



Public Comments

Comments provided by the public between
May 1, 2023 at 1:00 pm CST to June 5, 2023 at 12:00 pm CST.

Nonresident Waterfowl

Michael Davis

Trent Woods NC

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have enjoyed over 17 years of the SD waterfowl experience as a NR. The limited lottery has minimized the commercialization of the resource and maintained an outstanding experience for residents and nonresidents alike. Waterfowl are not a 'put and take' resource, like pheasant, and increasing hunting pressure will have a significant negative impact on the resource.
[05/01/2023 05:02:39 AM]

Tanner Lundholm

Watertown SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The out of state people are the ones who trespass, dump birds, and break other laws. I've personally caught people from out of state trespassing on land that I only have permission to hunt. It's not the first and won't be the last
[05/01/2023 05:31:40 AM]

Michael Pistulka

Deer Creek MN Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

[05/01/2023 06:46:16 AM]

Blake Pistulka

Waconia MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

[05/01/2023 06:54:19 AM]

Mark Pistulka

Nowthen MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

[05/01/2023 06:54:55 AM]

Joe Schultz

Saint Paul Park MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

[05/01/2023 07:28:56 AM]

Roy Jinks

Webster SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm against the SD GFP proposal to increase Non-Resident waterfowl licenses. The quality of hunting in North East South Dakota has diminished over the last 20 years as increased pressure for NRs has had made getting permission on private much harder. Changing the NR licenses to be valid for 2-7 day periods instead of 1-14 day period has greatly increased NR pressure as well. Please remember who you are supposed to represent, the residents of SD and not look out for the NR interests.

[05/01/2023 08:12:24 AM]

Troy Spitzer

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Commission members. Please consider rejecting the proposal to increase the non resident waterfowl hunter numbers. There is nothing to gain for the hunters of South Dakota, or the state of South Dakota. This is will only advance the privatization of waterfowl hunting. Most of these proposals have come from one guide in the Columbia region. Just because he makes repeated requests, does not mean the governors office, the legislature or commission should bow down.

[05/01/2023 08:28:54 AM]

Tim Foerster

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

[05/01/2023 8:35:15 AM]

Dan Svobodny

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Good morning,

I am writing to oppose the increase in 5% of non-resident waterfowl licenses.

This is not a good time to be making any increases in this number. With the on-going dry conditions, many wetlands have dried up, which may be OK today, but over a long hot summer we have no idea what those wetland conditions will look like in October. With fewer wetlands, there will be fewer places to hunt.

There has also been significant drain tile activity in the state and countless temporary wetlands, some of which would be full, productive wetlands in wetter years, are now gone forever. This trend continues and will be the case for years to come until South Dakota is similar to Minnesota when it comes to seasonal wetlands. There will be none.

This increase is being considered for commercial interests only. Resident hunters who are not tied to commercial interests continue to struggle with access to good hunting opportunities. We are not pushing for this and it is highly unlikely you will find one waterfowl hunter in the state without commercial or out of state ties that would support this.

Please maintain the current level of non-resident licenses, or consider a reduction based on the fact that we have less places to hunt than we did 10 years ago and waterfowl numbers are at lower numbers as well.

Thanks,
Dan Svobodny
Brookings, SD

[05/01/2023 12:13:18 PM]

Mathew Fetherhuff

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

[05/01/2023 01:22:04 PM]

Jim Kirk

Springfield SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Why in the world have you turned your back on us residents? Why don't you listen to us? Is it all about money? Folks like me stayed in SD because of good waterfowl hunting. Largely ruined over the years by influx of nonresident hunters. Also, You won't reestablish the extremely late opener for the south zone back to where it was either, although I know of not one local resident Hunter who supports current late opening date. WHY? I'm 69 yrs old & hunted Springfield EVERY year since I was 12. Just to see hunting quality decline unbelievable do to over crowding. Who are you representing? You're a disgrace to the charge of your appointment. Do something right for a change, PLEASE.

[05/01/2023 06:07:29 PM]

Adam Dero

Eden Prairie MN

Position: support

Comment:

Please increase nonresident license for waterfowl hunting.

[05/01/2023 10:53:28 PM]

Chris Anderson

Jordan MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not increase NR waterfowl licenses in SD. I have been coming to SD for over 20 years waterfowl hunting. We come for the wide open spaces and great people. Why ruin a good thing? so that state can make more money? Every other surrounding state has ruined their waterfowl hunting unless you have deep pockets please don't do this to your great state.

Chris Anderson
Jordan, MN

[05/02/2023 07:36:28 AM]

Phil Hudson

Huron SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

[05/02/2023 03:04:31 PM]

Eric Paulson

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Approximately 37 against and 4 for the proposal. That is what is in the public comments filed so far. Don't let the outfitters and land leasers dictate what goes on. It is very evident this change is not welcome by an overwhelming majority of folks who hunt in this state.

R3 as indicated by the GFP on their sheet is incredibly misleading. Yes this will inhibit the ability for resident hunters. No at the get go but when more out of state plates are around it gets too discouraging, a resident will quit. This does nothing to increase resident opportunity. When yet another nonresident is in a spot, that takes away the opportunity for a resident. This regulation doesn't help the next generation of resident hunter at all. It can only hurt when more pressure is around, more land is leased, less future hunters will be around. This does nothing to enhance the resident quality of life. There's no encouragement for residents to get outdoors, only 5% more reason to not buy a license to fight more hunters.

[05/03/2023 02:56:09 PM]

Liz & Shilo Pope

Kimball SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We strongly oppose the proposed increase in nonresident waterfowl licenses.

As one of the premier duck breeding habitats, South Dakota should focus primarily on duck production, NOT revenue. When the focus is on revenue, the quality of hunting for South Dakotans becomes a slippery slope.

This is clearly illustrated by the commercialization of pheasant hunting. There is only a limited amount of public lands. Within the first few weeks of pheasant, the public lands' hunting is trashed as the birds have been spooked off. There are already plenty of locals who duck hunt, and there really are not that many ducks to hunt. Unlike pheasant hunting, ducks are not commercially farmed and stocked. Also unlike pheasant hunting, public lands are where duck hunters will mostly concentrate for the majority of their hunt. Duck identification skills and connection to the land may be questionable. Out of staters will be more likely than working South Dakotans to come in all week long and duck hunt instead of working, and there will be hardly any ducks left for the locals. This will also mess up lands for pheasant and deer later on.

Additionally, pheasant commercialization, combined with nonresidents walking public lands too, has priced regular people out of the pheasant hunting tradition (to the quality it used to and can be). We simply cannot afford paying to shoot birds. It would be a true shame if this happened to ducks as well.

When the duck population is doing well, that is something to be proud of: habitat management is adequate, and the amount of tags allocated is balanced. It is good to have a lot of ducks.

Don't wreck the one hunt regular working (i.e. not rich) South Dakotans can enjoy mostly by themselves. Let the people who live, work, are part of the community, pay taxes, and make things run here have their season. It is okay to have one season not swamped with nonresidents: they already have plenty of other hunting opportunities in South Dakota, which generates plenty of revenue. Leave the duck licensing the way it is, and look for revenue via other avenues.

Keep South Dakota duck hunting great for South Dakotans.

[05/03/2023 08:17:42 PM]

Richard Visker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Still don't understand why the increase is needed? Money? How about create a fee for all resident and non resident guides like other states have? That would help keep the bad guides out of our state.

Anyways, increases licenses is a mistake every time it's made. Just trying to commercialize waterfowl like pheasant is. Then watch the resident numbers drop even more. You guys need to care about the resident sportsman for once. Increasing licenses will increase pressure on birds and decrease the quality of hunts. While also upsetting more farmers with people showing up at their door and calling them. The draw system is working good already with a high success rate. There is literally no reason to change besides money, greed. That's so important to you that you're willing to do that in exchange for decreased quality of hunts, more pressure on birds, resident waterfowl licenses will decrease. When are we going to take care of our residents first? You guys are like the president, forget the residents, let's let all the illegals come in and pay for them.

[05/04/2023 06:56:37 AM]

Lincoln Biermann

Lake City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

[05/05/2023 12:53:39 PM]

Other

Lisa Rathbun

Volga SD

Position: other

Comment:

I want a moratorium on beaver trapping/hunting in the Black Hills National Forest. I want to reduce the beaver trapping season statewide outside the Black Hills (instead of the current 12-month season). I want to see beavers on public lands when I visit. Beavers create riparian, aquatic & wetland habitat that benefits biodiversity & water retention!

[05/02/2023 04:40:58 PM]

Mark Scharn

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

I would like to request an explanation to the decision to make same day reservations a requirement at the Center Lake Campground. This policy makes it nearly impossible to plan a camping trip. It has forced me to make reservations at private campgrounds in the area.

This is my second request for an explanation to this policy.

[05/08/2023 10:29:03 AM]

Scott Ingle

Cavour SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mountain lion hunters in the Hills are apparently having a difficult time and the cats are pushing the deer into the city limits more and more. Could you please initiate a season using dogs to assist?

[05/25/2023 06:56:51 PM]

Zachary Perry

Bruce SD

Position: support

Comment:

Oak wood State park Horse camp is a serious shit show , 6 spots only 4 pens, free for all pens, people use multiple pens, no power when it's clearly needed, they refuse to help or do anything about it... we have offered to build pens and get shut down, it's nothing but a bunch of crap. We try but don't help or even let us try... they used to say no power at horse camp because it cost too much to trench power across the road but they trenched power across next to the horse camp for the new campground but nothing in horse camp. Every other park I've been to has a wheel barrel and a place to put horse manure so we ca. clean our pens after use, this place just needs major attention and they won't even let us to try and help... clearly just ruining a great attraction
[05/27/2023 04:08:52 PM]

Al Kraus

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I own and operate Black Hills Archery in rapid city since 1988. Crossbows should only be allowed for the handicapped. Crossbows of today are equal to a rifle in comparison. Crossbows of today shoot Over 500 fps and 200 yards with a ballistic turret. If you want to keep people in the sport of bowhunting DO NOT ALLOW RIFLES/CROSSBOWS into our bowhunting season.
[05/30/2023 10:04:13 PM]

Phil A Lentz

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Crossbow for fishing? How did this get passed. Not only is this incredibly dangerous but just foolish. We already have a too high of capacity of res/nr people that fight for allocations but now we will increase the demand? Not only that this is just an opening up to easier poaching. This should change to vertical bow or standard fishing practices. The crossbow is not the answer to anything outdoor related.
[06/02/2023 1:43:47 PM]

Mitch Adams

Spearfish SD

Position: other

Comment:

Please consider adjusting slot and daily limit at Belle Fourche reservoir. The walleye population has been declining with the current management and angling pressure. I would support restrictions in order to build the walleye population. Please feel free to contact me for more information.
[06/04/2023 10:20:26 PM]

Trapping

Jeanette Williams

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please quit trapping beavers. We need them.

[05/01/2023 08:14:00 AM]



Megan Howell, Executive Director
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Affiliated with National Wildlife Federation

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission
June 2023 Meeting
Good Earth State Park

Dear Commission Members,

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation is writing in support of action items numbers 20 and 21 regarding the land acquisition of the Davis Property in Day County and the Pheasants Forever Donation Property in Stanley County.

Generally, the SDWF is supportive of land acquisitions for added wildlife habitat and public recreational use. Both of these properties will provide excellent opportunities for quality wildlife habitat and outdoor activities. Particularly the property in Stanley County, which is centrally located with quality habitat for wildlife production. Properly managed, this should provide excellent wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Members of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation would like to thank the GFP Department for their work on these acquisitions as they provide more opportunity in our great state for wildlife and outdoors men and women alike. We support and encourage the Game Fish and Parks department to continue to work with landowners and other agencies for these types of acquisitions.

We encourage you to support the Division of Wildlife action items 20 and 21 at your June 2023 meeting.

Best regards,

Megan Howell
Executive Director
South Dakota Wildlife Federation

South Dakota Fish And Game Turkey Season

Hello I am writing in regards to the last-minute changes of the South Dakota turkey season regulations. I would first like to add that I have actually spoken to others on how well in the past that your state had ran your wildlife management and regulations. So, when this years 2023 regulations were changed AFTER I had purchased my Archery Spring Turkey -- ST132 licence. I was surprised and disappointed.

When a bowhunter purchases a licence specifically for archery only and finds out only after arriving in South Dakota that there is no longer an archery season, it's wrong. Especially after purchasing the specific licence. We had travelled a great distance for the unique opportunity to hunt an archery only season for turkey.

Also, the closing of specific areas we had planned to hunt and had obtained permission for , created a difficult hunt, having to share public land with shotgun hunters. We actually had a minor disagreement with a shotgun hunter who was sitting right in the vicinity of our Blinds that were set up the day before. He was in essence ruining our hunt, knowing that we had blinds up. These are the kinds of problems that can occur when last minute changes are made unknowingly to the hunting public.

The other concern is without having the aid of local hunters, we would not have known of any of the changes and the area closures and would have been breaking the law.

I'm hoping in the future any changes are made in a timely manner, and made public to the licence holders to prevent issues we encountered.

Archery seasons are designed specifically to allow bowhunters to hunt closer and use unique techniques to have a chance at success before gun hunting is open. We were denied that opportunity in 2023.

Thanks for your time and I hope this letter is brought to the attention of those who made the changes.

Sincerely

Brad English.