

**Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission  
May 6-7 2021**

Chairman Russell Olson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. MT. Commissioners Travis Bies, Jon Locken, Doug Sharp, Charles Spring, Robert Whitmyre. Public and staff were able to listen via SDPB livestream and participate via video conference, conference call or in person call with approximately 65 total participants via zoom.

**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION**

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Olson called for any additions or corrections to the April 8-9, 2021 regular meeting minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Whitmyre with second by Bies TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE April 8-9 2021 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

**Additional Commissioner Salary Days**

Olson called for additional salary days. Whitmyre and Spring each requested one additional salary day.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE REQUESTED SALARY DAYS. Motion carried unanimously.

**Parks and Wildlife Foundation Update**

Board President, Karen Gundersen Olson and Executive Director, Lisa Weyer provided an overview of the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation's past projects, which included total contributions of \$17 million raised for major park development and enhancements and current projects totaling \$5.6 million including the Custer State Park Bison Center and land acquisition of the Rapid City shooting range property.

**Second Century Habitat Fund Board Update**

Executive Director, Lisa Weyer provided an update on the Second Century Habitat Fund. Can-Am raffle tickets sales are currently at \$57,400. Working Lands Habitat Program is currently at 5800 acres enrolled. The Board approved to increase the incentive pay to \$250 per acre (one-time payment) for East River counties to also include Tripp, Gregory and Lyman counties and continue with the \$150 per acre (one-time payment) to West River counties.

**E-Commerce System Update**

Heather Villa, administrations chief, provided an update on the new system.

**Story-Telling and Marketing Communications Update**

Emily Kiel provided the Commission with a brief update on one of the most popular techniques in marketing communications story-telling. This is a tactic that the department has been leaning in on the last couple of years with the goal of getting people outside doing what they love or trying something new while creating outdoor families. To do this, we must continue to inspire people not only to buy something that gets them outside recreating, but to buy into the outdoors and to further promote recruitment, retention and reactivation of our customer bases. The department does this by pitching stories to the media and sharing those pieces through GFP communications platforms to create positive coverage and help drive sales. Additionally, the department works with other advocates and users to share the GFP story and brand through their personal experiences. Emily provided examples of how this is being done and what it being worked on for future story-telling ideas through the communications team.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Public Hearing began at 2:00 p.m. and concluded at 2:13 p.m. The minutes follow these Commission meeting minutes.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Jon Kotilnek, senior staff attorney, opened the floor for discussion from those in attendance on matters of importance to them that may not be on the agenda.

Curt Korzan - Kimball, SD – South Dakota Upland Outfitters Association – spoke on behalf of the organization and noted he also sits on Second Century Habitat Fund Board. He explained the goals of the Upland Outfitters Association and stated its important to get kids outdoor. South Dakota has 52 trap shooting leagues in the state and the association is working to help these leagues get ammo. He commended staff on willingness to meet and discuss issues to build a good relationship to do good things for the State of South Dakota. Already working on things to help the state with Youth hunting and habitat. Goal to put 1,000 youth in the field this fall.

Nancy Hilding – Black Hawk, SD – Prairie Hills Audubon Society – wants to call attention to statute 1-26.417 that she feels allows you to make change without proper public notice.

Mark Posthumus – Hot Springs, SD – Users of Sheps Canyon Road to Angostura Rec Area – Fall River County needs state assistance/funding to improve and maintain the condition of the Sheps Canyon Rd connector road to the GFP recreation area on the west side of Angostura Reservoir. The creation of the Sheps Canyon Outdoor Recreation Complex by GFP has created and encouraged a huge amount of traffic, particularly in the spring, summer, and fall months. The Recreation Complex includes, three camping areas, a double boat ramp, Wildlife Production areas, two walk-in hunting areas, and an event center at Hill Ranch. Consequently, it's been incredibly popular with the public for boating, fishing, camping, and hunting. The connector road to the Sheps Canyon Outdoor Recreation Complex was never designed to handle the level of traffic that this complex has created. Much of the traffic on this road is pulling trailers, boats, and fifth wheels. We need state highway funds to either pave this road or maintain to much more often.

## **PETITIONS**

### **Take of Fish by Blowgun**

Kirschenmann explained the petition process and introduced the petition received and presented the departments position.

Danny Putnam, petitioner presented his petition to take fish with a blowgun as it would allow another way for sportsmen to enjoy the outdoors.

Motioned by Locken, second by Spring TO APPROVE THE PEITION. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Use of Riffle to Harvest Turkey**

Kirschenmann introduced the petition received and presented the departments position.

Paul Roghair, petitioner explained his recommendation to Change the 700lbs at the muzzle to " any rim or centerfire cartridge greater than 1 inch in length" Could include: "but less than 2.5 inches in length". Currently in the fall, this is an issue, some people do not like the idea at all of hunting with a rifle at all which is unfair to those who do, one reason stated is Safety and another is "you will just blow the bird up" I believe looking at this from a different way helps to address this issue. By opening this area, people (yes there are a few) can legally use a lower powered cartridge to harvest a turkey for which they hold a tag, in a format that does less potential destruction of the harvest, and at the same time makes it safer for all afield. Less power will mean less bullet travel, less pass-through energy, and shorter shot distances which also leads to more safety as the closer one is the less chance to mistake decoys for real birds etc. In addition, this makes things simple. Not many people, or conservation officers carry around the gear to determine the foot pounds of energy on a cartridge. A ruler is much more common and simple. Thus, it makes the rules simpler, expands the amount of people that can hunt and increases the safety of the sport for those who are afield. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Motioned by Locken, second by Sharp TO DENY THE PEITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Whitmyre, Second by Sharp TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-10 (Appendix B) DENYING THE PETION. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Private Property Antelope Tags**

Kirschenmann introduced the petition received and presented the departments position.

Justin Bell on behalf of Doug Abraham, petitioner described the recommended change to Add the allocation of no more than 50 resident and 50 nonresident any antelope licenses and create a special antelope unit within the antelope season that is valid only on private property not leased by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks for public hunting in any east river or west river antelope unit open to hunting. A successful special antelope licensee may not apply for a West River or East River antelope license in the initial or second drawing. A successful special antelope licensee may not apply

for a leftover special antelope license. No person may make application for or receive the special antelope license unless the following conditions are met: (1) The applicant has permission from an owner or lessee of private land to hunt antelope on the owner's or lessee's property located within the permitted area during the antelope hunting season for which the special antelope license is issued; and (2) The applicant includes on the application for a special antelope license the name and telephone number of the owner or lessee of the private property granting the permission. The proposed change would recognize landowner contributions to wildlife habitat and create a license structure that mirrors the special licenses currently enjoyed during deer season. This proposal creates additional opportunity on private lands for both residents and nonresidents without further burdening or creating increased hunting pressure on publicly accessible lands.

Motioned by Bies, second by Locke TO APPROVE THE PEITION. Motion carried unanimously.

## **FINALIZATIONS**

### **Youth Proposals**

Jon Kotilnek, senior staff attorney, during the 2021 Session, HB 1034 was passed by the legislature as a Department sponsored bill. The bill was dubbed the "Youth Bill." The overall objective was rather simple – align the definition of who qualifies as a "youth." Prior to passage, in GFP the age limit for a youth was dependent upon the season. Some seasons if you were 16 and under you were considered a youth. For other seasons, if you were under 18 you qualified as a youth. HB 1034 aligned all the ages so that if an individual is under 18, they are considered a youth and qualify for youth licenses. This administrative rule proposal finishes what HB 1034 started. The proposal addresses all of our youth licenses and requirements that are found in rule and aligns them with HB 1034, namely, if you are under the age of 18, you are considered a youth.

- Remove the age eligibility for combination licenses in administrative rule (41:06:02:01.01).
- Make changes to the available license types and associated fees (41:06:02:03). Eliminate the junior combination license; create a youth deer license and fee (Resident \$5 / Nonresident \$10); amend resident/nonresident small game license structure to '18 and older' and 'under 18'; specify nonresident youth waterfowl licenses are available to those under 18.
- Correct a cross-referencing error in 41:06:16:11(10) pertaining to youth waterfowl season.
- Make changes to the adult accompaniment requirements for youth waterfowl season (41:06:49:04). Align adult accompaniment requirements (under age 16) with those found in state law (41-6-13).
- Make changes to the adult accompaniment requirements for youth pheasant season (41:06:55:04). Align adult accompaniment requirements (under age 16) with those found in state law (41-6-13).
- Make changes to the available fishing license types and associated fees (41:07:01:12). Eliminate the nonresident family fishing license and the youth fishing license options.
- Repeal 41:07:03:06 given the elimination of the nonresident family fishing license option.
- Amend the fishing license requirement age for permitted paddlefish anglers from 16 to 18 (41:07:05:02). All anglers, regardless of age, are eligible to obtain a paddlefish permit but fishing licenses are required of those 18 years of age and older.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Locken TO FINALIZE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE YOUTH HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS. Motioned carried unanimously.

### **Disabled Pheasant Hunts**

Chad Switzer, wildlife program manager, presented the recommended change to the disabled pheasant hunting season to amend Administrative Rule of South Dakota 41:06:54:01 to align rule with South Dakota Codified Law 41-11-5.5 as follows:

**41:06:54:01. Special pheasant hunting season authorized -- Valid on private land only.**

A special pheasant hunting ~~season~~ for qualifying disabled veterans and purple heart recipients may be established anytime ~~during the months of October and November~~ beginning September 1 through the end of the regular pheasant season upon application by a sponsoring nonprofit organization. A special pheasant hunting ~~season~~ is valid only on private lands.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Whitmyre TO FINALIZE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE DISABLED PHEASANT HUNTS. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Water Zoning**

Jon Kotilnek, senior staff attorney, in 2019, the department conducted a rules review process that looked at every GFP regulation. The effort was aimed at reducing complexity, reducing redundancy and adding clarification for a more simplified regulatory framework. During this process some safety zones were inadvertently removed from the Charles Mix County public water safety zones. Adopting this proposal would correct that error.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Locken TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC WATER ZONING RULES. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Deer Season**

#### **Application for License**

Chad Switzer, wildlife program manager, presented the recommended change to the mentored youth big game license proposal as follows:

Recommended changes from proposal:

1. Allow for both a resident and nonresident parent or guardian to purchase a mentored license for a designated mentored youth.
2. A person under 16 years of age who received a youth deer license is ineligible to receive a mentored deer license
3. Establish the types of big game animals that are eligible to harvest with a landowner-on-own-land license. a. For the West River, East River, and Black Hills firearm deer hunting seasons, qualifying landowners and owner/operators may purchase one "any deer" license or a two-tag "any deer" and "any antlerless deer" license.  
b. For the antelope firearm hunting season, qualifying landowners and owner/operators may purchase one "any antelope" or a two-tag "any antelope" and "any doe/fawn antelope" license.
4. Modify the following administrative rule: **41:06:01:13. Designation of areas where free antlerless deer licenses can be used by farmers and ranchers.** Antlerless licenses authorized by SDCL 41-6-19.8 may be issued to any qualifying farmer or rancher for use in the West River, East River, Apprentice hunter, Youth, Archery, and Muzzleloading deer hunting units. Antlerless whitetail deer licenses will be available to qualifying applicants in hunting units which offer a deer license with multiple tags for antlerless deer in the lottery drawing for the East River and West River deer

seasons. The requirements and equipment restrictions for each deer season apply to any free antlerless license issued.

5. Modify the following administrative rule: **41:06:01:17. Access permits required for specific deer hunting units and public lands.** Any resident or nonresident deer hunter possessing an archery, muzzleloader, apprentice hunter, youth, or mentor deer license shall obtain and possess a free access permit to hunt West River deer units 24B, 27L, 35L, and East River deer unit 13L. Any resident or nonresident deer hunter possessing an archery deer license shall obtain and possess a free access permit in order to hunt Newton Hills State Park or in the Black Hills as defined in § 41:06:19:02. Unlimited access permits may be issued for each management unit and each free access permit shall be unit specific.

Motion by Bies, second by Locken TO FINALIZE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO MENTORED YOUTH BIG GAME LICENSES. Motion carried unanimously.

## Youth Deer Season

Switzer presented the recommended change to the youth deer hunting season as follows:

1. Establish ARSD **Chapter 41:06:63 Youth Deer Season.**

2. Establish the following administrative rules:

**41:06:63:01. Youth deer hunting season established.** The youth deer hunting season is open statewide from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset beginning on the second Saturday of September through January 1.

**41:06:63:02. Number and type of licenses available.** An unlimited number of "antlerless deer" and "antlerless whitetail deer" licenses may be issued for this season. Youth deer hunters are limited to one "antlerless deer" or "antlerless whitetail deer" license for areas open to youth deer hunting.

**41:06:63:03. Open units.** The following is a description of the open units.

(1) Unit YOD-03: West River Units 02A, 15A, 15B, 31A, 35A, 35C, 35L, 49A, 49B, 53A, 53C and 64A. License valid for a single tag "any antlerless deer" license.

(2) Unit YOD-13: That portion of the state not included in Unit YOD-03. Licenses valid for a single tag "antlerless whitetail deer" license.

**41:06:63:04. Closed areas.** The youth deer season is closed and licenses are not valid in the following areas:

(1) Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;

(2) Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in Bennett County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;

(3) Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge in Charles Mix County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;

(4) Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and Waubay State Game Bird Refuge in Day County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge; and

(5) Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management south unit and the signed portion of the north unit in Meade County.

**41:06:63:05. Application requirements and restrictions.** The following requirements and restrictions apply to all applications for license under this chapter:

(1) Any person who has reached the age of 12 years during the period September 1 through December 31 and has not reached the age of 18 years by June 30;

(2) A person who received a mentored deer license is ineligible to receive a youth deer license;

(5) Land operator preference is not applicable to these licenses.

3. Modify the following administrative rule:

**41:08:06:06. Hunting area limited.** A permittee may aerial hunt only in the counties permitted in the contract. A permittee may not aerial hunt upon or over any private land or any state or federal land, except as authorized by a department representative or as otherwise provided for in this chapter.

A permittee may aerial hunt upon or over land owned or managed by the Office of School and Public Lands, without prior authorization by a department representative except that such land is closed to aerial hunting for four consecutive days beginning three days prior to the opening day of any local prairie elk, antelope, or deer firearm hunting season, as provided in article 41:06. For purposes of this section, the phrase, deer firearm hunting season, does not include the mentored, youth, or

apprentice deer season, as provided for in chapter 41:06:44 or seasons restricted to the use of muzzleloading rifles, as provided for in chapters 41:06:36 and 41:06:45. A landowner pilot who has obtained a permit from the department may aerial hunt land the pilot owns or leases, including land leased from the Office of School and Public Lands, and up to four miles onto any contiguous private land or land leased from the Office of School and Public Lands, with written permission of the respective owner or lessee of the contiguous land. No contact with the department for authorization is necessary.

Motion by Whitmyre, second by Bies TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE YOUTH DEER HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Apprentice Deer Hunting Season**

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the apprentice deer hunting season to modify the statewide unit and “any antlerless deer” licenses to the following:

Recommended changes from proposal:

1. Repeal administrative rule language pertaining towards youth under 18 years of age.
2. Repeal administrative rule that each hunter must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.

Motioned by Bies, second by Spring TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE APPRENTICE DEER HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Custer State Park deer hunting season to Adjust the number of resident licenses from no more than 88 one-tag deer licenses to no more than 100 one-tag deer licenses with no changes from proposal.

Motioned by Bies, second by Whitmyre TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE CUSTER STATE PARK DEER HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Black Hills Deer Hunting Season**

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Black Hills deer hunting season to adjust the number of resident licenses from no more than 4,800 one-tag deer licenses to no more than 5,500 one-tag deer licenses with no changes from proposal.

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Spring TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

### **West River and East River Deer Hunting Season**

Switzer presented the recommended change to the West River deer hunting season to adjust resident license numbers from no more than 12,308 one-tag, 5,220 two-tag deer licenses and 400 three-tag deer licenses to 20,000 one-tag, 15,000 two-tag deer licenses and 10,000 three-tag deer licenses. He noted a change from proposal to repeal units 15P, 27P and 45P.

Switzer presented the recommended change to the East River deer hunting season to adjust resident license numbers from no more than 24,510 one-tag and 2,800 two-tag tag deer licenses to 30,000 one-tag and 15,000 two-tag and 5,000 three-tag deer licenses. He noted a change from proposal to repeal units 13P, 36P, 33P AND 38P

Motioned by Locken, second by Spring TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE WEST AND EAST RIVER DEER SEASONS. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Refuge Deer Hunting Season**

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the national wildlife refuge deer hunting season as follows with no recommended change to the proposal.

1. For Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, adjust resident license numbers from no more than 105 one-tag deer licenses to 200 one-tag and 100 two-tag deer licenses.
2. For Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, adjust resident license numbers from no more than 20 one-tag deer licenses to 100 one-tag and 50 two-tag deer licenses.
3. For Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, adjust resident license numbers from no more than 20 one-tag deer licenses to 75 one-tag deer licenses.

Motioned by Locken, second by Whitmyre TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE REFUGE DEER SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Archery Deer Hunting Season**

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the archery deer hunting season proposal as follows:

1. Recommended changes from proposal:  
Modify ARSD 41:06:22:01.02 (Nonresident archery deer hunting season restrictions) as follows:
  - a. ~~A license obtained by a nonresident on or after the first day of August, 2019, is valid only on private lands not leased for public access by the department through the first day of January, 2020.~~ A license obtained by a nonresident on or after the first day of April, 2020, and every year thereafter, is valid only on private lands not leased for public access by the department.
2. Modify ARSD 41:06:22:01.01 as follows:
  - a. Current Rule: Unit ARD-LM1: all areas open to archery deer hunting; excluding the following deer hunting units referenced in chapters 41:06:19, 41:06:20, and 41:06:21: 02C, 07A, 08A, 12A, 13L, 19A, 20A, 21A, 21B, 27A, 27L, 29A, 34A, 35L, 37A, 39A, 41A, 45D, 58A, 59A, 61A, 64A, 65A, and 67A;
  - b. Recommended Rule: Unit ARD-LM1: all areas open to archery deer hunting; excluding the following deer hunting units referenced in chapters 41:06:19, 41:06:20, BD1, 02C, 07A, 08A, 12A, 14A, 27L, 33A, 34A, 35L, 36A, 38A, 41A, 50A, 54A, 58D, 59A, 59B, 61A, and 65A;

Motioned by Bies, second by Sharp TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE ARCHERY DEER HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Muzzleloading Deer Hunting Season**

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the muzzleloading deer hunting season to adjust resident license numbers from no more than 1,000 one-tag "any deer" licenses to 1,500 one-tag "any deer" deer licenses.

Recommended changes from proposal:

1. Modify ARSD 41:06:45:02 as follows: a. Current Rule: Unit MZD-LM1: all areas open to archery deer hunting; excluding the following deer hunting units referenced in chapters 41:06:19, 41:06:20, and 41:06:21: 02C, 07A, 08A, 12A, 13L, 19A, 20A, 21A, 21B, 27A, 27L, 29A, 34A, 35L, 37A, 39A, 41A, 45D, 58A, 59A, 61A, 64A, 65A, and 67A;



b. Recommended Rule: Unit MZD-LM1: all areas open to archery deer hunting; excluding the following deer hunting units referenced in chapters 41:06:19, 41:06:20, and 41:06:21: BD1, 02C, 07A, 08A, 12A, 14A, 27L, 33A, 34A, 35L, 36A, 38A, 41A, 50A, 54A, 58D, 59A, 59B, 61A, and 65A;

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Sharp TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE MUZZLELOADING DEER HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Deer Hunting Season License Allocation**

Switzer presented the recommended changes to deer hunting license and access permit allocation by season and unit.

Motion by Sharp, second by Whitmyre TO FINALIZE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO ALLOCATION OF DEER LICENSES (Appendix C). Motion carried unanimously.

### **Disabled Veterans Deer Hunting Season**

Switzer presented the recommended change to the disabled veterans hunting season proposal as follows:

#### **Recommended changes from proposal:**

1. For the purposes of this season, a qualified disabled veteran is a person who meets one of the following criteria:
  - a) A resident veteran who has been adjudicated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as twenty percent or more disabled due to a service-connected disability or has received the United States Department of Veterans Affairs K Award; or
  - b) A resident who has served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or has served as a member of the armed forces reserve or national guard, and the resident is forty percent or more disabled for the purposes of receiving social security benefits.

Motioned by Spring, second by Whitmyre TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE DISABLED VETERANS DEER HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Upland Game**

Switzer presented recommended changes to the pheasant hunting season to

1. Modify the season dates for Unit 2 (Renzienhausen Game Production Area, Renzienhausen State Game Bird Refuge including its shooting and retrieval zones, Gerken State Game Bird Refuge, and White Lake State Game Bird Refuge).
  - a. The season in Unit 2 is open beginning on December 1 and remains open for the remainder of the season through the first Sunday of January; and
2. Modify the season dates for Unit 3 (Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County).
  - a. The season in Unit 3 is open beginning on the second Monday of December and remains open for the remainder of the season through the first Sunday of January.

Motioned by Locken, second by Whitmyre TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE PHEASANT HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the recommended change to the grouse hunting season to modify the season start date from the third Saturday of October to the third Saturday of September for Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge and modify the season end date from the first Sunday of January to January 31.

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Sharp TO AMEND THE FINALIZATION TO REMOVE THE MODIFICATION CHANGING THE SEASON END DATE TO JANUARY 31. Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Bies TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE GROUSE HUNTING SEASON AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CWD Regulations**

Switzer provided the recommended changes to the proposal to disposal of carcass remains for deer and elk as it pertains to chronic wasting disease as follows.

**CURRENT RULE 41:06:03:15. Chronic Wasting Disease endemic area defined.** For purposes of §§ 41:06:03:16 through 41:06:03:19 and § 41:09:11:07 an endemic area is defined as any firearm deer or elk hunting unit in which any portion of a county confirms the presence of chronic wasting disease. In addition, any deer harvested during the archery, muzzleloader, and apprentice deer seasons and any elk harvested from Unit PRE-WRA within a county where chronic wasting disease has been confirmed would be subject to §§ 41:06:03:16 through 41:06:03:19 and § 41:09:11:07.

RECOMMENDED RULE Repeal existing rule.

**CURRENT RULE 41:06:03:16. Interstate cervid carcass transportation restriction.** Whole or partial cervid carcasses and head with antlers attached may not enter this state unless delivered to a licensed taxidermist, a game processor, or to the hunter's domicile. Cervid carcasses passing through the state are exempt from this section. The provisions of this section are effective July 1, 2020.

**RECOMMENDED RULE 41:06:03:16. Interstate cervid carcass transportation and disposal requirement.** Unless delivered to a licensed taxidermist or game processor, anyone transporting whole or partial cervid carcasses from another state into South Dakota shall dispose of all remaining cervid carcass parts with a waste management provider or a permitted landfill. Whole or partial cervid carcasses being transported through the state are exempt from this section.

**CURRENT RULE 41:06:03:17. Intrastate cervid carcass transportation restriction.** Whole or partial cervid carcasses and head with antlers attached may not be transported from an endemic area unless delivered to a licensed taxidermist, a game processor, or to the hunter's domicile. The provisions of this section are effective July 1, 2020.

RECOMMENDED RULE Repeal existing rule.

**CURRENT RULE 41:06:03:18. Carcass disposal for hunter-harvested cervid.** A person who transports cervid carcass parts from outside this state shall dispose of all remaining cervid carcass parts through a waste management provider or a permitted landfill. A person who transports cervid carcass parts from an endemic area in this state shall dispose of all remaining cervid carcass parts through a waste management provider or a permitted landfill. Cervid carcasses taken from an endemic area in this state that test negative for the disease are exempt from this section. The provisions of this section are effective July 1, 2020.

**RECOMMENDED RULE 41:06:03:18. Intrastate cervid carcass transportation and disposal requirement.** Unless delivered to a licensed taxidermist or game processor, anyone transporting whole or partial cervid carcasses from the county of harvest shall dispose of all remaining cervid carcass parts with a waste management provider or a permitted landfill.

**CURRENT RULE 41:06:03:19. Carcass disposal for wildlife processing facilities.** Wildlife processing facilities, as defined by § 41:06:03:10, shall dispose of all remaining cervid carcass parts obtained from outside this state through a waste management provider or a permitted

landfill. Wildlife processing facilities shall dispose of remaining cervid carcass parts obtained from an endemic area within this state through a waste management provider or a permitted landfill. Game processors licensed by another state or federal entity shall dispose of carcasses as required by the conditions associated with the license. The provisions of this section are effective July 1, 2020.

**RECOMMENDED RULE 41:06:03:19. Carcass disposal for wildlife processing facilities.** Wildlife processing facilities, as defined by § 41:06:03:10, shall dispose of all remaining cervid carcass parts with a waste management provider or permitted landfill. Game processors licensed by another state or federal entity shall dispose of carcasses as required by the conditions associated with their license.

**CURRENT RULE 41:09:11:07. Cervid carcass disposal.** A taxidermist shall dispose of remaining cervid carcass parts obtained from another state into South Dakota through a waste management provider or a permitted landfill. A taxidermist shall dispose of remaining cervid carcass parts obtained from a known chronic wasting disease endemic area within this state through a waste management provider or permitted landfill. The provisions of this section are effective July 1, 2020.

**RECOMMENDED RULE 41:09:11:07. Cervid carcass disposal for taxidermist.** A taxidermist shall dispose of all remaining cervid carcass parts with a waste management provider or permitted landfill.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Spring TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

## **PROPOSALS**

### **Sage Grouse**

Travis Runia, upland game biologist, provided no recommended changes to the Sage Grouse hunting season.

### **Antelope**

Switzer provided no recommended changes to the antelope hunting season, archery antelope hunting season, and unit licenses and access permits.

### **Furbearer/Trapping**

Keith Fisk provided recommended change to modify the season dates in counties east of the Missouri River to align with western South Dakota to create one year-round beaver season.

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE BEAVER HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

Fisk presented the recommended changes to modify trapping prohibitions to allow body-grip or killer traps set in accordance with ARSD 41:08:02:06 to be used for beaver in all counties east of the Missouri River to align with west river and correct an error regarding the end date that traps can be placed in or on a muskrat house east of the river to be April 30.

Motioned by Bies, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE BEAVER HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

Fisk recommended no changes to the Skunk, Opossum, Jackrabbit, Fox, Raccoon, and Badger Hunting Seasons.

Fisk recommended no changes to the Mink, Weasel and Muskrat hunting seasons.

Fisk presented no recommended changes to the River Otter Hunting season.

Upon discussion the Commission chose to modify the proposal to increase the harvest limit by 5.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Whitmyre TO AMEND THE PROPOSAL INCREASE THE HARVEST LIMIT BY 5. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CSP Bison**

Matt Snyder, parks and recreation regional supervisor, presented no recommended changes to the Custer State Park Trophy Bison Bull Harvest, CSP Non-trophy Bison Harvest and Licenses.

## **DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **Concession Repair and Maintenance Program Update**

Jennie Fuerst, Concessions manager gave an update of the concession Repair and Maintenance accounts that are managed with each concession contract. A repair and maintenance reserve are funds set aside by a concessionaire to address Department-approved critical maintenance projects throughout the term of the contract. Each year a concessionaire submits their requests for approval and documentation for work conducted on approved projects. A balance is accounted for with the intention of bringing them to a zero balance at the end of the lease term. Fuerst went through each concessionaire and briefed the Commission on individual concession balances and current projects.

### **Missouri River Runoff and Reservoir Outlook for 2021**

Al Nedved, Deputy Direct for the Division of Parks and Recreation gave an update on projected runoff and water levels along the Missouri River and how that might affect river access in 2021. Current projections show no spring rise in elevation along the upper three reservoirs, and declining levels of about 6 feet during the main boating season on Lake Oahe. This will affect a few boat ramps where low water ramps installed during the drought of 2002-2006 will be utilized as the water recedes this summer. Bush's Landing poses some extraordinary challenges as silt accumulations in the bay has reduced the lower range of the high water ramp, creating a situation where access will be impeded. The Department is preparing plans for the modification of the low water ramp to achieve higher elevations this month, and hope to provide access at Bush's in late May or early June.

### **Revenue, Camping and Visitation Report**

Al Nedved provided April's revenue, visitation and camping report. Park use and visitations continues to look strong for 2021 with increases in all three from last year.

## **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

## **Land Acquisition – Medicine Knoll Creek GPA Land Exchange**

Paul Coughlin, Habitat Program Administrator, presented information regarding a proposed land exchange project involving a portion of the Medicine Knoll Creek Game Production Area. The Commission unanimously approved Resolution 21-09 authorizing the exchange of 250.3 acres at the Medicine Knoll GPA for 320 acres of nearby private land.

Motioned by Bies, second by Locken TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-09 (APPENDIX A) TO AUTHORIZE THE LAND EXCHANGE INVOLVING THE MEDICINE KNOLL CREEK GAME PRODUCTION AREA. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Panfish Regulations**

Brian Blackwell, fisheries biologist, provided research on bluegill population dynamics and angler harvest is being completed at lakes Enemy Swim and Pickerel. Bluegill abundance was high at both lakes in 2020. Growth was variable at Enemy Swim depending on what fish were sampled and growth at Pickerel is excellent. Bluegill harvest was somewhat high (33%) at Enemy Swim in 2020 and was extremely high (58%) at Pickerel. Late summer showed the highest harvest at both lakes and may be related to reductions in invertebrates. The information gained in this study will be used to model bluegill population responses under various regulations, including the current 15 fish daily limit, to see what may be best to maintain or increase the numbers of large bluegills.

## **River Otter Season and Monitoring Update**

Alex Solem, wildlife biologist, provided information on the 2020 river otter hunting/trapping season that started November 1. The season harvest limit of 15 river otters was reached on November 6 and the season officially closed November 7 after the 24-hour reporting period ended. A total of 6 female and 9 male river otters were harvested. River otters were harvested in Brookings (1), Minnehaha (2), Moody (8), Grant (1), Roberts (1), and Hamlin counties (2) within the designated open season boundary. A long-term monitoring plan is currently being developed using a multitude of methods, including the use of non-invasive genetic sampling to help give inferences in river otter abundance throughout the management boundary. A pilot study will begin September of 2021 focusing on developing proper sampling methodology for non-invasive genetic sampling.

## **Spring Spawning and Stocking**

John Lott, fisheries chief, informed the Commission that GFP staff and volunteers took approximately 211 million walleye eggs during the April 5<sup>th</sup> through May 1, 2021 period. Approximately 70 GFP employees and five volunteers helped staff spawning operations throughout the state. The high number of eggs taken in 2021 was needed to meeting an increase in stocking requests resulting from no walleye stocking occurring in 2020. Approximately 95 million walleye fry, 1.7 million juvenile walleye, and 0.4 million juvenile sauger were requested by area fisheries managers. Coldwater fish stockings and rap and transfer stockings of fish into urban and community fisheries are on schedule. Approximately 20,000 rainbow trout were raised over the winter at Blue Dog State Fish Hatchery (SFH) and were stocked into 16 East River urban and community

fisheries. Blue Dog SFH will continue to raise rainbow trout for east river stocking requests. Cleghorn SFH is developing recirculating aquaculture systems to raise cool and warm water fish needed to meet urban and community fishery stocking requests. An early ice-out in eastern South Dakota allowed area fisheries staff to meet many of the trap and transfer fish stocking needs for urban and community fisheries before walleye spawning commenced, with efforts for species like white bass currently being conducted.

### **Sage Grouse Management/Research Update**

Travis Runia provided an update on Sage Grouse.

### **License Sales Update**

Heather Villa, administrations chief, provided an update on resident and nonresident license sales.

### **Enemy Swim AIS Update**

John Lott, fisheries chief, explained that at the March Commission meeting, a representative from the Enemy Swim Preservation Association requested Game, Fish and Parks close one of the two boat ramps on the lake to facilitate lakeshore residents conducting voluntary AIS inspections at the remaining ramp. The department met with the association twice after the March Commission meeting and proposed partnering with them on a dedicated GFP watercraft inspection station at the lake. The ramps are close enough to each other that the requirement to participate in a boat inspection would apply to boats planning to launch at either ramp. The association will provide funding for one GFP employee to be stationed at the inspection station for 10 hours per day, 7 days per week, at the Church Bay Public Water Access Area, from mid-May through mid-September. Association volunteers will help staff the station, with the number of volunteers needed based on expected use of the lake on a given day and during different times of the day (minimize delays to launch).

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

**Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
May 6, 2021**

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

**Youth Proposals**

No verbal comments

**Disabled Pheasant Hunts**

No verbal comments

**Public Water Zoning**

No verbal comments

**Deer Season**

Nancy Hilding – Black Hawk – Prairie Hills Audubon Society – objects to the increase at LaCreek Wildlife Refuge and feels there are not a lot of prairie chickens at the wildlife refuge. This is chopping off part of the spring migration. Thinks this species is in danger.

Nancy Hilding – Black Hawk Cares very much about mule deer and finds the information is confusing. Wants seasons in western south Dakota rearranged so she can see more deer as a wildlife watcher.

**Upland Game**

Nancy Hilding – Black Hawk – Prairie Hills Audubon Society – objects to the increase at LaCreek Wildlife Refuge and feels there are not a lot of prairie chickens at the wildlife refuge. This is chopping off part of the spring migration. Thinks this species is in danger.

**CWD Regulations**

No verbal comments

The public Hearing concluded at 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Robling, Interim Department Secretary

**Appendix A**  
**RESOLUTION 21 - 09**

WHEREAS, the State of South Dakota (held by and for the use and benefit of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) owns an interest in real property described as:

The W1/2NW1/4SE1/4 and SW1/4SE1/4 of Section 19 in; the South 500 feet of the NW1/4 of Section 30 in Township 113 North, Range 74 West of the 5th P.M., Sully County, South Dakota; and the NW1/4 of Section 36 in Township 113 North, Range 75 West of the 5th P.M., Sully County, South Dakota; containing 250.3 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as GFP PROPERTY, which is valued at \$619,993.00; and

WHEREAS, Great Dakota Kith Limited Partnership, c/o Sharon K.D. Smith (SMITH), Harrold, SD, owns an interest in real property described as:

The N1/2 of Section 18 Township 113 North, Range 74 West of the 5th P.M., Sully County, South Dakota, containing 320 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as SMITH PROPERTY, which is valued at \$620,038.00; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota law (SDCL 41-2-29.2) provides GFP the authority to trade or exchange real property owned by the State of South Dakota and held by GFP if the GFP Commission shall first determine that real property more suitable to GFP purposes may be obtained by an exchange, provided the parcels of real property to be exchanged are of equal value; and

WHEREAS, GFP and SMITH desire to exchange interests in GFP PROPERTY and SMITH PROPERTY, and the GFP Commission having determined that SMITH PROPERTY is more suitable to GFP for GFP purposes than GFP PROPERTY, and that GFP PROPERTY and SMITH PROPERTY are of decidedly equal value as determined by a qualified appraiser; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota law requires that the conveyance of GFP PROPERTY be approved and executed in the manner provided by SDCL 5-2-11.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the GFP Commission hereby takes final action on and approves exchanging the above described parcels of real property, and hereby directs GFP to take all steps necessary to effectuate the exchange of GFP PROPERTY for SMITH PROPERTY under procedures mandated by statute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GFP Commission does hereby ratify and confirm the Department's designation of the SMITH PROPERTY being acquired pursuant to the exchange and authorized by this Resolution for use by GFP as game production area.



**Appendix B**  
**RESOLUTION 21-10**

WHEREAS, Paul Roghair of Kadoka, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated April 19, 2021, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:06:04:12 – Use of rifles and handguns to hunt birds prohibited – exception for wild turkeys for the reasons more fully set out in the petition (hereinafter referred to as “the Petition”); and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed and carefully considered the requirements and procedures set out in SDCL §1-26-13 and the contents of the Petition, including the reasons advanced by Petitioner in support of changing the 700lbs of energy requirement at the muzzle; and

WHEREAS, the change would complicate rule as there would be definitions of foot pounds of energy and length of cartridge; and

WHEREAS, change could increase wounding rates on turkeys; and

WHEREAS, there is currently numerous calibers of shoulder held firearms that are legal to harvest a turkey; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has directed Department staff to work with the petitioner to develop language that would include additional legal calibers of shoulder held firearm ammunition to harvest turkeys.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby deny the Petition for the reasons hereinabove stated in this Resolution, which said Resolution as adopted by the Commission shall constitute the Commission’s written denial of the Petition and its reasons therefore.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Petition, a record of the Commission's discussions concerning same, and this Resolution be made a part of the Minutes of the Commission meeting at which this Resolution is adopted, and further, that the Department be and it is hereby authorized and directed in compliance with SDCL §1-26-13 to serve a copy of an extract of that portion of the Commission minutes which pertain to the Commission's discussion of the Petition and its adoption of this Resolution, including a copy of the Resolution, on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council with copies also to be provided to the Petitioner, Paul Roghair of Kadoka, South Dakota.

## Appendix C

### 2021-2022 CUSTER STATE PARK DEER

| Unit         | Resident Licenses   |                          |                                 |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
|              | Any Deer<br>Type 01 | Any Whitetail<br>Type 11 | Antlerless Whitetail<br>Type 13 |
|              | CUD-1               | 0                        | 25                              |
| CUD-2        | 0                   | 0                        | 50                              |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>0</b>            | <b>25</b>                | <b>50</b>                       |

### CUSTER STATE PARK DEER 2019-20 vs. 2021-2022 Comparison

| Unit         | 2019-2020<br>Resident<br>Licenses | 2021-2022<br>Resident<br>Licenses | # Change   | % Change    | 2019-2020<br>Resident Tags | 2021-2022<br>Resident Tags | # Change   | % Change    |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| CUD-1        | 38                                | 25                                | -13        | -34%        | 38                         | 25                         | -13        | -34%        |
| CUD-2        | 50                                | 50                                | 0          | 0%          | 50                         | 50                         | 0          | 0%          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>88</b>                         | <b>75</b>                         | <b>-13</b> | <b>-15%</b> | <b>88</b>                  | <b>75</b>                  | <b>-13</b> | <b>-15%</b> |

### 2021-2022 BLACK HILLS DEER

| Unit         | Resident Licenses |              |                     | Nonresident Licenses |              |                     | License Totals     |              |              |              |             |             |            |            |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
|              | Any Deer<br>01    | Any WT<br>11 | Antlerless WT<br>13 | Any Deer<br>01       | Any WT<br>11 | Antlerless WT<br>13 | RES<br>1-tag       | RES<br>2-tag | RES<br>Lic   | RES<br>Tags  | NR<br>1-tag | NR<br>2-tag | NR<br>Lic  | NR<br>Tags |
| BD1          |                   |              | 300                 | 0                    | 0            | 24                  | 300                | 0            | 300          | 300          | 24          | 0           | 24         | 24         |
| BD2          |                   |              | 0                   | 0                    | 0            | 0                   | 0                  | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0           | 0           | 0          | 0          |
| BH1          | 200               | 3,000        |                     | 16                   | 240          | 0                   | 3,200              | 0            | 3,200        | 3,200        | 256         | 0           | 256        | 256        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>200</b>        | <b>3,000</b> | <b>300</b>          | <b>16</b>            | <b>240</b>   | <b>24</b>           | <b>3,500</b>       | <b>0</b>     | <b>3,500</b> | <b>3,500</b> | <b>280</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>280</b> | <b>280</b> |
| Unit         | Any Deer<br>01    | Any WT<br>11 | Antlerless WT<br>13 | Any Deer<br>01       | Any WT<br>11 | Antlerless WT<br>13 | RES<br>1-tag       | RES<br>2-tag | RES<br>Lic   | RES<br>Tags  | NR<br>1-tag | NR<br>2-tag | NR<br>Lic  | NR<br>Tags |
|              |                   |              |                     |                      |              |                     | <b>RES and NR:</b> | <b>0</b>     | <b>3,780</b> | <b>3,780</b> |             |             |            |            |

### BLACK HILLS DEER 2019-2020 VS 2021-2022 Comparison

| Unit         | Resident Licenses |            |          |           |               |              |             |             |                      |            |             |             |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|----------|-----------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|              | Any Deer          |            |          |           | Any Whitetail |              |             |             | Antlerless Whitetail |            |             |             |
|              | Year              |            | Change   |           | Year          |              | Change      |             | Year                 |            | Change      |             |
|              | 2019-2020         | 2021-2022  | #        | %         | 2019-2020     | 2021-2022    | #           | %           | 2019-2020            | 2021-2022  | #           | %           |
| BD1          |                   |            |          |           |               |              |             |             | 1,000                | 300        | -700        | -70%        |
| BD2          |                   |            |          |           |               |              |             |             | 100                  | 0          | -100        | -100%       |
| BH1          | 200               | 200        | 0        | 0%        | 3,500         | 3,000        | -500        | -14%        |                      |            |             |             |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>200</b>        | <b>200</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0%</b> | <b>3,500</b>  | <b>3,000</b> | <b>-500</b> | <b>-14%</b> | <b>1,100</b>         | <b>300</b> | <b>-800</b> | <b>-73%</b> |

Note: An additional 8% of the number of licenses will be available to nonresidents.



EAST RIVER DEER  
2019-20 VS 2021-22 Comparison

| Unit # | Unit Name    | 2019-20<br>Resident<br>Licenses | 2021-22<br>Resident<br>Licenses | #<br>Change   | %<br>Change | 2019-20<br>Resident<br>Tags | 2021-22<br>Resident<br>Tags | #<br>Change   | %<br>Change |
|--------|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 01A    | Minnehaha    | 650                             | 600                             | -50           | -8%         | 650                         | 600                         | -50           | -8%         |
| 03A    | Brown        | 2,000                           | 2,000                           | 0             | 0%          | 2,000                       | 2,000                       | 0             | 0%          |
| 04A    | Beadle       | 700                             | 800                             | 100           | 14%         | 700                         | 800                         | 100           | 14%         |
| 05A    | Codington    | 350                             | 550                             | 200           | 57%         | 350                         | 750                         | 400           | 114%        |
| 06A    | Brookings    | 550                             | 550                             | 0             | 0%          | 550                         | 550                         | 0             | 0%          |
| 07A    | Yankton      | 300                             | 350                             | 50            | 17%         | 300                         | 350                         | 50            | 17%         |
| 07B    | Yankton      | 75                              | 75                              | 0             | 0%          | 75                          | 150                         | 75            | 100%        |
| 08A    | Davison      | 200                             | 200                             | 0             | 0%          | 200                         | 200                         | 0             | 0%          |
| 10A    | Aurora       | 500                             | 400                             | -100          | -20%        | 500                         | 400                         | -100          | -20%        |
| 12A    | Bon Homme    | 250                             | 300                             | 50            | 20%         | 250                         | 300                         | 50            | 20%         |
| 12B    | Bon Homme    | 50                              | 75                              | 25            | 50%         | 50                          | 100                         | 50            | 100%        |
| 13A    | Brule        | 1,000                           | 1,000                           | 0             | 0%          | 1,700                       | 1,000                       | -700          | -41%        |
| 13L    | Brule        | 20                              | 20                              | 0             | 0%          | 20                          | 20                          | 0             | 0%          |
| 14A    | Buffalo      | 350                             | 350                             | 0             | 0%          | 600                         | 350                         | -250          | -42%        |
| 16A    | Campbell     | 580                             | 530                             | -50           | -9%         | 580                         | 530                         | -50           | -9%         |
| 17A    | Charles Mix  | 400                             | 400                             | 0             | 0%          | 400                         | 400                         | 0             | 0%          |
| 18A    | Clark        | 700                             | 800                             | 100           | 14%         | 700                         | 1,000                       | 300           | 43%         |
| 19A    | Clay         | 300                             | 350                             | 50            | 17%         | 300                         | 350                         | 50            | 17%         |
| 22A    | Day          | 700                             | 1,000                           | 300           | 43%         | 700                         | 1,000                       | 300           | 43%         |
| 23A    | Deuel        | 500                             | 700                             | 200           | 40%         | 500                         | 900                         | 400           | 80%         |
| 25A    | Douglas      | 350                             | 350                             | 0             | 0%          | 350                         | 350                         | 0             | 0%          |
| 26A    | Edmunds      | 1,300                           | 1,100                           | -200          | -15%        | 1,300                       | 1,100                       | -200          | -15%        |
| 28A    | Faulk        | 1,200                           | 1,000                           | -200          | -17%        | 1,200                       | 1,000                       | -200          | -17%        |
| 29A    | Grant        | 300                             | 500                             | 200           | 67%         | 300                         | 600                         | 300           | 100%        |
| 32A    | Hamlin       | 700                             | 800                             | 100           | 14%         | 700                         | 1,000                       | 300           | 43%         |
| 33A    | Hand         | 870                             | 310                             | -560          | -64%        | 1,120                       | 310                         | -810          | -72%        |
| 34A    | Hanson       | 200                             | 200                             | 0             | 0%          | 200                         | 200                         | 0             | 0%          |
| 36A    | Hughes       | 525                             | 400                             | -125          | -24%        | 425                         | 400                         | -25           | -6%         |
| 37A    | Hutchinson   | 150                             | 200                             | 50            | 33%         | 150                         | 200                         | 50            | 33%         |
| 38A    | Hyde         | 720                             | 310                             | -410          | -57%        | 1,220                       | 310                         | -910          | -75%        |
| 40A    | Jerauld      | 600                             | 350                             | -250          | -42%        | 700                         | 350                         | -350          | -50%        |
| 42A    | Kingsbury    | 600                             | 600                             | 0             | 0%          | 600                         | 600                         | 0             | 0%          |
| 43A    | Lake         | 400                             | 400                             | 0             | 0%          | 400                         | 400                         | 0             | 0%          |
| 44A    | Lincoln      | 300                             | 300                             | 0             | 0%          | 300                         | 300                         | 0             | 0%          |
| 46A    | McCook       | 550                             | 650                             | 100           | 18%         | 550                         | 650                         | 100           | 18%         |
| 47A    | McPherson    | 1,000                           | 1,000                           | 0             | 0%          | 1,000                       | 1,000                       | 0             | 0%          |
| 48A    | Marshall     | 600                             | 800                             | 200           | 33%         | 600                         | 800                         | 200           | 33%         |
| 51A    | Miner        | 750                             | 750                             | 0             | 0%          | 750                         | 750                         | 0             | 0%          |
| 52A    | Moody        | 550                             | 450                             | -100          | -18%        | 550                         | 450                         | -100          | -18%        |
| 54A    | Potter       | 1,050                           | 450                             | -600          | -57%        | 1,550                       | 450                         | -1,100        | -71%        |
| 55A    | Roberts      | 800                             | 700                             | -100          | -13%        | 800                         | 900                         | 100           | 13%         |
| 56A    | Sanborn      | 550                             | 650                             | 100           | 18%         | 550                         | 650                         | 100           | 18%         |
| 57A    | Spink        | 1,300                           | 1,100                           | -200          | -15%        | 1,300                       | 1,100                       | -200          | -15%        |
| 59A    | Sully        | 350                             | 350                             | 0             | 0%          | 350                         | 350                         | 0             | 0%          |
| 59B    | Sully        | 370                             | 320                             | -50           | -14%        | 370                         | 320                         | -50           | -14%        |
| 61A    | Turner       | 100                             | 150                             | 50            | 50%         | 100                         | 150                         | 50            | 50%         |
| 62A    | Union        | 400                             | 450                             | 50            | 13%         | 400                         | 450                         | 50            | 13%         |
| 63A    | Walworth     | 750                             | 550                             | -200          | -27%        | 750                         | 650                         | -100          | -13%        |
|        | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>27,310</b>                   | <b>26,240</b>                   | <b>-1,070</b> | <b>-4%</b>  | <b>29,510</b>               | <b>27,540</b>               | <b>-1,970</b> | <b>-7%</b>  |

REFUGE DEER  
2019-20 VS 2021-22 COMPARISON

| Refuge Unit             | Resident Licenses |            |          |           |                 |           |          |           |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|                         | Any Deer          |            |          |           | Antlerless Deer |           |          |           |
|                         | Year              |            | Change   |           | Year            |           | Change   |           |
|                         | 2019-20           | 2021-22    | #        | %         | 2019-20         | 2021-22   | #        | %         |
| <b>Lacreek Refuge</b>   |                   |            |          |           |                 |           |          |           |
| RFD-LC1                 | 10                | 10         | 0        | 0%        | 0               | 0         | 0        | 0%        |
| RFD-LC2                 | 10                | 10         | 0        | 0%        | 0               | 0         | 0        | 0%        |
| <b>Sand Lake Refuge</b> |                   |            |          |           |                 |           |          |           |
| RFD-SL1                 | 20                | 20         | 0        | 0%        | 0               | 0         | 0        | 0%        |
| RFD-SL2                 | 20                | 20         | 0        | 0%        | 0               | 0         | 0        | 0%        |
| RFD-SL3                 | 20                | 20         | 0        | 0%        | 0               | 0         | 0        | 0%        |
| RFD-SL4                 | 0                 | 0          | 0        | 0%        | 25              | 25        | 0        | 0%        |
| RFD-SL5                 | 20                | 20         | 0        | 0%        | 0               | 0         | 0        | 0%        |
| <b>Waubay Refuge</b>    |                   |            |          |           |                 |           |          |           |
| RFD-WA1                 | 10                | 10         | 0        | 0%        | 0               | 0         | 0        | 0%        |
| RFD-WA2                 | 0                 | 0          | 0        | 0%        | 0               | 0         | 0        | 0%        |
| RFD-WA3                 | 10                | 10         | 0        | 0%        | 0               | 0         | 0        | 0%        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>120</b>        | <b>120</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0%</b> | <b>25</b>       | <b>25</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0%</b> |

Note: An additional 8% of the number of licenses will be available to nonresidents.

2021-2022 REFUGE DEER

| Unit                    | Resident Licenses |            | Nonresident Licenses |            | License Totals |            |             |             |           |            |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
|                         | Any D<br>01       | AtIW<br>13 | Any D<br>01          | AtIW<br>13 | RES<br>1-tag   | RES<br>Lic | RES<br>Tags | NR<br>1-tag | NR<br>Lic | NR<br>Tags |
| <b>Lacreek Refuge</b>   |                   |            |                      |            |                |            |             |             |           |            |
| RFD-LC1                 | 10                |            | 1                    |            | 10             | 10         | 10          | 1           | 1         | 1          |
| RFD-LC2                 | 10                |            | 1                    |            | 10             | 10         | 10          | 1           | 1         | 1          |
| <b>Sand Lake Refuge</b> |                   |            |                      |            |                |            |             |             |           |            |
| RFD-SL1                 | 20                |            | 2                    |            | 20             | 20         | 20          | 2           | 2         | 2          |
| RFD-SL2                 | 20                |            | 2                    |            | 20             | 20         | 20          | 2           | 2         | 2          |
| RFD-SL3                 | 20                |            | 2                    |            | 20             | 20         | 20          | 2           | 2         | 2          |
| RFD-SL4                 |                   | 25         |                      | 2          | 25             | 25         | 25          | 2           | 2         | 2          |
| RFD-SL5                 | 20                |            | 2                    |            | 20             | 20         | 20          | 2           | 2         | 2          |
| <b>Waubay Refuge</b>    |                   |            |                      |            |                |            |             |             |           |            |
| RFD-WA1                 | 10                |            | 1                    |            | 10             | 10         | 10          | 1           | 1         | 1          |
| RFD-WA2                 |                   |            |                      |            | 0              | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0         | 0          |
| RFD-WA3                 | 10                |            | 1                    |            | 10             | 10         | 10          | 1           | 1         | 1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>120</b>        | <b>25</b>  | <b>12</b>            | <b>2</b>   | <b>145</b>     | <b>145</b> | <b>145</b>  | <b>14</b>   | <b>14</b> | <b>14</b>  |
| Unit                    | Any D<br>01       | AtIW<br>13 | Any D<br>01          | AtIW<br>13 | RES<br>1-tag   | RES<br>Lic | RES<br>Tags | NR<br>1-tag | NR<br>Lic | NR<br>Tags |
| <b>RES and NR:</b>      |                   |            |                      |            | <b>159</b>     | <b>159</b> | <b>159</b>  |             |           |            |

2021-2022 ARCHERY ACCESS PERMITS

| Designated Area                     | Number of Access Permits |                           |       |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
|                                     | Any Deer                 | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | Total |
| Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve | 10                       | 60                        | 70    |
| Good Earth State Park               | 5                        | 0                         | 5     |
| WRD-35L (Residents)                 | 500                      | 0                         | 500   |
| WRD-35L (Nonresidents)              | 125                      | 0                         | 125   |

2019-2020 vs. 2021-2022 Comparison

| Designated Area                               | Number of Access Permits |                           |       |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
|                                               | Any Deer                 | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | Total |
| 2019-2020 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve | 5                        | 30                        | 35    |
| 2021-2022 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve | 10                       | 60                        | 70    |
| 2019-2020 Good Earth State Park               | 5                        | 0                         | 5     |
| 2021-2022 Good Earth State Park               | 5                        | 0                         | 5     |
| 2019-2020 WRD-35L (Residents)                 | 500                      | 0                         | 500   |
| 2021-2022 WRD-35L (Residents)                 | 500                      | 0                         | 500   |
| 2019-2020 WRD-35L (Nonresidents)              | 125                      | 0                         | 125   |
| 2021-2022 WRD-35L (Nonresidents)              | 125                      | 0                         | 125   |

2021-2022 MUZZLELOADER DEER

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

2019-2020 VS. 2021-2022 Comparison

|                     | Resident          |               |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
|                     | Any Deer Licenses | Any Deer Tags |
| 2019-2020 Statewide | 1,000             | 1,000         |
| 2021-2022 Statewide | 1,000             | 1,000         |

# Public Comments

## CWD Regulations

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**David Archibald**

**Lodgepole SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Carcass disposal in a garbage container, or registered landfill, will require a fair amount of rural people traveling a significant distance, is incineration or local burial an option?  
If container/landfill statewide carcasses disposal is implemented commission should include transportation requirements for packaging for transportation to disposal site.

---

**Scott Wittrock**

**Hartford SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I think this proposal makes some sense. The deer carcass should either be left in the field where it fell, doing your meat/head harvest in the field, or disposed of in a trash container. Hunters will need to take a little extra care and possibly learn new skills like quartering in the field. We need to do what we can to slow/stop the spread of CWD.

Scott Wittrock  
Hartford, SD

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**Duane Weber**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

With the significant detected spread of CWD across our state any carcass disposal rules that may help stem the tide of the spread of CWD, are welcome AND supported.

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**Jamie Johnson**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I think it is pretty easy to understand why hunting, the activity I enjoy as much as breathing itself, is a dying past time. The combination of getting tough to get on private land without paying high fees, in many cases over hunting public land and now increased CWD rules make many hunters throw up their arms and say I quit. Sadly, it just isn't worth the hassle anymore. I hope these efforts to control CWD are positive and that some hunters hang in and keep hunting. Personally, it just puts me one step closer to being glad I'm getting old and will soon be lucky enough to be dead.



# Deer Seasons

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**Scott Wittrock**

**Hartford SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Although it would be nice to increase the number of tags available to up my chances of drawing a tag, last year we did not see near the numbers of deer we have seen in the past. I think the hunter success numbers shown in the documentation support that over the last 3 years the % successful has declined from over 71% to around 64%. I believe we should hold steady on the number of licenses available for 2021. Make sure this is about the deer population and health, not about money.

Respectfully,

Scott Wittrock  
Hartford, SD

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**Troy Kruse**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not see the need to decrease hills whitetail tags. In the past 15 years the areas I hunt tend to be nemo area and north to hwy 85...I have never had a problem filling an any whitetail tag with on a decent whitetail buck. These areas to me seem to have a very healthy population of whitetail deer

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**Reid Holiday**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I think there should not be unlimited licenses for youth, mentored, and apprentice hunters unless these individuals are hunting with at archery equipment.

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**Jeffery Sorensen**

**Viborg SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose excluding the Black's Hills are from the Muzzleloader antlerless whitetail season. This would take revenue away from retailers across the State via hunters spending monies for travel, lodging and meals. Thank you.

---

**Tim Bjork**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It is my understanding that the proposed changes to the muzzleloader regulations for "any whitetail deer" licenses would eliminate significant areas of public land which had previously been open to hunting. If this the case, I am opposed to the change because it reduces recreation/hunting opportunities for those that enjoy low pressure late season hunting on open public areas. Plus, in listening to the commission meeting minutes, I didn't hear any biological or statistical reason for making the changes. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

---

**B Dinger**

**Kirley SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Fifth generation rancher in Stanley County and have abundant mule deer numbers on my place. Each year I have about 10 kids from town and the surrounding area harvest mule deer does to help manage the deer herd. Don't take these tags away as it leave me no way to manage the mule deer on my land and takes away a great opportunity for local kids. Let the landowners manage the mule deer on their land that they raise.

---

**Bryan Luke**

**Marion SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I am commenting to ask you to consider adding Turner County(Unit 61) to the list of counties that "antlerless muzzleloader tags" are valid. I believe that the deer population has increased enough in the last several years to support this decision.

---

**Cory Lacina**

**Elk Point SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I would like to see west river deer tags for residents increased, NOT for nonresidents. I believe residents should get a preference when it comes to tags. Some times it takes a residents 2 or 3 years to draw a tag depending on a which county they are applying for. Increased tag numbers would shorten that wait time.

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**Mark Miller**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I feel that there should not be any mule deer does shot for any season for at least 2 years and see what the heard look like then and make the archery hunters put in for unites just like everybody else

## Other

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**Dennis Dekraai**

**Arlington SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am against extending the pheasant season past January first. I believe it is killing lots of birds by flushing them out of heavy cover during winter storms. Sometimes the cover they are being flushed from is the only cover in the area.

## Youth Proposals

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**Jay Spaans**

**Armour SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

For the Mentored, Youth, and Apprentice deer seasons it would be nice if they went to the 8th of Jan for 2022 and 2023. That gives the kids one more week when they are home from school anyhow. Just a thought.  
Thanks

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**Scott Wittrock**

**Hartford SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

We need to make changes to increase the size of the mule deer heard and this one makes some sense.

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**Adam Golay**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I commented before on this but the reality is the whole state should be included in the area that does not allow youth hunters to shoot antlerless mule deer. It's a good start but antlerless mule deer should be protected throughout the entire state not just the gray counties where they are the most populated.

---

**Aric Craven**

**Winner SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

If you are going to change the youth season why don't you make it where they could take only Whitetail doe in the one unit or Mule deer Doe in the other unit but still just have them have one tag for those that hunt both areas with their youth as I do I do not know where we will be taking our doe from one unit or the other so it would be nice to have the option to be able to hunt both units in only take one deer either muley or white tail depending on which unit that we are hunting in.

---

**Scott Gamo**

**Cheyenne WY**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Providing simpler and more opportunities for youth hunting, whether resident or non-resident, is a positive forward thinking move. Hunter and angler recruitment has been an ongoing issue for many years and enabling our youth to pursue these activities can only help ensure future hunter and fisherman will exist to help with conservation. thank you

# Public Comments

## Deer Seasons

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**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk, SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Nancy Hilding To Commissioners,

**REDRAW DEER HUNTING BOUNDARIES AROUND BELLE FORCHE RIVER**

As I remember the last Commission meeting, there was discussion of an issue related to mule deer in the area of the Belle Fourche River. As I remember it, landowners along the River are concerned about mule deer depredations and want the deer hunting increased. I thought the Department wanted to increase mule deer in the larger hunting area/district of which the Belle Forche River is a subset. The Commission discussed redrawing the boundaries of the hunting area to somehow split off the area immediately next to the River from other areas, but decided not to do it and "watch and wait". The Commission also discussed worry about making changes that had not been public noticed. The Interim Rules Review Committee, allows the Commission to make changes to a proposed rule that is based on testimony received from the public, even if the changes suggested by the public were not in the public notice. I therefore suggest that the Commission redraw the mule deer hunting districts around the Belle Fourche River to allow the Commission to set different harvest limits in the larger area or otherwise allow for different/contrasting hunting pressure on the deer along the Belle Fourche River when compared with areas beyond the River that are currently in the same hunting districts/areas. I suggest the Commission look at and consider reducing harvest limits for various types of deer hunting and deer hunting licenses to address the issue of increasing mule deer west River..

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**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I like to watch animals in the wild. It is rare to see mule deer in western SD. I wish for more opportunity to see mule deer. I do not want you to increase mule deer by increasing hunting of non-human predators. I want you to reduce hunting of mule deer by human predators. Please reduce human hunting of mule deer for the sake of "wildlife watchers" and photographers. When you are discussing the effect of the rule on the 3Rs please discuss the effect of mule deer hunting on wildlife watchers and photographers ability to see such.

## Nonresident Landowner Own Land

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**Robert Eddy**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please vote no on these issues. That is why we have the 8% non resident rifle tags, the non resident archery tags, and the non resident special buck tag. How many more way do we need to allow non residents to hunt. Also, deny the petition for "Special Antelope Tags" being proposed. Everyone is looking for a way around the regulations to supplement their outfitting business. Let the tax paying residents have an opportunity before nonresidents. Please!

## Other

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**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I object to increased hunting of deer or grouse on our National Wildlife Refuges (NWR). The NWR should be managed more for the wildlife watchers. When discussing the 3 Rs and rule making please consider the competition for use of wildlife by the watcher vs. hunters.

## Upland Game Seasons

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**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk, SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nancy to SDGFP

I wish to be able to see grouse when I am outdoors. I wish you to reduce the hunting pressure on sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken so wildlife watchers have better opportunity to see them. I object to increasing the length of the grouse hunting season in the whole state or at La Creek National Wildlife Refuge. I am concerned for the on going loss of the greater prairie chicken across it range and SD should do more to protect it, especially from exotic pheasants who compete with it. Please increase hunting of exotic pheasants in areas where they would compete with greater prairie chicken, so as to give the chickens a better future.