



AGENDA

Game, Fish and Parks Commission

July 11, 2018

Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center

920 W Sioux Ave. Pierre, SD

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

Call to order 8:30 AM

Division of Administration

Action Items:

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approve Minutes of the June 2018 Meeting
<https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Information Items:

4. Non-meandered Waters
5. Resident Nonresident Discussion
6. Preserve Operator Forum
7. Trespassing Issues
8. Deer License Allocation

Proposals

9. Deer License Allocation
10. Indian Springs Boating Restrictions

Public Hearing: 10:00 AM

Public Hearing: 2:00 PM

Finalizations

11. Firewood Restriction
12. Fall Turkey
13. Archery Equipment Restrictions
14. Refuge and Boating Restrictions
15. Fish Limits – Reetz Lake

Open Forum

Division of Parks and Recreation

Action Items:

16. Roy Lake Resort Prospectus

Information Items:

17. Parks Revenue and Camping Reservation Report

Division of Wildlife

Action Items:

18. Big Horn Sheep Management Plan
19. Mountain Goat Management Plan
20. Elk Raffle License Approval

Information Items:

21. CWD Management Approach
22. Spawning and Stocking Update
23. Sportsman Against Hunger Update
24. License Sales

Solicitation of Agenda Items from Commissioners

Adjourn

Next meeting information:

September 6-7, 2018

Lewis and Clark Resort

43496 Shore Drive, Yankton, SD

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

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
June 7-8, 2018

Chairman Barry Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CT at the Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Commissioners Barry Jensen, Gary Jensen, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Cathy Petersen, Russell Olson and Douglas Sharp and approximately 75 public, staff, and media were present.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

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

Approval of Minutes

Chairman B Jensen called for any additions or corrections to the May 3-4, 2018 minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Olson with second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 3-4, 2018 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Commissioner Barry Jensen requested an additional salary day for attending the Habitat Foundation Conservation Board.

Motioned by Olson with second by G. Jensen TO APPROVE THE REQUESTED SALARY DAY. Motion carried unanimously

License List Request

Chris Petersen, administration division director, informed the Commission no new licenses lists have been requested.

Budget

Petersen provided an overview of the FY18 operating budget for the Department noting the adjustments to benefits which was approved by the legislature with additional funds were allocated and will be loaded into the budget on June 25, 2018. He detailed the budget adjustments which are cost increases over last year for the Division of Administration for benefits \$32,196 and contractual services \$6,990; Division of Parks and Recreation benefits \$127,245 and contractual services \$10,548; Snowmobile Trails benefits \$2,305 and contractual services \$410; Division of Wildlife benefits \$223,360 and contractual services \$42,583. Even though this is adjusted we have factored in the dollars which are available for this budget authority that needs approval.

Petersen presented the FY19 budget including the 1.2 percent salary package increase approved by the legislature as well as benefits and contractual services. Division of Administration budget at \$4,282,661 with 27.6 FTE; Division of Parks and Recreation Operations Budget at \$25,388,829 with 248.2 FTE; Parks Capitol Development Budget at \$9,785,750; the Division of Wildlife Budget at \$49,156,070 with 294 FTE; Wildlife Capitol Development Budget of \$3,680,345; and the Snowmobile Trails Budget of \$1,312,098 with 9.1 FTE.

Director Petersen indicated the Division of Wildlife Operations Budget and Capitol Development Budget along with the Snowmobile Trails Budget require Commission action and requested approval of the three budgets as presented that will be implemented July 1, 2018.

Motion by Boyd with second by Peterson TO AUTHORIZE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FY18 BUDGET DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION FOR BENEFITS \$32,196 AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES \$6,990; DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION BENEFITS \$127,245 AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES \$10,548; SNOWMOBILE TRAILS BENEFITS \$2,305 AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES \$410; DIVISION OF WILDLIFE BENEFITS \$223,360 AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES \$42,583 AND TO APPROVE THE FY19 BUDGETS FOR THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OPERATIONS BUDGET OF \$49,156,070; THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CAPITOL DEVELOPMENT BUDGET OF \$3,680,345; AND THE SNOWMOBILE TRAILS BUDGET OF \$1,312,098 AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Glacial Lakes & Prairies Tourism Association

Rosie Smith, Glacial Lakes & Prairies Tourism Association executive director, welcomed the commission the Aberdeen area. She explained their organization is member based program comprised of approximately 300 members to promote throughout the year. She said their offices are located at Redlin Art and Visitors Center which is open year round. In addition to distributing travel guides to the group she provided information on grant funds they provided to approximately 20 applicants through match from \$250 – \$2,500. She said this is in addition to other promotional outlets document, sport shows and media.

Nonmeandered Waters Update

Kevin Robling, special projects coordinator, provided the commission and update on nonmeandered waters noting no additional closure requests have occurred since February 22, 2018. The provisions of the Open Water Compromise continue to provide a good balance between protecting private property rights and providing public recreational opportunities. To date, 3,737 acres of nonmeandered waters are closed across the state. Recently, multiple landowners have removed their closure signs and have decided not to mark the open water using buoys.

GFP staff have been continually reaching out to sportsmen and woman via social media, sport shows, email inquiries and phone calls. The “recreation and respect” campaign has been front and center. An adopt-a-lake program is being initiated and shoreline litter clean-up days are scheduled for July. Numerous youth and outdoor organizations have expressed interest in adopting a lake.

B. Jensen stated the Commission adopted resolution 18-04 on April 2, 2018 granting the petition relating to the closer of a section 8 lake. He said the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and the order granting the petition submitted by Jeff and Wendy Hanson of Watertown, SD were prepared by the independent hearing officer, Catherine Duenwald. All of the Commission members have had a chance to review these documents for factual accuracy and agree that they represent our findings of fact and conclusions of law as discussed at the April contested case hearing.

The Commission does not have to take formal action on these documents as we have already adopted resolution 18-04 which granted the petition. Commission Chair Jensen stated these documents more fully detail our basis for the granting of the petition. That being said, I will sign the documents and give them to the department attorney to make sure they are made available to the public.

Hunter Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation

Kelly Hepler, cabinet secretary, provided the Commission an update on the R3 Symposium staff recently attended. He said the conference focused on how we are losing hunters nationally which is the oldest tradition mankind has. Items discussed at the conference included: causes for decline and what provides income, how do we introduce people into the sports, how do we keep people involved and how do we provide opportunity. Hepler noted every GFP employee will be involved in spreading the message in regards to the importance of R3.

Chris Hull, communications specialists, said millennials are outdoor oriented but need to be marketed to in a different way than traditional sportsmen groups. First time an issue cannot get solved by a biologist as it is social science issue.

Hepler also informed the commission of the recent Habitat Conservation Foundation meeting on strategic planning which discussed soil health, getting people out side and keeping them engaged. The group is working to build a marketing campaign.

B. Jensen noted importance of habitat how it is critical to the state. He attended the foundation meeting and said the group put together productive plans and he is very optimistic.

PETITION FOR RULE CHANGE

Expansion of Missouri River Inland Waters for Spearing and Archery (withdrawn)

EMERGENCY RULE

Firewood Restriction

Bob Schneider, parks and recreation assistant director, presented the recommended change to prohibit firewood because the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a devastating insect that has killed tens of millions of ash trees in at least 32 states. In May, 2018, the insect was discovered in South Dakota. The South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture declared an emergency EAB quarantine area that firewood cannot be moved out of. The quarantine area includes all of Minnehaha County and portions of Turner and Lincoln County area and will grow if the infestation moves beyond the area. The larva and insect can survive in firewood for extended periods of time. One of the most common means for spread of the EAB infestation is the transport of infested firewood. By not allowing firewood into state park areas from outside of South Dakota and from EAB quarantine areas within South Dakota, we hope to slow the infestation. Knowing that the EAB would reach South Dakota, we ceased planting ash trees in state park areas over a decade ago and increased the planting of alternate tree species. Each year that the EAB can be kept out of a state park area will allow more time for alternate species trees to mature.

Schneider also explained the need for the emergency rule and how it would be effective immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State and that no emergency rule may remain in effect or a period longer than ninety days.

Motioned by Peterson, second by G. Jensen TO APPROVE THE RECOMMEND CHANGES TO PROHIBIT FIREWOOD FROM QUARANTINE AREAS BE BROUGHT INTO STATE PARKS. Motion carried.

PROPOSALS

Firewood Restriction

Schneider presented the recommended change to the rule that would do the same as the emergency rule, but on a permanent basis.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE RECOMMEND CHANGES TO PROHIBIT FIREWOOD FROM QUARANTINE AREAS BE BROUGHT INTO STATE PARKS. Motion carried.

Fall Turkey

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife deputy director and terrestrial's chief, presented the recommended changes to the fall wild turkey hunting season. He detailed the harvest management strategy table of the wild turkey management plan and unit-specific population objectives for the prairie units. He noted prairie unit 48A is being modified to address depredation complaints in the areas outside the current unit boundary. Adjustment recommendations to the Black Hills unit boundary are justified based on survival rates and population growth rates derived from a current research project in the northern Black Hills.

Recommended changes from last year:

1. Offer 55 less resident single tag licenses for Prairie Units compared to 2017.
2. Offer 200 less resident single tag licenses for the Black Hills Unit compared to 2017.
3. Close prairie units 13A (Brule County) and 37A (Hutchinson County).
4. Establish and open prairie unit 39A (Jackson County).
5. Modify current prairie unit 48A (Marshall and Roberts counties) to include all of Roberts County.
6. Modify current Black Hills Unit by removing those portions of Lawrence, Meade and Pennington counties.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FALL TURKEY HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried.

Kirschenmann presented the recommended change in administrative action to allocate fall turkey hunting licenses by unit.

Motioned by Peterson, second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ALLOCATING FALL TURKEY LICENSES. (Appendix A). Motion carried.

Archery Equipment Restrictions

Robling presented the recommended changes to remove certain archery equipment restrictions as equipment has evolved. He explained how expanding the list of legal equipment will remove confusing and often unenforceable regulations. Modification of the rule will also allow archers to make equipment decisions based on personal preference, performance and tailor their equipment setup to their individual requirements.

(1) Explosive, poisonous, hydraulic, or pneumatic points;

(2) Crossbows and draw-lock devices that hold the bow at partial or full draw except as provided in chapter 41:09:12;

~~(3) Arrow rests that have more than three inches of continuous contact with the arrow;~~

~~(4) Electronic devices mounted to the bow that aid in the taking of game. However, cameras, video cameras, cell phones used exclusively for photographic purposes, lighted sight pins, and illuminated arrow nocks may be used. An electrical device mounted to the bow to project a light beam or image to a target;~~

~~(5) Electronic arrow or electronic string releases;~~

~~(6) Compound bows with a let off of more than 80 percent;~~

~~(7) Compound bows shorter than 28 inches as measured from the top of the upper wheel or cam to the bottom of the lower wheel or cam;~~

~~(8) Telescopic sights;~~

~~(9) An arrow, including the attached broadhead, weighing less than 275 grains when hunting a big game animal;~~

~~(10) An arrow that is less than 26 inches long when measured from the notch of the nock to the end of the shaft, not including the blunt or broadhead;~~

~~(11) An arrow without a broadhead (fixed or mechanical) that has at least two metal cutting edges when hunting big game animals. However, an arrow tipped with any point may be possessed when used for practice; except blunt points may be used when hunting a turkey or small game and both field points and blunt points may be possessed and used when hunting small game, or at any time when possessed and used as practice arrows;~~

~~(12) A bow that measures less than 40 pounds pull when hunting elk with a mechanical broadhead or a bow that measures less than 40 pounds pull when hunting any other big game animal with a mechanical broadhead; or~~

~~(13) A bow that measures less than 30 pounds pull when hunting big game animals other than elk, with a fixed blade broadhead or a bow that measures less than 30 pounds pull when hunting any other big game animal with a fixed blade broadhead.~~

B. Jensen asked if this only pertains to big game archery hunting or included small game.

Robling responded there are no separate small game archery rules and this lists all the archery equipment restrictions

Leif said some of these apply to all archery hunting while others apply only to big game hunting as referenced in the rule.

Motioned by Sharp, second by G. Jensen TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARCHERY RESTRICTIONS AS PROPOSED. Motion carried.

Refuge and Boating Restrictions (Swan Lake)

Robling provided a powerpoint presentation explaining that providing outdoor recreational opportunities is a top priority for the Department. Guidance from our Strategic Plan under *Strategy 1.*, Simplify and increase recreational opportunities by 2020 has been a primary focus and as a result a thorough review has been conducted to identify refuge and boating restriction rules and regulations that could be modified or removed to enhance recreational opportunity and simplify regulations. Staff developed a comprehensive criteria document that individually reviewed each refuge and restriction. The refuge and boating restriction recommendation package was presented to the Commission at the June meeting in Aberdeen. A total of 21 of the 31 wildlife related refuges and boating restrictions were proposed to be modified or removed to simplify and increase recreational opportunities.

Robling and Mike Klosowski, regional supervisor presented the recommended changes to the refuges and boating restrictions (appendix B)

Olson asked if electric motors are defined in rules.

Robling responded that he is not aware of it being defined but will clarify.

Klosowski noted he will follow up and noted the intention is that trolling motors are allowable.

Sharp stated it is no mention of making no boating zone electric motor only and asked for clarification in future documents.

Olson asked if staff reviewed Long Lake while in Lake County and if it is something that can open up or if there a preexisting agreement that supersedes changes.

Klosowski said the focus of the group was on wildlife related issued and that they have not include Missouri River refuges

Peterson asked you people should talk to if they have questions and concerns.

Robling responded that he is the lead point of contact.

Mike Klosowski noted the agency obtained public input and worked with a lot of local groups and NGO's to discuss different options. Also contacted majority of the landowners to gather information.

Sharp thanked staff for their great work noting this review is a huge undertaking. He said 15-20 recreational opportunities are being added and he feels Swan Lake should possibly be electric motors only. He noted there is no scientific basis for the criteria and that field hunting opportunities as common sense not biological.

B. Jensen inquired when the Commission would see information on the Missouri River refuges.

Robling explained how this project came from the Swan Lake petition and that the department is reviewing the 21 Missouri River refuges. A workgroup was recently compiled to undertake the project hoping to present recommended changes in November or December 2018.

Motion by Olson, second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES FOR THE REFUGE AND BOATING RESTRICTIONS. Motion carried.

Locken asked if there are other motors besides trolling motors that are electric. Do we need to note that information upfront?

Robling said it is a compromised approach as sometimes it means they are not allowed and there is less disturbance on the bodies of waters. He stated the department will work to define per Olson's recommendation.

Robling said that Swan Lake was going to be address at this meeting per previous commission action. He said there is a lot of water around Swan Lake and due to the percentage of public versus private land the workgroup determined it did not fit the criteria. He noted it is a section 8 lake with 66 percent owned by GFP.

Sharp said he does not view it as taking away fishing opportunity if motorized boats are taken away and limit people to only have electric motor with less disturbance. He stated he supports creating more roosting areas and recommends doing this in a couple of areas to see if it is beneficial.

Motioned by Sharp, second Locken TO PROPOSE ADDING AN ELECTRC MOTORS ONLY ZONE ON SWAN LAKE FROM OCTOBER 20- DECEMBER 31. Motion carried.

Fish Limits – Reetz Lake

Robling presented the recommended change to fish limits on Reetz Lake stating the lake will be managed as an experimental trophy fishery for walleye, yellow perch, black crappie and bluegill from May 1- September 30. During this time Reetz Lake will be open to the public. From October 1 – April 30 Reetz Lake will only be open through landowner permission and during this time, statewide fishing regulations will apply to all species.

Olson asked for data on how many sportsman and women have used this lake in the past.

Robling responded for the last 15 years 4,000 angler use days is average.

Olson inquired how people ask for permission from landowner and will there be a fee.

Robling said the landowner cannot charge a fee or any compensation when it is closed and as for gaining permission they plan to keep it very limited only allowing their family and friend's permission but people can ask just like asking permission to hunt someone's land.

Olson said if this is not passed as proposed what is the feasibility of practicality as these are the people's fish and could we relocate the people's fish.

Robling said that he has not had that discussion at this time and he is hopeful to have an agreement but that could possibly be an option.

Hepler injected that is a good question to ask, but he will not support relocating fish? He was also not sure what kind of message it would send.

Motion by Jensen, second by Boyd TO ADJUST THE FISH LIMITS TO REETZ LAKE AS RECOMMENDED.

Sharp commended Kevin and staff for taking this on and hopes to have a positive outcome.

Peterson said she is exciting to see the progress stating this show respect to them and opportunity for fisherman.

Olson noted he opposes the proposal but will vote in favor.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 2:03 p.m. and concluded at 3:45 p.m. on Thursday, June 7, 2018. The minutes follow these Commission meeting minutes.

FINALIZATIONS

Archery Deer Hunting Season

Keith Fisk, wildlife damage program administrator, presented the recommended change to the archery deer season start date from the fourth Saturday in September to September 1. He explained that prior to the development and adoption of the deer management plan, a petition was brought forward to the Commission requesting the start date of the archery deer hunting season be changed from the fourth Saturday of September to the second Saturday of September. The Commission denied the petition with the agreement that the archery season start date would be evaluated under the guidance of the deer management plan.

Boyd asked how the September start date lines up with the antelope season and is their overlap.

Fisk there will be some overlap in the Black Hills archery season and there are several firearm prairie elk seasons with minor overlap as well.

Peterson stated that the change should be made to enhance recreational opportunities. She said hunters always notice when there are fewer tags, and that taking opportunity from them is not as good as adding an additional month the archery season that may hurt the firearm season. With deer numbers low we need to find a balance to enhance both seasons.

Fisk explained that even if the date moves earlier they do not anticipate an increased harvest and expect it to be the same.

Peterson noted public comments indicated support for the earlier season.

Sharp said questions from public reference wanting harvesting velvet antlers or possibly move resident start date to September 1 and keep the nonresident date as is. What would be the practical effect if we move the start date to September 1 and require antler point restriction and leave nonresident dates are they are not?

Fisk noted antler point restriction doesn't have an impact on the age structure of the deer. Also there may be typical resident/nonresident issues as there are with other species regardless of season dates.

Olson asked the commission to support the change for many reasons. He said a pillar of GFP's strategic plan is to expand opportunity to get people engaged. He referenced earlier discussion in the meeting were staff talked about the importance of hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation. Olson explained how he goes out with his son in July and August to check trail cameras and set up tree stands. He stated he is not a meat hunter and looks for a particular deer and like the opportunity to have his son with him in August and engage in the outdoors prior to school starting is important. He said

this change would be beneficial to the reactivation of hunters as the competition with riffle and the cold weather detours older hunters. He said this change would allow the commission live up to what is noted in long term planning goals for the Commission and GFP.

Motioned by Olson, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE FINALIZE CHANGING THE ARCHERY DEER HUNTING SEASON DATE TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 1 AND END JANUARY 1. Roll call vote: Boyd-no; Locken – yes; G. Jensen-yes; Olson- yes; Peterson-no; Sharp- yes; B. Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 5 yes votes and 2 no vote. Motion passes.

Mentored Hunter Restrictions

Fisk presented the recommended change to remove the minimum age restriction for mentored youth big game licenses. He explained how senate bill 137 amended 41-6-81 removed the minimum age requirement of 10 years of age for mentored youth hunting. He noted that age requirements currently found within ARSD 41:06:01:12 are unnecessary and repetitive of state law.

Motioned by Peterson, seconded by G. Jensen TO FINALIZE THE REMOVAL OF THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT OF 10 YEARS OF AGE FOR MENTORED YOUTH HUNTING.

Sharp asked for clarification on who can be a guardian.

Leif explained the provisions of the mentored hunter program are in statute. Discussed that only a parent or guardian of mentor can purchase the license but another responsible adult can be given permission to mentor the hunter.

B. Jensen stated he is not sure this is the right direction removing age restrictions, but realizes the Commission does not have authority.

Motion carried unanimously.

Maximum Size of Hunting Groups

Andy Alban, law enforcement program administrator, presented the recommendation to repeal the hunting party size limits and allow individual members of a hunting party to determine the safety guidelines for their particular hunt. He explained how the rule change originated from the Department rules review workgroup and aligns with the strategy of allowing more opportunity. He said the rule was established due to fair chase issues and the concern was safety factors. He said the department receives requests that cannot be accommodated for example disabled hunters asking for allowances. He noted that 20 is an arbitrary number and it is more important to allow hunting party to be able to decide what is safe depending on the group and the terrain. He noted this excludes varmint hunters.

Peterson inquired to confirm groups can decide their own size limit.

Alban responded yes.

Sharp said he is reluctant to support as he has hunted in groups where 20 is a lot but agrees with points made. He recommends keeping track of incidents related to group size.

Alban stated that all hunting accident reports are reviewed annually and he will ensure this is looked at by hunt safe staff.

Motioned by Boyd, second by Olson TO FINALIZE THE REPEAL THE HUNTING PARTY SIZE LIMIT. Motion carried unanimously.

Accompaniment While Hunting

Alban presented the recommendation to allow an archery hunter to possess a firearm in the field provided they possess a firearms big game license that is valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the archery license and allow for an armed nonlicensee to accompany an archery big game hunter in the field provided they possess a big game license that is valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the licensed archery hunter.

Alban said current regulation is an impediment. He further explained the departments recommended change from proposal to allow for a mixed group so archery and firearm big game hunters with valid license for the timeframe and geographical area can hunt together. Repealing this second portion allows for the mixing of hunters.

Motioned by Olson, second by Peterson TO AMEND THE ARCHERY RESTRICTIONS TO REPEAL THE DUPLICATIVE RULE. Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Boyd, second by Sharp TO FINALIZE THE ARCHERY RESTRICTIONS TO ALLOW FOR ACCOMPANIMENT AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Fur Dealer License Application Requirements

Alban presented the recommendation to create a new rule to require all fur dealers to list employees/agents on their application who will purchase or contract to purchase fur-bearing animals and allow the Department to refuse the issuance of a license to a fur dealer with and employee/agent who has received a suspension or revocation of their fur dealer's license or that has been denied issuance of a license.

Alban noted the Commission asked staff to take a look at other licensees when discussing the bait dealer license restrictions. He also stated the suspension period would not exceed one calendar year. He said this only pertains to people who are purchasing fur.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Olson TO FINALIZE THE RESTRICTIONS OF A FUR DEALERS LICENSE. Motion carried unanimously

Muzzleloading Rifle and Pistol Requirements

Alban presented the recommended changes to muzzleloading rifle and pistol requirements with no changes from proposal.

1. 41:06:04:11 – eliminate the use of the term “factory rated”, and replace with “rated”. Require a minimum standard of .50 caliber bullets when using muzzleloading handguns for big game

hunting.

2. 41:06:04:14 – clarify that muzzleloading handguns are specifically authorized for big game hunting.

Alban explained these changes would set a minimum standard for the use of .50 caliber bullets when hunting with a muzzleloading handgun. Setting the standard at .50 caliber is desirable, as the vast majority of loads using smaller calibers do not meet the minimum standard currently in place for foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle. And noted these changes would also clarify that hand loaded ammunition meeting the minimum energy standard is specifically authorized for big game hunting. As currently written, the use of the term "factory rated" suggests that hand loaded ammunition is prohibited.

Motioned by Boyd, second by Peterson TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO MUZZLELOADING RIFLE AND PISTOL REQUIREMENTS. Motion carried unanimously

Bowhunter Education Requirement

Leif presented the recommended changes to the bowhunter education requirements. He explained this change does not eliminate this program only the requirement for elk hunters and first time archery hunters comply with education requirements. He said when the program was established the department did not have the equipment they do now nor was bowhunting readily excepted. Conversation turned to educating elk hunters and first time bowhunters. So requirement was established to complete education courses before hunters could apply. Archery is now a popular sport and at a point that information is readily available and even online without the barriers that there were in 1993. He said Bowhunter Education would remain available for anyone wishing to earn their National Bowhunter Education Foundation certification. He explained information will continue to be available online, as it is the preferred method, and will offer classes, just asking to eliminate the requirement this would make it similar to firearms for anyone over the age of 16.

Leif noted this is not to get rid of bow hunter education which is very important. We only want to eliminate the rule that makes it a requirement to take bowhunter education. There have been concerns over the years with the limited opportunity to attend bowhunter education courses. He said SDBI did step up efforts to put on and coordinate courses and the department was informed by SDBI they would no longer do this. He noted that you can hunt with a firearm at the age of 16 without huntsafe requirement. He further explained that bow hunter education is primarily to teach people how to hunt and does also provide some safety information. Leif reference the department mission within the strategic plan to recruit and retain hunters. He said one of the things we have control over are impediments that keep people from hunting. This is not a necessary impediment but something that puts a regulatory burden on residents of our state without sufficient opportunity to take the course. He also noted that an option may be to add a portion to the hunt safe curriculum.

Boyd thanked Leif for the explanation and asked if these classes still exist and will people be able to access access the information online and where will it be made available.

Leif responded the department will continue to post online, new releases for courses offered and continue to develop more courses which is already in process.

B. Jensen said he agrees with the changes noting it puts it in line with other requirements.

Locken's perspective is to relax the rules and let younger kids shoot. Said he has seen a group of people snowmobiling that didn't know what to do that they had to assist because they had the wrong mentor. He stated there is still a need for educators.

Leif agreed sometimes people do not recognize the importance that they are not properly ready to go in the field.

Locken concurred that we cannot send untrained people out in the field

Leif we will continue to provide opportunity for those who need the courses.

B. Jensen inquired if promoting education will continue.

Leif responded yes the department will continue to work with bowhunter education groups to provide education whenever and wherever we can in addition to the online course.

Peterson said she is not ready to say people will go learn without a rule. Sometimes parents are good mentors and sometimes you need to learn from others.

G. Jensen requested information on huntsafe program and if archery is part of that or if it is possible to recruit people to teach bow hunting through the huntsafe program

Leif responded there is a lot of overlap and huntsafe already address bowhunter and tree stand safety. He mentioned opportunities for add on course to have more bowhunter education. Huntsafe is offered in every county with multiple courses held throughout the year.

G. Jensen we already ask people to do so much including staff but are there staff that can provide this.

Leif said we already have some staff involved and we can provide more clases, but it is at the expense of another activity.

Motion by Olson, second by Locken TO FINALIZE THE REPEAL OF THE BOWHUNTER EDUCATION REQUIREMENT IN PLACE FOR ALL BOWHUNTERS UNDER AGE 16, ALL FIRST TIME ARCHERY LICENSEES AND ALL ARCHERY ELK LICENSEES. Roll call vote: Boyd-yes; Locken – yes; G. Jensen-yes; Olson- yes; Peterson-no; B. Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote. Motion passes.

Retention of Accrued Preference Points

Robling presented the recommended change to remove the requirement that would force applicants to forfeits preference points accrued when the applicant fails to submit an initial drawing application in a single season for a period of five consecutive years. He explained this rule is no longer needed because applicants now purchase preference points for limited draw licenses and the licensing system database is capable of storing these records.

B. Jensen inquired if there is an ending date.

Robling responded there is not an end date because the profiles stay in the system and is never removed so removing points would not save data.

Motion by Olson, second by Peterson TO FINALIZE THE REPEAL OF LANGUAGE THAT FORFEITS PREFERENCE POINTS. Motion carried unanimously.

Snaring and Snare/Trap Marking

Fisk presented the recommended changes to trapping to prohibit the use of snares on public lands and improved road rights-of-way, statewide, through the last day of the pheasant season, eliminating incidents of hunting dogs getting caught in snares on these areas during pheasant season. The new administrative rule requiring identification of traps and snares would assist GFP officials with the identification of private property left on public lands and improved road rights-of-way. Fisk noted the recommended change from proposal to adopt the change to eliminate the use of springs and powered snares on GPA's and WPA's year-round. He explained the first recommendation is very broad and that a workgroup would be formed to find a reasonable solution for the other proposed change.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. For all public lands and improved road rights-of-way, extend the existing prohibition on the use of snares to run through the last day of the pheasant season.
2. Create a new administrative rule which requires all traps and snares placed on public lands and improved road rights-of-way, statewide, to be marked with the owner's name and address or personal identification number. The Department will generate and issue one unique personal identification number to each individual.
3. No snare using springs or other powering devices that hold the snare closed may be used on Game Production Areas and Waterfowl Production Areas above water, year-round.

Motioned by G. Jensen second by Sharp TO AMEND THE CHANGES TO THE TRAPPING REGULATIONS TO ONLY INCLUDE THE CHANGE TO SNARE TYPE.

Olson stated the commission does not always need to make a change every time there is an incident. He referenced the strategic plan goal to enhance opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping and camping. He said this change takes away opportunity. He feels there is a need for more work on education, social media and updated signage. He recommended not moving forward with change at this time.

Fisk responded the department is committed to additional information and outreach. He explained there currently is no baseline but discussed a 4 prong approach including signs, handbooks and public atlas, educational videos on how to release pet from trap with link in publications and social media platforms to blast info out at beginning of hunting seasons.

Olson explained he is concerned that this pits one set of recreators against another. This is a group that pays us to do predator management and we spend 750 thousand dollars a year on predator management. What will that number be when we do not allow them to do predator control on public lands?

Boyd requested confirmation that we are working on education and outreach at this time and over the next year.

Hepler said the department has discuss marking and will get a workgroup together to further discuss marking.

Locken said if you have two kinds of traps that do the same thing and one is safer than the other then why not use the safer one.

B. Jensen said there is some confusion as to the different types of traps and feels that more study should be done for everyone's sake.

Peterson feels there is still confusion over different types of snares with springs and power devises what we do if new ones come into play. She said she is uncomfortable on which way to go and noted so much work has gone into this already. She asked if there is a need to further discuss education and what type of devises.

G. Jensen said the department is clear on the types of snares and thinks they are appropriately defined.

Fisk if it is the desire of the commission we would clearly define the snare types and multiple terms for devises.

Roll call vote: Boyd-yes; Locken – yes; G. Jensen-yes; Olson- no; Peterson-yes; B. Sharp – yes; Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 6 yes votes and 1 no vote.

Motioned by G. Jensen second by Sharp TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE TRAPPING REGULATIONS AS AMENDED. Roll call vote: Boyd-yes; Locken – yes; G. Jensen-yes; Olson- no; Peterson-yes; B. Sharp – yes; Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 6 yes votes and 1 no vote.

Hunting Requirement – Mandatory CWD Testing

Robling presented the recommended changes to include the mandatory submission of required samples for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing for all deer harvested from any Custer State Park (CSP) deer hunting season. Switzer explained the disease management action was implemented to strengthen the sample size for determining a prevalence rate of elk within CSP; mule deer and white-tailed deer are also susceptible CWD. Department staff will evaluate disease test results and adapt as needed for future CWD management and hunting seasons.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Boyd TO REQUIRE CWD TESTING FOR ALL DEER HARVESTED IN CSP.

B. Jensen asked what gets removed.

Robling explained the head as they are looking for the brain obex and nodes. He explained staff can remove these while the hunters wait so they have the animal for mounting or they can drop the head off for to have samples pulled.

Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

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

David Schmidt, Redfield, SD, noted his neighbor is illegally trapping and not checking traps timely. Schmidt has spoken with CO's in regards to his concerns and stated nothing is being done. He has contacted PETA as cats from his barn have been caught in the traps and left to die. Was told it is not a concern because traps will be checked. He is very disappointed with GFP and lack of enforcement in trapping laws.

Roger Hatling, Pierre, SD, spoke in regards to the Swan Lake petition asking why would we choose to close of a lake that is 90 percent GFP land and almost completely under water. Hopes the petition is denied.

Spencer Poel, Aberdeen, SD, read legislation that passed HB1219 that repealed legislation in regards to night vision stating this excludes thermal imaging. He would like to see a note in the hunter handbook to either note this or propose legislation to amend this.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Spring Creek Prospectus

Katie Ceroll, parks and recreation director, provided the Commission copies of the settlement agreement with Spring Creek Resort, Concessionaire at Spring Creek Recreation Area. The operation consists of 12 rental cabins, a 4 unit motel, main resort building with C-store/bait shop, restaurant/lounge and meeting room, 60 seasonal marina rental slips, courtesy docs, on the water fuel sales and a shop building. The current concession lease includes a franchise fee of 2 percent on revenues up to \$200,000 and 50 percent for revenues from slip rentals on GFP owned A-Dock slips. As the current concession agreement expires on December 31, 2018, the provisions for expiration have begun. Ceroll requested approval of the settlement agreement and to issue and advertise prospectus for sale for 90 days.

Motioned by G. Jensen with second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE AND ADVERTISE A PROSPECTUS FOR THE SALE OF SPRING CREEK CONCESSION LEASE. Motion carried.

Private Cabin Lease Transfer (withdrawn)

Custer Park Resort Lease Amendment (withdrawn)

Emerald Ash Borer

Al Nedved, Assistant Director for the Division of Parks and Recreation introduced the topic of the Emerald Ash Borer discovery in South Dakota in May. Emerald Ash Borer is an exotic insect that was discovered in Michigan in 2002. It has since spread to 33 states and was detected in Sioux Falls in May. South Dakota State parks began preparations for EAB in 2010 by doing ash tree surveys and being more aggressive with injecting diversity of species in SD state parks to help prepare for the arrival of the insect which will kill all green ash trees in the vicinity unless the trees are treated. The most common factor in the spread of EAB is through transportation of firewood and wood products containing the insect. Al introduced Brenda Sievers with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture who provided a presentation on the history, detection, and management of the EAB infestation and the state's role in the quarantine process.

Olson inquired what the cost is to treat a tree.

Sievers said \$150 to \$300 per tree depending on size and it must be done by a commercial applicator and done every other year.

B Jensen confirmed all ask trees are susceptible except the mountain ash tree.

Parks Revenue and Camping Reservation Report

Bob Schneider, parks and recreation assistant director, provided the year to date revenue report by item as well as the breakout of district revenue. The revenue report indicated an increase of 7 percent. Schneider explained this is due to reservation revenue for camping 90 days out and 365 days out for Custer State Park. He explained the need to see an increase of 3.5 percent to breakeven due to the fee increase in lodging to show a true increase. He reported camping is down 6 percent and visitation is down 7 percent, but he noted 85 percent of the annual camping season is to come.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

GPA Habitat Management Assessment (due to lack of time will be presented at future meeting)

East River Fisheries Plan Update

Brian Blackwell, fisheries biologist presented the 2014-2018 plan that includes 16 objectives and 66 strategies and this presentation captures progress towards completing objectives. Progress towards objectives in 2017 focused heavily on creating, maintaining, and enhancing fishing access and urban fisheries, evaluating surveys and hatchery practices, improving fish habitat, evaluating management strategies, and conducting research to address specific fisheries management and fish production issues. Fishing access to lakes and urban fishery development and improvement were a primary focus in 2017 as was completing field and hatchery research to improve management strategies and hatchery production.

Blackwell noted revisions to the management plan for the 2019-2023 period are in development. Separate plans are being drafted for the southeast and northeast east-river areas due to marked differences in management issues between areas.

Spawning and Stocking Update (due to lack of time will be presented at future meeting)

License Sales Update

Leif provided an update on license sales noting disappointment that resident angler license sales have not bounced back when in contrast the nonresident license sales have increased. He said staff will focus on the anglers who purchased licenses in past years and not yet this year. Leif reported the elk drawing was recently held. He explained the how supply and demand are in very different places with thousands of people applying for a limited number of tags. The cubing of preference points did have an impact on who was successful although there are still some with max points in a season that did not get a license.

Solicitation of Agenda Items from Commissioners

No agenda items were recommended

Adjourn

Motioned by Olson, second by Sharp TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Appendix A
2018-2019 Fall Turkey

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident		Nonresident		License							
		Any T	2 AnyT 37	Any T	2 AnyT 37	RES 1-Tag	RES 2-Tag	RES License	RES Tags	NR 1-Tag	NR 2-Tag	NR Licens	NR Tags
07A	Yankton	150				150		150	150				
08A	Davison/Hanso		50				50	50	100				
12A	Bon Homme	100				100		100	100				
30A	Gregory	150		12		150		150	150	12		12	12
39A	Jackson	25		2		25		25	25	2		2	2
48A	Marshall/Robert	100				100		100	100				
50A	Mellette	50		4		50		50	50	4		4	4
53A	Perkins	100		8		100		100	100	8		8	8
60A	Tripp	50		4		50		50	50	4		4	4
62A	Union	50				50		50	50				
BH1	Black Hills	200		16		200		200	200	16		16	16
TOT		975	50	46		975	50	1,025	1,075	46		46	46
RES & NR:						1,021	50	1,071	1,121				

2016-17 vs. 2018-19 Fall Turkey

Unit #	Unit Name	2016-17 Resident Licenses	2018-19 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2016-17 Residen	2018-19 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
07A	Yankton	100	150	50	50%	100	150	50	50%
08A	Davison/Hanson	50	50	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
12A	Bon Homme	150	100	-50	-33%	150	100	-50	-33%
13A	Brule	50	0	-50	-100%	50	0	-50	-100%
30A	Gregory	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
37A	Hutchinson	30	0	-30	-100%	30	0	-30	-100%
39A	Jackson	0	25	25	#DIV/0!	0	25	25	#DIV/0!
48A	Marshall/Roberts	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
50A	Mellette	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
53A	Perkins	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
60A	Tripp	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
62A	Union	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
BH1	Black Hills	400	200	-200	-50%	400	200	-200	-50%
TOTAL		1,280	1,025	-255	-20%	1,330	1,075	-255	-19%

Note: An additional 8% of the number of licenses will be available to nonresidents for the Black Hills and West River prairie units.

Appendix B

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Refuges and Boating Restrictions
Chapters 41:04:02, 41:05:02 and 41:06:08

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 7-8, 2018	Aberdeen
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2018	Pierre
	Finalization	July 11, 2018	Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #1

Recommended changes from last year:

- 1) Remove the East Oakwood Lake Waterfowl Refuge and the "no boating zone" from October 20 – December 31.

41:05:02:05. Brookings County refuges. Brookings County refuges are as follows:

The East Oakwood Lake State Waterfowl Refuge comprises all of East Oakwood Lake, including the shore up to the high water line, in sections 8, 9, 16, 17, the south half of section 4, and the south half of section 5, township 111 north, range 51 west of the fifth principal meridian.

41:04:02:05. Brookings County public water safety zones. Brookings County public water safety zones are as follows:

The waters of East Oakwood Lake in sections 8, 9, 16, 17, the south half of section 4, and the south half of section 5, township 111 north, range 51 west of the fifth principal meridian is a "no boating zone" from October 20 to December 31, inclusive;



STAFF COMMENTS

GFP staff have received numerous inquiries annually regarding removing the refuge status and boating restriction to allow for fall fishing opportunities. East Oakwood Lake is a high-use fishery and recent fish surveys indicate high walleye and perch populations. In addition, the boat ramp is in the closed area which makes fishing and launching in the current open area problematic.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
ACTION ITEM #2

Recommended changes from last year:

- 1) Remove the Sand Lake Game Bird Refuge

41:05:02:10. Campbell County refuges. Campbell County refuges are as follows:

The Sand Lake State Game Bird Refuge comprises the south half of section 19, the west half of the northwest quarter of section 30, the northeast quarter of section 30, that portion of the southwest quarter of section 20 west of U.S. Highway 83, and that portion of the northwest quarter of section 29 west of U.S. Highway 83, all in township 125 north, range 76 west of the fifth principal meridian. The refuge on the land owned by the department is open to hunting each year from November 15 through August 31 of the following year.



**Sand Lake, Campbell
Current Status**



State Refuge
Game Production Area

Waterbody Acres: 339

0 0.2 0.4
Miles

STAFF COMMENTS

Work group recommends removal of the refuge to add recreational opportunities and simplify rules. This area has a good amount of staging water available for waterfowl to use. Blue Blanket Waterfowl Refuge on the Missouri River is approximately 15 miles SW of Sand Lake.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #3

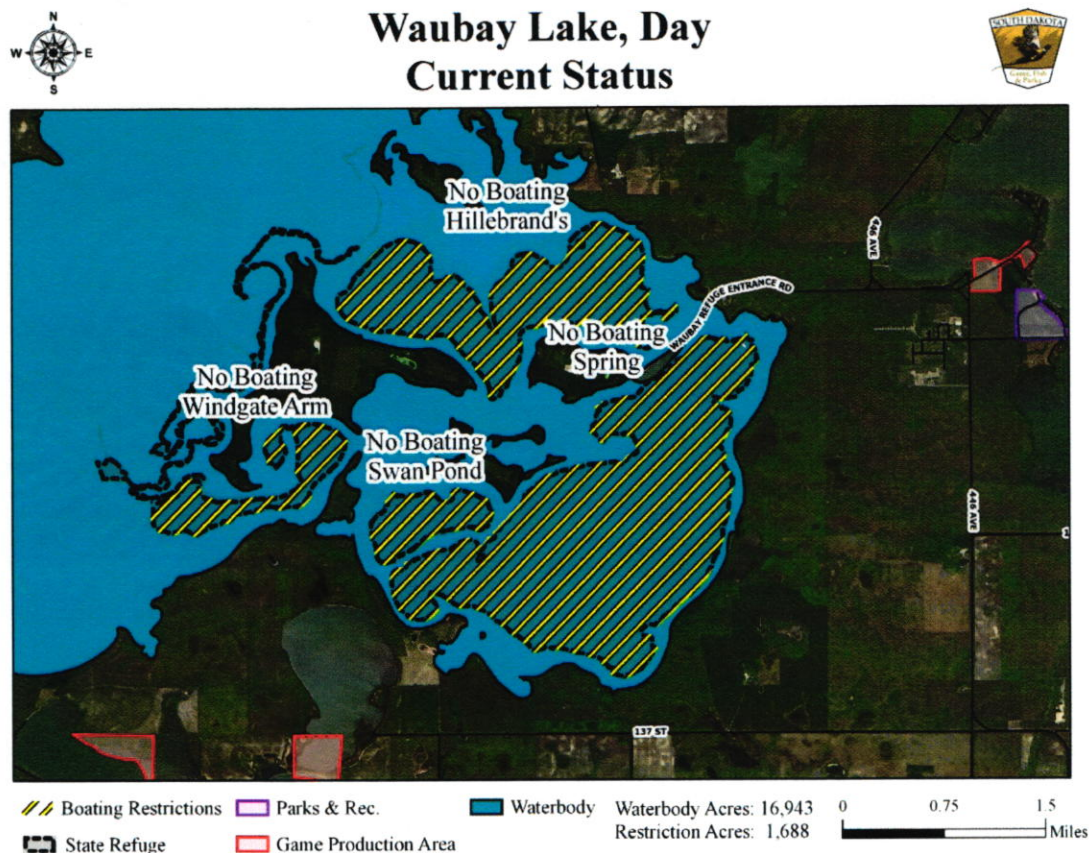
Recommended changes from last year:

- 2) Reclassify Waubay State Game Refuge to Waubay State Game Bird Refuge, and remove the "no boating zone" and "State Game Refuge" status in the Windgate Arm;

41:05:02:18. Day County game refuges. The refuge in Day County is the Waubay State Game Bird Refuge. This refuge comprises the lands and waters below the ordinary high-water mark associated with Hillebrand's Lake, Spring Lake, and Swan Pond; that portion of Waubay Lake known as Windgate Arm lying east of the dike located in the south half of section 36, township 123 north, range 55 west; and the land below the ordinary high-water mark on Waubay Lake lying adjacent to Waubay National Wildlife Refuge.

41:04:02:18. Day County public water safety zones. Day County public water safety zones are as follows:

(6) That portion of Waubay Lake known as Windgate Arm lying east of the dike located in the south half of section 36, township 123 north, range 55 west of the fifth principal meridian is a "no boating zone";



STAFF COMMENTS

Work group members met with Waubay NWR staff to discuss options that would allow for more recreational opportunities within the NWR boundary. Eliminating the no boating year round and State Game Refuge restrictions will allow recreational opportunities within the Windgate Arm portion of Waubay Lake. Reclassifying the Game Refuge to a Game Bird Refuge within the NWR boundary will allow refuge deer hunters the opportunity to harvest a deer and cleanup a rule that isn't needed.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #4

Recommended changes from last year:

- 3) Modify the pheasant hunting starting date from the 2nd Monday in December to December 1 for Renziehausen State Game Bird Refuge including its shooting and retrieval zones, Gerken State Game Bird Refuge, and White Lake State Game Bird Refuge.

41:06:08:01. Pheasant hunting season established -- Open units and dates. The pheasant hunting season is open in the units and during the dates set out in this section. The season is open from 12:00 noon central time to sunset each day to the Friday preceding the fourth Saturday of October, inclusive. Beginning on the fourth Saturday of October, the season is open from 10:00 a.m. central time to sunset each day. The open dates and units are as follows:

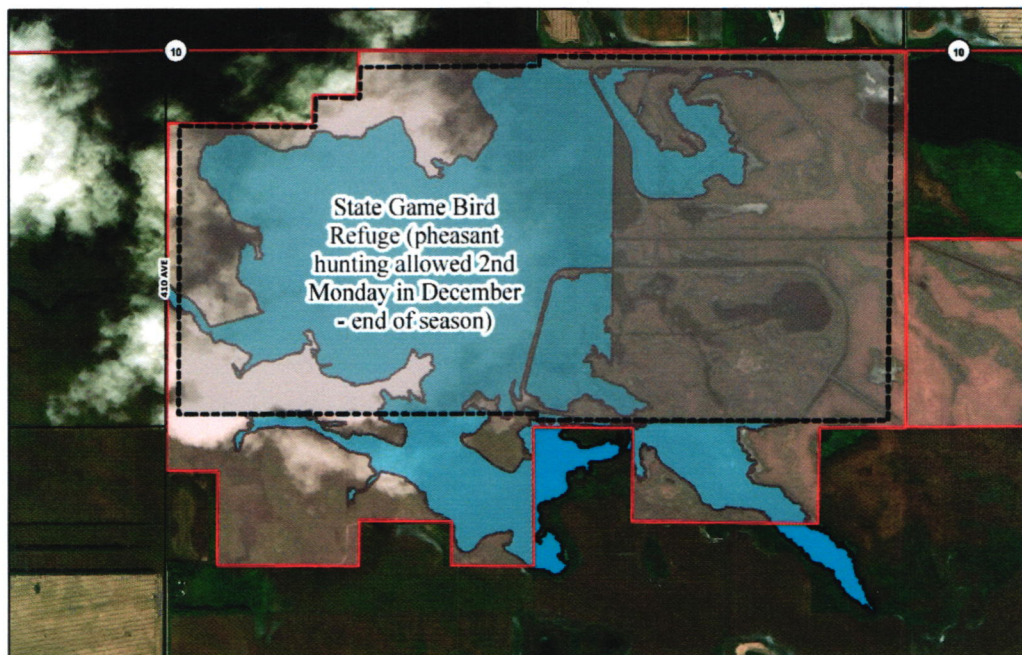
(1) Unit 1: all counties in the state except for those areas described in Unit 2 and Unit 3. The season in Unit 1 is open beginning on the third Saturday of October and remains open to the first Sunday of January, inclusive;

(2) Unit 2: Renziehausen Game Production Area, Renziehausen State Game Bird Refuge including its shooting and retrieval zones, Gerken State Game Bird Refuge, ~~Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County~~, and White Lake State Game Bird Refuge. The season in Unit 2 is open beginning on ~~the second Monday of December 1~~ and remains open to the first Sunday of January, inclusive.

(3) Unit 3: Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County. The season in Unit 3 is open beginning on the second Monday of December and remains open to the first Sunday of January, inclusive.



Renzienhausen Slough, Brown Current Status



State Refuge

Waterbody

Waterbody Acres: 674

0 0.5 1 Miles

Game Production Area



STAFF COMMENTS

Currently, Gerken GPA, Renziehausen GPA and White Lake GPA open for pheasant hunting starting the 2nd Monday in December (December 11th in 2017). Data collected from the Waubay Refuge staff indicates average freeze dates since 1996 have occurred on December 1. This change would increase pheasant hunting opportunity on these GPA's and on an average year, would cause no disturbance to staging migratory waterfowl because the waterbodies would be frozen.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #5

Recommended changes from last year:

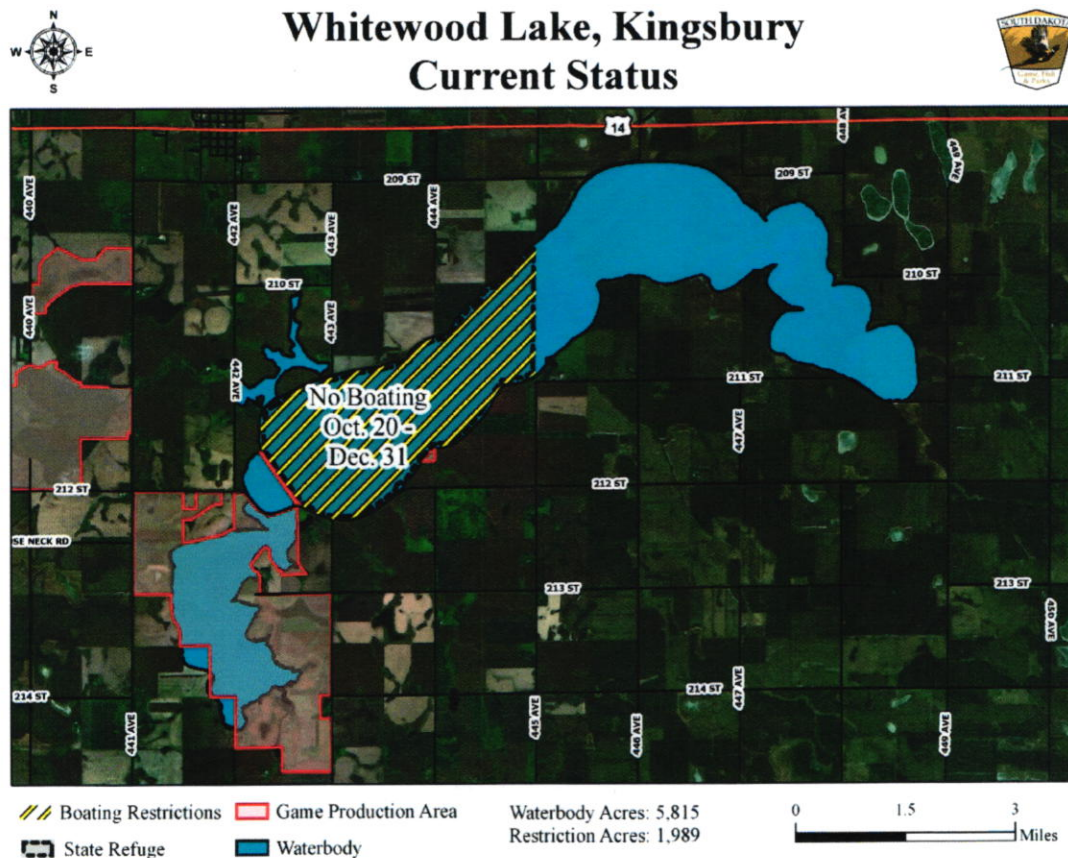
- 1) Remove the Whitewood Lake State Waterfowl Refuge and the "no boating zone" from October 20 to December 31

41:05:02:38. Kingsbury County refuges. The refuge in Kingsbury County is:

The Whitewood Lake State Waterfowl Refuge. This refuge comprises that portion of Whitewood Lake within the water's edge, bounded on the east by the east section line of sections 9 and 16, township 110 north, range 54 west of the fifth principal meridian and bounded on the west by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad grade, as posted, including all islands and bars within the area.

41:04:02:38. Kingsbury County public water safety zones. Kingsbury County public water safety zones are as follows:

(2) Whitewood Lake Waterfowl Refuge is a "no boating zone" from October 20 to December 31, inclusive;



STAFF COMMENTS

There is a vast amount of water covering the landscape in the surrounding area (>20,000 acres within a 5 mile radius) and Whitewood Lake is also a very popular fishery. Removing the restrictions would add recreational opportunities and simplify regulations.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #6

Recommended changes from last year:

- 2) Change the "no boating zone" during the open season on migratory waterfowl to "electric motors only" from October 20 – December 31.

41:05:02:54. Roberts County refuges. Roberts County refuges are as follows:

The Cottonwood Lake State Waterfowl Refuge comprises all of Cottonwood Lake within the water's edge in sections 20, 28, 29, 32, and 33, township 128 north, range 49 west of the fifth principal meridian, including all islands and bars within the water's edge;

41:04:02:54. Roberts County public water safety zones. Roberts County public water safety zones are as follows:

- (3) The waters of the portions of the Cottonwood Lake Waterfowl Refuge located in sections 20, 28, 29, 32, and 33, township 128 north, range 49 west are a "no-boating-zone" "electric motors only" during the open season on migratory waterfowl from October 20 – December 31;



STAFF COMMENTS

Making this change will simplify rules and allow more recreational opportunity. Retaining the refuge status and allowing only boats with no motors or electric motors will still allow a quiet place for waterfowl to stage.

ACTION ITEM #7

3) Remove the State Waterfowl Refuge status on the Game Production Area located on the south side of Cottonwood Lake

The Cottonwood Lake State Waterfowl Refuge comprises the waters of Cottonwood Lake; excluding the area owned by Game, Fish and Parks on the southern portion of Cottonwood Lake.



Work group recommends removing the waterfowl refuge status on the GPA towards the southern end of the lake. Allowing water hunting will increase hunting opportunities and not affect the staging waterfowl on the rest of the lake.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

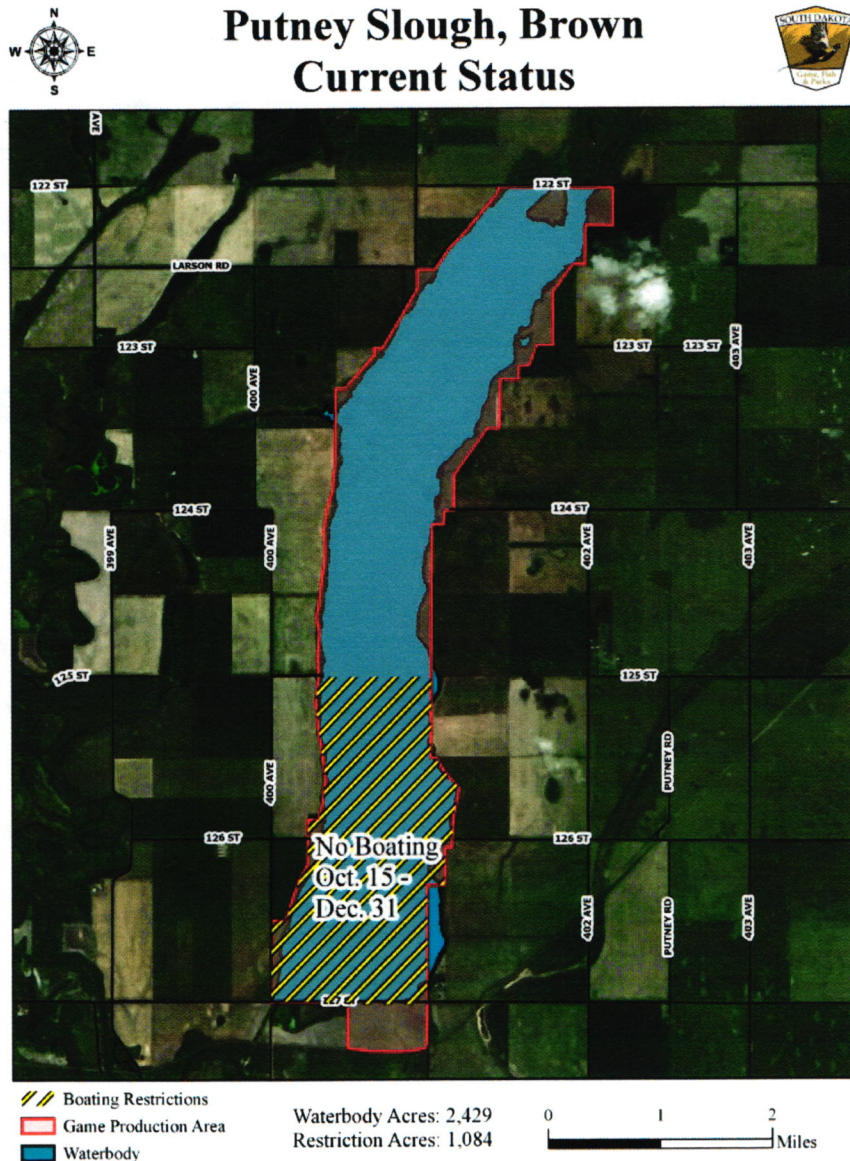
ACTION ITEM #8

Recommended changes from last year:

- 4) Modify the "no boating zone" to "electric motors only" on Putney Slough Game Production Area and change the date from October 15 – December 31 to October 20 – December 31.

41:04:02:06. Brown County public water safety zones. Brown County public water safety zones are as follows:

- (6) The waters of Putney Slough Game Production Area located within Sections 7, 8, 17, and 18, township 124 north, range 61 west are a "~~no boating zone~~" "electric motors only" from October 15 20 to December 31, inclusive;



STAFF COMMENTS

Making this change will simplify regulations and allow more recreational opportunities for the public. Allowing only boats with no motors or electric motors will still allow a quiet place for waterfowl to stage with minimal disturbance.

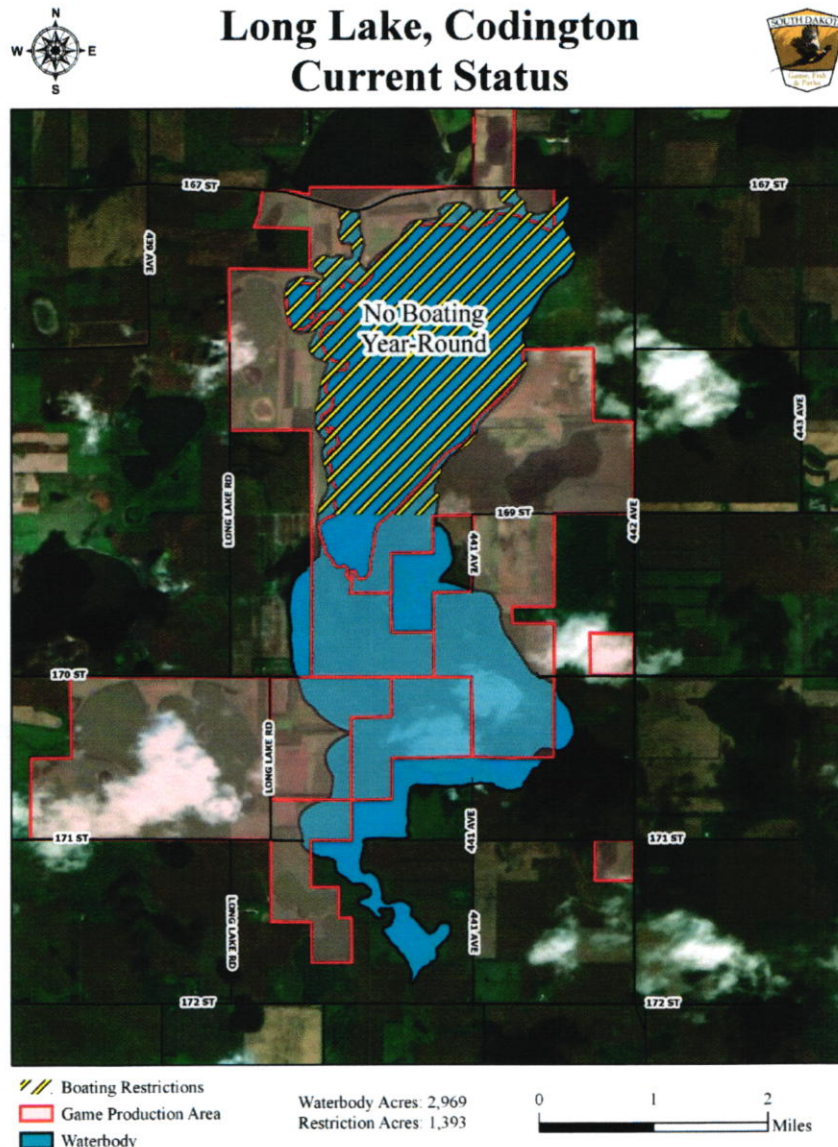
ACTION ITEM #9

Recommended changes from last year:

- 5) Modify the “no boating zone” year round on Long Lake to “electric motors only” from October 20 – December 31.

41:04:02:14. Codington County public water safety zones. Codington County public water safety zones are as follows:

- (2) That portion of Long Lake in sections 11, 12, 13, and 14 of township 117 north, range 55 west, is a "electric motors only" from October 20 – December 31; ~~"no boating zone" year round;~~

**STAFF COMMENTS**

This will allow more recreational opportunity, specifically fishing, as the north end of the lake has the most 'fishable' water. This area has become a popular fishery close to the city of Watertown. This would also continue to offer an area for staging waterfowl with the electric motors only restriction from October 20th - December 31st. If this area is opened to boating, GFP will develop a modern boat ramp on the NW side of the lake for better public access

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #10

Recommended changes from last year:

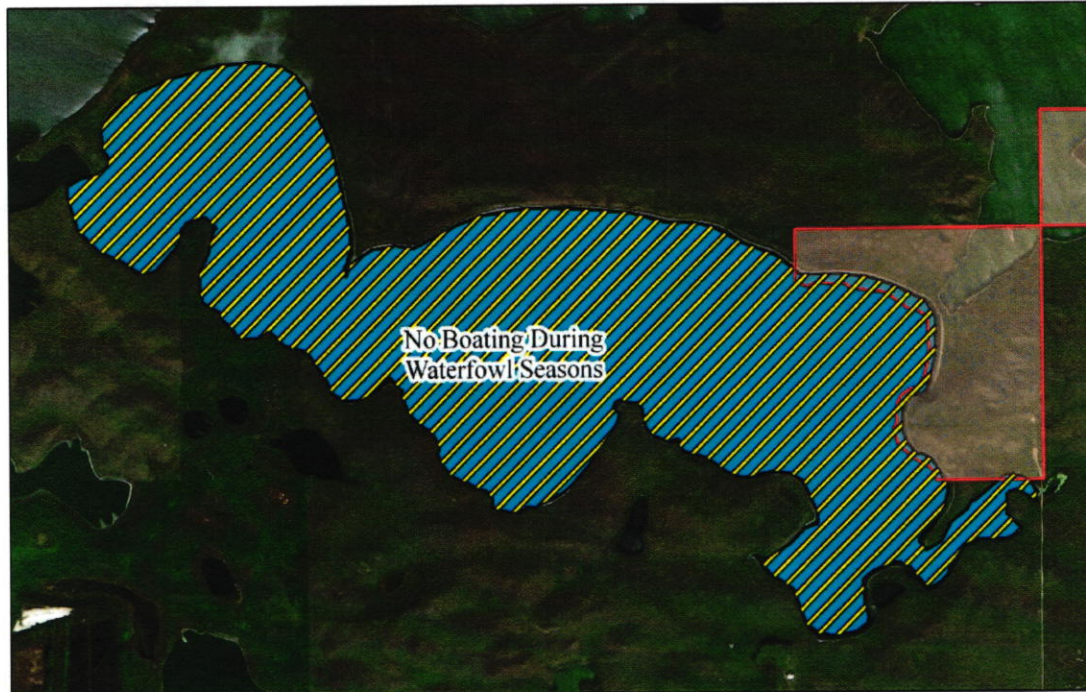
- 1) Modify the "no boating zone" during open season on migratory waterfowl on McKilligan Lake to "electric motors only" from October 20 – December 31.

41:04:02:14. Codington County public water safety zones. Codington County public water safety zones are as follows:

- (3) All of McKilligan Lake is ~~"no-boating-zone"~~ "electric motors only" from ~~during open season on migratory waterfowl~~ from October 20 – December 31;



McKilligans Lake, Codington Current Status



Boating Restrictions

Waterbody

Waterbody Acres: 522

Game Production Area

0 0.25 0.5
Miles

STAFF COMMENTS

Implementing this change will add more recreational opportunities for the public, streamline existing regulations and still offer an area for waterfowl to stage.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #11

Recommended changes from last year:

- 2) Modify the "no motor zone" during open season on migratory waterfowl on Horseshoe Lake to "electric motors only" from October 20 – December 31.

41:04:02:14. Codington County public water safety zones. Codington County public water safety zones are as follows:

- (4) All of Horseshoe Lake is a "no-motors-zone" "electric motors only" ~~during open season on migratory waterfowl~~ from October 20 – December 31;



STAFF COMMENTS

Implementing this change will add more recreational opportunities for the public, streamline existing regulations and still offer an area for waterfowl to stage.

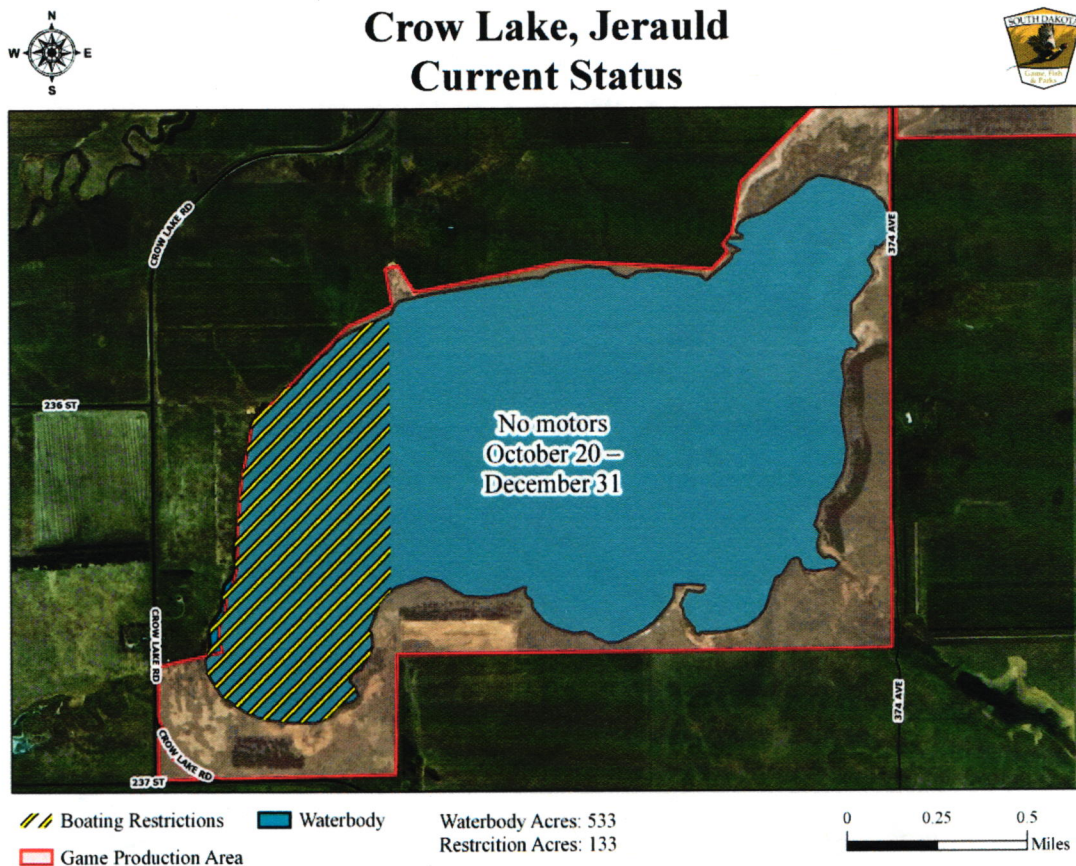
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
ACTION ITEM #12

Recommended changes from last year:

- 3) Remove the "no motorized boating zone" on Crow Lake from October 20 to December 31

41:04:02:36. Jerauld County public water safety zones.

~~That portion of Crow Lake in Jerauld County lying west of the north/south section lines between sections 22 and 23 and sections 26 and 27, township 106 north, range 66 west is a "no motorized boating zone" from October 20 to December 31, inclusive.~~



STAFF COMMENTS

Recommend removing restriction to increase recreational opportunities and simplify regulations. Crow Lake is a shallow semi-permanent wetland that periodically goes dry.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

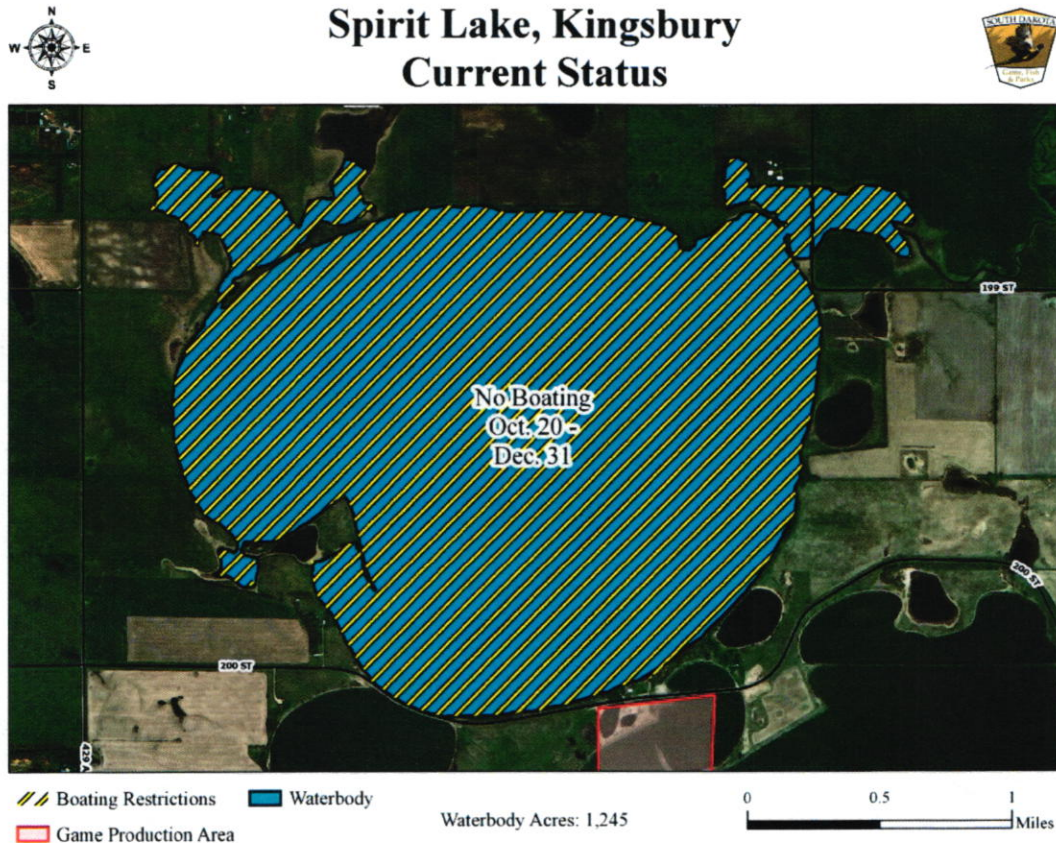
ACTION ITEM #13

Recommended changes from last year:

- 4) Modify the "no boating zone" on Spirit Lake to "electric motors only" from October 20 to December 31.

41:04:02:38. Kingsbury County public water safety zones. Kingsbury County public water safety zones are as follows:

- (1) Spirit Lake is a ~~"no boating zone"~~ "electric motors only" from October 20 to December 31, inclusive;



STAFF COMMENTS

Making this change will simplify rules and allow more recreational opportunities. This would allow for some limited fall fishing opportunity, limited water hunting opportunity, while still allowing staging waterfowl opportunities.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #14

Recommended changes from last year:

- 5) Remove the "no motors zone" on Milwaukee Lake from October 20 to December 31.

41:04:02:39. Lake County public water safety zones. Lake County public water safety zones are as follows:

(3) ~~The meandered portion of Milwaukee Lake located in section 33, township 107 north, range 51 west and section 4, township 106 north, range 51 west is a "no motors zone" for boats from October 20 to December 31, inclusive;~~



Milwaukee Lake, Lake Current Status



/// Boating Restrictions
■ Waterbody

Waterbody Acres: 1,070
Restrictions: 510

0 0.5 1
Miles

STAFF COMMENTS

This change will allow more recreational opportunity and simplify regulations.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #15

Recommended changes from last year:

- 6) Remove the "no boating zone" on Island Lake from October 20 to December 31.

41:04:02:43. McCook County public water safety zones. McCook County public water safety zones are as follows:

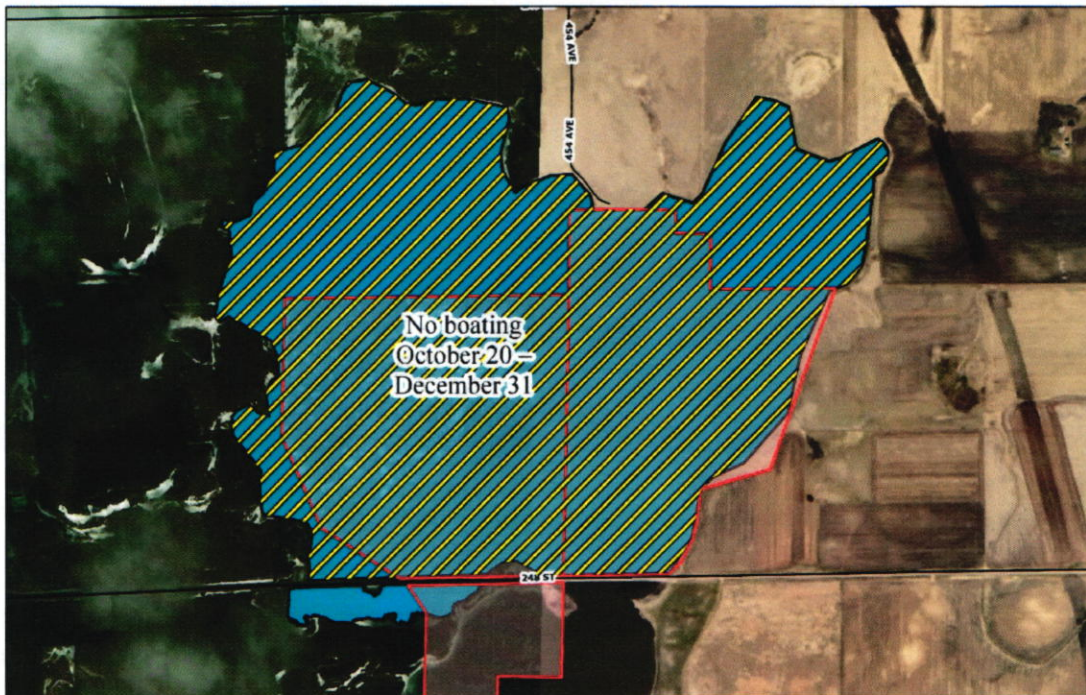
~~(2) That portion of Island Lake lying north of McCook County Road 6 is a "no boating zone" from October 20 to December 31, inclusive.~~

41:04:02:49. Minnehaha County public water safety zones. Minnehaha County public water safety zones are as follows:

~~(5) The waters of that portion of Island Lake lying north of Minnehaha County Road 110 are a "no boating zone" from October 20 to December 31, inclusive;~~



Island Lake, Minnehaha Current Status



Boating Restrictions Waterbody
Game Production Area

Waterbody Acres: 458
Restriction Acres: 447

0 0.25 0.5
Miles

STAFF COMMENTS

Island Lake is a popular fishery with a diverse fish community. Field staff hear from the public requesting the ability to fish longer into the fall. Clear Lake (472ac) is located 6.5 miles SE of Island Lake which has a similar boating restriction.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #16

Recommended changes from last year:

- 1) Modify the "no motors over 25 h.p. zone" on Bear Butte Lake to a "no wake zone"

41:04:02:46. Meade County public water safety zones. Bear Butte Lake in Meade County is a "no motors over 25 h.p. zone." "no wake zone".



Bear Butte Lake, Meade Current Status



Boating Restrictions Parks & Rec.
Federal Refuge Waterbody

Waterbody Acres: 228

0 0.25 0.5
Miles

STAFF COMMENTS

This will allow more boaters to safely utilize the lake. This would also be more consistent with erosion and safety rules at other state parks.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

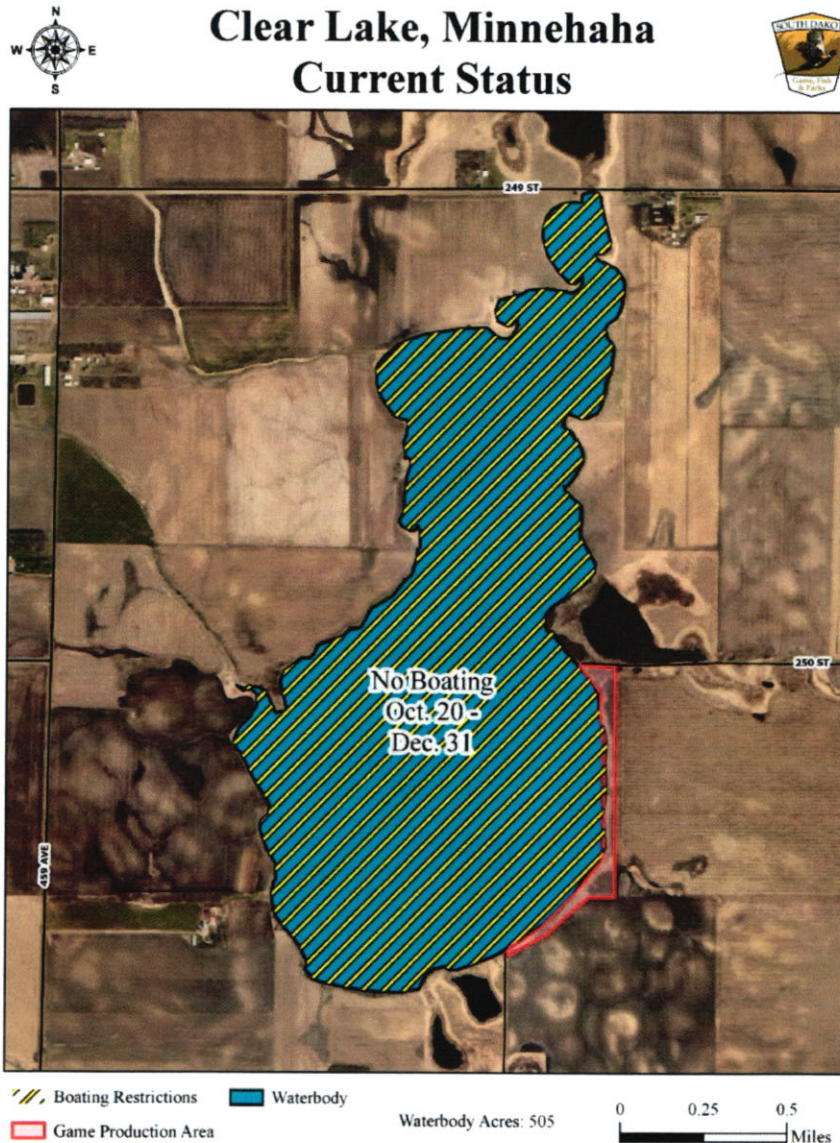
ACTION ITEM #17

Recommended changes from last year:

- 2) Modify the "no boating zone" on Clear Lake to "electric motors only" from October 20 to December 31.

41:04:02:49. Minnehaha County public water safety zones. Minnehaha County public water safety zones are as follows:

- (2) Clear Lake is a "no boating zone" "electric motors only" from October 20 to December 31, inclusive;



STAFF COMMENTS

This would allow for some limited fall fishing opportunity, limited water hunting opportunity, while still allowing staging waterfowl opportunities.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #18

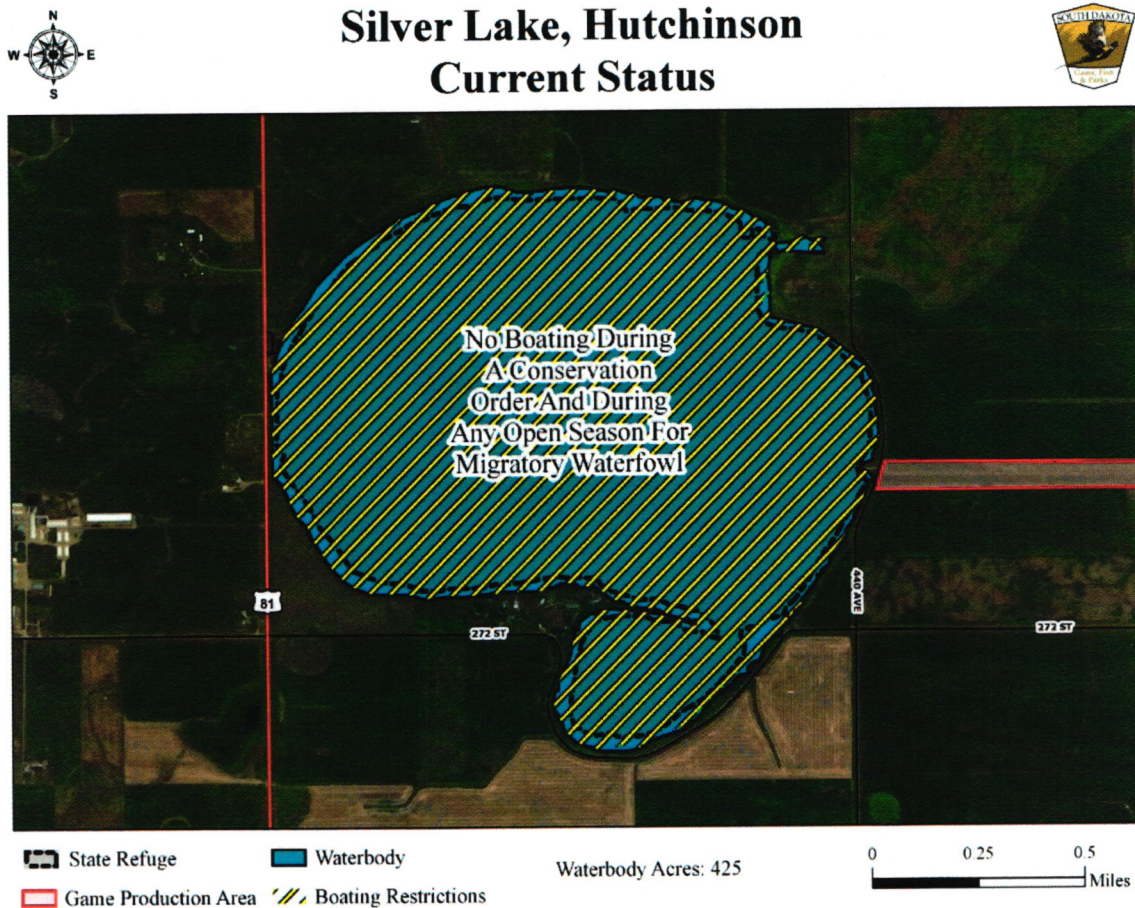
Recommended changes from last year:

- 3) Remove the "no boating zone" on Silver Lake during a Conservation Order (spring taking of light geese) as well as during the regular open season on migratory waterfowl

41:05:02:33. Hutchinson County refuges. The following refuge is in Hutchinson County: the Silver Lake Waterfowl Refuge comprises all of Silver Lake below the high-water mark including all islands and bars lying within the high-water mark.

41:04:02:33. Hutchinson County public water safety zones. Hutchinson County public water safety zones are as follows:

~~(1) Silver Lake is a "no boating zone" during a Conservation Order (spring taking of light geese) as well as during the regular open season on migratory waterfowl;~~



STAFF COMMENTS

Making this change will simplify rules and allow more recreational opportunities. Staff would like to retain the refuge status because water is a limited resource in the area (<100 acres within a 5 mile radius).

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #19

Recommended changes from last year:

- 4) Modify the "no boating zone" during a Conservation Order and during any open season for migratory waterfowl on Lehrman Game Production Area to "electric motors only" from October 20 – December 31.

41:04:02:43. McCook County public water safety zones. McCook County public water safety zones are as follows:

- (4) The waters of Lehrman Game Production Area in section 32, township 103 north, range 56 west are a "no boating zone" "electric motors only" during a Conservation Order and during any open season for migratory waterfowl, from October 20 – December 31 inclusive.



Lehrman Slough, McCook Current Status



Boating Restrictions
Game Production Area

Waterbody

Waterbody Acres: 200
Restrictions: 75

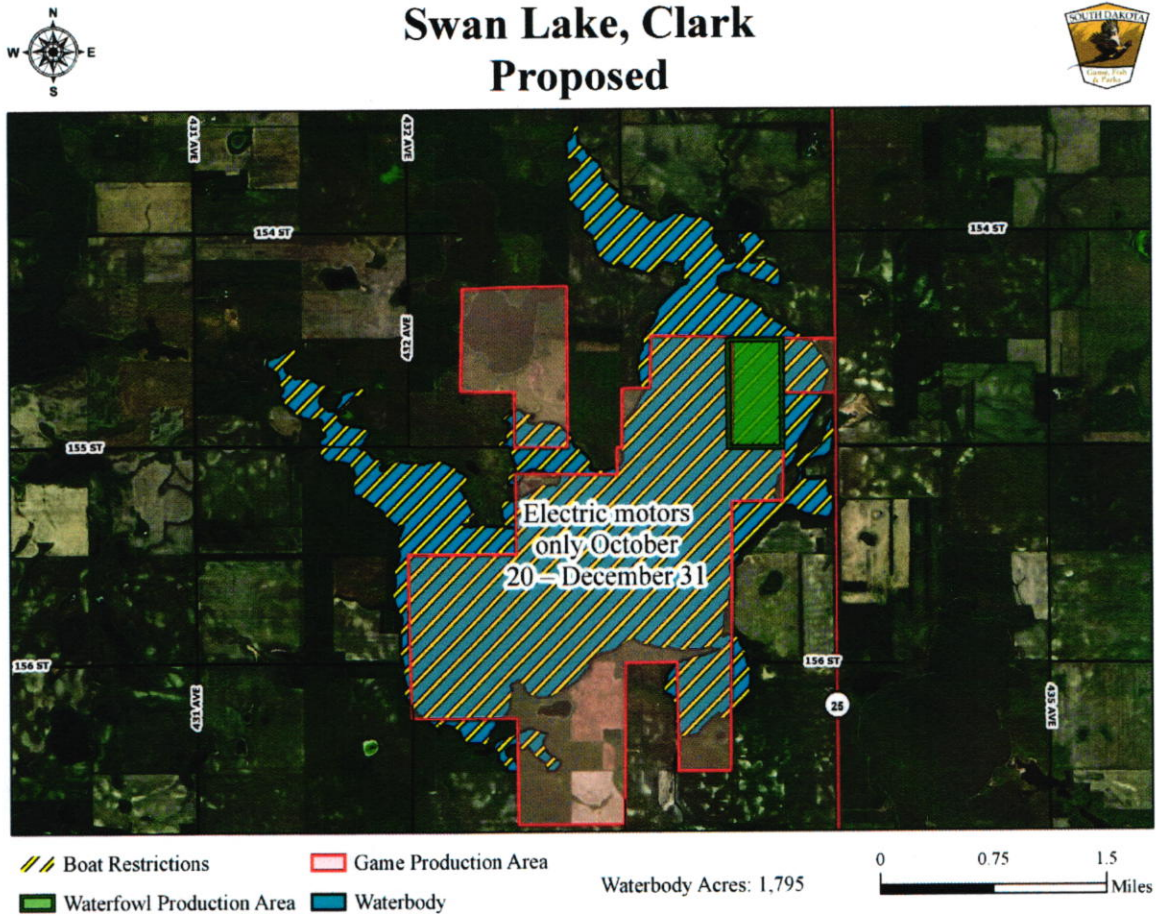
0 0.25 0.5
Miles

STAFF COMMENTS

This change will allow more recreational opportunity and simplify regulations. It will also allow recreational users to access the northeast corner of the GPA that is currently landlocked.

Recommended changes from last year:

- 5) Add "electric motors only" zone on Swan Lake in Clark County from October 20 – December 31.



Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission
June 7-8, 2018

The Public Hearing Officer Jon Kotilnek began the public hearing at 2:03 p.m. at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Commissioners Barry Jensen, Gary Jensen, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Cathy Petersen, Russell Olson and Douglas Sharp were present. Chairman B Jensen indicated written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes. Kotilnek then invited the public to come forward with oral testimony.

Archery Deer Hunting Season

Jim Twamley, SD Bowhunters voted to agree with the September 1 opener or kept as is with the 4th Saturday.

Ryan Roehr, Britton, SD, as a meat hunter would like to see it stay the same for the wildlife itself. Concerned about out of state hunter pressure.

Kurt Rahlf
Mobridge SD
starky069@yahoo.com
I think starting sept 1 is a great idea

Daniel Amen
Rapid City SD
dakotainc@gmail.com
I do think this is a good idea and support this proposal.

Dylan Marsh
Sioux Falls SD
mmarshalldylan@aol.com
I highly agree with the state date of Sept 1st. Gives you a chance to harvest a velvet buck and hunt a buck without pheasant hunters running them all over.

Roger Heintzman
Aberdeen SD
r_heintzman@hotmail.com
I support the changes or all above listed proposals to be finalized June 7th.

Andrew Erickson
Centerville SD
andrew_erickson_23@hotmail.com
No comment text provided.

Josiah Christoffer
Sioux Falls SD
josiahchristoffer@gmail.com
I would love to see this change. I am surely not abreast of the potential drawbacks of a start date move, but I do feel it would greatly increase my chance of success. I would much rather hu

James Cantalope
Eureka SD
cantajam@yahoo.com
I support a start date of Sept 15, which would be the start date every year , just due to the youth and resident pheasant seasons kicking in earlier on public ground then the reg season opener, gives a few more days to hunt before pheasant hunters take to the field. Thank you!!!

Timothy Moore
SD
No comment text provided.

Dan Kavanaugh

Pillager MN

Dan@dankavanaugh.com

I am very supportive or at Archery opener sept 1st ... I spend money in ND every year to hunt early season deer and Now would go to SD

Joseph Kavanaugh

Denver CO

jkavanaugh@skybridgeresources.com

Another great way to generate license fees for outdoors man and women who would like a chance to harvest a velvet buck.

Jeremiah Johnson

Sioux Falls SD

Jeremiah_j77@hotmail.com

This would be a great change, especially as it pertains mule deer hunting.

Andy Viet

Sioux Falls SD

Aviet88@hotmail.com

No comment text provided.

Neil Hylla

Gregory SD

neilhyla@hotmail.com

I really can not see a reason not to allow archery season to open sept 1st. Our neighboring states are doing this and having some success bringing in hunters for an opportunity to harvest a velvet deer. The early season will also give archery hunters more time to spend archery hunting and still enjoy all of the other hunting seasons that the fall offers.

Damon Brueggemen

Miller SD

I think it would be great!

Aaron Glasford

Aberdeen SD

aglasford@hotmail.com

Would put us like States around us. definitely a good idea.

Lee Nelson

Rapid City SD

leemnelson@hotmail.com

No comment text provided.

Dave Kavanaugh

East Gull Lake MN

Dave@kavanaughs.com

No comment text provided.

Bryan Vyhldal

Harrisburg SD

bvyhldal@yahoo.com

-Lengthen the season 3 weeks.

-This would no longer combine Archery Deer Opener with either Youth Duck Opener -or- Duck Opener in some zones.

-Nebraska and North Dakota open on September 1. This opening date would give Archery hunters the possible opportunity at harvesting a velvet buck.

Thank you for your time! BryanV

Collin Rhine

Philip SD

Collin.rhine@state.sd.us

I would like to strongly encourage the commission to allow archery season to begin on September 1. I was very opposed to ending the deer seasons on January 1, so this would make up for some of the time that was lost. I think this could possibly create more opportunity for people to hunt before it gets cold and to allow for a different hunting experience a few weeks earlier than in the past. I Strongly encourage the commission to allow this.

Robert Wright
Sioux Falls SD
robert.wright@augie.edu

This is a fantastic idea. I would just remind y'all to think about other dates, like the start and take down dates for putting up blinds and stands. Maybe Aug. 15 to Jan. 15? This change also might suggest moving up the dove dates from Aug. 15 to say the start of pheasant season. Many doves flee the prairie in early Sept. it seems, if we get cold nights, which we often do that time of year. There would be less friction between doves and archers starting on the same morning.

Guy Bennett
Rapid City SD
guy.bennett@rcgov.org

I think this is a great idea. It will bring us closer to the other western states on season openers. It will also be a chance to get new hunters out hunting in very enjoyable weather conditions.

Kevin Bruzelius
Pierre SD
kevin.bruzelius@state.sd.us

Would also like to see it go thru the end of Jan.

Matthew Werpy
Rapid City SD
Mattwerpy@gmail.com

This change would allow for increased opportunity for archery hunters across the state. It will also help to get new hunters involved as weather is more favorable this time of year as opposed to late season opportunities allowing for more positive hunting experiences for these new hunters.

Adam Newman
Rapid City SD
Adampaulnewman@me.com

I would actually support starting it earlier on the last Saturday of August because out of state hunters that also hunt surrounding states that All start sept 1 would start in SD bringing more revenue to SD.

Stephanie Newman
Rapid City SD
Stephnewman@me.com
No comment text provided.

Adam Newman
Rapid City SD
Jerrynewman@ymail.com
No comment text provided.

Chad McCreight
Lincoln NE
Cmccreight@neb.rr.com

I would come to SD every year and hunt deer if I could pursue them in the velvet.

Brett Johnson
Rapid City SD
Brett_mjohnson@yahoo.com

I support the Sept 1 opener for archery deer.

Zach Hawkins
Sioux Falls SD

Earlier archery season makes sense and is inline with other neighboring states.

Rusty Lytle
Wall SD

We already have a lot of pressure from hunters driving down our roads and we are still irrigating until the middle of October and our pivots cross the road. No trespassing and road closed signs seem not to make a difference. We don't need to have to patrol for another month.

Larry Hannan
Rapid City SD

This is important because of the early start date of youth seasons.

Quintin Biermann
Rapid City SD
Quintin.biermann@hotmail.com

September 1 opener would be great. Please institute draw for nonresidents.

Brian Barnes
Rapid City SD
brianbarnes1996@gmail.com

Sept 1 is an optimum time to open the Archery Deer Season, it opens up a very congested fall hunting season. Allows a completely different hunting experience for even seasoned archery hunters. The more opportunities the state can create to get people hunting the better. Our neighbor to the North have been cashing in on this early archery season for years. Drawing in hunters nation wide to get a jump start to the fall.

Warm weather and velvet clad bucks lure hunters by the 100s.

Justin Allen
Pierre SD

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing today with comments, concerns and statistics on archery season dates, license allocation and harvest. First off I do not support an earlier archery season opener and believe the opening day should remain as is. The season is long enough as is if not too long already. As a bow hunter for over 20 years I have become very concerned with archery harvest and pressure over the last 10 years plus in many portions of the state. I believe many GFP staff members realized this but ultimately it is the commission that finalizes these changes. Looking at harvest stats several counties in SD have higher archery buck harvest then by firearm. Counties would include Minnehaha, Codington, Brookings (within 10%), Yankton, Lake. In my opinion mule deer harvest by archery in counties in West Sully, Stanley, Custer National Forest and Black Hills is a huge concern as well. Firearm deer harvest in last 10 years has decreased by 60%, in the same time archery harvest has only decreased by roughly 15%. Modern bows have more hunters in the field for more days while being able to take longer more accurate shots which in turn have increased harvest and harvest success rates dramatically. There has been a large decrease in firearm deer licenses and ultimately hunting opportunity in the last 10 years, however, at the same time archery hunters have had to make little to no sacrifice to lower deer numbers. I hate to say it but maybe archery hunters have had it way too good for way too long? Opening the bow season any earlier will only increase harvest by bow and increase licenses sales for NR hunters that already flood SD to bow hunt as is. I'm guessing the only reason some want to open the season earlier is the chance they can shoot a velvet buck. Personally that seems like a bad management reason to increase the season length. 4 months to bow hunt is crazy IMO. Many are concerned there is too much pressure of deer overall but we are talking about one of the most liberal bow seasons in the country? Trying to increase deer numbers across SD but going to have 4 month bow season? Trying to manage mule deer harvest and everyone is talking to many NR bow hunters but we are talking about a 4 month bow season? Overhunted public lands but a 4 month bow season? Please do not move the bow season any earlier than it already is to please a few that just want to kill a velvet buck. Archery hunting is/has become too popular and hunters have become too efficient at killing deer not to be regulated basically at all in South Dakota.

Additionally, I believe several changes need to be made when it comes to archery licenses allocations. Counties along the Missouri River have extreme pressure by NRs and residents on public land for 3 straight months (hopefully not 4 months). Judging by harvest stats I can assume many other counties are the same. Many of these counties in question are extremely tough to draw any deer firearm licenses taking 3-4 plus years to draw. I find it tough to swallow waiting 3-5 years for a tag when archery licenses and harvest is totally unregulated in the same unit as those extremely tough to draw firearm units. In turn I would support some limited draw bow areas throughout the state. You can't call a unit limited access for firearm season when it isn't limited to all type of deer hunting. I would also support an overall 8% license allocation (8% of

previous year resident archery license sales) for limited draw Non-resident archery tags; these would be statewide tags except the limited access units. I support only allowing one statewide any deer license, eliminating allowing residents to obtain both an east and west river any deer licenses. Counties across the state have slashed buck tag licenses but archery hunters are still living in the glory years, I really think certain portions of the state need have some reduction in pressure and harvest by archery hunters. Thank you for time,

Randy Routier
Buffalo SD

It would not only create more archery deer hunting opportunities but also combo archery deer and archery antelope hunting. More income for the state and mor

Andrew Ward
MN

More opportunity, travel, tourism that flows through to the local/state economies and harvest rate is low enough during archery seasons that it won't meaningfully impact game populations

Scott Guffey
Rapid City SD
guffeyscott@gmail.com

I am opposed to moving the archery deer start to September 1st. If you do move forward with this change, I would encourage the commission to keep the start date the same or move it to October 1st for the Black Hills National Forest and Custer National Forest, because of the archery/firearm elk hunters. Most of the elk hunters have waited a long time to finally draw a SD elk tag and most will draw maybe two in there lifetime. With elk tags being such a coveted tag, there is no need to have archery deer hunters on the national forests conflicting with the elk hunters.

Meghan Biermann
Rapid City SD
Meghan_2012@hotmail.com

I support moving the bow opener up to September 1st. I also support limiting non resident bow tags with a lottery option.

Marc Moore
Custer SD
Carrieknows02@goldenwest.net

Current archery deer season starting in the third week in September is sufficient. The question I would ask is what would be the impact of changing that season to an earlier date on deer populations?

Eric Stiefvater
Belle Fourche SD
edshusker@yahoo.com

I strongly support an archery deer start date of September 1st. Thanks

Cody Ruml
Letcher SD
codyruml1998@gmail.com

Would be awesome to be given the chance to hunt early season velvet bucks with archery equipment. I feel it will be very popular and bring more people into the sport.

Andrew Krier
Harrisburg SD
andrewckrier@gmail.com

I fully support changing the archery opening date to September 1st. It gives hunters a better opportunity at filling their tag with a velvet buck, a deer many hunters dream of shooting. With this change I also propose closing all deer seasons not to re-open after December 31st. If the opening date is changed, please consider adding a restriction for bucks only until a certain date to prevent does with fawns getting shot. Thank you for your consideration.

Sean Newberg
Parker SD
newbergsean92@gmail.com

I believe changing the deer archery opening date to Sept 1 would not only provide hunters with more time to harvest deer but would allow youth/new hunters a more enjoyable experience as well without having to sit in the extreme cold. By allowing more time to harvest deer it would also help balance the herd letting hunters pass on immature deer to harvest a mature deer creating a more enjoyable experience and a healthier Deer herd in the process by making a better structure.

Mark Smedsrud
Sioux Falls SD
Maksmedsrud@msn.com

I would support this proposal on one condition. We need to have a limited draw for non-residents. We are starting to see an influx of nonresidents because of our liberal archery season license draw. I compete every year with NR on public ground in spot and stalk situations. Every year I seem to encounter more. With our liberal tags and numerous hunting shows advertising this fact I am afraid it will limit resident opportunities, especially for the chance at shooting bucks in velvet. Please reconsider the early date in regards to the increase in nonresident licenses.

Chris Medill
Aberdeen SD
chrismedill@yahoo.com

I would really like to see the start date changed to Sept. 1. I am primarily a archery hunter, and I would love to see SD start the same time as a lot of the other western states. I also see this as an advantage as I would now be able to hunt deer during their summer patterns.

Wade Harkema
Volga SD
Wharkema68@gmail.com

Please do not move the archery deer season to September 1st. As an archery and rifle hunter I don't think it is right to keep expanding archery hunting while limited draw rifle deer licenses are getting harder to get.

Brian Hansen
Bath SD
Bhansen@northernelectric.coop

I would love to see the season start earlier. Many of the Western States have their season start the 1st of the month and allows archers a better chance for early season deer.

Lester Roggenbauer
Elk Point SD
roggenbauer@gmail.com

Open Sep. 1st for Resident Only, this would provide SD residents greater opportunity to harvest a "velvet" buck and hunt public ground before the non-resident migration. I would also support capping NR tags.

Jamea Nelson
Rapid City SD
James.nelson1@coldwellbanker.com

This is great for Sd residents to have a chance at a velvet buck. But this could bring problems with more non residents coming in and over hunting our public ground. The non resident tags should have a draw or their season should stay the same as it is now and give residents first chance at harvesting deer and hunting our public ground.

Nate Baumgarn
Webster SD
natin02@hotmail.com

I'd like to comment saying I would support a Sept. 1 archery opener. I believe in rewarding SoDak citizens by giving them a unique opportunity in their home state. For me, that opportunity is having a chance to harvest a mature velvet buck. A coworker and mine are currently looking to spend thousands of dollars on a Nebraska outfitter for the chance at a velvet mule deer. If South Dakota opened earlier, we would gladly spend that \$4,000 in state. However, I do believe the Non Resident tags would increase, and cause more pressure. I would love the idea of September 1 Opener, and hope it works out. Thanks for your time!

Christian Mchugh
Mobridge SD
cmchugh@jacks.sdstate.edu

I am in favor of a September 1st archery opener to give those who are true archery hunters an opportunity to chase a deer in velvet. However, Some of the precautions that worry me are the amount of both residents and nonresidents that will be hammering away at mulies when they are very vulnerable in velvet. A suggestion would be to flirt with the idea of maybe a permit that one can acquire every 4 years maybe...put some form of a cap on it. Could keep archery season the same dates...then a free application for a permit to have one month earlier dates. It could be acquired the same way that the Custer State Park lion permits are. Free, but it is a way to regulate the access. Also, odds are there will be more people, especially nonresidents that will pursue velvet deer, so will an earlier success on one tag give them more reason or incentive to shoot another in a different location (ie, East River Archery and West River Archery). As always, we want to increase opportunity without it having a negative impact on the wildlife.

Branden West

SD

tbwest@gwtc.net

Season dates for deer should coincide with better management practice for the purpose of herd health. As in (all) doe seasons should be in October. Why you may ask? This is when they will wean their young and be prior to being breed. Next rifle deer season should not start before 12/1. Why? Because this gives your healthy mature bucks the opportunity to breed the majority of the does. Mostly all common sense!

Nick Welch

Mccook Lake SD

Vmax508502@aol.com

I am supporting the archery deer September 1st start proposal. I have kids and getting them out in the warmer nicer weather really helps with getting them involved. I would like to thank you very much for the consideration.

Matt Fonder

Aberdeen SD

mfondu@yahoo.com

I believe our archery season is sufficient the way it is. I have been archery hunting South Dakota for decades, and am concerned that this proposal, if implemented, could have unintended consequences that would affect the future of archery hunting and deer hunting overall in SD. I might consider supporting it if there were non-resident license caps and ☐no public land☐ (like the Special Buck tags) attached to these earlytags. At least for the month of September. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Rick Hanger

Sioux Falls SD

hangfire49@sio.midco.net

I probably wouldn't hunt so early in the year due to heat and mosquitoes. I am not opposed to it for those that may like or need the early season. I do however think there should be some restrictions. Perhaps resident

only for the first three weeks of the season. Similar to the resident only early hunts for pheasant. I also feel the non resident tags should be a limited draw and higher priced. Unlimited non residents chasing velvet bucks could be a detriment to the quality and quantity of opportunities for residents.

Andrew Krier

Harrisburg SD

Andrewckrier@gmail.com

I fully oppose allowing archery hunters to carry firearms while archery hunting. As much as I would love to trust the honor system, this would only make it much easier for "hunters" or "poachers" in my opinion to fill two tags with their rifle. I encourage you to keep the law as is!

Conner Mesman

Sioux Falls SD

No comment text provided.

Jim Bjoekmann

Howard SD

Please oppose this change. Starting the archery season earlier will only increase NR pressure and lead to more conflict. The Commission just took away days at the end of the season because landowners felt that hunting seasons were too long. Now you guys and gals are trying to add more days on the front? Doesn't make any sense! Please keep the current start date and oppose this change. Thank you for your time.

Nathan Lukkes
Pierre SD
lukkesn@hotmail.com

It would be nice to have an opportunity at a velvet buck in my home state as opposed to having to travel out of state where they have earlier season dates.

Craig Niemann
Volga SD
craigniemann2018@gmail.com

I fully support moving Statewide Archery Tag to September 1st. Leaving the East and West river archery tags

the 4th Saturday of September.

Reasons I support this:

1. Opportunity to chase a velvet buck
- I say opportunity because while I would like to chase a big mule deer in velvet; I have a real problem only buying one tag for the year. I most likely would wait till the 4th Saturday and get an east and west river tag. Others only get a statewide tag and would probably choose to hunt Sept. 1st.
2. Makes the person wanting to hunt earlier choose to have 1 state wide archery tag or 2 tags; one each for east and west river.
3. Not many people will get out and hunt September 1st because it is still hot, humid, and full of mosquitoes.
4. Gives archery hunters an opportunity to hunt before duck opener. Duck opener is the 4th Saturday of September. Good public deer hunting lands become not good deer hunting because the shotguns start banging the same morning we have first crack with the bow.
5. Just another way to improve the deer hunting opportunity in the best state to deer hunt in the USA.

Thank you for hearing my comments. Thank you also for the supreme deer management in the state. In my opinion South Dakota is the best state for consistent deer hunting opportunity. The variety of seasons and dates. The abundance of left over tags and specialty preference point draw tags. The states aggressive reaction to disease kills; buying back licenses or not issuing any. The habitat of both public and private land. All of this is why I continue to take pride in this state.

Thank you,
Craig Niemann

Nicholas Renemans
Fort Pierre SD

I completely support moving the archery season to start Sept 1st. There are several surrounding states that already go by these season start dates. I think it's fine to end it earlier. It would be fine to end it before Jan 1.

Clint Barber
SD
Clint.barber@jacks.sdstate.edu

I am in support of the proposed earlier archery season date change, of September 1st. I feel it would be a unique opportunity to create a more competitive balance between rifle hunters and bow hunters in South Dakota. The earlier date would give more time to bow hunters, and in return give them better opportunities to harvest a quality buck, rather than just any buck, later on in the season. A lot of bow hunters struggle having early season success, and by the time the most opportune time (the rut) comes, both West river & East river rifle seasons are underway. Also, a lot of other states have looser regulations, example; crossbow hunting for all individuals during archery only, and baiting. I am not in favor of looser regulations equipment wise, or baiting, just citing other states, and how I feel just a date change wouldn't hurt our quality or quantity of the deer herd. With all that said I love the opportunities South Dakota Deer hunting brings to the table, and only want this change if it doesn't impact other resident tag regulations in the state. Would also like if this was open for resident only, for the September 1st opening, at least for the trial run of the earlier date. This opinion is due to a possible larger number of out of state interest, and added pressure on public lands. Thank you for the consideration.

Mike Wilson
West Branch IA
Bison4me@icloud.com

Fully support, provides an opportunity for a velvet hunt. In fact, why not make it easy and open it concurrently with archery and antelope season?

Paul Johnson
Rapid City SD

As an avid bow hunter I'm 100% against opening the bow season earlier. The season is plenty long already if not too long. Deer in SD already get enough hunting pressure lets not increase it. Leave the opening date as is.

Renee Allen
Pierre SD

I oppose the earlier start date for bow. Already too much pressure on public lands around the Missouri River by resident and NR bow hunters. To add more days, pressure and harvest by bow hunters while at the same time gun tags/licenses have been slashed over the last 5 years seems a bit greedy and like bad management. Leave start date as is.

Brian Hansen
Bath SD

bhansen@northernelectric.coop

I agree with the proposed date change for the archery season to become September 1st. I think we should take a strong look at making this a residents only archery season. Other hunters like myself like to hunt west river or east river but I know in most areas which are public hunting are filled with many out of staters. I like many other hunters do not have access to much if any private ground and it can be very overwhelming to see all the out of state pickups in some of my favorite spots. I think the rule change would be a big positive for South Dakota hunting but I would personally like to see this become a residents only season as well. This would give the in staters, taxpayers and also sportsmen that hold multiple licenses in this state an ample opportunity to hunt some unpressured deer.

Thanks for taking time to hear the voices of south dakota sportsmen,
Brian Hansen

Curtis Kline
Aberdeen SD
cjkline2870@gmail.com

Dear Commission,

I support changing the start of the Archery Deer Season to Sept 1st. I feel there are two very legitimate reasons for making this change.

The first reason is the expanded opportunity that it gives SD hunters. South Dakota has fantastic opportunities for hunters. Big game, upland birds, and waterfowl are on many hunters to do list in the fall. The downside is that many times the best and most productive time for each of these seasons overlap each other. Forcing the hunter to choose one species and forego other hunting opportunity.

By starting the Archery Deer season Sept. 1st hunters will have ample time to spread out their hunting seasons. Thus giving more time later in the fall to enjoy other pursuits as well.

The second reason I support starting the Archery Deer Season Sept. 1st is it will improve the quality of archery hunts on public land. As stated above some of best archery hunting occurs when waterfowl and pheasant seasons overlap. It is highly unlikely that an archery deer hunter is going to negatively impact another parties waterfowl or pheasant hunt who may be hunting the same piece of public property. However, a party of pheasant hunters or waterfowler's can easily diminish an archery deer hunters chance of a quality hunt very quickly if hunting the same piece of public property. The way the season structure is set up now many times archery season and duck season open the same weekend. By opening the archery deer season Sept. 1 it gives archery deer hunters time to enjoy public land hunts with less interference from waterfowl and pheasant hunters.

Thank you for the consideration,
Curtis Kline Aberdeen SD

Joshua Hagemann
Mission Hill SD
Jghagemann@hotmail.com

I have been in support of this change for a long time. It's hard to pattern a deer as more crops start coming out of the fields and as more of the other firearm seasons (duck, youth deer, pheasant, etc) get underway. This would give archers a chance to use all of the information we have gathered from scouting all summer long before the harvest and shotgun blasts change the deer's routine.

Thank you, Josh Hagemann

Daniel Morrison
Britton SD

I believe this is a wonderful proposal for deer hunters in South Dakota. Opportunity for hunters is always welcomed by sportsmen, the opening date proposed would also allow archers to have a slight chance at harvesting a buck still sporting it's velvet. I believe this proposal has no consequence on the deer population in this state and not adopting this proposal would be a mistake.

William Schwarz

Brookings SD

schwarz.billy@gmail.com

Archery deer starting on sept 1 would be awesome. Scientifically it has been proven to not be a negative on populations and gives hunters more opportunity.

Tom Jensen

Harrisburg SD

Tom.I.Jensen@wellsfargo.com

Please forward as appropriate, this message in support of approving a change in SD archery season to open earlier, such as Sept 1st. Strongly support this measure, feel it is a great move to keep hunters in the state of SD during that time, versus surrounding states with similar opening dates.

Julie Anderson

Rapid City SD

signsofhope@rap.midco.net

Archery season in South Dakota does not need to be extended. People who oppose hunting are being excluded in this amendment. It is cruel enough without adding 2 weeks.

Russ Roberts

St Onge SD

wgo@mato.com

I was on the deer working group and this was brought up a couple different times. Not much time was spent on it and there were several good reasons explained why it was not a good idea and most people in the room were not in favor. The South Dakota archery deer season is already over 3 months long with no quota and there is absolutely no reason to make it longer. It has been said that other states open that early so why not South Dakota. Those states either have an early archery season or a later one during the rut but not both. Part of the reason the January season was shut down was landowner and conservation officer fatigue, opening September 1st does not help this. Also it would incorporate every one of the most vulnerable times of the year for our buck deer population. Last year there were 7,814 archery deer harvested in South Dakota (preliminary estimate), of those 5859 were buck deer. At a time when we should be looking at quotas for archery I don't understand why we are looking to make our archery season the most lengthy any state has with no quotas. Please do not pass this.

Matt Rippentrop

Hot Springs SD

mattrippentrop@hotmail.com

In April of 2014, this same early archery deer season was proposed starting Sept 1st and was voted down by the SD GFP Commissioners. In 2018, please again repeat your vote of no. The potential new archery deer season date of Sept 1st will be detrimental to South Dakota's mule deer population, because they are on their summer range during early September and become much easier to pattern during this time. With the mule deer numbers so low across Western South Dakota right now, why should we want to find another way to decrease their population even further by allowing another month to hunt them in Sept? Some Western States allow the Sept 1st archery season date, but they don't allow hunting during the rut (November). Typically, other Western States allow their archery season to either start early (Sept 1st) or go late (Dec), not both times are allowed to be hunted like this proposal. They also have quotas on their archery seasons and are not unlimited tags like SD. In 2017, just over 7,800 deer were harvested in SD with archery tags and almost 5,900 of those deer were bucks. With unlimited tags and no quotas for SD's archery seasons, we can't allow more deer to be harvested on SD's archery tags. Please consider not approving the Sept 1st archery season. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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I am writing in support of the proposal to move the opening date of the South Dakota archery deer season to September 1st. This will bring South Dakota into alignment with the neighboring states of Nebraska, North