

Dakota, and Wyoming. There is also no biological evidence that suggests the earlier opening date will result in any detrimental effect on herd health or increase archery success rates. The longer season will provide more opportunity and will space out pressure from resident and non-resident archers over a longer season. I respectfully request that you approve the proposal at the commission meeting on June 7th. Thank you for your consideration.

Justin Broughton

Sioux Falls SD

Justin.Broughton@premierbankcard.com

I am writing regarding the two archery proposals before the commission during the June meeting. I strongly support moving the archery opening date to September 1st. This matches the opening dates of our neighboring states and helps to spread out the pressure on public lands during the warmer weather months. There is no sound biological reason for not moving the date to September 1. The additional opportunity for resident archers would be much appreciated!

Ross Swedeen

Rapid City SD

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Please do not approve the proposal to move the archery deer season date to September 1st. Deer are on their summer range that time of year, and they are much easier to pattern. I believe this proposed earlier season could be detrimental to our mule deer in particular. I believe this will increase the hunting pressure on public land as more people try to pursue velvet antlered mule deer bucks. Especially since archery licenses are unlimited and technically have no hunting units. Archery hunting in South Dakota is getting more popular with each passing year it seems. Thank you for your time. Enjoy the weekend!

Dana Rogers

Hill City SD

dana.rogers.1@hotmail.com

I am e-mailing in regard to the previous commission discussion tabled after SDGFP Staff brought forward a proposal to limit Non-Resident and Resident archery limited access unit permits on our larger limited access unit public land units. Non-Resident bowhunting pressure is quite high in several areas around the state. Custer National Forest, National Grasslands, Black Hills, along the Missouri River corridor and several GPA's east river. Now we have a proposal to open the SD archery season on September 1. Though I am against that and would prefer to open on September 15 or 3rd Saturday, I wanted to point out the unintended consequence. If nothing is done to limit non-resident archery pressure for deer and antelope (particularly on public lands) AND the deer season is moved up to Sept 1, we will likely see a significant increase in NR pressure from what we already have. The over the counter (unlimited) permits for both deer and antelope and access to public land will become extremely attractive for more bowhunters to come to SD. Our resident opportunities should be held above non-residents. After protection of the resource, protecting the resident opportunities should be next on the list...not the amount of revenue our public trust resources can bring in.

Mentored Hunting Restrictions

Jason Fischer, Watertown, SD, should also include immediate family members as mentors.

Jim Dale

Watertown SD

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I am an avid hunter of birds and big game in SD and support the mentored hunting program as a way to get our youth involved. I have participated in this program with my Son with success and have peaked his interest in hunting. I am strongly opposed to the consideration of removing the minimum age for mentored hunting as I believe age 10 is honestly as young as any youth are ready for this experience. While there are probably exceptions, I think the majority of young hunters are not ready for the experience of safely shooting and taking any type of game animal before age 10 and will be more likely to have negative reactions to the experience in addition to potential serious safety issues. I support leaving the minimum age at 10 years old.

Selena Spring

Custer SD

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I am unsure what the purpose of this is or why this needs to change? I am very concerned about children operating firearms at an age under 10 yrs old. I think handing a firearm to anyone under 10 is a huge

responsibility and I know that responsibility lies with the mentor too but I just have a hard time believing there are that many kids under the age of 10 that ☐truly☐have an interest to go hunting or will it be another tag for adults to fill?! I honestly believe you will see more adults registering younger children when they actually are the ones pulling the trigger (Wisconsin has this issue just last year when they did away with the age restrictions). I also believe there are not a lot of firearms out there that have the power to bring down an animal and not cause injury to the child. Gun safety and hunting ethics are a huge part of hunting and I do not believe there are many children under 10 that understand both of those topics! I have a 13 year old and no way would I have wanted him to hunt at an even younger age. I guess my only hope would be that you still require the youth to take a hunter safety course prior to obtaining a license because hopefully this would weed out the kids much younger than 9 applying for tags.

Bryan Vyhliadal
Harrisburg SD
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No comment text provided.

Collin Rhine
Philip SD
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I strongly encourage the commission to remove the minimum age for hunting. I think that this rule is foolish to begin with. I have a daughter that is more than capable of hunting big game but is not allowed to do so because of this rule. It should be up to the parent(s) to decide when a child is ready to hunt. Please remove this rule so that my kids and I can make the decision when they will start hunting.

Kelan Lechner
Aberdeen SD
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As a Huntsafe instructor, I can't begin to tell you how wrong this. Too young to hold a gun, too young to hunt!

Kevin Bruzelius
Pierre SD
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It will be tough to not go with the legislators on this, but I think we will see more hunting accidents, and more abuse of mentor tags. There are numerous videos of younger people shooting guns they can't control.

Mike Karcz
Huntley IL
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I am not a resident of SD. I am NOT well versed in ALL of the terms of SD's mentored hunt program. I HAVE hunted in SD. I AM in favor of mentored hunts. I DO see a potential for fraud/misuse/abuse of the mentored hunt program, &/or exposure of children to unsafe/unhealthy/dangerous situations. With no restrictions, a hunter w/o scruples could bring a six (6) month old baby along under the guise of "mentoring" just to gain another & unfair opportunity to hunt for themselves, possibly exposing the child to loud noises, bad weather, dangerous geographical conditions & situations

I AM VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF GETTING KIDS INVOLVED IN THE OUTDOORS?? But "we" are responsible to ensure their safety.
Thank you, Mike Karcz

Jessr Hartman
Lennox SD
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So everyone is already complaining about deer numbers being down and I can't hardly get a doe tag anymore so now let's add more kids to the mix and lower the numbers some more. I am also a firm believer in having to take the hunter safety course before applying for a tag no matter what age. Pure laziness if kids don't have to take the course. I had to take the course and wait till I was 12 and not to mention only had a 3 week youth season. I honestly think the way things are going in South Dakota it's time to start spending my money in other states to hunt! So disappointed in the direction things are going.

Curtis Bossert
Aberdeen SD

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I believe 10 is too young and this is from a father of two sons who have been hunting for as long as possible. As the number of available tags dwindle on a yearly basis, it seems that this is another method of adding an additional animal to the freezer. I support youth hunting but 10 is too early in my humble opinion.

**Steve Chilson
Florence SD**

The Grass Lake Conservation Club, at its last meeting, discussed the possible age change being considered to the mentored hunting season. We, as a club, feel the minimum age of 10 years should be left as is. Our club has helped sponsor and run the Watertown area Youth Sportsfest for more than 20 years. Kids age 8 to 14 can attend. Having witnessed the youth for the last 20 years, we feel that kids 8 and 9 years of age are, for the most part, not ready for the mentored hunt. Thank you for taking our club's opinion into consideration as you make your decision on this issue.

Maximum Size of Hunting Groups

James Rohl, not in the hunting business. Realizes everyone needs to make a buck but commercial guys are ... noted now listing water for sale. We are we trying to encourage people to come out and do their thing and we need to get the kids involved. Can get more bang for the buck if we get larger group size. Concerned with more guys more problems. Wonderful hunts for vets but more people than 20 in group is too large.

Ryan Roehr against the proposal actually thinks it should be decreased to groups of 10. Currently see three groups of 20 go into area near where family puts in food plots. Says guides just drop off groups and point them in the direction of where to hunt on a map. Has called this in and nothing happens. If you make the groups bigger it will just get worse.

**Eric Ristau
St Paul MN
rista001@umn.edu**

The current party size restriction (20) is too small for family groups, during especially opening week. On the other hand, outfitted hunt group sizes should be held at the current 20 but even smaller would be better.

**Micahel Gebes
Philip SD
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I would oppose this on public hunting grounds not on private ground.

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

First off, I assume that this claim contains an error: "Hunters would still not be able to carry archery equipment, crossbows, muzzleloaders or firearms during small game hunts." Shotguns are firearms, right? So

is the typo including firearms in this list or is it including "not"? In any event, the 20 limit has always seemed arbitrary and it is a real sore spot to pay money to hunt and have to sit out because 21 guys happen to show up. It's like getting bumped from an overbooked airplane with no compensation! Groups will naturally grow or shrink to match the field, in some of which 200 hunters could safely shoot birds.

**Marc Moore
Custer SD
Carrieknows02@goldenwest.net**

I do not support eliminating or changing the 20 person or less hunting group size restrictions currently in place. Basis for this is hunter safety. Even with the current law of a 20 person group, it can be very difficult to monitor individual positions of hunters in the field. Eliminating that requirement just increases the risk of accident that much higher.

**Jeff Clow
SD**

No comment text provided.

Julie Anderson
Rapid City SD
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To repeal the size of hunting parties with this amendment is not ethical. More hunters will increase the guarantee of a kill and will only encourage outfitters and their trophy hunting clientele.

Nancy Hilding
President
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Prairie Hills Audubon Society (PHAS) is opposed to the proposal to remove limits on the size of hunting parties, as written. We believe this will be unsafe and result in shootings of people. We believe that the 20-person limit was enacted decades ago due to shootings of people associated with group hunting of rabbits, which was done in large and constricting circles. We offer an alternate suggestion, although this letter is not a petition for rulemaking. We suggest you start a program like the general permits the EPA/DENR uses to streamline permitting of various pollution release actions. A general permit reduces the bureaucratic hassle for both sides: general permits are simple to get. Individual permits are more of a hassle. The EPA/DENR writes the conditions of a general permit and if the permittee can agree to meet those terms, they send in a notice letter to the agency 48 hours before they start the activity. They don't need to wait to hear back from EPA/DENR. If they can't agree to those terms, they need to apply for an individual permit. We suggest that SD GFP continue this issue to the next commission meeting and have staff write a "general permit" that lists the qualifications needed for a safe hunt involving many people. Such conditions might be: give a name of responsible party who is organizing the hunt, limits on the type of prey, limits on seasons of hunt, limits on type of guns and ammunition allowed, limits on direction of shooting (such as into the air), limits on formation of the hunters (will they be in a line or on opposing sides?), limits on height of the vegetation relative to height of hunters (how obstructed is the view?), directions on the amount of and placement of orange worn by hunters, restrictions on hunting in deep snow and requiring parental permission for anyone under 18. We also express concern for potential impacts to "at risk" wildlife and the possibility that large hunts could impact habitat security for any "at risk" species. We believe that turkey season is in the spring, perhaps April and a goose season is also in the spring, perhaps March. We believe that predator/varmint seasons are year round. We thus see the possibility of a large hunt targeting varmints (such as rabbits or prairie dogs) or predators (such as coyotes), occurring during breeding season, especially of sage grouse, or ground nesting raptors and other birds. We thus suggest that staff communicate with the Wildlife Diversity Program to see if such hunts, could inadvertently impact any state or federal listed species or wildlife species of "greatest conservation need". We ask specifically about the northern long eared bat, the greater sage grouse, interior least tern, piping plover, ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, and the whooping crane. If there are such concerns, then restrictions that limit access to areas of their critical habitat could be added to the general permit. We also suggest that group hunting during deep snow, might stress out wildlife that SDGFP prizes as a hunting resource. Thus if the Wildlife Diversity Program agrees, perhaps a general permit needs some conditions relative to non-target wildlife. The GFP could offer an "individual" permit for any hunting group that can't meet the terms of the general permit. It could delegate the approval of "individual permits" to particular staff member(s) and provide general guidelines listing the issues to be addressed - such as hunter formations, view shed, limits on ammunition and guns and unintended yet adverse impacts to "at

risk' wildlife. If you don't use the "general permit" idea, we still suggest you continue the matter & incorporate some of the above limits into your new rule.

Accompaniment While hunting

No verbal comments were received.

Leon Ewert
Piedmont SD
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I really can not believe it has taken this long to bring these forward. It has always seemed to me ridiculous not to allow this. With the lack of actual permits available for the number of hunters that want to go hunting it will really help family's and groups to hunt again! I remember we always had family members come in for hills hunting when everyone could get a license, now you never know who will get to hunt when or you only get to hunt every three to four years together. With these proposals When my grandsons draw tags for whatever season I can get an archery tag to cover it and join the party or vs. With the ability to mix the hunting methods we get to spend more time in the field together!!!!

Leon Ewert
Piedmont SD
cw5lhewert@gmail.com

I do not understand this?? how else would you have a small game hunt if you can't carry archery equipment, muzzleloader, crossbow or firearm??

Dustin Thill
Mitchell SD
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I think this should be allowed, due to the fact that some of the public hunting areas are large and not everyone in our party always draws a rifle tag, but usually will purchase an archery tag. This adds revenue for the state and local area we will hunt and gives the other members in the group the possibility of harvesting an animal and or helping pack out an animal a different member may have harvested. If they spent the money and have a tag, I see no reason why they shouldn't be able to do this. If someone is a poor sportsman and intends on breaking the law with an illegal harvest , they will do it anyways, so let's not penalize the majority of us who like to hunt for the commederie and obey the rules.

Sam Sommers
Sioux Falls SD
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No Firearms ? Why can't we hunt with crossbows, shotguns & bow & arrows? What's left Spears & nets & falcons. I already told my relatives to go to Nebraska. And, why no more limits on the number of hunters in a group? Pheasant hunting gets more difficult every year and letting conercial outfits go to 100 hunters or more in a group to limit out is ridiculous. I am ok with upping the number of hunters in a group but then small group hunters of less than 5 should get higher bag limits.

Marc Moore
Custer SD
Carrieknows02@goldenwest.net

I oppose this rule change. Current law is sufficient.

Chet Barney
Vermillion SD
chet@byu.net

I have long thought that if a person has both a rifle deer tag and an archery deer tag for the same area at the same time, that hunter should be able to carry both weapons.

Dr. Chet Barney

Roger Heintzman
Aberdeen SD
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Do away with extened rifle season for doe only.

Fur Dealer License Application Requirements

Rob Fuller, Clark, SD asked what classifies a fur dealer. Feels the recommendation is vague asked for clarification.

Secretary Hepler recommended Andy Alban speak with Fuller to answer any questions he may have.

Muzzleloading Rifle and Pistol Requirement

Jim Twalmley, SDBI, Parker, SD, inquired about how the rule changes would set the minimum standard for the use of .50 caliber bullets.

Scott Miles

Colman SD

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If you want to regulate the amount of powder used, state the least amount that can be used.

Matthew Luebke

SD

I don't oppose using muzzleloading handguns. However my earlier comments on using handguns during muzzleloader season was meant for centerfire / traditional handgun useage. Non- rifle cartridge capable. Similar to Montana's season.

Robert Wright

Sioux Falls SD

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Yeah, why not?! It should get more people interested in the sport. But the biggest problem in So. Dak. is the fact that the ML season comes AFTER the gun season and is mostly antlerless. If you want more interest, have an October ML season with buck tags, like lots of states do. Then have December antlerless conversion tag season.

Marc Moore

Custer SD

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Personally, I do not favor this proposal...although I understand the sporting intent. Typically muzzle-loading handguns (cap & ball, as well as single-shot) are much weaker in foot-lbs delivered than modern handguns, as well as regular muzzle-loading rifles. The propensity to wound a big game animals is high. And with few exceptions, most commercial muzzle-loading hand-gun sights are of poor quality.

Chet Barney

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No comment text provided.

Bowhunter Education Requirement

Jim Twamley, SDBI, Parker, SD provided history explaining how SDBI has worked with GFP and proposed changes that protect tradition of bow hunting and Principals of Fair Chase while also adjusting the equipment requirements to meet some of the technology that is always changing. He explained the primary focus of all the Equipment Restrictions were in part developed by SDBI in an effort to make Bowhunting as accessible to all persons who had a desire to become a bowhunter, tools that would allow them to join our ranks while still maintaining the Historical and Ethical standards of Fair Chase of hunting with a bow. In developing the recommendations brought forward were women and youth hunters and their individual needs were used in developing the minimum requirements needed while instilling a clean harvest of the animal pursued. It is the individual bowhunter's responsibility to know the rules and comply with them and none

of these current regulations have prevented any of the existing 15,000+ bowhunters for enjoying the sport of Bowhunting.

B. Jensen noted will still have the program just not required

Twamley concern that if not mandatory people will not do it.

Ron Kolbeck, SDHEIA, asking the requirement for bowhunter education be kept in place. Noted this was done because of the issues at the time including unethical activity. Hunted for 15 years before taking course and had to learn by experimenting. Said 90 percent of mistakes in the field could have prevented mistakes if course would have been taken. People think it is better due to equipment but it is because of the required course. Doesn't feel it should be part of hunt safe as only a third are 18 and under majority are 30-40 years old and some in their 70' who think they will have more time to hunt in their retirement. Do not want to add to hunt safe as it may cause youth who take the course to be discouraged as they may not be interested. Get exposure by taking current course.

B. Jensen do you feel like current certificate inhibits recruitment of bowhunters

Kolbeck no most come because they want to know more about it and this give them the opportunity to try.

Jim Twamley

Parker SD

Secretary Hepler and Commissioners,

I am writing you to voice my disagreement with the decision to eliminate the Bow Hunter Education Requirement (regulation) in our State. History Please allow me to give a brief history of the program and my involvement with it since its inception. The "Bow Hunter Education" requirement was brought to the Department in 1992 by the bow hunters of the state through the South Dakota Bowhunters Inc (SDBI) in order to expand the bow hunting opportunities in our state, especially with the Elk seasons. SDBI, through this agreement, was to provide the management of the program while the Department was to provide logistical support and maintain the student registration records. The National Bowhunter Education Foundation Course was selected to be the course as they had the materials and support logistics needed and several founding members of SDBI were already Certified Instructors. (SD archery legend, Charlie Bledsoe of Sioux Falls, being one of the first.) However, to become an Instructor there was never a requirement that they belong to SDBI The State and SDBI sent out letters and posted notices to existing bowhunters recruiting them to become Certified Instructors. In March, 1993, the first Instructor Program was held in Pierre. I was a member of that original group of 60 individuals who became Instructors. Through the years of being involved in the NBEF Program, I was selected as "Instructor of the Year" in 1995, became a Regional Master Instructor, and for my last 10 years, I was the State Coordinator of the Program. During this time I have seen many changes within the program. When I first started teaching the Program, the classroom supplies were furnished but all the teaching aids were provided by the Instructors. Instructor teams used their own hunting equipment, purchased shot placement 3D targets, overhead projectors, treestands and ground blinds. Over the years, the Instructors used the money that was provided to them from the State in the form of \$3.00 per student per team to purchase additional materials and supplies. After the program had been in place for a few years and the teams were well established the State started providing the Teams with training materials, such as the "pin cushion" deer and bear shot placement table top targets.

Program and Requirements

Instructor Requirements - Prior to becoming a Certified Instructor, the Individual had to be a bow hunter with at least 3 years experience (this was waived by NBEF for the first class), have taken the NBEF course, attend an Instructor training course which was provided by either one of the Master Regional Instructors or the State Coordinator, and then the potential instructor must aid an established team in actually teaching 3 courses before becoming "certified". once they were certified, they could either join an existing team or start a new

Instructor Team, the Team approach is a mandatory requirement of the program- In order to maintain certification the teams had to teach at least one course every 2 years, but most teams did at least 2 courses per year with some doing as many as 5. All Instructors were to be evaluated by either the Regional Master Instructors or the State Coordinator every 2 years. All Instructors were strictly volunteers. Master Instructors -

The Regional Master Instructors were appointed by the State Coordinator to serve as the Supervisor of the Program in their Regions which was set up in alignment with the Departments Regions. Each Region had at least Master but could have as many as Masters whose functions included Instructor Certification, Regional Program coordination, and Instructor Evaluation. They reported directly to the State Coordinator and also to The Department Coordinator as needed. In addition to their Master Instructor duties they still were expected to teach the required courses to remain certified. State Coordinator- The administration of the program fell directly on the State Coordinator. He was the person in charge of making sure that the Instructor Teams were in place, that they had the material support they needed, make sure that the Instructors were meeting the Course requirements, and was the person responsible for reporting to GF&P staff, GF&P Commissioners and SDB to the Program goals, progress, and achievements. He also had direct access to the National NBEF

Program Administrator. In addition, to the above duties and after the Elk Draw was held, it fell upon the State Coordinator to contact each successful drawn hunter that had not taken his NBEF Certification Course to make sure that he got into a course and that a course was available to him even if a team had to drive to a close location to provide the training. Most years, the number of successful applicants who still required a course ranged from 10 to 16 persons and to my knowledge, no one was ever not provided training. Course Requirements and Changes

The Student Requirement was originally meant for the First Time Bowhunter and all bow hunters between the ages of 12-16. Also any hunter who drew/ an elk tag must have completed an approved bow hunter education course. The Elk Hunter requirement has varied over the years, but it is in its original form now.

The Original Basic Course is designed to be a minimum of 8 hours of direct training by a certified team of 3 or more Instructors covering the mandatory requirements of the NBEF

Program. Due to the length of the course the "Team Approach" is a mandatory requirement to provide the students with the best instruction possible as each instructor within the team had the experience to aid in the training. Every course had the same class materials and provided the NBEF Certified training requirements but Instructor teams set up their individual class schedule that best met their students needs. The training model is largely composed of Instructor- Student participation and hands on training with shot placement, blood trailing, and treestand placement and safety being provided. Over the years, Instructors led between 50-60 Courses each year yielding approximately 100-1300 certified students. Online (distance learning) course

Field Days were implemented to hopefully satisfy the

Department's wish to provide additional courses to students who could not attend a full 8 hour course- These courses were designed to allow the student to take an online portion of the course which covered materials and information typically covered in the classroom setting. After successfully completing the online course and printing out the Completion Certificate (which was valid for one year), the student was required to attend a 4 hour Field Day. Field Days were usually held on a Saturday afternoon at a local Outdoor Archery Range. Field Days were conducted in all regions depending on pre registration. These courses were set up to do the outdoor curriculum with a more hands on approach than was available in the normal classroom setting. During a Field Day, topics covered were range estimation, shot placement, blood trailing, and a large focus on

treestand safety. Students would first provide proof of their online Completion and upon completion of the four

hour training the students would become certified. Over 5 years, 30-40 students per year took advantage of this type of training. However, on average, 50-100 students per year who took the on-line portion never registered nor completed the course via a Field Day. To replace the Distance Learning Course which was followed by a Field Day, the Total Online Course was implemented in 2014. i. was implemented by the Department to make bowhunter education more convenient and accessible for people to get certified. As the name implies, it is a 100% online course that totally eliminates hands on education. Most existing instructors at the time felt the total online course could not meet the goals of the program particularly in reference to treestand safety, shot placement and game recovery. At the time the total online course was implemented, Instructors voiced their concerns about eliminating the hands-on style of learning. They did not feel they were listened to and therefore, most instructor teams dissolved after this option became available. Originally, the total online course was

implemented as an "option" for students. From the numbers I have heard since leaving as State Coordinator the on line program has averaged between 1600 and 2000 certifications annually. One of the concerns with the distance learning program is the absence of methodology to tell us if the training provided is adequate, especially in regard to treestand safety, shot placement, and blood trailing and game recovery. To my knowledge there were possibly +10 traditional

classroom style courses held in 2017; mainly in Pierre, Rapid City, and possibly Watertown. Obstacles to inclusion of Bowhunter Education into Hunt Safe Program (from someone who also taught the South Dakota Hunt Safe course.) 1. Hunting with a bow is uniquely unlike hunting with any other piece of equipment. Bow hunters can be good firearm hunters, but firearm hunters are, by their choice of

equipment and method, are not necessarily knowledgeable for bow hunting. Two examples of this would be distance from the quarry and shot placement. This is why NBEF Instructors were required to have a minimum of 3 years bow hunting experience prior to becoming an Instructor. 2. To teach treestand safety, you should have had treestand experience and most firearm hunters lack this knowledge as their methods of hunting differ greatly. The additional time to sufficiently teach this portion of the course would be extremely limited in the typical Hunt Safe class. 3. Proper shot placement, timing of the shot, and proper equipment to insure an ethical harvest with a bow and arrow, particularly on an animal as large as an elk, requires more in depth training than time allows in the normal Hunt Safe class. This training is critical to ensure 'marginal' shots are not taken and leave a bad mark on both bowhunting and the bowhunter. many times young hunters or inexperienced hunters who without this training, make a marginal shot, may give up hunting entirely. I say this not only as an experienced Instructor but as a Father and Grandfather who has had all his children and their children take the courses! In conclusion, while I recognize that the Department Staff may see the Bowhunter Education Requirement as a deterrent to people becoming bowhunters and now their wish for more face to face training, expanding the Hunt Safe Program is not relevant to providing the new or inexperienced bowhunter the education they deserve. The concerns of the Department, in my opinion, have not changed from the first year I started teaching four NBEF courses per year in Sioux Falls in 1993. Until the Department is willing to put the responsibility of taking a course on the individual instead of the Instructors, some people will complain- In the 25 years since its inception, the Bow Hunter education program has had over 25,000 successful graduates in the state of South Dakota and by any measurable means I feel the program has been a success. To discontinue the program would be a great disservice to those 25,000 plus students and the Instructors who volunteered their time and resources to teach. As with any program over time, there are changes that can be made but dissolving the program (and regulation) is not one of them. In fairness to the Hunt Safe Instructors, it is not reasonable to expect them to adequately teach a topic about which they have little or no knowledge.

Marilyn Bentz
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As I mentioned when you and I spoke last week, my schedule may preclude me from attending the upcoming

South Dakota Game Commission meeting at Custer State Park. So please bear with me as I share some random thoughts I have had since our conversation.

The collective 2017 age data from all of our online students supports the belief that bowhunting appears to be

an activity taken up later in life as a hunter matures and desires the greater challenge of bowhunting.

Younger

age data does occur but only in states where bowhunter education has been mandated for many years previous (e.g. Nebraska). Nationally significant age groups taking bowhunter education online: a. 9% are <16

years of age. b. 33% are 26-35 years of age. c. 21% are 19-25 years of age. d. 16% are 36-45 years of age.

With the current age requirements for hunter education in SD, I am wondering if it is possible bowhunters may

not have taken any form of hunter safety education if bowhunting is begun at a later age? The generational knowledge acquired since bow ed's 1992 beginnings may be lost without continual bowhunter education efforts.

Bowhunter education can indeed expose and educate youth to a different form of hunting (bow vs. firearm). And bowhunter education may well be what today's parents are looking for as an activity for their children.

That is, a safe activity with structure and qualifies as a next step to an activity they are already engaged in in NASP. I know of one state that offers a combo course (online) hunter ed and bowhunter ed which

exposes youth to bowhunting. Course completion requires a short 3-hour field day after which both certificates are received. I would also suggest that you look at ways of offering a bowhunter education

certificate with other activities. Perhaps a next step BOW class. Most archery classes are very popular and many times are repeated by participants. Another activity at the outdoor centers could be a structured hunt to

hunt utilizing staff over several days during the summer keeping in mind the new facilities which will be

offered for archers in Rapid City. I would be interested in knowing the department's response to the following questions: 1. Have statewide bowhunter numbers gone down (or up?) since 1992? 2. What are the specific department goals for increasing bowhunter numbers and why? 3. Are other methods of hunting being explored for increasing hunter numbers? 4. What role do you foresee bowhunters having in the long range SD hunting model (5 years, 10 years)? 5. As a learning tool, why would bowhunter education be an impediment to new or existing bowhunters? In addition, please know that the NBEF would be willing to assist with whatever methods you may choose to promote bowhunting and bowhunter education. Please don't hesitate to call upon us.

Russ Roberts
St Onge SD
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I have been involved in teaching hunter safety courses in some manner for almost 20 years so I know how important these courses are and how much they can educate hunters on many levels. I ask that you continue the bowhunter education requirement for archery licenses. Sending archers in the field less prepared and educated benefits nobody and is not good for the sport.

Matt Rippentrop
Hot Springs SD
mattrippentrop@hotmail.com

The archery hunter education is worth having that currently SD GFP requires. Archery shot placement should be continued to be taught to new archers. If this requirement is removed, shot placement will get worse over time with more animals being wounded. A similar comparison could be if the Highway's speed limits were removed. Would the vehicle accidents increase with no speed limit? Will wounded animals from bad shot placement increase with no archery hunter education required anymore?

If you do decide to get rid of the archery education requirement, for a potential compromise could you please at least require the Hunt Safe Card as a replacement requirement for archery hunting? Please consider not approving the removal of the archery hunter education. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Justin Broughton
Sioux Falls SD
Justin.Broughton@premierbankcard.com

I'm writing regarding the two archery proposals before the commission during the June meeting. I strongly oppose the removal of the bowhunter education requirements for SD bowhunters. Especially first time bowhunters and potential elk hunters. The NBEF courses provide an excellent foundation for new bowhunters to learn from mentors who have bowhunting experience and to learn bowhunting specific concerns that are not taught in the HuntSafe classes. Education specifically for archers can help reduce wounding loss and increase recovery rates and improve treestand safety in all participants. We currently have no issues with hunter participation levels based upon archery tag numbers issued, there is no sound reason for removing this requirement.

Retention of Accrued Preference Points

No verbal comments were received.

Daniel John Amen
Rapid City SD
dakotainc@gmail.com
I do support the Elimination!

Kelly Koistinen
Spearfish SD
kkoistinen@fs.fed.us

The purpose of the Preference Point system is to give those who apply with preference points more chances to receive certain elk, deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, turkey and mountain goat tags over others. If you eliminate the 5 year time limit for those who don't apply with their preference, you are in fact, eliminating the advantage of the system. Do these people really need their preference points at all? They are sacrificing that

right to having preference by not using it within 5 years. Tough break for being lazy!! Now then, the other folks who do have preference points during that same time period, and use it when applying for tags no longer

have an advantage over others! Because you will be rewarding those too lazy to utilize their preferences within 5 years. What sense does this make? You would then be taking away that preference over other applicants by eliminating the 5 year limit. This is not fair to those of us who want to apply with preference. These are the things that the commission doesn't even think about when making all their proposals.

Kevin Bruzelius

Pierre SD

kevin.bruzelius@state.sd.us

I agree that after five years, you have to wonder why they are even applying, and that would bring some sensibility to the hunter's that truly want to hunt.

Snaring and Snare/Trap Marking

Chris Hesla, SDWF, Pierre, SD came to day to oppose but after reading staff recommendation to now more in favor of the finalization. Had a meeting earlier this year to discuss this topic. If people are more prepared when taking their dogs in the field... current proposal to do away with #1 are in favor.

Charles Bode, SDTA, Scotland, SD afraid people will put other people's traps in places they do not belong and they will get in trouble.

Larry Ymker, SDTA, Union County, SD against all three proposals. Need to educate people more and work together by putting up signs and working with people. Need predator control in public area to for pheasants and deer.

John Hopple, SDTA President, Black Hawk, SD, thanks for allowing continued discussion. As for 1 still opposed as it is too vast of an area. As for 3 support 100 percent it is the right direction to go. As for 2 would like to see this tabled until next spring to see in a different light as this is an issue of identity theft when people use these traps in places with someone else's trap. Currently they do not report stolen traps as just a way of doing business as they cost \$5 - \$12 dollars each. Would like to see GFP survey fur barriers to see how many are being stolen each year then take into consideration the time CO log reporting. Need to have a better way to track.

G. Jensen if traps are identified and you reported them and thief was caught wouldn't this be a good thing.

Hopple they may not catch them out there and the trap used in wrong area would end result have trappers name and tag number on it they would be held responsible.

G. Jensen if you can catch the thief wouldn't it be their responsibility.

Hopple 90 percent of the time you will not catch the trapper and they will not check traps as they should and it places a lot of responsibility on the CO's. For example like a stolen credit card may catch thief, but I may still be held responsible.

G. Jensen thank for position on dispatch snares.

Trina Lien, Aberdeen, SD on behalf of husband and son who are members of trappers association. Does agree with not using dispatch snares on public land, but still think you should be able to use other traps on public land. Snaring on public land would be better than baited traps. Need to educate youth and hunters noting it would be beneficial for predator control

Rob Fuller, Clark, SD, full time trapper over 200 days a year, education for pheasant hunter on public ground is the solution. Does not agree with 2 as right of way were not designed hunting. Said you can set a snare or trap off the right of way and for his family to do this he would need to purchase 3 different tags. Inquired what kinds of rules will be used to verify tags on traps. Noted just because other states do things differently does mean we should use their rules. If we go by what other states do we would not need our own GFP commission. Also feels trapping on GPA's and WPA's should be year round.

Spencer Poel, Aberdeen, SD should not to adopt 1. 2 has concerns that competitors are stealing traps and setting illegally. Has been a trapper for a couple years and pheasant hunter for year. Said a dog will sit against a powered snare. Not aware of other snares that would be almost impossible to get the dog out asked for clarification be made on snare types.

Ryan Brunner, SD School and Public Lands, commented on changing 1 as it regards to leased school and public lands. Supports department's recommendation to not adopt the change to rule 1. Noted these were set up to be leased to providing funding. Said predator control is a concern for the people who lease these lands. Has concerns about how the rule is being broadly written. Noted over 80 percent of lands is West River which has a different landscape then prime pheasant habitat

Craig Parkhurst, SDTA, Armour, SD. As a States Attorney and previously law enforcement he opposes proposal 1 and supports proposal 3 noted proposal 2 trap tags present a risk of identity theft. Said GFP will create an ID number and doesn't see this as much of a solution because if you watch someone set and bury a trap you can go get it and use their unique trap number to get them in trouble and smear them. Most hunters, trappers and fisherman begin when they are young. To send a way to have trap tags will likely overwhelm youth trappers and take a large portion of their budget. If a trap is stolen with tag on it then it will cause a number of other issues and CO's do not have the time to go looking for traps.

Sara Mart, Vermillion, supports GFP and activities, provided handout and told story of her family dog who was caught in trap. Explained how she took her dog to vet and discovered he was severely wounded by being caught in trap. Read comments from vet noting wound was one inch deep from ear to ear. Because wound was old it could not be stitched and took a long time to heal. Locking devise on snare traps are harmful to dogs. She would like to see trap tags forcing trappers to be accountable and her dog would not have been there for 7 days. If you do not abide by the rules your privileges would be taken away similar to fishing. Out of concern for family pets please take this into consideration when making your decision.

Jeff Clark, Veblen, SD landowner and livestock producer and member of both trapping associations. Strongly oppose 1 and 2 can live with the 3rd one. Closing the public land is not right it is public land and should be okay with taking away the spring on the snare.

Russ Cambern, Brookings, SD to clarify what has been heard in regards to trap types. Said the baited bucket has already been outlawed and trappers do police themselves. Has had traps stolen noting this is the cost of doing business and having a tag on the trap would not have helped. Has bought used traps from out of state that already have tags on them. Opposed to any changes to snaring regulations and tagging of traps. Agrees with the use of signage and media to educate and inform hunters of

possible traps and how to release dogs. Need to try this before making changes to be fair to trappers.

Kevin Parmaly, Huron, SD said snares have been around since biblical times. Dogs on snares sit down just as they do on a leash. GFP makes a handbook and it's easy to include additional information on how to release a dog from a trap. Said a bill has been pushed forward because of money not problems. Shock collars cause more harm than traps as do as well as ice and heat. For example airports to not allow dogs on planes when it is over 80 degrees. Trappers do not ask for any money but do ask to use the most humane hunter friendly tool available. You are always trying to take our rights away. What about trapper rights. Don't hunters have to have common sense? He does not support any changes. Quite honestly people do not know what they are talking about. Trap tags are no good. PETA will take care of this. Money will ruin everything.

Lance Koch, Aberdeen, Thanked Commissioner Locken for going to him with questions. Noted education is more important than anything else. On association 30 years ago and pulled to get info included in handbook. Need more to educate the hunters and public. Has been an issue for a number of years and realizes will eventually get trap tags. Noted how ticketing works. Not opposed to trap tags just does not want personal identifying info: name, number and address. Has released dogs and informed owners they should not let their dogs run wild.

John Johnson, Ortle, SD, spoke on behalf of Grasslake Conservation Club, discussion at last meeting they support 2 & 3 and said it's not only dogs that get into snares. Hoping more thought is put in when placing snares. Found a deer on his property that did not survive could not find the tethered end of the trap. It should not have been placed on his property as nobody had permission.

Jason Fisher, Watertown, SD, trapper, hunter and fisher. Support both sides of the issue. Leaves dog at home when trapping as he has caught him. Adjusts his season personally. Thinks both pheasant and trapping seasons should be shortened. Need to educate people by the handbook and put up signs. Dog has been caught before and it didn't hurt him he sat down and was able to release him. Would like to see it stay the way it is. Opposed to 1. 2 could see it but recommends signs to let people know and proposes marking of a general area trap tag/sign. He traps the land he hunts allowing him better hunting by being more responsible. Thinks there is a middle ground that should be met and taking away trapping on public grounds is an issue. East of Watertown there are no pheasants feels lands should be properly managed for all.

Thomas Jones, Britton, SD, questions about 3 but opposes all three. Looks at it as standpoint of parent with college age son who he snares coyotes with. 1 would not allow him to hunt during college winter break. Feels regulations need to be kept simple. The more complicated the less people who will trap and this is already a commitment. If there is not a scientific reason then do not do this. He does use dispatch snares at sometimes and has caught dog with no problems to release. Need to be clear when discussing different types of snares and painting with a really broad brush doesn't work

Vince Logue, Oelrichs, SD Western SD Fur Harvesters, oppose 1, although does support education. On both sides education is the key to getting along and making things work. Oppose 2 there is no legit reason to tag traps and snares. No way to prove it is being used by that individual. Can't keep people from breaking the law. Tags will get ripped off of traps and snares. The get damaged each year by animals and this will be the

piece with the least resistance. Lady who's dog got caught her fight is with an illegal trapper. Supports 3.

Jared Kayser, Sioux Falls, SD, Dog was caught in a snare in November and the locking mechanism was broken. Didn't have phone, couldn't leave as dog would have tried to follow. Need education and supports 1. Need signs on public ground. Thinks trappers should have trap tags no different than an ice shack. Supports 3.

Dan Kayser, Sioux Falls, Could have lost his son and his dog. Don't have any issues against trappers. Supports trappers and realizes the benefits. Need to work together to promote abundant opportunities we have. The key is to make is safe for all those who use the land. This petition is a safety issue. One of the things that bothered him were statements that this was an overreaction to one incident. He has talked to many people and it happens frequently. Had to shoot snare with gun he could not release. Not sure if snare was legal or not. Their dog sat down, but if son would have left dog would have fought and died. Not here to sling mud. SD Trappers have waged a strong campaign against proposal. He doesn't have time to counter the trappers, Many people support this petition. Supports trapping, but have to find a compromise. Education needs to be included. Hunter safety courses, NGO banquets. Simply a safety issue.

Jerry Eckerich, Spearfish, SD, Defer to comments made by Commissioner Brunner and in regards to 3 he defers to most of the trappers in the room. Likes the idea of education and would encourage seeing information in the hunting handbook

Bill Fuller, Clark, SD member of SD Sheepgrowers Association, Has worked with GFP for years. In regards to trap tags they are not necessary. Asked if trapping in right of way applies to all roads? Asked what constitutes federal lands? Firmly against closing and trapping on right of ways especially during pheasant seasons which is the heart of trapping season when the furs are worth more. Thank the Commission for supporting the wildland trapping. Thinks this goes against encouraging trapping then restricting it. To the lady with the dog that is most important to him next to his wife and kids and it is his responsibility to keep his dog at this place.

Russell Cambern
Sioux Falls SD
russell.camborn@gmail.com

I am a pheasant hunter and never had any problems with this. We need the trappers out there for population control or there will be even less pheasants.

5/7/2018

Comment:

Lee Nelson
Rapid City SD
leemnelson@hotmail.com
No comment text provided.

5/7/2018

Comment:

09. Snaring and Snare/Trap Marking Proposal from April Meeting

Kevin Thibodeau
Onida SD
tibs196@yahoo.com

I believe this is an unfair resolution. We as trappers also fund the purchase and development of public lands. We have as much right to utilize this land as anybody else. A more reasonable solution could be the requirement to use relaxing locks. I personally have released pets from my snares with no harm done due to the use of relaxing locks. In my opinion the preservation of pheasant populations should be considered by a

trappers removal of predators. Thank you.

5/12/2018

Comment:

Kevin Thibodeau

Onida SD

tibs196@yahoo.com

There seems to be no reason for this requirement. The only thing it may cause is the possible persecution of trappers by people who oppose our passion of predator control. Also, I have communicated with people who live in states that currently require trap tags. They greatly express their disgust with this law because of the added cost and difficulty keeping tags legible. Thank you

5/12/2018

Comment:

Steve Alverson

Chester SD

stevealverson@hotmail.com

I am in opposition to the public land and right of way snaring restrictions proposed. I have trapped in eastern SD for 50 years and have seen many changes. Farming practices have changed to the point where it has taken away habitat and snaring locations. Many fences are eliminated, ditches are filled in and crops are planted within a few feet of the road. Wetlands are burned and drained with the use of tile, thus no more habitat. The ditches that are left, and public hunting areas have been a big part of a trappers set location for many years. The proposal to shut down snaring in these locations until after pheasant season would eliminate

a valuable tool in a raccoon and predator trappers arsenal. There is a very short window for a prime coon harvest. From mid november to usually the first week in december. This proposal would effect many trappers who pursue not only raccoon, but other predators like fox and coyote. And mink trappers who also use snares. These proposals have been considered due to a few hunting dogs being caught in a snare. Snares can easily be taken off a dog by the owner. Educating hunters is the key. Signs at public areas and few words

in the hunting hand book to explain that snares may be set in these public areas is the solution. Not to take away the rights of hundreds of trappers, because of complaints by a few.

Steve Alverson

5/12/2018

Comment:

Steve Cherkas

Edgemont TN

sacherkas@msn.com

I oppose making trapping more restrictive. From snaring perspective the fur is best Nov and Dec. Do NOT take this away. Nov 13 already too late. Move pheasant season up instead.

I oppose requiring trap tags. Name gives activists ability to track you down and do things to harm you.

Personal ID forces trapper to remove tags if trapping in other states.

5/13/2018

Comment:

Larry- Rossum

Rapid City SD

larry4609@gmail.com

Dear commissioners,

I am writing in response to some recent proposals to our current snaring and trapping regulations. I have over

45 years experience of fur harvesting beginning with my first trapline run on a bicycle to creeks and ponds around Rapid City and progressing to long lines run all over many west river counties.

While we all regret the accidental catch of a hunters dog, the runaway emotional train always wants to put the

regulations on the trapper even though these are isolated incidents. Essentially eliminating two months of snare use during the peak and prime fur time of fur harvesting is in my view an over reaction and not acceptable. The snare is an incredibly useful tool that we use and prohibiting its use would be like not allowing hunters to use to use their dogs while pheasant hunting. That would drastically change the pheasant

hunt in the same way our fur harvesting would be greatly handicapped.

I believe some common sense education could go a long way on an issue like this one. Most dogs are trained

to a leash and do not fight hard against a snare and simple manipulation of the locking device opens the snare right up for easy removal.

it also seem that these hunting dog incidents take place east river where the pheasant habitat is. There are several trapping regulations that vary from east river to west river and while I do not think the east river fur harvesters should lose their snaring opportunities during the pheasant season, I certainly do not think it is fair or logical to apply this restriction statewide where pheasant hunting is very limited or non existent such as the

Black Hills and National Grasslands. Personally I would like to see our snaring opportunities on public lands west river return to year round like it used to be.

I've spent a lifetime pursuing South Dakotas fur bearers and it has taught me about hard work and responsibility as well as great memories and fun. My grandkids are now tagging along on the trapline and I see the excitement in their eyes as well. Please don't let the full burden and more restrictions fall to one group

that will hinder their outdoor pursuits in order to solve an unfortunate isolated incident.

Thanks for your time!

Larry Rossum

Rapid City

5/13/2018

Comment:

Tim Larson

Centerville SD

Beaverskinner484@gmail.com

I've been trapping for over 40 years most of my trapping is right a way trapping as I still have to work a full time job. I set up a trapline to check on the way to work and one on the way home, I do this for the limited time I have, im usually checking before 4am until usually 7 before work then 2 to 3 hours after, I do this because if I had to get permission and drive in every field I wouldn't be checking many sets with the time it takes. So if the public land snaring is banned until after pheasant season it would not be worth snaring, most coyotes will be rubbed most coons will be hibernating or rubbed it would mean the end of my trapping. A better solution would be to educate everybody that uses public land that their could be trappers right along with pheasant hunters, trapping most certainly helps the pheasant population. As far as trap tags I see no need for them as it's going to open up a whole new can of worms, anybody that's breaking the law will not have trap tags, but could steal a law abiding trappers trap or tag and set it illegally who's gonna get the blame, the name on the tag will I'll bet, so we don't need them. We need to educate people

5/14/2018

Comment:

Shane Simon

Nemo SD

kingofwildfrontier@msn.com

I am writing to express that I am opposed to the prohibition of snaring on public grounds until the end of pheasant season. I am also opposed to the requirement of placing name tags on traps as this accomplishes nothing toward public safety and is yet another unnecessary restriction and expense on trappers. I am also opposed to the unnecessary requirement to restrict the use of spring powered snares on game production areas and waterfowl production areas. It is my opinion that imposing such a restrictive set of proposals will have devastating results to the trapping community. Prime fur exists during these critical times and further restriction will not accomplish any reasonable safety to hunting dogs. As a hunter and trapper, should the unlikely event happen that a dog is caught in a snare you are right on the spot to see that your dog is caught up and you can release it safely before injury occurs. South Dakota is one of the last great outdoor places and restricting the trapping community is a step that is hard to reverse once it is in place and I do not support the idea that pheasant hunting should "take priority" over trapping or any other outdoor activity. As a disabled vet, I have served my country to ensure that all rights exist to law abiding, outdoor enthusiasts and hope that many generations to follow will be able to enjoy the same outdoor experiences that I participate in today.

Thanks for your consideration and I hope you do the right thing and choose not to further restrict the trapping community!

Shane Simon

5/15/2018

Comment:

Tim Larson

Centerville SD

Beaverskinner484@gmail.com

I oppose the use of trap tags and restrictions on snares I added comments earlier but it said other instead of opposing

5/15/2018

Comment:

Tracy Kaiser

Sioux Falls SD
tracyk39@outlook.com

My son Jared and our lab, Piper were hunting pheasants last fall on public land, when Piper walked into a snare trap. Jared could not go for help because Piper would have tried to follow him, and would've choked to death. He did not have his phone on him, so was prepared to stay with his faithful hunting dog in freezing temperatures. How could you just leave your dog you love to die? I have no doubt Jared could have possibly lost his life if a passerby wouldn't have heard him yelling for help, and stopped to help them. I can't believe these traps which are dangerous and easily walked into, are allowed on public land during pheasant hunting season. As a very concerned wife, mother of three sons and two Labradors that are all avid hunters, I ask that these proposed changes are enacted.

5/20/2018

Comment:

Dan Kaiser

Sioux Falls SD
kaiser39@msn.com

Based on the risk to those who hunt these public lands I believe this is a fair compromise to the trapping ensnaring regulations

5/20/2018

Comment:

Trevor Janssen

Sioux Falls SD
trevjanssen@hotmail.com

Let me start off by saying that I am a strong supporter of all aspects of outdoorsman rights, and am a huge supporter of trapping. While I don't participate myself, I reap the positive benefits while hunting multiple small game species. I also completely understand that in the grand scheme of things, we're in this fight together - we all need to work together to promote hunting, trapping, and fishing for future generations, and be good stewards of the public land that affords most of us the right to execute this privilege. That being said, I'd like to

show my support for the new proposed amendments to the current trapping season with regards to public lands. It's only logical in my eyes to eliminate the overlapping seasons - safety always needs to come first, and we need to stand by that as outdoorsmen regardless of the issue. It does not make sense to allow unposted trapping of public lands for furbearing species, including coyotes, at the same time that pheasant hunters - and specifically their canine companions - are taking to the field. It's an accident waiting to happen, and already has - probably more so than any of us realize. While the proposed amendment may or may not be a perfect resolution, it's a positive step to protect both interests.

5/22/2018

Comment:

David Otten

Tea SD
davidotten999@gmail.com

We have more than just pheasant hunters in this state, we have deer, waterfowl and upland bird trappers. We

all pay for this public land. Who gets the biggest share of it. Pheasant hunting brings in a lot of money. Predator control is big in this state, we pay a lot of money controlling coyote. If we have to wait until pheasant hunters are done, what does that leave trappers? Picking up scraps. It's hard to trap or snare in the snow. Our pheasant hunters got to know they are not the only people out there. People got to realize they're not the only ones out there.

I know it only takes a few incidents to have things go bad from fishing to hunting, trapping etc. You only have to ask a land owner and hear what pheasant hunters have, too. Two wrongs don't make a right. Some other fixes I like could be requiring a sign or a flag to tell others that traps or snares are being used at the gate or within 100 yards. Trap tags work too.

5/22/2018

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David Otten

Tea SD
davidotten999@gmail.com

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5/22/2018

Comment:

Steve Chilson

Florence SD

The Grass Lake Conservation Club at its last meeting discussed the possible changes being considered to the trapping regulations. We are in favor of requiring ID tags to all traps being placed on public lands and road

right-of-ways. Thank you for taking our opinion into consideration as you make your decision.

5/23/2018

Comment:

Jerry Riedel

Watertown SD

I have been trapping approximately 70 years of my 76 ears of life, including 37 years with the Game, Fish and

Parks as an Animal Damage Control Specialist at Watertown. I am in opposition to trap and snare tagging, as

I want to avoid situations where one individual can steal tagging traps or snares, or just the tags, and then use

them illegally, thus framing an innocent trapper. I am also aware that trapped animals will remove tags from traps and snares, thus giving the set the appearance of being illegal. I would also like to avoid situations where traps or snares are tampered with or disturbed by Conservation Officers or the general public when checking for tags on traps or snares. "IF" tags are approved please use a registered numbering systems and not names to avoid situations of confrontations. In reference to trapping and snaring on Public Lands I would favor leaving the regulations as is, with Public Land closed only to snaring until the 2nd Saturday of November. However, I would favor the prohibiting of snares with locks that are spring powered on all Public Land year round. I would favor allowing the use of dog proof traps, live traps, 4 inch body grip traps (110 conibear style traps) and colony traps during the entire trapping season. I would favor a regulations that would

restrict larger traps and snare loop sizes for larger predators but would still allow for the harvesting of skunk, raccoon, fox, mink, muskrat, and weasel on all Public Land for the entire trapping season. I am sure the Commission and Staff will also take into consideration when setting any trapping regulations the amount of free predator and nuisance animal control the state receives from the private trapper. I feel the solution to the current trapping issue problems is EDUCATION! The trapper must be educated when making his trapping sets, his choice of equipment and time of year of placement of said set of respect dogs and dog owners and their right to use Public Land. Perhaps mandatory trapper education will be needed just as hunter safety courses are taught. The hunter must be educated to the fact there may be trapping equipment present on Public Land. The hunter should be taught how to release a trapped or snared dog without injury to the dog or hunter. The hunter should also be reminded of all the free predator and nuisance animal control the trapper provide. Various forms of education and are available that could be provided by the Game, Fish and Parks, South Dakota Trappers Association, Pheasants Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited and numerous Sportsman's Clubs

through the use of internet contact, news media, Game, Fish and Parks Hunting and Trapping Guides, signs on Public Land, videos, public meetings and classes. Thank you for your time and considerations on these comments.

5/23/2018

Comment:

Dan Krogman

White River SD

For starters, I don't feel like I have a horse in this race, as all my trapping and snaring are done on private ground. I do feel like I need to support my fellow trappers that aren't as fortunate. As a long time trapper and snareman I think all three of your proposals are unwarranted. As for proposal one. Anyone that has caught and marketed many coyote knows that by Jan 15 coyotes are past prime and fur is breaking down. Trappers

should have 85% of their coyotes taken by this date. How many pheasants and deer are saved by trappers taking the surplus of animals with snares and traps? A question not easily answered. Traps and snares are tools that unpaid trappers use to keep predators in check. It's hard enough for unpaid trappers to break even without putting a time restriction on doing what they love to do. Let alone the fact that coyotes and coon are nearly worthless by then. Also the fact that there are few pheasant hunters in the Black Hills and plains of SD.

I feel education is the key answer here with dog hunters and trappers. Proposal #2 Tags on traps does absolutely nothing to protect any dogs or catch more coyotes. The trappers that use public land have along with the dog hunters have paid their fees. The trapper East River do not need anti hunter - trapper wacos knocking on their door harassing them. It's just an accessory trappers here don't need. Proposal #3 I am a member of WSDFHA. Out Accoc. may back this proposal but I can't. It's taken decades to get snares and traps the tools they are today. Why would you go backwards with non dispatch locks? Kill springs and locking

locks are a giant step forward in killing coyotes not dogs. Any dog that's ben tied and broke to lead will not be killed by a dispatch snare. Break away devices and locking locks are a huge advancement over the old locks that acted like a saw on a coyotes neck. I want my coyotes quickly and humanely killed if at all possible. Again any dog that has been lead broke or tied will be there wagging their tail. With any hunting and trapping things can and will go wrong. Hunters do get in hunting accidents. Young and inexperienced trappers and hunters are gonna make mistakes. I did. I've trapped and snared for over 50 years and try to keep my mistakes to the very minimum. It's all we can do. I once had a young turkey hunter shoot an Angus calf in the high weeds. Had a cousin get a horse shot and killed in place of a deer. You know they never did it intentionally. I believe hunters and trapper education is your best proposal.

5/23/2018

Comment:

**Kenneth Lipp
Rapid City SD**

The 1st I believe are unnecessary I'm 68 years old and have trapped for years and have never seen a hunter with a bird dog. We do not have many game birds in Western South Dakota or the Black Hills. I should clarify not seeing bird dogs, in the areas that I trap. If we could catch all the coyotes we might have a few birds but that will never happen!

5/23/2018

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Rapid City SD**

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clarify not seeing bird dogs, in the areas that I trap. If we could catch all the coyotes we might have a few birds but that will never happen!

5/23/2018

Comment:

**Kenneth Lipp
Rapid City SD**

I'm writing in regard to the possible loss of trapping in South Dakota with snares and a requirement to have all

traps marked with personal ID and unique numbers. I just read the commissions three proposals and I agree with proposal #3 but am opposed to numbers 1 and 2. The first and second I believe are unnecessary I'm 68 years old and have trapped for years and have never seen a hunter with a bird dog. We do not have many game birds in Western South Dakota or the Black Hills. I should clarify not seeing bird dogs, in the areas that I

trap. If we could catch all the coyotes we might have a few birds but that will never happen!

5/23/2018

Comment:

**Darci Adams
Hartford SD**

dadams@humanesociety.org

May 23, 2018

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

523 East Capitol Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners:

5/23/2018

Comment:

We oppose the trapping and killing of animals for fur pelts and trophies. Such exploitation causes needless and unjustifiable death and is, therefore, inconsistent with the aims of a humane society. Considering that, we

urge you to support the proposal amending the trapping prohibitions in Chapter 41:08:02. These proposals offer commonsense updates to South Dakota's trapping regulations. These changes are necessary to reduce

animal suffering, to protect unintended victims, and to provide accountability to citizens who have a public interest in healthy wild animal populations and a personal concern for the safety of their companion animals. This proposed action would require traps and snares placed on public land and improved rights-of-way to be marked with information identifying the trap owner. South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require

traps to bear information identifying the trap owner or the person using it. This lack of identification information

makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally. Traps used exclusively on private property would be exempt from this identification requirement.

This proposal would rightly limit the use of inhumane snares and powered snares. All snares use a wire or cable loop that tightens around an animal's neck, body, or limb and causes extreme suffering, asphyxia, and

even death. Killing snares are designed to kill by strangulation as the animal struggles against the tightening wire, often causing grotesque swelling and hemorrhaging of the head. Studies have shown that killing snares are ineffective at consistently capturing canids at the optimal neck location in order to ensure the quickest death possible. Less than 50% of canids captured by the neck in killing snares lose consciousness within 5 minutes of being captured; most suffer longer. Animals captured around the abdomen by killing snares may suffer from disembowelment. Restraining snares are intended to only hold the animal, but they often cause the animal pain, injury, and death when they malfunction. Some animals are hanged to death in these devices

if they jump over a fence or branch in an attempt to escape. Animals caught in snares can die from exposure,

dehydration, or starvation.

Snares capture non-target animals, such as imperiled species and pets. We don't know how many nontarget

animals suffer or die because trappers are not required to report these captures. However, in field studies, snares have caught non-target wildlife, birds, and dogs. In some studies, snares have been up to only 50% selective, meaning that one non-target animal was captured for each target animal captured.

Snares are cheap and easy to make. Easily set in large numbers, these inconspicuousness land mines may

be abandoned on the landscape, leaving all animals vulnerable.

For the foregoing reasons we request your support for the amendments to Chapter 41:08:02 to update South Dakota's trapping regulations.

Sincerely,

Darci Adams

South Dakota State Director

The Humane Society of the United States

PO Box 733, Hartford, SD 57033

dadams@humanesociety.org

P 605-595-4860

humanesociety.org

Papouchis, C.M. (2004). A critical review of trap research. In Fox, C.H. and Papouchis, C.M. (eds) *Cull of the Wild. A Contemporary Analysis of Wildlife Trapping in the United States*. Animal Protection Institute. Sacramento, California pp 41-55. Bang Publishing: Brainerd, Minnesota, USA.

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Papouchis, supra note 1.

Iossa, G., Soulsbury, C. D., & Harris, S. (2007). Mammal trapping: a review of animal welfare standards of killing and restraining traps. *Animal Welfare*, 16(3), 335-352.

Jessica Betts

Oacoma SD

Jessinne@yahoo.com

My dad's dog was caught in a trap while hunting public land. Thankfully he knew how to release him. If this were me, with any of my dogs, I would not have known how to release trap. Traps should be marked with owners info

5/23/2018

Comment:

Lori Lockman

Sioux Falls SD

Lolo2379@gmail.com

I fully support this effort and urge GF&P to do so also. Since SD is only one of a few remaining states that don't require trap ID's, how can we expect law enforcement to know who is using them illegally? Plus this will protect animals who may fall victim to these traps. It's a win/win.

5/23/2018

Comment:

Jerome Eckrich

Spearfish SD

The proposal strikes me as reasonable, balanced and fair. I grew up in Aberdeen spending much of my time outdoors hunting a lot and trapping some. These days most of my hunting is on West River public lands. Times have changed since I was a kid. Private hunting land is now a luxury for many, including myself. Knowing which lands I share with traps and trappers is a safety issue for me and a simple courtesy. I respect the interests of trappers-many of whom I suspect appreciate the dollars earned off our public lands. The GFP proposal reasonably accommodates the interests of all who love tramping our public sloughs and gullies.

Thank you.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Melissa John

Sioux Falls SD

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Sara Parker

Sioux Falls SD

sara.parker@perceptivemedia.net

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user.

This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Brenda Manning

Pierre SD

buzz_brenda@yahoo.com

SDGFP Commission, please support the proposal as SD is a rarity when it comes to requiring traps to bear identifying information such as the trap owner/user. This lack of identification hinders law enforcement to be able to identify people who may be using traps illegally and this will greatly help protect unintended victims of trapping.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Janine Betts

Oacoma SD

janineinsd@yahoo.com

I urge SDGFP Commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail

to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner and user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Barry Betts
Oacoma SD
bioserve@midstatesd.net

I urge SDGFP to support the proposal as SD is one of just a few that does not require identity.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Sara Mart
Vermillion SD
sara.mart@usd.edu

I beg you to please support this proposal. I live near Clay County Park. My dog, Rex, went missing for 7 days this winter, during a week of extreme cold, snow & wind. He is never away from home overnight, so we assumed he had died. After 7 days, he returned home on his own, badly wounded by a snare trap. His entire neck was cut all the way around, with the worst part being his throat which was sliced 1" deep from ear to ear.

The vet said the wound appeared to be 6-7 days old. We assume he was caught in the trap all week and released by the trapper who finally checked that trap after 1 week. His tracks in the snow came from the direction of the park, so we assume the trap was at or near the park. Please make trappers more accountable

for their traps. I do not want this to happen to another pet, nor do I want a wild animal to suffer in a similar way. Makes me sick. Thank you for your consideration.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Sarah Taggart
Vermillion SD
sarahtaggart@outlook.com

☐ I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that

fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping.

5. Click ☐ I am not a robot, follow instructions and hit SUBMIT - that's it & you will be on the record with the SDGFP Commission.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Terry Krsnak
Rapid City SD
tjkpj@msn.com

The proposed snare restrictions are an over reaction to the hunting dog incident. If the restrictions are enacted, they will curtail predator control because fur quality will not be worth the effort after pheasant season

ends; and in the era of diminished habitat predator control becomes more important. Also, what has the additional regulations of name tags on each snare or trap got to do with any of this?

5/24/2018

Comment:

Roberta Rotherham
SD

No comment text provided.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Becky Jensen
Meckling SD
rkjensen@usd.edu

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Casey Mart
Vermillion SD
Casey.mart3@gmail.com

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal

5/24/2018

Comment:

Abby Protzman

Norfolk NE

nebraska.rose@gmail.com

No comment text provided.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Kelly Saunders

Vermillion SD

sd is one of the only state that does not make trappers identify their traps.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Gina Mairose

Vermillion SD

gina.mairose@usd.edu

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping

5/24/2018

Comment:

Colleen Evans

Vermillion SD

hupiper82@gmail.com

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Kristine Brady

Vermillion SD

klbrady71@yahoo.com

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Holly Haddad

Vermillion SD

holly.haddad@usd.edu

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping.

5/24/2018

Comment:

John Kidney

Vermillion SD

Jake.kidney@gmail.com

Hours or days of suffering for animals domesticated or wild is cruel and should not be practiced.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Robin Talsma

Sioux Falls SD

Bubaloo2@hotmail.com

No comment text provided.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Judy Zwolak

Vermillion SD
judithzwolak@gmail.com

South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping

5/24/2018

Comment:

Deborah Dodge

SD

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Morgan Hower

North Sioux City SD

Morgan.hower@yahoo.com

No comment text provided.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Maggie Peterson

Vermillion SD

Maggie.r.peterson@gmail.com

My dog is a victim of illegal trapping and was in a trap for a week unnoticed by the trapper

5/25/2018

Comment:

Brenda Moss

Vermillion SD

1blmoss@gmail.com

I run the "Vermillion-Southeast South Dakota Lost and Found Pets" group on Facebook. During the last trapping season, two dogs near Vermillion were caught in snare traps. In one case, the trapper checked his trap as required by law, and the dog was released without serious injury. However, in another case, the trapper did not check the trap as required by law, and the dog remained in the trap for approximately 7 days (Clay County Park). This dog suffered severe neck wounds and required extensive veterinary care.

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping.

5/25/2018

Comment:

Jared Kaiser

Sioux Falls SD

pipersd15@gmail.com

I fully support the updated trapping regulations. A hunting dog's life should never be in jeopardy over the slim possibility of trapping a coyote. I support trapping, but not on public land during pheasant season. This is a common sense update to the regulations and if not passed many dogs lives remain in jeopardy.

5/27/2018

Comment:

Cheryl Bowden

Hot Springs SD

bowdens@gwtc.net

I oppose the first and second proposed changes to our trapping regulations. I want the snaring on public lands starting date to remain Nov. 13th. I oppose trap tags as it is a burden on trappers and serves no useful purpose what so ever.

5/28/2018

Comment:

Jim Sparks

Spearfish SD

Jjsparks@rushmore.com

Prefer the law stays as it currently is.

5/28/2018

Comment:

Dennis Morton

Rapid City SD

bayushisoshu@gmail.com

I do not support the proposed restrictions on the use of snares on public land. Pheasant hunters should not be shown preference in regard to public land use. Thank you for considering my input.

Vincent Logue

Oelrichs SD

vjlogue@outlook.com

Proposal #1: I oppose the proposal to extend the prohibition on use of snares on public lands and improved rights of way. It would take almost 2 months away from snaring time away and would end about the time that furs are losing their prime. Public land should be shared by all taxpayers and not just one group. This proposal would include areas in South Dakota that have no pheasant hunting such as forest service, BLM and

Buffalo Gap Grasslands. There is no consideration for pheasant hunters to take precautions for their animals.

If in fact the hunter is in control of the dog it should only be a few minutes that the animal may be in a snare. A simple pair of inexpensive cable cutters, such as trappers use, in the hands of a pheasant hunter can insure

safe, stress free removal of the animal from any snare that it may get entangled in.

Proposal #2: I oppose the creation of a new administrative rule requiring all traps and snares placed on public lands and improved rights of way be marked with owner's name and address or personal identification number. This rule would solve no problems and would incur extra expense for the trappers of South Dakota. This rule could be used as a means to harass a trapper if anyone was so inclined. A identification tag on the snare would not have kept the dog from getting caught or assisted in removing the dog from the snare. Once again a pair of cable cutters, which are easily carried in a pocket, would have made removing the dog from the snare a lot easier and less stressful for both dog and owner.

Proposal #3: I support the proposal banning the use of springs or other powering devices that hold a snare closed on snares used on the game production and waterfowl production areas above water yearround. I believe it is in the best interest of both trappers and hunters sharing public lands. It is notable that the snare that the dog was caught in last December was not equipped with a dispatch spring.

5/29/2018

Comment:

Larry Bowden

Hot Springs SD

bowdens@gwtc.net

I strongly oppose items one and two in the current proposal. To restrict snaring on all public lands thru the end of pheasant season is to much. Trappers have the right to use public land just as much as hunters. Lots of west river public land doesn't even have pheasant populations. The term public land is to broad.

Trap tags serve no purpose and are just an added expense and headache for the trapper.

Trappers provide free predator control which enhances game and bird populations. Why doesnt GF&P acknowledge this and support the trapping community instead introducing unnessary regulations that will increase predator populations? Increased predator populations which will consume more of our already dwindling pheasant population. Trappers provide a valuable service, why not work with us instead of against us?

5/30/2018

Comment:

Charles Kelsey

Hot Springs SD

ctkelsey@earthlink.net

I strongly oppose the current, seemingly useless but certainly impossibly restrictive proposals #1 (prohibition on snares through pheasant season) & 2 (marking traps with owners ID), that will eliminate or severely restrict

trapping on PUBLIC LANDS during a large portion of the season that fur-bearers are in prime condition, and impose additional useless, and cumbersome trap tagging regulation. PLEASE DO NOT LET THESE TWO PROPSALS PASS! THANK YOU. SINCERELY, CHARLES KELSEY

5/30/2018

Comment:

Michael Morris

Henley MO

ufc.moose@yahoo.com

Your trappers pay taxes too and have just as much right to trap as the bird hunters have to hunt birds.

5/30/2018

Comment:

Daniel Turbak

Reville SD

turbakda@hotmail.com

It is my understanding that in the last 15 years there are no instances of a dog being killed in a snare in South

Dakota. Why try to regulate something that isn't a problem? Dog owners should simply be made aware that traps and snares are potentially on public land and they should prepare themselves. If a dog bites somebody on public hunting land are we going to ban dogs from being on the public land?

5/30/2018

Comment:

Lesel Reuwsaat

Creighton SD

leereuwsaat@yahoo.com

I strongly oppose any change to the current regulations in place. Restricting the use of these PUBLIC LANDS

through the end of pheasant season has only one party in mind. These grounds are for all sportsman to use and use equally. As far as trap tags go, these do not do anything to solve any of the issues at hand.

The SD Game and Fish pays a wage and benefits to the state trappers to help with damage control. The SD recreational and professional trapper provides this service to the state and other sportsman at no cost. We help protect and facilitate healthy wildlife opportunities for all sportsman. Don't regulate us more than we already are!

5/30/2018

Comment:

Mandi Reuwsaat

Creighton SD

mandireuwsaat@yahoo.com

No comment text provided.

5/30/2018

Comment:

Tanner Opetize

Watertown SD

Who's idea was this? The is the perfect example of liberals making laws that do nothing more but create additional laws that are unneeded. South Dakotans are better than this, if anything we should be allowing more trapping and snaring to occur, not take it away. I spoke to 37 pheasant hunters and none of them are in support of any of these proposed changes. When anti-hunting groups support a commission rule, commissioners should be asking themselves if they are making a decision with the best interest of sportsmen

in mind. I urge you to revoke this entire proposal. Thank you.

5/30/2018

Comment:

James Hanley

Cresbard SD

jphcar5@hotmail.com

This Comes about because of a hunters dog being caught in a snare / said animal turned out fine . the 3 proposals would not solve a problem that real does not exist.. A. because a K9 can be release from a snare with no harm to k9.. By implementing these restriction I feel it would cost the state a lot of money first to implement it and second to the money coming into the state from pheasant hunting. If the predators are not kept in check . In part by snaring the pheasant Hatch will be down and then the pheasant number thus less hunters coming to spend there dollars THIS would TOTALLY affect the states economy ..so I wish the law to remain as is on snaring ...

5/31/2018

Comment:

Jason Kleist

Highland WI

kleist.jason1991@gmail.com

I strongly oppose changes 1, 2, and 3. Restricting snaring on public lands through the end of pheasant season is to long. Not all public lands have pheasants. Restricting snaring on public lands could cause an increase in predator populations.

5/31/2018

Comment:

Dale Halling

Bryant SD

aaapurewater@yahoo.com

I have been a life long trapper and a member of the South Dakota Trapping Association.

I oppose the changes you are wanting to make for snaring in the road right away and public hunting and trapping areas. Also, I would not like to have to put name tags on any traps or snares.

Trappers catch many animals that consume the eggs of pheasants, ducks and geese. By doing this I feel all trappers are doing a service for the SD wildlife.

5/31/2018

Comment:

Marvin Halls

Hot Springs SD

tuffhalls@outlook.com

I oppose any changes to trapping regulations concerning public land.

5/31/2018

Comment:

Travis Hymans

Lake Norden SD

tkhymans@itctel.com

In regards to the proposed trapping regulations, I don't agree with them. The trapping tag proposed is an unnecessary expense and easy for thieves to steal traps and reset illegally to knock out competition. It also makes it possible for anti-trapping advocates to get a trappers address and harass them. It does nothing to promote legal sets, a person making an illegal set won't put a tag on anyways. And the proposed ban on snaring until the end of pheasant season basically cuts out snaring for raccoon's of which are one of the hardest on pheasant eggs. With low pheasant numbers, will the season for pheasants be shortened?

5/31/2018

Comment:

Enoch Pashby

Box Elder SD

enoch_pa@yahoo.com

Public ground should be available for the use of all legal outdoor recreation. Sportsmen who devote their lives

to trapping or snaring should not be regulated out of the public grounds because of the big money that pheasant hunting brings to the state. The bottom line is this, it is the responsibility of the hunter to ensure the safety of his dog. We should not be punished so that pheasant hunters don't have to watch their dogs.

5/31/2018

Comment:

Tyler Kari

Bison SD

relyt1996@hotmail.com

I am strongly opposed to all of the proposed changes to trapping and snaring in our state. The problems they claim to be addressing are literally non-existent. No dogs have been killed in the state by being caught in a snare and identification adds another set of hoops for the law abiding citizen to jump through. Trappers should have the same opportunity to use public land as everyone else! One complaint should not affect all of South Dakota's trappers. I strongly urge the commission to properly educate themselves about trapping and snaring as any intelligent individual could see that these proposed changes are unnecessary.

6/1/2018

Comment:

Todd Chamley

Trent SD

karla-todd@goldenwest.net

These proposed changes, shows how one sided the commission looks at its constituents. How is it fair to cater to one group of sportsman, while throwing another group's privileges aside. If you want to address rule violations, I would love to see the number of ROW violations committed by "road hunters" vs trappers, I can assure you it is not even a contest who violates more laws. But there is no way would our state even mumble the notion of restricting the hunting of ditch parrots rights. By no means would I ever want to see hunting regs

changed, I'm simply pointing out the contrast of thoughts. Once we allow some of our rights to be taken, from that point forward others see a weakness and we will be expected to cater to every whim that is brought forward from that day on. Give an inch, they will always try for a mile next, you can count on that!

6/1/2018

Comment:

John Hauge
Deadwood SD
jdhaug44@gmail.com

I am writing in support of the proposed rule to require all traps to be labeled with the owners ID. This is an idea that needs to be implemented and I thank you for proposing it. Please implement it.

6/1/2018

Comment:

Mark Steck
Canton SD
dakotalinemark@yahoo.com

Dear Commissioners and Secretary Heppler,

Reason: Snaring regulations

I am opposed to the proposal (#1) banning snares from all public lands during pheasant season. It is far too broad regarding public lands. I see this as an anti-trapping bill that pits sportsman against sportsman.

Furthermore I find it odd in the way this proposal has been championed. It is not a grass roots effort by bird hunters, nor is it a recommendation by the division of wildlife.

As for the tagging of traps on public lands (#2), I am opposed. Again I find this perplexing in its genesis and rational.

6/1/2018

Comment:

Mark Steck
Canton SD
dakotalinemark@yahoo

Proposal #3 which prohibits dispatch type snares on GPA and WPA is a decent rule and should be common sense among trappers. I can support this rule yet find myself wondering if this compromising with what appears to be an assault on South Dakota freedoms. Despite these thoughts I can support #3.

Thank you for allowing me to bring my dog Sadie to the last commission meeting. I do feel education is key to

these issues. I also think there should be a mandatory trapper certification course.

6/1/2018

Comment:

Mark Smedsrud
Hartford SD
smedsrud@unitelsd.com

I am writing in opposition to the current proposal to change snaring regulations on public land in South Dakota.

Coyote, Fox and raccoon are at their peak fur quality from early November to mid December. The current proposal prohibits the effective harvest of these animals when the fur is at its best quality.

Predators need to be harvested/managed in South Dakota to keep populations in balance. This proposal greatly hinders that effort.

I am a retired Conservation Officer/Supervisor and worked 26 years in wildlife law enforcement for GF&P. I also worked for the GF&P as a Animal Damage Control trapper. I am a life-long trapper and have used snares for many years. I know for a fact that the incidents of dogs caught in snares is minimal every year.

This restrictive proposal is not a fair or competent solution to a relatively small problem. Education is the key to this issue. Pheasant hunters who use dogs need to be educated that snares are used on public lands.

Then, they need to carry a quality cable cutter which can be purchased for \$10. In the remote chance that their dog is caught in a snare they can simply cut it off and be on their way. Veterinarians always recommend that dog owners carry a basic first aid kit for their dog in case they are cut or injured while hunting. A cable cutter is just another basic part of that kit to be carried during a hunt.

I have had two hunting dogs injured fairly seriously in the past while hunting pheasants on public land. Both dogs were cut by old abandoned barb wire fences through cattail sloughs. Both required stitches and veterinary care. I did not blame GF&P or demand that all abandoned fence be removed from public land. I accepted it as a possible risk while hunting.

If hunters are aware of the existence of snares they can be prepared in the remote chance their dog encounters one and handle it as a minor inconvenience and not an issue to cause panic.

I am neutral on the trap tag issue. As a lawful trapper I have nothing to hide. There are still a number of states

that do not require trap tags. South Dakota has always been a state where Government regulation is kept to a

minimum. I would like to see it stay that way.

6/1/2018

Comment:
Charlie Bode
Scotland SD

At my age 67 I have saw and heard things but "common sense" is not common any more. I vote no on trap tags, because other folks take your traps and put them where they shouldn't be. Most of my snares are on public lands ect. That's where the coyotes live when the crops are gone or being taken out. Without these tools i think the cattlemen of SD would suffer to put more restrictions is not need. As for dispatch snares on GPA grounds not needed. Pheasant season runs long. I feel we have got a long good and with common sense take there dog out of snare. Keep on hunting. I have caught lots of dogs in snares there happy to see me. Thanks for reading give it some thought.

6/1/2018

Comment:
Marlin Ramse
Custer SD

Concerning your latest proposal on snaring! How can you justify closing off so much land for so long a period for the complaint of one or a few bird hunters? Trappers should have as much right as the bird hunters. I'm sure you are catering to the side with the money. What has snare springs and traps tags got to do with the hunters complaint? The trappers do a good service to the bird hunters by killing a lot of predators that feed on

the birds then young and nests, you are just taking the sport and livelihood away from a large group of sportsman. The Black Hills and a lot of the National Grasslands has no pheasants for hunting, but you wish to

penalize them too. All these regulations are unnecessary it's just more rules to add to your already over regulated regulation book. Please think about all the sportsmen not just the few! I am an 82 year old trapper that to see new ready and regulations that are trying to shut down our sport!

6/1/2018

Comment:
Gregory Pettersen
Madison SD
Oldgreg82@gmail.com

This would be Devistating to my type of trapping. I don't trap much on public lands but road right of ways and ditches are 90% of my trapping out of respect for pheasant hunters with dogs I usually stay out of public land until after January 1 but I do trap the ditches around them which are usually my most productive areas and I believe it does help the hunters in the public lands I think some form of education for young trappers would not be a bad idea because people with experience usually place snares or traps to avoid these situations at all costs

6/1/2018

Comment:
Mike McGillivray
Madison SD
mightymac1515@gmail.com

Hello everyone, I would just like you to think about the topic of the road trapping restrictions, I trap hundred miles of road ditches through the heart of prime pheasant hunting country, and have zero issues with accidental catches. Don't let a few uneducated trappers ruin it for the guys that do things correct. Reducing the number of predators increase pheasant numbers and putting road trapping restrictions will decrease the harvest of the predators that prey on pheasant and nesting upland game birds. I have several land owners that run pheasant hunting operations request that I use snares on their land to reduce predators. Non lethal snares set correctly without entanglement are non harmful. Pheasant hunters need to share the land resources with trappers to help build bird populations back to what they use to be. If this purposed laws are passed, I'm going to consider selling my equipment and taking a new hobby up in my life. Please vote against

the proposed regulations. Look at some interests other than the pheasant hunters. Make pheasant season end December 1 if you want to install new regulations on road trapping. I understand some people need to be

educated about the do and don'ts of road trapping. I would volunteer my time to be an instructor for this class,

if we didn't put more regulations on trapping public right of ways.

In closing please don't forget about the little guy that doesn't bring millions of dollars into the state. One dog snared on a public shooting area that had that snare shot off it, shouldn't make laws change. Lets keep South

Dakota great and vote against additional regulations on road trapping!!!!

Thank you

6/1/2018

Comment:

Bill Wick

Sioux Falls SD

I'm writing today on behalf of my pheasant hunting party of 13 gentleman that have hunted public lands for pheasants with dogs for the past 23 years. It has been an amazing ride and we have hunted all across eastern South Dakota almost exclusively on public land. We have only encountered traps a handful of times and when we did, never had any issues and respect the men that choose to enjoy that outdoor activity and that we share the public lands with. Honestly, our group wishes there was more trappers out there. We all paid to open these lands for outdoor pursuits and our group of 13 ask s you to reject this proposal. We do not

want a commission that makes rules due to one isolated incident. We want to keep trappers on our public lands so we can continue to enjoy South Dakota bird hunting. We respectfully request the commission to cancel this proposal and listen to the sportsmen that pay the bills, not some dog walker or anti-hunters that want to take away this important managment tool.

6/1/2018

Comment:

Jerry Herbst

Pukwana SD

philotto@midstatesd.net

This was brought about by a dog owner who's dog was caught in a snare and was not hurt so what is the point then? Educate yourself on what a snare is and how they work, in the past I have talked with people that should know how they work but had no interest in learning about them. Talk with your State trappers they are the Pros they use this equipment every day!

6/2/2018

Comment:

William Winslett

Pierre SD

195Pilot@gmail.com

Regarding the proposed rule changes to trapping of public land in South Dakota
proposed rule change on snaring on public land after pheasant season

1. Millions of acres of non pheasant habitat
2. After January 1st many parts of state are covered in snow making access impossible
3. Relative small trapping community, restriction would discourage trapping in the State

requiring trap ID tags would cause undue paperwork and added equipment

6/2/2018

Comment:

Shirley Winslett

Pierre SD

sdgirl42@gmail.com

millions of acres restricted not pheasant habit

trap tags undue equipment

6/2/2018

Comment:

Cory Ferguson

Rapid City SD

hplainsd1@aol.com

I support the proposed rule to require owner IDs on traps/snares placed on public land and improved road right-of-ways.

I want the Game, Fish, & Parks Department to know who owns the traps/snares. 43 other states require trap IDs.

Why should trapping happen, without regulators knowing who owns and set the traps on our public lands?

How can the laws be enforced without some type of identification?

I also support extending the time for prohibition on snares on east and west river public land and public improved road right-of-ways by a few months in the late fall/winter. Currently it is prohibited May to November. This change is to prevent accidental snaring of hunting dogs during pheasant season. I also support the ban forbidding certain types of snares that forcibly hold snares closed on Game Production and Waterfowl Production Areas.

South Dakota's current snaring restrictions inadequately reduce harm to snared animals. Animals can be

slowly strangled or choked, hung, or other body parts such as abdomen can be encircled.

I am in favor of increasing the time-of-year restrictions on snaring animals.

Trapping/snaring reform is about reducing cruelty to target and non-target wildlife or pets accidentally snared.

Animals can be left in snares/traps for too long. Animals are without water or food, perhaps exposed to extreme weather, perhaps injured by trap/snare device, while in stress and pain or harassed by predators for many days. They may die in the trap/snare. Non-target animals may not survive if released. Many states require a 24 hour trap check time, but not in SD.

Thank you proposing these changes and I hope that there are favorable outcome concerning these crucial issues.

Thank you,
Cory Ferguson

6/2/2018

Comment:

Roger Auch

Brandon SD

auchden@alliancecom.net

Many types of public land across the USA have to balance multiple use by various groups. Sometimes these uses may appear to be in conflict with each other thus requiring wise management of said land that don't favor one group over another. Bird hunters with dogs should not be the only voices heard in the management

of public land in SD. Trapping can and has for a long time co-existed with hunting on public land. Snares are not lethal to hunting dogs or any more injurious than barbed wire fences. When trappers pay for a trapping license in SD, some of our money goes to buying and maintaining public land. My trapping license fee shouldn't be used to block me from effectively taking furbearing animals at the peak of fur quality just because

an occasional bird hunter maybe have to get his dog out of a snare (really not that hard). Snaring is one of the most effective ways to catch coyotes and I suspect that predator numbers will increase on public land without snaring and thus negatively impact game bird numbers. Same is true with public ROW. The current snare regulations is that a snare can't be attached to a fence without the owner's permission and well as trapping with 1/8 mile of occupied dwellings and such without permission. These current regulations are good

enough, how many problems do you really have with dogs in snares...? State-wide law shouldn't be created just because of a handful of bird hunters with dogs get upset once and a while. You, as the commission, are supposed to represent the entire state outdoor users, not one specific sub-group. Perhaps hunters need to educate themselves on trapping. Snares are not the enemy...

6/3/2018

Comment:

John Almquist

Watertown SD

jcalmquist@aol.com

Dear commissioners,

South Dakota public lands were purchased and managed by sportsman's dollars. Therefore, the management of these public lands should include all user groups including trappers. The incident of the snared dog on public land is a reminder that accidents do and will occur with any outdoor activity. Whether it be hunting, trapping boating, hiking, snowmobiling, camping, cross-country skiing or any number of activities it is inevitable that accidents do and will occur. It is something that we all must realize when engaging in outdoor activities, and when accidents do occur we need to do our best to minimize in the future the problem in realistic ways. The proposal to eliminate snares on public lands and public right of ways is not a viable solution. Trappers play an important role in eliminating predators that prey on small game birds.

Snares are a very effective method of harvesting fox and coyotes. Restricting trappers in the use of snares on public lands would have an adverse effect in trying to reduce predator populations while at the same time trying to maintain healthy bird populations for hunters. However, I would be in favor of possibly restricting the use of the dispatch snares on east river public lands until after the close of the pheasant hunting season. But allow the use of snares with deer locks on all public lands and right of ways beginning on a designated date similar to would we have had in the past few years.

Most hunters are very unaware that trapping activities take place on public lands in SD. The GFP needs to do

more to educate hunters about trapping. The present GFP Hunting and Trapping manual does not mention that trapping as an activity on public shooting areas. Also, no word mentioning trapping is written on public signs to inform hunters that trapping is allowed on the public land.

In regard to trap tags. I personally would not want anyone including a SDGFP CO to be inspecting my trap to

see who the owner of the trap is. In my opinion that is trap tampering- a regulation that we currently have in rule book. Trap tags would also be just another cost burden to many trappers. Traps, baits, lures, equipment today are very expensive. Adding trap tags would just add another expense factor especially to younger trappers wanting to get started. Trap tags would encourage the so called bad apples in the bunch to remove tags from legal sets or steal the traps and relocate the trap in another area. This would only create another law enforcement problem that we do not need. Trap tags would serve no purpose in law enforcement, preventing illegal trapping or preventing non-target catches. Simply said they would only be a burden to trappers who obey the rules and regulations.

Thank you
John Almquist
6/3/2018

Comment:
Kenneth Mcdonald
Elk Point SD
traci.holmquist.briarcliff.edu
No comment text provided.

6/3/2018

Comment:
Julie Anderson
Rapid City SD
signsofhope@rap.midco.net

I would respectfully request as a resident of South Dakota to ban all trapping, as this practice is extremely cruel and kills or maims any animal that get ensnared. To make this practice an acceptable form of income and/or predator control is unethical and needs to be abolished. No animal deserves this tragic fate and every commission member should be required to watch the death that a trapped animal succumbs to before dismissing this request. I support this amendment only because there is no other choice available to me.

Dave Skeide
Webster SD
Cloey@itctel.com

The public land is for everyone to enjoy, hunters trappers, fisherman. We as trapper,s already have restriction,s on when we can set snares on public land.and now you want to restrict us even more? We the trappers assn, and the state trappers can show the people who hunt with dog,s how to remove a snare from a dogs body. Thank you for listening .

6/3/2018

Comment:
Craig Parkhurst
Armour SD
goodforgoose@yahoo.com

I am opposed to the requirement of trap tags on traps and snares. I believe that they constitute an unnecessary expense and provide addition opportunity for trappers to be harassed or entrapped by problems such as tags falling off traps, etc. I am also opposed to any restriction of snares on public lands.

6/4/2018

Comment:
David Love
Custer SD
djlove@gwtc.net

We believe that your proposal to require owner identification on traps is a step in the right direction. It makes no sense to enact laws regulating the use of traps unless those laws can be enforced. And if you have no way of learning who is trapping illegally you cannot enforce the laws. Thank you for your dedication to duty.

6/5/2018

Comment:
Teah Homsey-Pray
Sturgis SD
teahhomsey@yahoo.com

I support the measure of identifying traps thus making trappers hopefully more responsible. In a society as sophisticated as ours I truly question the use of this barbaric means of killing. Many other countries have banned the use of inhumane traps and leg holds. I urge you to look at this ☐sport☐☐ and really question what we are promoting in our state amongst our youth and our treasured wildlife. Certainly our wildlife deserves better than this pain and suffering.

6/5/2018

Comment:

Wendy Luedke

Lead SD

wendymloedke@gmail.com

I am righting to declare that I agree that name tags should be placed on all traps. Trappers, like any other business, have to be held accountable for their actions. I read where one trapper admitted that 76% of the animals he caught in traps were not his intended game. How is this OK? Why are we allowing trappers' rights

but not the animals or the environment/ecological system? Tradition? Are we actually calling severe cruelty to

animals tradition? We have a history of traditions that were done away with or changed when found cruel and

unnecessary. The percentage of trappers in the US has diminished greatly. There are no longer the valid reasons of the past to trap. It is inhumane.

Trapping needs to be regulated and traps tagged with the owner's name. Trappers have to be held accountable for snaring and causing harm to unintended animals. Animals have rights and they depend on humans to be their voice.

6/5/2018

Comment:

Frank Dicesare

Rapid City SD

fdic917@outlook.com

On behalf of the Rapid City Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America we wish to express our support for these proposed rule changes.

We feel that mandatory identification tags on traps and snares is essential so that conservation officers can quickly identify and remove illegal traps. The majority of other states require trapper identification tags. We feel that ethical trappers would have no problem complying with these proposed rules.

We also support the ban on snares during the pheasant season, both east and west River. Such a ban would

protect hunting dogs and help to reduce the capture of non-targeted animals. Additionally we support the proposed year round ban on snares, that use springs or other powering devices that hold the snare closed, on

Game Production Areas and Waterfowl Production Areas above water

6/5/2018

Comment:

Rory Halverson

Custer SD

ibowhunt298@yahoo.com

. I strongly oppose the proposals in regards to trapping and snaring. By not allowing snaring until after pheasant season is closed is absolutely ridiculous. It would take away nearly 2 months from a trapper when most fur, especially coyotes is at it's prime. Every fur buyer I've ever talked to has told me the time to harvest

coyotes is in November and December. This is fact! After that the quality starts to degrade from rubbing and etc. It would not be right to cater one special interest group and take away from others to use public land.

Also

there are not pheasants in all parts of the state. It makes no sense at all especially to those us us who snare in the Black Hills.

The proposal that would require all traps and snares to be marked with the owners name and address is also ridiculous. It would create an unwarranted expense to the trapper and serve no purpose other than letting

a trap thief know who they are stealing from. I personally don't want some anti crazy person knowing my name and address, especially for the sake of safety for me and my family. Also what happens if I do have someone stealing my equipment with my identification on it and the they go make illegal sets and do stupid things, I would most likely be targeted because it had my name on it. Also a trap tag would not keep a

pheasant hunters dog out of a snare or trap.

The proposal that would not allow the use of springs on snares is also ridiculous. The purpose of a snare is capture an animal and dispatch it. The use of a spring helps to do this more efficiently and humanly. I thought

the idea to dispatch or release a trapped animal as soon as possible was the goal. The idea that a snare kills instantly is just not true. Have you ever heard of a chew out? Why let that coyote be alive longer than needed.

A domestic dog usually won't fight a snare they will just sit down and wait. A good pheasant hunter/dog owner

will be aware if their dog doesn't come out of the brush and will go see what's going on. There will be plenty

of time to release it from a snare.

Again, I strongly disagree with all 3 proposals to trapping and snaring. All 3 of them will cause a financial burden to a trapper. It's not just the price of trap tags, it also will include lost fur in the shed from chew outs and having to modify existing equipment with springs or purchase new snares without them that don't work as

well. It would also hurt many trappers income possibly by several thousands of dollars by not being able to harvest big numbers of coyotes that they normally do by the use of snares for nearly 2 months when the fur is

prime and worth the most. I also feel that if you start talking things away now, what's next? The anti trapping

people are out there and never give up. Trappers are truly sportsmen and conservationists that play a huge part in wildlife conservation and population control. Please don't take away from us, and cater to big money pheasant hunters. It's our public land too!

6/5/2018

Comment:

Darci Adams

Hartford SD

dadams@humanesociety.org

I'm unable to attend your June 7-8 meeting in Aberdeen, please accept the attached written comment on the

rule finalization of trapping prohibitions.

I'm a South Dakota native, an advocate for animal protection, and for the past 8 years I have served as The Humane Society of the United States South Dakota State Director. We urge your support of the proposal amending the trapping prohibitions in Chapter 41:08:02 for reasons outlined in the attached letter.

6/5/2018

Comment:

Evan Anderson

Wasta SD

eandersonwasta@gmail.com

I'm a South Dakota landowner and a livestock producer. Please do not change any of the snaring/ trapping regulations! Less coyotes means more calves and more wildlife.

Thanks

6/5/2018

Comment:

Bill Kurtenbach

Groton SD

Members of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission:

Please consider the following thoughts I have regarding the issue to change the regulations for the use of snares on WPA's and GPA's in South Dakota. I've been hunting on GPA's, WPA's and private land in South Dakota with a bird dog for over 30 years. In my hunting vest I have always carried two things just in case I would need them. The first is a bottle of water for my dog, and the second is a cable cutter. Both are very inexpensive and could save a dog's life. I've used the water many times, and have never had to use the cable

cutter. I understand that two dogs were caught in snares last year and neither was fatal. I'm not trying to minimize that traumatic event but, that is a very small percentage when you consider how many dogs were on

WPA's and GPA's last year. Also one must consider the much higher number of sporting dogs that are killed or injured each year while hunting, caused by accidental shooting, being hit by vehicles, or die from dehydration due to the dog owner's neglect. These public lands were purchased with money generated by licenses purchased by sportsmen, including hunters, anglers, and trappers. I feel they all have the same rights when it comes to recreating on that public land. Banning snaring until after pheasant season is as

effective as a total ban, because a very small percentage of snaring on GPA's/WPA's occurs after that date. I think we need to be very careful not to make changes based on emotion rather than facts. There are many special interest groups lying in wait to add fuel to that fire to take more and more rights from future sportsmen

and sportswomen. In closing I would like to state that I am opposed to any changes in the current trapping and snaring regulations in South Dakota. Information could be included in the Hunting and Trapping Handbook to inform bird hunters of snare use and dog safety.

6/5/2018

Comment:

Daniel John Amen

Rapid City SD

dakotainc@gmail.com

I do support this testing and would also like to see it implemented in the State of SD.

5/7/2018

Comment:

Heather Nearman

SD

nearheat@gmail.com

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping.

Nancy Hilding

President

Prairie Hills Audubon Society

P.O. Box 788

Black Hawk, SD 57718

Hunting Requirements – Mandatory CWD Testing

No verbal comments were received.

Daniel John Amen

Rapid City SD

dakotainc@gmail.com

I do support this testing and would also like to see it implemented in the State of SD.

Heather Nearman

SD

nearheat@gmail.com

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal because South Dakota is one of only a few states that fail to require traps to bear information identifying the trap owner/user. This lack of identification makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally and it will protect unintended victims of trapping.

Nancy Hilding

President

Prairie Hills Audubon Society

P.O. Box 788

Black Hawk, SD 57718

Dear Commission,

Comments on proposed changes to trapping/snaring rules.

In this letter we indicate support for the proposed changes offered by the Commission, but if you scroll down to page 3, we offer more related and suggested changes.

TRAPPER ID

We thank the Commission for proposing a rule to require owner IDs on traps/snares placed on public land and improved road right-of-ways. This means if there is illegal trapping/snaring going on, GFP will know who owns the traps/snares. PHAS has

been asking for this for a long time. 43 other states already require trap IDs. Many trappers oppose the change; some alleging enemies will mess with their traps and frame them. Today there are trail cameras, small video cameras or cell phones that date stamp photos...modern technology provides these businesses, with defenses against trappers being framed. Also, if tampering occurred, the trappers can argue that, before GFP staff and/or the court as a defense. Please remember trapping is mostly a commercial enterprise. Trappers may sell furs for profit or act to kill animals that bother ranchers/farmers & thus increase ranch/farm profit (both are business actions). They need to be held to commercial standards for behavior. Why should trapping happen, without regulators knowing who owns and set the traps on our public lands -- how can GFP staff enforce the law? We thank GFP for proposing the change.

TIME OF YEAR PROHIBITIONS

The Commission is proposing extending the time for prohibition on snares on East and West River public land and public improved road right-of-ways by a few months in the late fall/winter. Currently it is prohibited May to November. This change is to prevent accidental snaring of hunting dogs during pheasant season. We support this change. However we wonder why the Commission and staff are just concerned about dogs owned by hunters, while engaged in hunting. Don't you have an equal obligation to all pet owners & an equal fiduciary duty to watch over all domestic animals that could be harmed by activities that you permit, such as snaring?

POWERED SNARE DEVICES

Also proposed is a ban forbidding certain types of snares that forcibly hold snares closed on Game Production and Waterfowl Production Areas; the rule change would forbid "using springs or other powering devices that hold the snare closed". We also support this proposed change. We don't know why it is just proposed for GPA and WPA and not all public land and public right-of-ways.

OTHER CHANGES ARE NEEDED - ARGUMENT.

We are appreciative of any positive change to make SD's trapping/snaring rule or law more "humane". SD's snaring restrictions inadequately reduce harm to snared animals. Other states may out-law snares entirely or more heavily regulate snaring. Use of snares under SD current rule permits in our opinion, cruelty to animals, that many other states don't allow. Animals can be slowly strangled or choked, hung, or other body parts such as abdomen can be encircled

In SD's East River animals can be left in snares/traps for 2 and a partial day. West River they can be left in traps/snare for 3 and a partial day. Animals are likely without water or food, perhaps exposed to extreme weather, perhaps injured by trap/snare device, in stress and/or pain or harassed by predators for many days. If they have dependent young, they may be separated from those. They may die in the trap/snare. Non-target animals, including endangered species & pets, may not survive if released. Many states require a 24-hour trap check time but not SD. If SD GFP reduced the trap check time, pets in snares, would live longer with less damage.

Born Free USA gives SD an "F" on our trapping regulations. Look at the card and compare our state with others for many values.

Link to Born Free's Scorecard:

http://7a1eb59c2270eb1d8b3da9354ca433cea7ae96304b2a57fdc8a0.r60.cf1.rackcdn.com/BFUSA_Trapping_Extended_Report_Card.pdf

http://www.bornfreeusa.org/a10_trapping_reportcard.php

OTHER CHANGES SUGGESTED

We suggest that the Commission continue this matter and investigate & consider the below options. This is not a petition for rulemaking. When we submit a petition for rulemaking, we will label it as such.

1. That the restriction on use of spring powered choking snares be for all public land and

right-of-ways, not just GPA and WMA. We also request that the trappers be required to use the release - "relaxing lock snares" on all public land and public right-of-ways. This is a lock that allows the snare loop to loosen slightly when an animal stops pulling against it. (see Michigan Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Snaring Guide, which is attached).

2. That they use a smaller pounds of pressure for breakaway force - 285 instead of 350 pounds, (see Michigan Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Snaring Guide, which is attached) We ask that the break occur at the loop, not at the ground tie, so the animal does not drag the severed cable around with them, continuing the constriction and possibly getting hung up on other objects.

3. That GFP consider a larger diameter snare loop stop, at least for some target species. SD has a 2.5-inch diameter restriction on the snare loop stop, but Michigan for hunting coyotes/fox has a 4.5-inch diameter (see Michigan Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Snaring Guide,

4. 24-hour trap/snare check time on public land or public-right-of ways, with an up to 24- hour time extension option available, for special emergencies, if the extension permission is granted in advance or as acceptance after the fact, by SDGFP staff.

5. For traps/snares that have a potential to damage or kill domestic animals, we request that you place a "no trap/snare buffer" from edge of houses, public buildings and any identified public hiking trails, picnic areas or camp grounds, unless land/building owner gives permission. We suggest a furlong (660 feet), because GFP uses that distance for other setback limits, although we are not sure what the limit should be.

6. Trappers must report to SDGFP all domestic animals caught in traps/snares and photograph the trapped/snared domestic animals and GPS their location, which they share with SD GFP and local animal welfare organization (if such exists). The trappers have a duty to provide water/food to such animals, if the animal permits it. If the animal is judged to be severely injured/sick and unlikely to limp home, they have a duty to ask a nearby local landowner about ownership and to take the severely injured domestic animal, to either the domestic animal's owner's dwelling, a vet, an animal welfare organization or other responsible care giver. Such intervention can provide a variance on the required trap check time interval if needed.

We attach

1. The Born Free Extended Score Card,
2. The Michigan Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Snaring Guide
3. Relaxing Snare Requirement for Bobcat Sets - 2013
4. Modern Snares for Capturing Mammals - Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Here are links to some References:

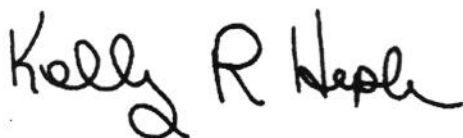
SD Trapping regulations <http://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/DisplayRule.aspx?Rule=41:08:02>
SD's Furbearer Seasons

<http://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/DisplayRule.aspx?Rule=41:08:01>

Modern Snares for Capturing Mammals - Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/5515/2002/6134/Modern_Snares_final.pdf

The public Hearing concluded at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Deer Hunting Seasons Drawing Structure Chapter 41:06:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11, 2018	Pierre
	Public Hearing	September 6-7, 2018	Yankton
	Public Hearing	October 4-5, 2018	Deadwood
	Finalization	October 4-5, 2018	Deadwood

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Alternatives discussed at statewide Focus Group meetings and on-line video.

- A. Choose one from East River, West River, and Black Hills as a first choice in the first draw.
- B. Choose one from East River, West River, Black Hills, Custer State Park, Refuge, and Muzzleloader as a first choice in the first draw.
- C. No change from the current structure.

Recommended changes from the current drawing structure:

- 1. Alternative B which requires an individual to select their most preferred license from the six seasons in the first draw.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

During the development of the statewide deer management plan, which was finalized in July 2017, several social management considerations were identified through stakeholder group meetings and public comments. One area which received considerable attention from the public was deer license allocation. As a result, the Commission tasked the Department to identify alternatives which would increase the number of hunters who draw their preferred deer license.

Department staff along with feedback from the deer stakeholder committee developed three alternatives to the current license allocation process, with the third alternative being no change to the current allocation system. An email invitation was then sent out to all 2017 resident deer applicants (18 years and older), requesting public involvement participation and attendance at one of the nine focus groups meetings held across the state. The meeting locations included; Pierre, Philip, Yankton, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Aberdeen, Rapid City, Belle Fourche, and Mitchell. Approximately 780 deer hunters responded to the request and a random draw was conducted to cap each focus group meeting to 45 participants. The main objectives of the focus groups include; 1) provide draw statistic and background information; 2) discuss the potential alternatives; 3) receive feedback on level of support or opposition for the alternatives; and 4) determine how participants would apply for deer licenses under each alternative using mock applications.

In an effort to allow broader participation from hunters and another opportunity to provide feedback, an online video was also posted on the Department's social media pages and website. The intentions of the video were to provide draw statistics and background information and receive feedback on level of support or opposition for the alternatives through an online survey. Over 600 hunters watched the online video and filled out the survey.

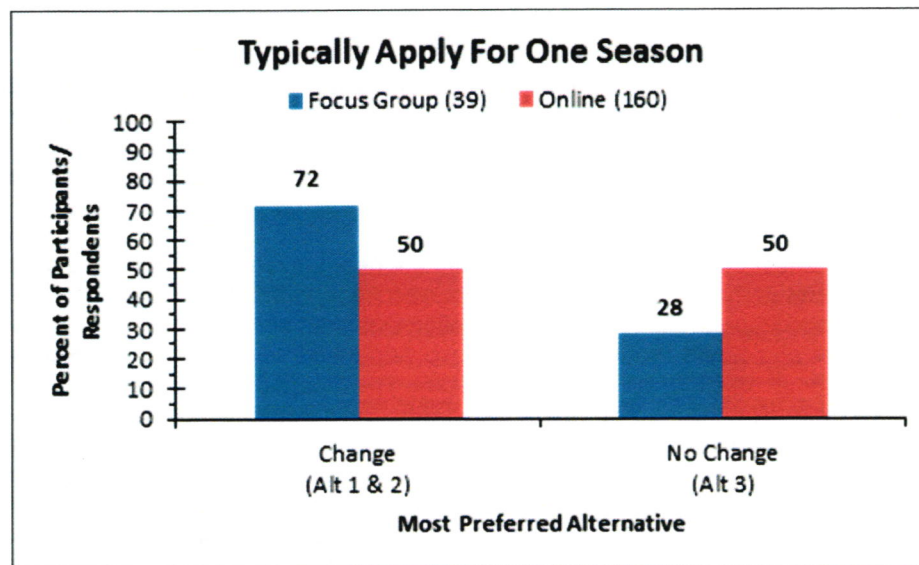
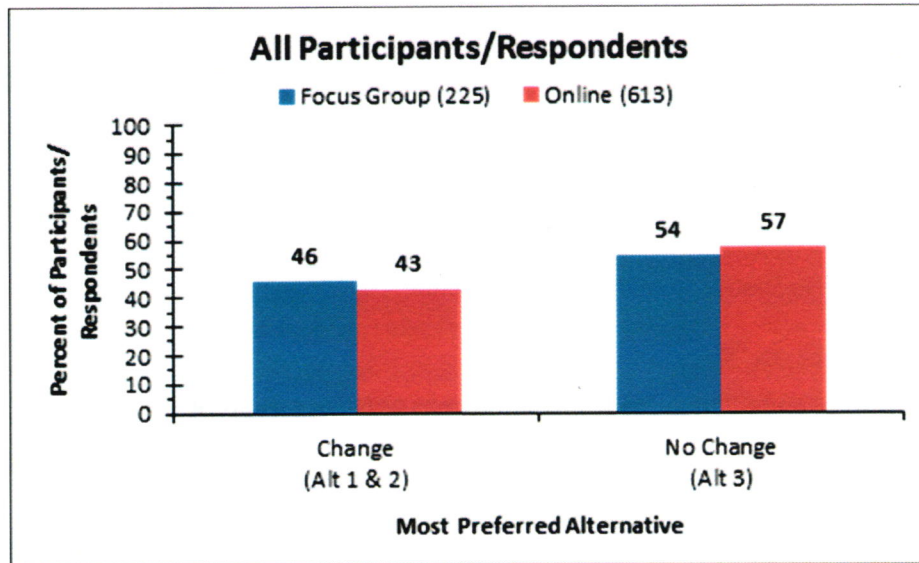
Results from the focus group meetings suggest approximately 46% of the participants preferred change. Of the online respondents, 43% preferred change. When looking at the number of hunters

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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who typically apply for one deer season which in 2017 represented 70% of all deer applicants, 72% of the focus group participants preferred change and 50% of the online respondents preferred change.

Example:

In 2017, there were 57,689 individuals that applied for a limited draw deer license for one or more of the six limited draw seasons (ERD, WRD, BHD, MZD, RFD, and CSP). Of the 57,689 hunters, 40,317 (70%) applied for only one of the six seasons. In 2017, if alternative B was implemented, approximately 17,552 deer hunters that applied for more than one season would have to make a choice and choose a preferred season.



APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Refuges and Boating Restrictions

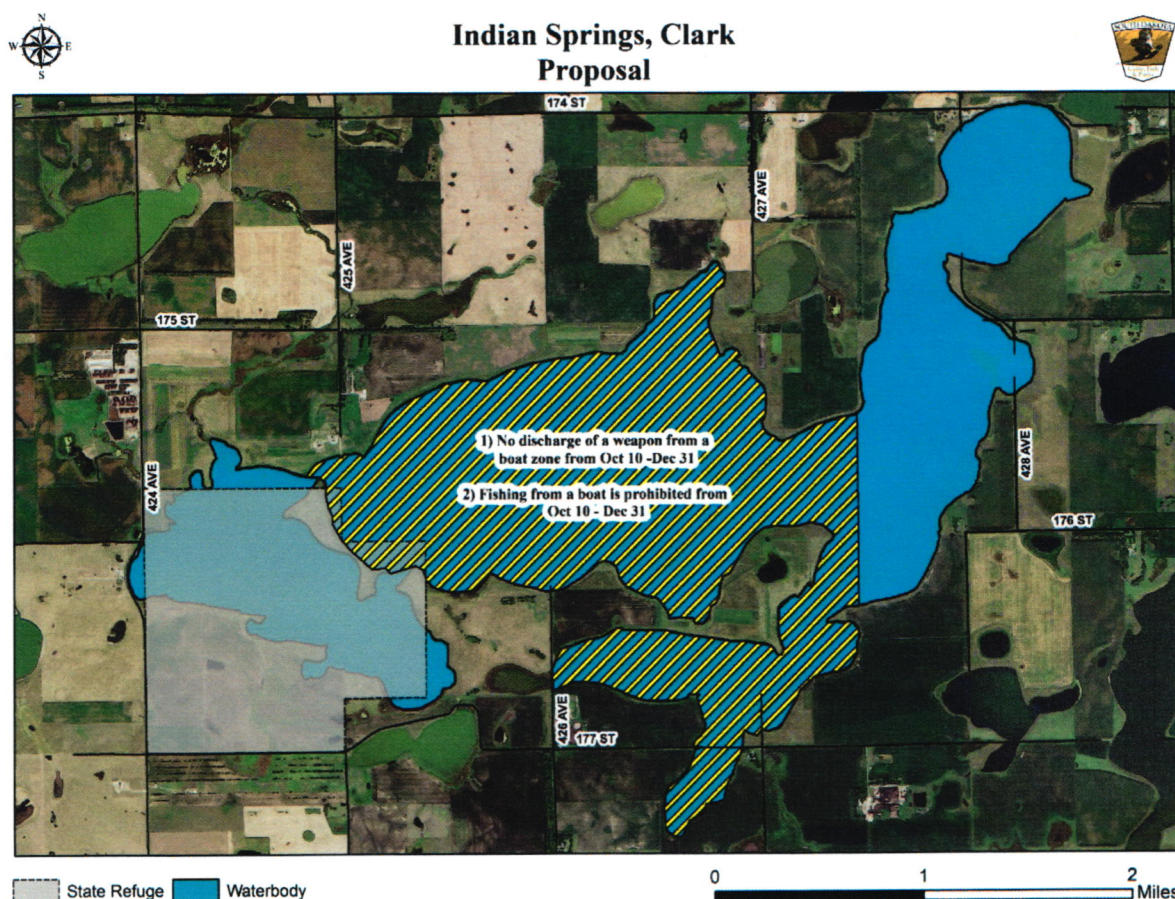
Chapters 41:04:02 and 41:07:02

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11, 2018	Pierre
	Public Hearing	September 6-7, 2018	Yankton
	Finalization	September 6-7, 2018	Yankton

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended changes from last year:

- 1) Add a "no discharge of a weapon from a boat zone" on the waters west of a half mile east of 427th avenue within Indian Springs from October 10 to December 31.
- 2) Add fishing from a boat is prohibited on the waters west of a half mile east of 427th avenue within Indian Springs from October 10 to December 31.



STAFF COMMENTS

Indian Springs is a nonmeandered waterbody and as a result, numerous discussions regarding the continued allowance of recreational use on the waters of Indian Springs have occurred with the surrounding landowners. This change in rule would allow recreational users the opportunity to recreate on all portions of Indian Springs the vast majority of the year and would meet the requests of the landowners.