics staff. Staff routinely stock the lake with walleye on a bi-annual schedule. The lake also has a strong population of yellow perch. This area has become a popular fishery close to the city of Watertown. If this area is opened to boating, GFP will develop a modern boat ramp on the NW side of the lake to provide better public access.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Whitmyre TO MODIFY THE NO BOATING ZONE AT LONG LAKE TO BE OPEN YEAR ROUND 41:04:02. Motion carried unanimously.

## **PROPOSALS**

### **Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season and Auction License**

Kirschenmann presented the recommended change to remove the November 1 deadline for submitting an application letter to language which states the deadline for an application letter will be established and announced by the Commission.

He explained with an anticipated change in the timing of auctioning a bighorn sheep license for bighorn sheep management and creating funds for the Second Century habitat initiative, it is necessary to replace the existing rule language whereby the Commission can establish an appropriate deadline date to allow flexibility in conducting the bighorn sheep auction. The current administrative rule language will not meet the desired timing, thus requiring action to adjust the existing rule.

Motioned by Sharp with second by Bies TO APPROVE THE CHANGES THE BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASON 41:06:56. Motion carried unanimously.

### **(Administrative Action)**

Kirschenmann presented the recommended change in administrative action to allow the bighorn sheep auction license to be valid in both the Custer County (BH2) and Badlands (BH3) hunting units for the 2020 bighorn sheep hunting season.

He explained with the number and quality bighorn sheep rams found within the Badlands hunting unit, this is a fundraising opportunity to not only generate funds for

South Dakota bighorn sheep management, but to also raise funds to supplement the Second Century habitat initiative and showcase the state of South Dakota. Last year a world record ram was harvested and there are other Boone and Crocket quality rams remaining in the herd. It should also be understood should the Badlands hunting unit be included for the area valid for the auction license, there would still only be one (1) SD auction license and there would still be a resident lottery license available in the Badlands hunting unit.

Motioned by Phillips with second by Bies TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVES ACTION ALLOWING THE BIGHORN SHEEP AUCTION LICENSE VALID IN BOTH UNITS 41:06:56. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Archery Deer License Allocation**

Kirschenmann presented the proposed changes to the archery deer license allocation.

1. Archery hunting for nonresident hunters will begin on the first Saturday after Labor Day for public lands and private land leased by the department.
2. Establish an application deadline of August 1 for nonresident hunters, where any application received after that date the license will only be valid on private land, not including Walk-In Areas.
3. Access permits on 35L will be limited to a total of 500 access permits. Those access permits would be distributed as follows: 400 resident access permits and 100 nonresident access permits.

Motioned by Phillips with second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ARCHERY DEER LICENSE ALLOCATION 41:06:01 & 41:06:22. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Restriction of the Use of Firearms, Crossbows and Bows in State Parks and Rec Areas**

Bob Schneider, parks and recreation assistant director, presented recommended change to restrictions on the use of hunting and target weapons on department controlled lands and prefaced his recommendations by stating that hunting, with safety restrictions, is allowed in 65 of 69 state park areas. The proposed changes would:

1. Allow uncased weapons when transporting them to and from designated shooting ranges and boat ramps to accommodate target shooters and bow fishermen. Our officers probably would not cite, but this clarifies the allowance.
2. Allow airguns on state park target ranges and to hunt with in parks as allowed by other rule.
3. Extend months hunting is allowed on Lake side Use Areas and Shadehill Recreation Area from Oct through April to Sept through May.
4. Repeal centerfire rifle prohibition for CSP spring turkey because statewide change in spring turkey rule does this.
5. Add crossbows (for firearm seasons) as allowable weapon in all park areas that allow bows.
6. Repeal the rule that states deer hunting is allowed through Jan 31 in all parks that allow hunting except Farm and LaFramboise Islands where hunting must end on December 31. With statewide change in deer season end date, rule is no longer needed.

7. Revise rule specifying concealed pistol allowance in park areas to align with the statute change made by the legislature.
8. Cleanup to correct nomenclature for several designated management units.
9. Extend spring turkey hunt date at Sica Hollow State Park from 8 days before Memorial Day to May 31<sup>st</sup>. The chance for conflict with other recreation uses is limited because of the park's limited development and northern climate.
10. The current rule prohibits discharge of firearms and bows on or across Mickelson Trail. Change would expand this to include airguns and crossbows.
11. Current rule expressly prohibits airguns in park areas. Proposed change would allow them for hunting allowed species in parks if they meet the muzzle velocity specified in 41:06 which is the hunting seasons and methods chapter.

Motioned by Olson with second by Locken TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE USE OF FIREARMS, CROSSBOWS AND BOWS IN STATE PARKS AND REC AREAS 41:03:01. Motion carried unanimously.

## **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

### **Fishery and Wildlife Management Plan Updates**

Kirschenmann shared that as a result of the 2013 big game review report and associated recommendations provided by the Wildlife Management Institute, the Department took a strategic approach to develop and implement management plans to help guide management decisions which include a robust public involvement process. The initial focus was on a few key big-game species, however understanding and recognizing the importance and value in the management plan approach, the agency has expanded those efforts to encompass a variety of species, habitats, and management areas. Today, over 25 management plans exist to help manage both aquatic and terrestrial resources.

John Lott, Fisheries Section Leader, went on to explain the overall approach of fisheries management plans across the state. Lott focused on the structure of fisheries plans and the importance of implementation. Kirschenmann next shared that terrestrial based plans are similar other than most of these plans are species specific. Management plans include a variety of information pieces including, but not limited to, life history, research findings, habitat, season structures, regulations, and social issues. Most importantly, plans include objectives and strategies to address the primary focal points moving forward. All plans, new or revised, go through public input processes and are brought forward to the GFP Commission with an administrative action of adopting the plans before implementation. Regular updates on accomplishment of plan objectives are provided to the Commission and plans are referenced when providing season recommendations. Currently, the agency is in the process of revising the Black Hills Fisheries Plan, Antelope Plan, and Mountain Lion Plan.

### **Planned Fish Stockings for 2019**

Lott said the fish stocking schedule and walleye and perch egg-take goals were modified during April to include additional stockings necessary because of winterkill. Approximately 128 million walleye eggs were taken in April 2019 and planned stockings include 58.5 million fry, 1.6 million 2-inch spring fingerlings, and 63,000 4-6-inch fall fingerlings. Coldwater stockings planned for 2019 include 171,000 catchable rainbow trout, 370,000 Chinook salmon fingerlings, 7,500 Atlantic salmon, 5,400 brown trout,

and 7,500 tiger trout (brook and brown trout cross). Approximately 30 waters experienced some degree of winterkill during the winter of 2018-2019 with severe kills documented for East and West Oakwood Lakes and Watertown and Aberdeen urban fisheries.

### **Paddlefish Program Update**

Geno Adams, fisheries program manager, provided an update on the paddlefish program explaining it is one of the most unique management activities that Aquatics staff work on annually. Anglers have three opportunities to target paddlefish in South Dakota: October Gavin's Point snagging season, June Gavin's Point archery season and a May Lake Francis Case snagging/archery season. There are 350 permits issued for the Lake Francis Case season, 1600 for the Gavin's Point snagging season and 275 for the Gavin's Point archery season.

Anglers targeting paddlefish below Gavin's Point Dam experience higher catch rates but a smaller average size. Those that draw a paddlefish tag for Lake Francis Case don't catch as many paddlefish, but they are generally larger with the current 127+ pound state record paddlefish harvested during this season.

### **Fishing Promotion and Trophy Recognition Program**

Adams inform the Commission that the proud angler and state record fish programs are designed to recognize anglers who catch trophy fish from South Dakota waters. For years the only information available to the public on these programs were the current state record fish. All proud angler and previous state record data was housed within Game, Fish and Parks with no access from the public. Staff designed and implemented a georeferenced data management system with an online interface that allows users to access all of this historical data.

The current state record Channel Catfish is the oldest state record in South Dakota dating back to 1949. Over time, many anglers and staff have questioned the species of fish in the photo provided for the old record. After review by multiple fisheries professionals, it has been determined that the fish in the photo is actually a Blue Catfish. Staff will be opening up that state record again and utilizing the opportunity to promote the new proud angler and state record online interfaces as well as catfishing opportunities within South Dakota.

### **Walk In Area Comment Opportunity**

Kirschenmann provided a brief summary on the newly created option on the GFP website where hunters who would like to provide comments to GFP on a specific public hunting area can now do so. Hunters can provide feedback and ask questions on both Game Production Areas (GPAs) and Walk-In Areas (WIA) by filling out a few contact information fields and provide their questions or concerns. The site also includes an interactive map to identify which tract they are referencing. GFP staff will then be able to know exactly which property is referenced and can discuss reasons why enrolled in the WIA program or the current management approach on a particular GPA.

### **License Sales Update**

Kirschenmann provided a brief overview of this month's license sales summary. License sales remain behind last year at this same time frame. In particular, resident

combination licenses and nonresident spring light goose and nonresident annual fishing licenses were highlighted as the primary contributors of the lag in license sales. It was pointed out that for the most part these will remain behind as there is no opportunity to make up for spring light goose license sales and likely nonresident fishing sales also resulted from the inability to ice fish on many lakes due to no access. The department will continue to watch license sales and keep the commission informed through monthly reports.

## **DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **Concession Resort Prospectus and Settlement Agreement**

Jennie Fuerst, concessionaire manager, presented the request from Roy Lake Resort to lower their sale price to 689,000. That generated a settlement agreement which establishes the terms of the sale. The lower price also generated a new prospectus, advertising the lower price.

Motion by Olson, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE ROY LAKE RESORT SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. Motion carried unanimously.

Fuerst informed the Commission that Spring Creek Resort's prospectus came to expiration with no proposals submitted. Shuffled 1% from the franchise fee to the repair and maintenance reserve. Making the franchise fee 1% and the repair and maintenance reserve 3%. Put language in the lease that requires Concessionaire to come to the Commission for approval of any annual slip rate increase over 3%.

Motion by Olson, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE SPRING CREEK RESORT AGREEMENT. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Archive and History of Custer State Park Projects**

Lydia Austin, interpretive programs manager, shared with the Commission on the ongoing archive project at CSP. The presentation focused on how the archives began and what items have been found with this project. The presentation then went into the grants the park has received and the plans for the future.

### **100 Years of Custer Parks**

Emilie Miller, state parks visitor services coordinator, and Lydia Austin, Custer State Park interpretive programs manager, provided an overview of the programs and promotions in place to celebrate the state park system's 100th anniversary in 2019. Promotions include the new 100 Years Scavenger Hunt, as well as 100 Year boosts to annual programs, such as the Jr. Naturalist and Go Fourth programs. Publications and merchandise will also follow the 100 Year theme, with historic photos, the 100 Year logo and red buffalo plaid color scheme. The 100th anniversary was also celebrated at the state's Tourism Conference, through SDPBS' Images of the Past TV program, and will be a part of this summer's expedition league baseball games. In addition, several state parks are holding history-themed programs, activities and special events. As the first park in the system, Custer is doing much in-house to commemorate their 100th, including a photo contest, trail challenge, social media filters, and a dedication celebration.

## **Sylvan Lake Custer Park Planning Project**

Al Nedved, parks and recreation assistant director, provided the Commission with an update on the effort to conduct master planning at the Sylvan Lake area in Custer State park. Sylvan Lake is a very intensely used area of the park. This scenic area provides a diverse spectrum of recreational activities including camping, hiking, swimming, fishing, and rock climbing. The resort also provides services through a concession agreement such as lodging, food/beverage, general store, rentals, and weddings and gatherings. This area is the primary access to the USFS Black Elk Peak and Wilderness areas. The use at the area is increasing in volume and diversity. Many questions are emerging regarding visitor experience, resource protection, and environmental issues. A master plan will conduct research and gain public input on this area to help guide policy and facility development. The plan will focus on Sylvan Lake, but other park-related issues raised will be catalogued and considered for future planning efforts. An RFP has been issued and a consultant will be selected by the end of May to lead the effort and the Commission will be invited to be involved.

## **Flood Report**

Scott Simpson, parks and recreation division director, and Al Nedved, assistant director, updated the Commission on the effects of the spring blizzards and flooding to the state park system. The impacts were the result of two major weather events. The first one was a storm that dumped large amounts of snow and rain in the state on March 13-15. The second event was a blizzard and rain event that occurred on April 10-12. Runoff and rising river and lake levels forced some partial closures in about 10 parks. Efforts were made to notify registered campers and offer them options for refunds or transfers. The runoff events also did significant damage such as destroying a bridge at Randall Creek Recreation Area that will force closure of the campground for at least the next year. Other damage was reported at Lewis and Clark RA, Springfield RA, Big Sioux RA, North Point RA, and Lake Poinsett RA. A historic bridge that was being used for pedestrian access at Fisher Grove was also destroyed. And the spillway structure at Lake Alvin was seriously damaged. Department staff will continue to assess these and additional damages, and stay in contact with the Division of Emergency Management and Governor's Office to coordinate disaster declarations.

## **Reservation and Revenue Reports**

Bob Schneider, parks and recreation assistant director, presented state park revenue, camping and visitation reports the year to date through April. Revenue is down 3%, camping down 20% and visitation down 7% from 2018. Given the extremely poor weather through April, these numbers are not bad. Good news is that park users purchased 13% more park entrance licenses and made 4% more camping reservations in April this year than they did in that month last year. The Randall Creek campground is closed for the year due to flood damage to a bridge accessing the area. Campsites at Lake Poinsett and North Point Recreation Areas are currently closed due to floodwaters. Visitor Services and Park staff are working with campers to relocate their reservations to other sites. Flooding is impacting several park areas but staff are doing a tremendous job of making repairs and "keeping the ship afloat".

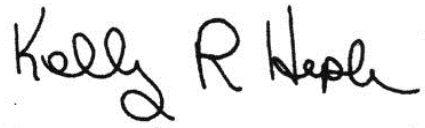
## **Solicitation of Agenda Items from Commissioners**

It was noted the WDM Review will be discussed at the December meeting.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly R Hepler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "K".

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary



## Appendix A

### Deer Hunting Seasons – Hunting Unit License & Access Permit Allocations

#### EAST RIVER DEER 2019-2010

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident Licenses									License Totals				
		AnyD	AtID	AD+AtID	2 AtID	AnyW	AtW	AtW	A/W+AtW	2 AtW	RES	RES	RES	RES	
		01	03	08	09	11	13	13-Private	18	19	1-tag	2-tag	Licenses	Tags	
01A	Minnehaha	450	200									650	0	650	650
03A	Brown	1,000	1,000									2,000	0	2,000	2,000
04A	Beadle					500	200					700	0	700	700
05A	Codington	250	100									350	0	350	350
06A	Brookings	450	100									550	0	550	550
07A	Yankton	300										300	0	300	300
07B	Yankton		75									75	0	75	75
08A	Davison					200						200	0	200	200
10A	Aurora					300	200					500	0	500	500
12A	Bon Homme	250										250	0	250	250
12B	Bon Homme		50									50	0	50	50
13A	Brule	100						100	800			200	800	1,000	1,800
13L	Brule	20										20	0	20	20
14A	Buffalo	100							250			100	250	350	600
16A	Campbell	30				400	150					580	0	580	580
17A	Charles Mix	100				200	100					400	0	400	400
18A	Clark	600	100									700	0	700	700
19A	Clay	200	100									300	0	300	300
22A	Day	600	100									700	0	700	700
23A	Deuel	400	100									500	0	500	500
25A	Douglas					250	100					350	0	350	350
26A	Edmunds	700	600									1,300	0	1,300	1,300
28A	Faulk	600	600									1,200	0	1,200	1,200
29A	Grant	300										300	0	300	300
32A	Hamlin	600	100									700	0	700	700
33A	Hand	20						300	450	100		320	550	870	1,420
34A	Hanson					200						200	0	200	200
36A	Hughes	175				250		100				525	0	525	525
37A	Hutchinson					150						150	0	150	150
38A	Hyde	20						100	500	100		120	600	720	1,320
40A	Jerauld					250	250		100			500	100	600	700
42A	Kingsbury	500	100									600	0	600	600
43A	Lake	300	100									400	0	400	400
44A	Lincoln	200	100									300	0	300	300
46A	McCook	350	200									550	0	550	550
47A	McPherson	500	500									1,000	0	1,000	1,000
48A	Marshall	500	100									600	0	600	600
51A	Miner	400	350									750	0	750	750
52A	Moody	350	200									550	0	550	550
54A	Potter	150					400		500			550	500	1,050	1,550
55A	Roberts	500	100									600	0	600	600
56A	Sanborn					350	200					550	0	550	550
57A	Spink	900	400									1,300	0	1,300	1,300
59A	Sully	100				250						350	0	350	350
59B	Sully	20				300	50					370	0	370	370
61A	Turner	100										100	0	100	100
62A	Union	300	100									400	0	400	400
63A	Walworth	50										750	0	750	750
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,485</b>	<b>5,475</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>200</b>		<b>24,510</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>27,310</b>	<b>30,110</b>
Unit #	Unit Name	AnyD	AtID	AD+AtID	2 AtID	AnyW	AtW	AtW	A/W+AtW	2 AtW	RES	RES	RES	RES	
		01	03	08	09	11	13	13-Private	18	19	1-tag	2-tag	Licenses	Tags	



BLACK HILLS DEER 2019-2020

Unit	Resident Licenses			Nonresident Licenses			License Totals							
	Any Deer	Any WT	Antlerless WT	Any Deer	Any WT	Antlerless WT	RES	RES	RES	RES	NR	NR	NR	NR
	01	11	13	01	11	13	1-tag	2-tag	Lic	Tags	1-tag	2-tag	Lic	Tags
BD1			1,000	0	0	80	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	80	0	80	80
BD2			100	0	0	8	100	0	100	100	8	0	8	8
BH1	200	3,500		16	280	0	3,700	0	3,700	3,700	296	0	296	296
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>384</b>
Unit	Any Deer	Any WT	Antlerless WT	Any Deer	Any WT	Antlerless WT	RES	RES	RES	RES	NR	NR	NR	NR
	01	11	13	01	11	13	1-tag	2-tag	Lic	Tags	1-tag	2-tag	Lic	Tags
				<b>RES and NR:</b>			<b>5,184</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,184</b>	<b>5,184</b>				

REFUGE DEER 209-2020

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

CUSTER STATE PARK DEER 2019-2020

Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Deer	Any Whitetail	Antlerless Whitetail
	01	11	13
CUD-1	5	33	0
CUD-2	0	0	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>50</b>

CUSTER STATE PARK DEER

2017-18 VS 2019-20 COMPARISON

Unit	2017-2018 Resident Licenses	2019-2020 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2017-2018 Resident Tags	2019-2020 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
CUD-1	34	38	4	12%	34	38	4	12%
CUD-2	30	50	20	67%	30	50	20	67%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>38%</b>

MUZZLELOADER DEER 2019-2020

	Resident	
	Any Deer Licenses	Any Deer Tags
Statewide	1,000	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>

MUZZLELOADER DEER 2017-18 VS 2019-20 COMPARISON

	Resident	
	Any Deer Licenses	Any Deer Tags
2017-2018 Statewide	1,000	1,000
2019-2020 Statewide	1,000	1,000

ACCESS PERMITS 2019-2020

Designated Area	Number of Access Permits		
	Any Deer	Antlerless Whitetail Deer	Total
Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve	5	30	35
Good Earth State Park	5	0	5

ACCESS PERMITS 2017-18 VS 2019-20 COMPARISON

Designated Area	Number of Access Permits		
	Any Deer	Antlerless Whitetail Deer	Total
2017-2018 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve	5	25	30
2019-2020 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve	5	30	35
2017-2018 Good Earth State Park	5	0	5
2019-2020 Good Earth State Park	5	0	5

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
May 2, 2019

The Commission Vice chair Scott Phillips began the public hearing at 2:00 p.m. MT at Custer State Park Event Barn in Custer, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Travis Bies, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Scott Phillips, Russell Olson, Douglas Sharp, Robert Whitmyre were present. Phillips 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.

### **Resident Nonresident Criteria**

Doug Abraham, Flatlands Flyway and SD Landowners Alliance spoke in regards to resident nonresident criteria noting both organizations he represents encourage the adoption of this criteria as proposed.

Pat West, Piedmont, SD spoke on behalf of the SD Landowners and Outfitters Alliance stating they fully support the trapping program and embrace the intent of the program. Appreciate the work of the commission to balance resources, resident and nonresident sportsmen and sportswomen and the economic impact they have in our state, and landowner concerns. Group represents over 1.3 million acres and landowner not only matter but need to be part of these conversations. The economic impact provided to SD by landowners is over 1 billion dollars. The intent of the alliance is to protect property rights and support hunting traditions, seek fairness and provide a voice for the industry, and hopefully help the Commission find an appropriate balance. Three things to address are: supporting the nonresident special buck proposal, would support a cap on nonresident archery deer tags on public lands but not on resident and nonresident archery tags on private land. The cap on public lands would address the concerns brought forward to the commission. Concerned about attempts to restrict opportunity and feel residents should have the opportunity to draw east and west river archery and riffle tag. Limiting to four tags per resident is a reasonable amount and more having than four is excessive. These are difficult discussions but do not need to be contentious.

Natasha Bothum, SD Department of Tourism, Pierre, SD spoke in support the resident nonresident proposal. Thanks to including financial effects in the proposal as it shows the communities are considered.

Rosie Smith, Glacial Lakes and Prairie Tourism, Watertown, SD spoke in support of the resident nonresident proposal as a lot of members rely on the industry.

### **Deer Hunting Seasons**

Doug Abraham, Flatlands Flyway and SD Landowners Alliance spoke in regards to SD landowner alliance having an issue with the archery deer allocation because of perception of the public land pressure wanting the department to look at options to address the problem. Does not feel there is a biological concern or private land issue.

Dana Rogers, SD Bowhunters Association, Hill City, SD spoke in regards to archery deer licenses and nonresident archery deer license allocation. The first option does very little for the issue as there are only about 50 residents that get both licenses.

The second category option A would be an 8 percent cap of resident archery tags which is what the SDBI petitioned for. This would take care of the nonresident pressure in most areas and still offer an every other year draw. Option B is what SDBI sent in a position paper in 2017. SDBI prefers a hard cap of 2,000 or less nonresident permits. Option C is a step in the right direction but has concerns about enforcement. Option D the application deadline portion is a great idea, but keeping nonresident license of any deer unlimited is not. Category 3 having a reasonable set number of archery access permits for residents as a baseline is fair. Then the 8 percent of the total could be allocated for nonresidents. Concern is permits are still made available on an unlimited basis for nonresidents.

### **Special Buck**

Doug Abraham, Flatlands Flyway and SD Landowners Alliance spoke in regards to special buck noting his organization initially had concerns and worked with the department to develop this proposal. Noted this proposal is a compromise.

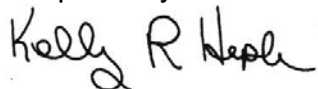
Chris Hesla, SDWF, Pierre, SD stated in the last year 18 months we have revamped how rifle deer season is handled and the new archery deer proposal just came out and the current CWD plan mentions possibly cutting back on deer tags. We oppose the special buck tags as it is moving one step closer to landowners and commercialization which is already here in South Dakota and this will expand that. Is now a good time to introduce a new pool of license that is not science based.

### **Public Water Zoning**

No verbal comments received.

See attached public comments submitted prior to the public hearing  
The public Hearing concluded at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

# Public Comments

## Deer Hunting Seasons

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**Bob Marquardt**

**Watertown SD**

**bmarquardt@iw.net**

**Comment:**

I would strongly recommend that the dates purposed for the upcoming ERD season be moved to the 3rd weekend in Nov. The NE part of South Dakota is pron to get snow and cold weather by the middle of Nov and the deer tend to relocate to there winter grounds by the second half on Nov. By setting the dates so late in the Month massive amounts of land in Codington County, both private and public, will not have any deer left to hunt, therefore effecting the harvest rates. Check the history of extending seasons due to excessive snow and difficult travel . The second reason for opposition of these dates is the rut will be over. Should not the east river hunters get the opportunity to hunt at least part of the rut? Late season no rutting deer.

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**Kelly Koistinen**

**Spearfish SD**

**kkoistinen@fs.fed.us**

**Comment:**

What are the Biological reasons for increasing the number of muzzleloader tags available to SD residents? I would think that the Biologists don't even have a clue that the Commission is trying to increase the number of tags available in Muzzleloader season. You have to have sound Biological reasoning to do this! Not just because the State wants more money! If you create this increase in Muzzleloader tags, then you will have a huge loss of deer populations across the West River. There is enough opportunity out there for people to have a deer tag. Stop creating these idiotic proposals just because of the greed of the State. I realize that the state has lost revenue from the G,F,& P because you've lost the money from Nonresidents pheasant hunting. That is not the fault of the people of this state. Now, the Commission is drumming up these ridiculous proposals just to make up \$ for the State. I see right through your silly façade. The citizens of the State deserve better from the GF&P Commission! All these proposals are to increase revenues, just don't take away from the citizens of the State who've stuck with the system for so long and have paid a great portion of their personal income to enjoy the privilege to hunt and fish! Now, you create all these schemes to make money at the expense of the citizens.

Well, here you go again. In the same newsletter that you propose to make decisions based on New Criteria, you've just made these idiotic proposals with NO SOUND REASONING, just money! Where's the sound reasoning for the increase in; 1) New Special Whitetail Buck Tag--Why would you take away up to 500 tags/4% from the West River Deer Tag allotment to give to this new proposal? You'll take away the opportunity for someone to get a deer tag for the W. River deer season! Who can afford to pay \$169 for a deer? You just tried to do this with that other ridiculous proposal last year of new tag allotments and the residents responded with a resounding NO! Why then, would you try a similar thing again? Do you think we are not paying attention? Take these tags away from the East River Deer Season allotment then, and see what happens! East River Hunters will not like it either! But, apparently they have more money and power to sway the Commissioners! West River tags shouldn't be messed with! What are the criteria other than money? There aren't enough deer West River already! 2) Super tag. Why would you give a non resident the opportunity to hunt elk in this state? IT IS A RESIDENT ONLY TAG!! you will establish a precedence, and they will continue to bombard you about giving them a chance to hunt elk from that point on! And judging on how the Commission is always trying to change something, you'll probably give in to the pressure from them too! That is just simply not good thinking! 3) Increases of deer tags for Black Hills, West River Special Whitetail tags, None of these proposals are following the criteria guidelines you've just proposed, EXCEPT \$\$\$ financial for the State. You're increasing these tags without Biological reasoning! Just Money! Have you even consulted with the Biologists of the GF&P? I am disgusted with the way this Commission is using money as driving force of most of these proposals! I also think that you are relying on (not having enough people comment on your proposals). I wish you would just leave things alone! We don't even need all your dumb proposals, we've got enough rules to follow. All you do is restrict us SD citizen hunters and fishermen/women.



---

**Thad Nafziger**

**Pierre SD**

**Thadnafziger@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

I'm writing (yet again) as a very frustrated & concerned lifelong resident hunter of the state of S.D. I will address my concerns per proposed item as follows: West River Social Buck proposed change. I vehemently oppose this change, my reasoning is as such..the price of the special buck tag has become quite expensive & for \$169 I should reserve the right to choose what species of deer I hunt for. It is an any deer special buck tag, in my humble opinion the reason it's called a special buck tag is that it gives the hunter (for a fee) special considerations & privileges not allowed with a standard deer tag. It appears to simply be another tactic by gfp to put more money in the coffers, & on that note I personally feel that gfp is supposed to be here to manage our resources & not to be a business entity who as of late certainly appears to act like one with sole concern being to make more money. There should only be enough revenue coming in to manage the current resources, & quite frankly if the expenditures of the department exceed the current (in your words license dollar only funded) budget, then maybe it's time to look at shrinking the department to fit the budget. In that vein of topic I would also say that if you truly are license dollar only (& park/camp etc.) funded that would make said license holders & users of parks etc. the sole financiers of gfp budget, or in other words your bosses. I suggest to you folks if this is the case you are not doing your bosses bidding or representing his/her wishes or interests, furthermore if gfp is to continue following the commissions recommendations (meaning commission has a lot of pull) they need to be held accountable just as Dept of gfp should be held accountable by us (their source of funding and theoretically their bosses) by making positions on commission an elected vs. appointed position so they will have a constituency to answer to & serve. Next issue this Super Tag proposal is not a good idea...Elk hunting in this state is all about being a resident. And any way you slice this (either taking the super tags away from total allocation for resident elk hunters, or adding additional tags for it...if you are able to add tags for any reason they should be for the allocation of residents only) proposal is unfair to the many, many residents who have waited a very long time to hunt elk in this state, & not only is it unfair to the aforementioned people I fear it opens the door for future precedent and potential expansion of non resident elk tag allocation. Next issue..I believe cutting tags by any percentage from west or east river is a mistake no matter where they get allocated. Sure seems like west river bears the brunt of reallocation when it comes to tags..I would suggest you reallocate some tags from east river & see how that fairs as far as public outcry. I have held big game tags and hunting licenses in this state since eligible to do so, & am now 50 yrs old meaning I have technically been one of your many bosses for longer than I care to admit. And as said boss I'm very unhappy with the direction the dept has gone the last 8-10 years especially. It would appear in almost every case that's proposed change has come about is a direct correlation to money, & certainly appears to not give weight to biological ramifications nor residents concerns and desires. I firmly believe that some changes are in order in regards to not only policy/program approval but implementation also. Signed a very concerned boss.

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**Justin Allen**

**Pierre SD**

**Comment:**

After record snowfall and cold in many portions of SD opening up numerous additional counties to additional antlerless whitetail harvest by bow and muzzleloader seems a bit overboard and premature. I find it hard to believe winter kill was not a factor in portions of the state. Thank you for your time

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**Justin Allen**

**Pierre SD**

**Comment:**

SD needs to huge changes to bow hunting. Mule deer harvest has over doubled in the last five years as well Nr license sales. A 4 month season is crazy. We manage SD wildlife so well yet bow hunting is basically not managed at all. Limiting NR tag numbers along with where and when they can be used be used would be a great start to fixing the problem. Sept.1 start should have never been passed, please push it back at 2-3 weeks.

Also please address the NR antelope bow as well. Less tags as well as when and where they can be used. Harding Co. is overran with NR hunters.

Thank you for your time

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## Nest Predator Bounty

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**Gerald Wickstrom**

**Camberlain SD**

none

**Comment:**

the bounty program is a waste of my license money. i'd rather like to see the money used for more hunting areas and/or food plots.

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**Randi Smith**

**Spearfish SD**

**randi@rushmore.com**

**Comment:**

This program targets native species to protect non native pheasants. I realize the economic benefit of pheasant hunting, however I think that the target species are valuable in our state. I believe the rodent populations will increase without the target species hunting them. Thank you.

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**Harlan Heitz**

**Mina SD**

**harlan.heiz@k12.sd.us**

**Comment:**

I have trapped in SD all my life and I do not believe a special Reduction Program will have any effect on the Pheasant population in our state. It reminds me of how our state threw money into a catch and release coyote program years ago. I don't believe that did what they intended to either.

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**Nancy Neumann**

**Rapid City SD**

**nneumann@rushmore.com**

**Comment:**

This is an absolutely horrendous plan. Nature was designed to balance itself without the interference of man. Not to mention the cruelty to the animals being trapped and killed. Also could mention the cost to taxpayers, but that is not my main concern. This is pure cruelty of animals

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**Laural Bidwell**

**Rapid City SD**

**labidwell@aol.com**

**Comment:**

While this program hopes to continue the SD "heritage" of trapping for the next 100 years, there was no evidence that the wildlife involved will be here for the next 100 years. There were no metrics provided about how many raccoons, red fox, skunks and opossums there are - particularly in the Black Hills which are NOT part of the pheasant habitat. There are no wildlife management issues here. And there are plenty of activities in existence right now to "get kids outdoors." Finally - enforcing trapping regulations (including checking traps for animals) falls to exactly 4 conservation officers in the Black Hills. If you must have this program - restrict it to east river. In the hills you are exterminating wildlife for no reason what-so-ever. This is not a well thought out plan and this did not allow enough time for public input. So much for government transparency. I know that many GF&P employees who are passionate about their jobs and wildlife share the concerns that I have.

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**Louise Mcgannon**

**Mitchell SD**

**l.mcgannon@ymail.com**

**Comment:**

Please oppose Kristi Noem's Bounty Program. My neighbor's cats kill more wildlife than any predator.

Loss of habitat and bad weather hurts the wildlife more than their predators.

With the loss of these predators, we are opening doors to worse problems. These predators are here for a reason. They kill mice, rats, ticks just to name a few that we seem to deem problematic. One cannot start killing large numbers of predators without creating problems.

Pheasants are not even native to our Hemisphere.

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**Wendy Parent**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Wendypj1@ gmail.com**

**Comment:**

oppose

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**Teresa Engebretson**  
**Sioux Falls SD**  
**tjengeb1@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

Is there any science behind the proposed program? Have you spoken to the real pheasant and duck hunters? HABITAT is the answer. Put all monies to habitat. There is a balance in nature, and this program messes with that balance. "Mother Nature laughs last," and in a few years this will be apparent. Please reject this wrongheaded approach!

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**Linda Gregory**  
**Gregory SD**  
**zgrbell3@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

Letting children kill animals for profit is a BAD idea-it has been proven that many criminals who torture/kill animals go on to kill/hurt people!  
It is 2019, not 1819, so let's come up with a humane system. There are also other areas in SD that need attention-humane trap and neuter for feral cats-have seen too many cats and kittens out in the freezing snow. Also, more laws against animal cruelty.  
Animals are being treated like trash and that is wrong-these animals have a right to live and you are sending a very DANGEROUS precedent to kill animals for money.  
What kind of ethics/morality do you want for our future? We are already wrecking the habitats of animals-it is short sighted and reckless to kill wildlife indiscriminately. The irony of this program is also ridiculous-because the animals you want to save (birds) are going to then be hunted!  
I know you have a large population of trappers who want to continue the 'trade' but in today's climate it's cruel and unnecessary.  
Thank you for your time.

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**William McMullin**  
**Oak Park MI**  
**williammcmullin@vermontlaw.edu**

**Comment:**

It's pretty disgusting South Dakota wants to pay children to kill animals. Teaching children not to have empathy is dangerous.

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**Melody Dennis**  
**Deadwood SD**  
**mdennis@rushmore.com**

**Comment:**

This horrible program of tail bounty hunting. Seriously? You ha be to put a stop to it. I've never heard of anything so horrible and barbaric in my life. Trapping is in humane and barbaric. It's being outlawed in all but the most illiterate states. Getting the kids outdoors? To teach them to harm and main defenseless animals? What about baseball? Spend this money on bikes for kids. Game Fish and Parks is supposed to be protecting not destroying. This has to be stopped

## Other

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**Lamoyne Darnall**

**Rapid City SD**

**lamoynedarnall@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

Due to the increase in population thus the increase in of water sports, I believe it is inevitable that additional water must be opened up for recreational and use. There are numerous smaller lakes where low wake conditions are and will be available.

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**Lamoyne Darnall**

**Rapid City SD**

**lamoynedarnall@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

A once prolific bass population in Pactola has been decimated primarily due to spearing. Bass are very inquisitive and they are such an easy target because they will go right to a diver for an easy kill. Please stop permitting of bass in Pactola and let the population populate. It will take a few years to do so and a restocking would certainly shorten that recovery.

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**Larry Talley**

**Rapid City SD**

**larrytalley@rushmore.com**

**Comment:**

I oppose spearfishing for large mouth bass in Pactola. It is my thinking that spearing bass would wipe out the bass population in that lake. Spearing suckers would be ok.

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**Larry Talley**

**Rapid City SD**

**larrytalley@rushmore.com**

**Comment:**

Deerfield lake has a no wake zone for the entire lake and has been in effect for ever. I propose that a change to 20 MPH would make this lake more usable to more boaters. The current restrictions are unacceptable.

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**Joe Babcock**

**Wagner SD**

**joecbab@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

As we know other states close walleye fishing during the walleye spawning period. Walleye populations are on the decline on Lewis and Clark Lake, Francis Case, and possibly other lakes.

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**Steve Doyle**

**Colan SD**

**bs33doyle@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

The Governor is trying to get more pheasants in this state for the South Dakotans and non-residents to hunt and you are ruining their nests and nesting sights as well as other species. Pheasants and ducks and geese. Song birds are back. Where the deer gonna give birth? in a chisel plowed field that used to be a tree grove or grassland. Cause its farmed now. Or in grass land the it supposed to be managed by officials for this state for wildlife. Now you burn it. WHERE THEY GONNA GO!!! Why cant you people figure it out. Leave the trees. They are winter cover. Places for nesting birds. Protection from wind and weather and protection from soil erosion. Dont gimme that story bout native grasses. Things change and it will NEVER be the same. Grasses included. We dont have prairie anymore. No Buffalo roaming them. I dont wanna hear bout the raptors setting in them. That is an easy problem. Take care of it. I dont think one pheasant hunter would object. Ive heard that same line from USFW when they burn the acres and acres on all their land they manage in my area between Madison and Brookings. Native grasses!!! And raptors!!! The grasses you will never get back to what it was. The trees are doing more good than harm. Smatter of factly you should be planting more not taking them out. You both have the same mind set. Too much college- no knowledge!!!! I gotta plant more trees. I cant believe it.

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## Special Buck Licenses

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**Steven Radloff**

**Little Falls MN**

**skimebearcabin@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

I think that it would be beneficial to both the hunters and the state of SD to make these additional deer licenses available. This would give more hunters the opportunity to hunt the whitetail in your state. Plus it would bring more dollars to all the services offered that the hunters will be utilizing while spending time in all the areas they will be hunting in.

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**Kevin Ray**

**Gainesville GA**

**Comment:**

I love hunting the great state of South Dakota and it's a shame how hard it is to get these tags. I think this would help the landowners tremendously in the harsh agriculture years and also generate more revenue for game and fish since non resident hunter fees cost more and of course have happy non res hunters. Killing 3 birds with one stone in my eyes. Thanks for your time on this matter

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**Wayne Mouser**

**Herreid SD**

**waynemouser@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I am in favor of creating a special any whitetail drawing for residents and non residents.

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**Mitchell Engle**  
**Corpus Christi TX**  
**mitchengle@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

Native South Dakotan.  
Hunt yearly on private land in Western SD.  
Support the recommended changes to start 2020

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**Chris Callahan**  
**Thomaston GA**

**Comment:**

support

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**Bryan Nazworth**  
**Gainesville FL**  
**bryan@quality-plumbing.net**

**Comment:**

I have been an out of state hunter for 15 years in SD, the system has made it harder every year for Non residents to obtain a special buck or whitetail tag. it seems that the commission should consider the revenue from out of state hunters and the positive economic impact that we provide, while protecting the natural resource. I would urge the commission to pass this proposed change and further the efforts to allow access to non resident hunters.

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**Larry Lewis**  
**Marquette MI**  
**lsl73051@aol.com**

**Comment:**

I have traveled to South Dakota for deer hunting for the last five years and the only thing that would stop my yearly trips would be the failure to draw a tag. The white tail draw has been difficult to draw under current rules

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**Kerry Smith**  
**Reading PA**  
**Kjsroofing@verizon.net**

**Comment:**

support

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**Ryan Thompson**

**Pierre SD**

**thompsonr2@helenaagri.com**

**Comment:**

Excellent idea, will take pressure of the original special buck tag and give non residents another opportunity for a private land tag

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**Kellan Clark**

**Oacoma SD**

**Comment:**

I oppose any consideration that may take any kind of opportunity away from residents.

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**Troy Kirsch**

**Platte SD**

**tkirsch@midstatesd.net**

**Comment:**

Another way to get more nonresident license??? That is way it looks.

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**Russ Hanson**

**Pierre SD**

**hansonstaxidermy@mncomm.com**

**Comment:**

I would like to see , all nonresident archery tags go buck only,, this would help bring back mule deer numbers on public land,

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**Nicholas Gilmore**

**Milbank SD**

**ngilmore3@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

It makes sense that the GFP Commission would go through a complete overhaul of the lottery system for deer licenses (which was not a bad idea) and then follow it up with a push to further commercial the outdoors. I warned people that this was the entire reason for the lottery system overhaul, I just did not think that the commission had the gonads to do it within a few months. My solution would be to restructure the commission to be composed primarily of game biologists, not those who want to profit from increased pay-for-hunting operations. This whole idea erodes the In PRK, the surgeon removes the cover, lasers away 60 pages in the same manner, and it takes three to five days for the cover to grow back. A simple and concise procedure.(properly licensed) resident hunters desire to even try to ask for permission from the courteous land owners of the state.



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**Justin Allen**

**Pierre SD**

**Comment:**

I'm against the proposal/finalization of any additional special buck licenses. As someone who actually buys a special buck licenses every other year west river I feel the addition of more licenses further commercializes hunting in SD. It encourages landowner to increase pay hunting and cut out local and family hunters. Pay deer hunting in western SD is on the rise and this will only further it while pushing others off private land onto crowded public lands. SD GFP keeps talking about and pushing increased opportunities for new and youth hunters but proposals like this are the death of public opportunity thru a snowball effect. West River already has 1,000 any deer special buck licenses and with this proposed addition of up to 1,000 any whitetail tags makes 2,000 special licenses. Although otherwise stated by GFP I find it extremely hard to believe that those 2,000 special licenses are not taken away from the general draw license availability. I feel just because you can access private ground either by paying or for free should give you the advantage of drawing tags more frequently than someone that does not have access to private. All this said I have a 2019 special buck license. Please leave the special buck license at the current number.

Thanks, Justin Allen, Pierre

# Public Comments

## Deer Hunting Seasons

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**Jeff Blankenfeld**

**Aurora SD**

**blankenj3@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

please reconsider this number. I grew up in the central hills and do not see a need at this time to control deer numbers by harvesting does. I have not read what your reasons are but don't believe there would be a valid reason at this time. the consultants that were hired by the governor several years ago indicated gfp was harvesting a considerable number of does, which they pointed out was a tool for directly controlling numbers. I just don't see that this is necessary at this time. thank you, Jeff

## Public Water Zoning

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**Jared Brenden**

**Henry SD**

**Jaredbrd@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

Why would we want to shut down a waterfowl resting place? Also just to open the lake to these guys that have \$80,000 boats? Fish out the lake like a lot of other lakes in our area? I think you keep this closed and do not build a boat ramp for easy access! Keeps the lake protected and same for the waterfall. Please do not change this boating zone.

## Resident Nonresident

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**Robert Rogers**

**Dallas PA**

**bob8655@frontiernet.net**

**Comment:**

I have had the privilege Archery hunting in South Dakota for at least 8 years now. It has been a wonderful experience even though I have not harvested a deer in those 8 years. I have had the opportunity to harvest a deer, but not a mature deer that meets my criteria. I thoroughly enjoy coming to South Dakota and have never had any issues with encroachment by other hunters, even though I have hunted public access land. Each year I'm in South Dakota, I look forward to supporting the local businesses (Hotels, restaurants, grocery store, convenient stores, etc.) in the area. I am by no means a wealthy person, but I do save my money all year to make this special trip. The entire journey cleanses my soul. After many years in military service and a career in Law Enforcement this trip is what I look forward to all year.

I can honestly say I have never had an issue with other hunters or a lack of game. I feel some who propose a reduction in licenses may be doing so in their own self-interest and not for the protection of the resource. I believe a reduction in Non-Resident Archery Licenses will have a negative impact on South Dakota businesses all over the state. In my experience, the negative issues raised are greatly exaggerated and are pushed by a narrow minded group that masquerades as supporting bow hunting in South Dakota.

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**Wyatt Skelton**

**Bryant SD**

**wyattskelton@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

There should be a cap on NR archery deer and antelope tags. Possibly 8%

## Special Buck Licenses

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**Wyatt Skelton**

**Bryant SD**

**wyattskelton@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

This seems to just commercialize hunting in SD more and close more opportunities for residents to obtain permission on private land. If outfitters can lease the land or landowners themselves can charge m to allow hunting it closes the door for not-as-well off residents.

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**Dan Nefzger**

**Lake Norden SD**

**dannefzger@icloud.com**

**Comment:**

The whitetail special buck is a great way to add tag opportunities, without putting anymore pressure on public lands. More opportunities for everyone. Thanks again for taking sportsman's ideas seriously and implementing those that generate positive results for multiple groups.