

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 1:15 PM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Proposed season dates for the 2017 and 2018 West River deer hunting seasons
Attachments: South Dakota Gam1.docx
Categories: Commission

From: Bill O'Neill [<mailto:oneillw55@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 12:48 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Proposed season dates for the 2017 and 2018 West River deer hunting seasons

Please see attached letter regarding the proposed season dates for the 2017 and 2018 West River deer hunting seasons.

As the letter states I am asking you to reconsider the proposal and include a split season. Reducing to one period season will result in far fewer out of state hunters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Bill O'Neill
Gaylord, Michigan.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission,

I would like to start by complimenting your deer management efforts and habitat enhancement in the West River Region. I was privileged to participate in a West River early season hunt last year and found the management and quality of the hunting excellent, even with the disease challenges you faced. You and your landowners have combined to provide a truly excellent hunting opportunity.

I am also writing to express my concerns with The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission's proposal to change the West River hunt dates which eliminates the split season and reduces the season to one period. I believe this change will result in a significant reduction of out of state hunters coming to SD.

Our hunting party circumstances are fairly typical of many other Michigan and out of state hunters that travel to SD to deer hunt. Because of your split season we can enjoy both an opening day in Michigan and an out of state hunt in SD. Elimination of this split season requires all Michigan hunters to choose between hunting opening day in Michigan or traveling to SD.

Many of us own property, belong to hunting clubs and enjoy a long family inspired tradition of hunting in Michigan. As it is in SD, this is a cherished tradition, one we value and enthusiastically participate in. I have not missed an opening day in over 40 years! Given the choice between our opening day hunt or hunting in SD, I would have to choose our traditional hunt in Michigan.

Michigan hunters are not alone in this conflict. Others states have opening days at similar times so there will be many other out of state hunters that will be forced to pass on a SD hunt because of this conflict in seasons.

Eliminating the early season will reduce hunting opportunity for your customers as well as reduce revenue for the state of South Dakota, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks department and local communities.

In conclusion, I am asking the Commission to reconsider eliminating the early season, it provides many positives with few negative consequences. Keep the split season with the early season option.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

William O'Neill
Gaylord, Michigan
oneillw55@gmail.com
989-619-0852

From: [Cary, Joe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT]
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2017 4:16:42 PM

From: Derick Hofer [mailto:derickdanielhofer@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 4:16 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT]

My feeling is with that of most other landowners and hunters in South Dakota...I would like to see the abolishment of nonresident waterfowl hunting....each year there is more and more pressure in public land. The ability of non-resident to generate cooperation with other non-resident to raise enough money to lease rights from nonhunting landowners private lands whom are in fact removing privledges from residents who cannot afford to do the same. We South Dakotans would like to see the resources left to be enjoyed by South Dakotans rather than seeing it reaped for sake of sale.

Money. When will it be enough.

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Buffalo hunt
Date: Monday, May 15, 2017 9:03:26 AM

From: Dean A. Johnson [mailto:daj041@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2017 6:23 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] Buffalo hunt

I want to register my protest regarding the hunting fees for buffalo in Custer State Park. Those high fees prevent the ordinary hunter from applying. You are catering to the rich at the expense of ordinary South Dakota citizens.

Dean A. Johnson
19535 Hwy 81
Arlington SD

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Changes to Non-Resident waterfowl
Date: Friday, May 12, 2017 8:12:03 AM

From: dave junker [mailto:lab.man@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 9:28 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Changes to Non-Resident waterfowl

My name is Dave Junker. I was born and raised in Aberdeen, SD. I own a house in Roscoe, SD for hunting purposes. I currently live in Colville, WA. Last year after 3 years of being unsuccessful in getting a general non-resident waterfowl license, I was drawn. I hunted the first 10 days of Nov. and never shot a bird, weather conditions were not favorable for fall migration. That happens. I also generally buy a non-resident archery deer license. Now you finally offer a solution to the limited number of non-resident licenses that allow people who did not draw successfully an opportunity to still hunt a 3 day season on any type of land in Edmunds and McPherson Counties (where I've hunted since I was 12 years old, I am now 61 and have never missed a season), but probably due pressure from the private hunting guides and big time leasers, you chicken out and propose to change to appease these controllers, forcing the average hunter, who make up the majority of hunters that pay your salaries, to only hunt private land in December, where the only hunting opportunities will be around Pierre with private guides. North Dakota is looking and sounding better all the time.

Thank you for your time.

Dave Junker

Colville, WA.

(509) 675-0999

lab.man@live.com

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Changing the split season for west river deer in Mellette an Gregory Co.
Date: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 12:52:10 PM

From: Chuck Bergman [mailto:lunker1993@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 12:40 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] Changing the split season for west river deer in Mellette an Gregory Co.

I am writing in response to the news that the commission is considering to stop the split season for west river deer in Mellette an Gregory Co. I have hunted in these counties now for 15+ years an the split is the main reason I do hunt them. With the split seasons the amount of hunters on public lands is tolerable but if they are combined then they double. I an many others have spent many days before season out driving an knocking on doors to try an find a private place to hunt but I just can't afford the prices if it is allowed. I know many of the ranchers out there that have allowed me to hunt turkeys an antelope but deer are a no go. My kids are now just starting to get into hunting an I was loving the fact that they may benefit from this split season due to the fact that there may not be 500 people out there fighting for the same 5 pieces of public land. I hope you reconsider your plan cause I would hate to see a good thing come to an end.

Thanks for your consideration

Chuck Bergman

Sioux Falls

SD

From: [Cary, Joe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Deer Management Plan
Date: Friday, May 05, 2017 10:54:57 AM


From: Dan Golay [mailto:dananddianne@vastbb.net]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 10:52 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Deer Management Plan

I have scanned over parts of the Deer Management Plan, and some of it is very good. Improving habitat is always very important and has to be part of every plan that manages wild life.

Deer management has, however, become way too complicated. After habitat, the next thing is to control deer tag numbers much better than in the past. The last 5 years we have seen drastic drops in deer numbers in certain areas but not a corresponding drop in tag numbers. Some areas where deer numbers are low, there are way too many antlerless tags issued, and we still have deer reduction seasons after Christmas. That should not be permitted.

Thank you for allowing input regarding the Deer Management Plan, and I hope you will take my comments into consideration.

Dan Golay
Sioux Falls

 Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Deer Proposals
Date: Friday, May 19, 2017 3:28:57 PM

From: Justin Allen [mailto:jpallen121682@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 3:21 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Deer Proposals
Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing today in regards to deer tag/license proposals. I see it has been proposed to reduce any deer firearm tags in a couple counties along the Missouri River/Lake Oahe specifically West Sully and Stanley Co. I fully support the reduction if GFP believes it is needed but i do have a problem with firearm hunters taking the brunt of the effect of the reduced any deer tags. I believe archery hunters should also have reduced any deer license available in those particular counties along with other Missouri River/ Oahe lake counties. In West Sully it takes and average of 3-4 years preference to get an any deer tag but yet a non-resident archery hunter can gain a tag every year. I do not like this approach. I would like to see limited draw any deer licenses along Lake Oahe for residents and specifically Non-residents.

Thank you for your time.

Justin Allen
303 Merry Road
Pierre, SD

From: [Cary, Joe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Fwd: Deer Management Plan
Date: Friday, May 05, 2017 11:24:14 AM

From: dananddianne@vastbb.net [mailto:dananddianne@vastbb.net]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 11:05 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Fwd: Deer Management Plan

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Deer Management Plan
Date:2017-05-05 10:51
From:"Dan Golay" <dananddianne@vastbb.net>
To:<wildinfo@state.sd.us>

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Thank you for allowing input regarding the Deer Management Plan, and I hope you will take my comments into consideration.

Dan Golay
Sioux Falls

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] GFP COMMISSION REVISES PROPOSED CHANGES TO NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL LICENSES
Date: Monday, May 15, 2017 8:53:13 AM

From: Leo Flynn [mailto:lflynn7@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2017 2:21 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] GFP COMMISSION REVISES PROPOSED CHANGES TO NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL LICENSES

I urge you to not reallocate NR waterfowl licenses for use in Brown county. As a resident i have seen first hand the decline in hunting quality and accessibility that the already bloated NR licenses have had there. Hunting pressure has skyrocketed. Have hunted there for 18 years. The last 5 have not been good. Thinking of going to Canada for my week hunt this year. Sad that a few guides can have such a detrimental effect on sd resident hunters. Thank you.

From: [Cary, Joe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] GFP News :: Additional Revisions to Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses | Foundation Elects New Board Members
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2017 3:12:30 PM

From: Taylor Wilson [mailto:tjwilson32@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 3:06 PM
To: SDGFPINFO
Subject: Re: [EXT] GFP News :: Additional Revisions to Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses | Foundation Elects New Board Members

No. Don't change the non resident license distribution. Please reduce the total number through out the state. It's already hard enough to hunt because of high pressure.

----- Original message -----

From: "South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks"
Date: 5/11/17 3:01 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: tjwilson32@hotmail.com
Subject: GFP News :: Additional Revisions to Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses | Foundation Elects New Board Members

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 11, 2017
CONTACT: Emily Kiel, Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us

GFP Commission Revises Proposed Changes to Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses

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The proposal reduces the overall number of three day licenses from 2,000 to 1,750; allocates 1,000 licenses for NWR-00X with 500 valid only from Dec. 1 through the end of waterfowl seasons. It also establishes a new statewide unit with 250 licenses and excludes the counties in NWR-00X, NWR-00Y along with Bennett, Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Yankton, Clay and Union counties. The proposal would also make all temporary three day licenses valid on private land only except for NWR-00Y; and move Brown county from the NRW-00Y to the NRW-00X unit.

Current Allocations Proposed Allocations

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"Over the past month, members of the GFP Commission have listened to residents and nonresidents regarding how the three day nonresident waterfowl licenses should be allocated and decided to refine a proposal that was issued in April," said Tony Leif, director of the GFP Division of Wildlife. "This revised proposal replaces the April proposal and is open for public comment until the June 8."

The Commission will finalize this proposal on June 8 at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. Written comments can be sent to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be part of the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CDT on June 8. Please include a full name along with the city and state of residence. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held June 8, at 2 p.m. CDT at the Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma.

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"Each new board member has exceptional abilities to further the Foundation's mission of soliciting and encouraging support to preserve and protect South Dakota's natural resources and outdoor heritage while expanding recreational and educational opportunities in our state," said Gundersen Olson.

William May is a resident of Rapid City and has served as CEO/General Counsel for the Black Hills Surgical Hospital, LLP since 2004. He is also a member of the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce.

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These three join 11 other board members including: Jeff Scherschligt, Sarah Richardson Larson (Vice President), Kathryn Anderson and Kevin Nyberg of Sioux Falls, Larry Ness of Yankton, Tom Krafka (Secretary-Treasurer) of Rapid City, Spencer Hawley of Brookings, Dick Behl of Scotland, Karen Gunderson Olson (President) and Jack Lynass of Rapid City. Ex officio members include Kelly Hepler, GFP department secretary and Barry Jensen, GFP Commission vice chair.

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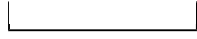
-GFP-

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This message sent to tjwilson32@hotmail.com from sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
523 E. Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501



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From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] GFP News :: Additional Revisions to Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses | Foundation Elects New Board Members
Date: Friday, May 12, 2017 8:10:35 AM

From: brian barr [mailto:bbarr6@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 7:25 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Fw: [EXT] GFP News :: Additional Revisions to Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses | Foundation Elects New Board Members

Hello,

My family has been hunting with our follow family members in SD for nearly 25 years. Our group generates between \$3000 - \$5000 of economic revenue in a single weekend nearly every year in restaurants/hotels/fuel stations ect... in small towns around the Brown County Area. We also donate to the local chapters of Ducks Unlimited and Delta Waterfowl as we have family and friends on the boards.

I am deeply disappointed to see the lowering of available Non Resident Waterfowl Licenses throughout the state. It is more than likely if this change results in the first year the entire group is not accepted for NRW licenses that we will take our group south to Kansas for future year hunts.

While I understand the concern the local communities have in an abundance of out of state hunters potentially being irresponsible. I can't stress enough that its only 3 days (most states are 10 Days or more) and losing Hunting visitors economic revenue and donation to wildlife refuge will be a significant impact. Thank you for listening to others views, hopefully this won't be the beginning of the end for amazing visitor hunts in South Dakota.

Thanks,

Brian Barr

Illinois Waterfowler

On Thursday, May 11, 2017 3:01 PM, "South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks" <sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us> wrote:



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 11, 2017

CONTACT: Emily Kiel, Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us

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counties. The proposal would also make all temporary three day licenses valid on private land only except for NWR-00Y; and move Brown county from the NRW-00Y to the NRW-00X unit.

Current Allocations Proposed Allocations



"Over the past month, members of the GFP Commission have listened to residents and nonresidents regarding how the three day nonresident waterfowl licenses should be allocated and decided to refine a proposal that was issued in April," said Tony Leif, director of the GFP Division of Wildlife. "This revised proposal replaces the April proposal and is open for public comment until the June 8."

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-GFP-

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This message sent to bbarr6@sbcglobal.net from sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
523 E. Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501



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From: [Cary, Joe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] GFP season proposals 2017-2018
Date: Friday, May 05, 2017 1:44:23 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Arnie Veen [<mailto:arnieveen@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 1:34 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] GFP season proposals 2017-2018

GFP commissioners,

I have reviewed the proposed seasons for 2017 & 2018.

I am opposed to the season extensions into January of the following year on all the hunting seasons (Archery, East and West Rifle, Youth and Muzzleloader deer seasons) .

I was also hoping to see a limit of Non-Resident licenses of 8% to allow the SD residents more opportunities to draw a hunting license in areas where there is limited licenses available. I believe that the Non Resident 8% rule should apply state wide.

Arnold Veen

14789 482 ave.

Milbank, South Dakota 57252

From: [Cary, Joe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] new regs feedback
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2017 4:12:24 PM

From: Greg Borchard [mailto:gborchard@hbs.net]

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 4:06 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Cc: Dave Blau (david.blau@galarson.com); theneumanns@yahoo.com; Dan Borchard; Doug Runge (dmrunge@gmail.com)

Subject: [EXT] new regs feedback

Per the press release below. You said you wanted feedback...

I don't like reducing the lic. By 250. Why are you doing that? We mainly hunt waterfowl in Roberts county but sometimes Spink county.

I'm a native of Redfield, graduated from SDSU and have returned home to hunt for 2-3 days almost every year since I graduated from college in 1981....36 years. It seems like you are making it harder and harder for me to come home and hunt and spend my money. I'm now bringing 1 son, a friend and 2 son-in-laws that never hunted before. We probably drop \$3,000 as a group when we come home.

The last 2 years we chose to go to North Dakota because we can buy out of state lic. Over the counter and all hunt together. Most times if we apply in South Dakota, some of our group isn't drawn and can't hunt. North Dakota wants our waterfowl investments (food, lodging, gas, shells...) And I really don't care about hunting after December 1 along the Missouri River. By then the ice covers most hunting spots and the birds have gone south. I'm not hunting waterfowl any longer. Make it easier for us to come home and hunt. Not harder.

Thanks.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 11, 2017

CONTACT: Emily Kiel, Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us

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profit, 501(c) (3) charitable support organization for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP). In the past five years, the Foundation has focused on raising private and public funds to create Good Earth State Park at Blood Run near Sioux Falls, renovating bridges on the Mickelson Trail, constructing the new Custer State Park Visitor Center and Theater as well as renovating the Peter Norbeck Outdoor Education Center in Custer State Park.

-GFP-

GFP Mission: *The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks provides sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardship and safely connecting people with the outdoors.*

Greg Borchard

Director of Business Development

Office: 262-650-6500 x1222

Cell: 262-391-4734

gborchard@hbs.net

Heartland Business Systems, LLC.

HBS.net



From: [Cary, Joe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non res waterfowl proposal
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2017 3:33:57 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Duane Ganser [<mailto:dggcarver1@att.net>]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 3:30 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Non res waterfowl proposal

Sirs, I have been coming to S D for more than 40 years hunting both pheasants and waterfowl. These new proposals make no sense to me!

First, reducing the number of licenses helps no one. The guides loose out. Towns, gas stations, motels, restaurants and anywhere non residents can spend money, loose out by reducing the number of hunters who can come and hunt.

Second, all waterfowlers over the age of 16 must purchase a Federal Duck stamp. As you know, these stamps help support, fund and procure more waterfowl land. This new proposal will make it illegal for some non residents to hunt WPA's. Lands that waterfowls have helped pay for. Where is the common sense in that? There is none!

Please leave the non resident waterfowl licenses the way they have been! Common sense in America has been missing for some time. Please help bring it back to main stream America!

Thank You.
Respectfully,

Duane Ganser
5728 Highland Rd
Highland Hts. Oh
44143

Sent from my iPad

Happy Trails.....

Duane Ganser

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non Resident waterfowl licenses
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 7:44:12 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Stiner [<mailto:krs@gwtc.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 8:57 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Non Resident waterfowl licenses

I am in favor of reducing the out of state licenses by 250. Personally I would reduce it further. If it gets to the point that only non residents and rich people can hunt it will be the end of hunting as the rest of the people will vote to ban it. The only people wanting more out of state licenses are the business people and lodges that cater to them. The rest of the people don't want them. Kerry Stiner Burke SD

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non Resident Waterfowl Proposal
Date: Friday, May 12, 2017 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: [Wade Kouril.vcf](#)

From: Wade Kouril [mailto:wadek@ctcis.net]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 1:55 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Cc: Kirschenmann, Tom
Subject: [EXT] Non Resident Waterfowl Proposal

Good afternoon,

I am a South Dakota born and raised waterfowl hunter who now lives in Missouri. I would like to share my opinion on this topic. I now have 2 teenage sons who also love waterfowl and pheasant hunting like I do. Last year, I bought an adult pheasant license, youth pheasant license, and was drawn for the NR waterfowl license for myself and 1 son. We as a family look forward to making this a tradition once a year to return to my SD roots, visit friends and family, and harvest pheasants and waterfowl.

This year both of my sons will be eligible to hunt, but the cost of the NR waterfowl licenses make it pretty hard to afford since there is not a discount for youth. I would absolutely love to apply for the 3-day waterfowl license and would encourage you to add more 3-day or replace some of the 10-day licenses. Assuming the 3-day is less expensive than the 10-day, this would most likely make it more affordable for us to do. I understand the responsibility to not "over-hunt" waterfowl on their breeding grounds, but I would guess a large percentage of people that purchase the 10-day would be satisfied with a 3-day. If you charged (for the 3-day) 55% of what a 10-day license costs; and reduced the number of 10-days but added double that same number of 3-days, you would be money ahead and have sold less "hunting days". Of course you can play with the figures, but my point is that I think a good number of your NR customers would rather purchase the 3-day as it's more affordable and we don't hunt more than 3 days anyways. A discount for youth waterfowl should also be considered into the process. Missouri charges non-residents \$11 per day for waterfowl; I'd gladly pay \$33 each for three 3-day licenses for myself and 2 teenage sons. In fact, I'd gladly pay twice that amount versus the \$121 each I paid last year for the 10-day.

Thank you for considering this point of view. If nothing else, maybe add this to the year-end NR survey, "would you rather purchase a 3-day NR waterfowl license at X% of the price versus a 10-day with X number of available licenses versus the 10-day.

Thanks again.

Wade Kouril
Citizens

1905 Walnut St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
(660) 584-6519
wadek@ctcis.net



From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non resident waterfowl
Date: Monday, May 15, 2017 7:39:40 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Strommen [<mailto:ststrommen@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 5:02 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Non resident waterfowl

Why not allow two five day hunting periods like you do for pheasants? This way an applicant could do an early hunt and chance a late hunt. Hunting ten straight days is too much. Steve Strommen
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] none resident waterfowl license
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 11:06:12 AM

From: Tom Estrem [mailto:tom.estrem@farmersagencyinc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 10:56 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] none resident waterfowl license
Name and address: Thomas J Estrem, Elbow Lake, Minnesota 56531
Cell phone:218-205-1235

To Whom it may concern,

I am 63 years old and have hunted South Dakota most of my life for Pheasants and occasionally waterfowl. Most of the time when out pheasant hunting see ducks everywhere and nobody hunting them.

When I have gotten drawn your none resident license is 10 continuous days not two 5 day which makes no sense. Don't know many people that could hunt 10 days in a row or would want to with possession limit

At risk. There can only one reason why you have number of none resident licenses offered and you have to be lucky enough to have your name drawn. You don't want us there.

Why can't you be fair like North Dakota and be able to purchase license on your way out to hunt.

Unlike pheasants they are a migratory bird. Time for you to make a change.

Sincerely, Tom Estrem

Wish I was 25 years younger now that your finally coming around!

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non-resident duck hunting.
Date: Monday, May 15, 2017 7:40:41 AM

From: David Mines [mailto:davidmines4831@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 9:13 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] Non-resident duck hunting.

I would like to comment on your revised non-resident waterfowl proposal. When will you get it through your head we don't want anymore non-residents hunting here. If I wanted to live in a state with too many people and depleted natural resources I would move to wherever all these people are from. I choose to live in a low population state with great hunting and fishing. Enough with the non-residents. Pheasant hunting has been ruined by out of state hunters, enough is enough.

David Mines
Yankton SD.

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] nonresident waterfowl licenses
Date: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 1:28:07 PM

From: mike vancleave [mailto:van57401@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 1:19 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] nonresident waterfowl licenses

Please make no changes to nonresident waterfowl, we have too many now as it is.

Thank you .

Mike Van Cleave

825 8th ave s.e.

Aberdeen S.D. 57401

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 8:10:25 AM

From: Mitch Reuss [mailto:mitch.reuss@grcontrolsinc.com]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 5:36 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses

In regards to the nonresident license changes up for finalization on June 8th, I would like to provide the following comments for the record:

I am opposed to any licenses being valid for private land only, unless there is a component attached that provides additional public access. Further, restricting these licenses to private land only promotes additional commercialization of waterfowl hunting, and could actually reduce access to residents and non residents alike.

I am opposed to removing Brown County from NWR-00Y and adding it to NWR-00X. Brown County is a popular destination for nonresident hunters. The many existing 00Y licenses that previously would be used in Brown now would be used in the remaining 00Y counties, increasing the amount of hunters in those counties. Also, It only makes sense that hunters who enjoy Brown County would apply for the 500 unrestricted date licenses and likely continue to hunt there; so now you have a situation where pressure would continue to be the same in Brown County, but now also more pressure would be created in the remaining 00Y counties. At the same time, a majority of the proposed 500 unrestricted date licenses would likely be marketed towards prospective clients of guides and outfitters, again, doing nothing but adding additional commercialization. This portion of the proposal smells nothing more than a veiled attempt to appease commercial interests specific to Brown County.

I am in favor of reallocating existing 00X licenses to a statewide 3 day license option, but only if those licenses are valid for private and public land. I would take that one step further, leaving Brown in 00Y, leave 500 or 750 licenses for the original 5 county 00X area, and have the remaining 1000-1250 as a state wide 3 day license, valid for public/private. This idea could be taken one step further allowing half of the licenses to be available for use before November 1, and half after. This would allow those non residents who come here during the first two weeks of pheasant season an additional chance to draw a waterfowl license who may not otherwise hunt waterfowl in SD. This seems to be a common theme that comes up during every nonresident license debate, "our pheasant hunters ask about hunting ducks and we have to tell them no." Being that the nonresident pheasant hunter numbers are highest before early November, it would make sense to create a license pool that would be valid during that time frame. I would be in favor of a pilot program, offering perhaps 250-500 statewide licenses to be used before November 1st, and see what the feedback is regarding sales, usage, and public comments regarding pressure & overall experiences. I appreciate the committee's work regarding this never ending issue, but please remember that the majority of all hunters, both resident and nonresident, are fine with the current system, therefore any proposed changes have to make sense to all hunters, and commercial interests should not influence license allocations.

Mitchell Reuss

Sioux Falls, SD

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From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] nonresident waterfowl licenses
Date: Monday, May 22, 2017 11:39:08 AM

From: Bill Koupal [mailto:billk@koupal-communications.com]

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 11:37 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] nonresident waterfowl licenses

This email is to inform the commission that I oppose their May proposal to add 250 more nonresident waterfowl licenses to the state.

Bill Koupal

117 South Monroe

Pierre, SD

From: Miller, LouAnn
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non-Resident Waterfowl Proposed Changes
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2017 2:30:46 PM

From: InsuranceEric@aol.com [mailto:InsuranceEric@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 2:29 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Non-Resident Waterfowl Proposed Changes
GFP Commissioners,

Thanks you for all your work in trying to come up with a solution that supports both the resident and non-resident hunter. Migratory Waterfowl are a national if not continental resource and to continue to severely limit and further restrict the non-resident access is wrong on so many levels. You end up punishing yourself and the resident business owners, tax payers and hunters as the dollars spent by non-residents dwindle and are moved to other more non-res friendly states. You also pit the sportsmen and women against each other as the non-res is as much if not more responsible for the public land that produces much of the waterfowl as the SD resident is. My tax and sporting goods dollars buy those lands and my membership in PF, DU, Delta Waterfowl and other organizations do the same thing. Should I be asking my chapters and national reps to not invest in SD because they are so restrictive? That will come very quickly if proposals like this continue to be advanced.

The reductions you are making to the current NWR-00X is almost certainly a 1,000 license reduction with the change to 500 after Dec 1st and the removal of 250 licenses to statewide. I completely understand that this license (in its form prior to last year) has not typically sold out, but as the eligible counties have expanded and the additional public land potential was added for the expanded counties, I expect that the allotment of 1,500 would be used over time. I see my self and my family/friends potentially buying 2 of these licenses every year possibly 3 if ducks are around late season. The removal of public land will cripple the license as the public land is the jewel of SD. I can honestly say in 25+ years of waterfowl hunting in Potter, Edmunds and Faulk County mainly on public land, I have never been in a situation where another hunter and I were trying to hunt the same WPA, in fact I rarely ever even see another waterfowl hunter, resident or non-resident, so the "over crowding", "non-res are chasing the birds away" lines are just that... lines of adult male bovine dung!

All your licenses are restrictive and limit access to the non-res. Please reconsider keeping the license the same as proposed from last year's changes. Add in the additional counties and allow hunting on public lands as well as private, not many non-res hunters have access to private land. If you need to take 250 for statewide then do it, but don't mandate the Dec 1st deal when you know the odds are good that no waterfowl are in the state except maybe along the river, so very few would need the license then.

Thanks for reading,
Eric Marquardt
10949 Oakwood Lane N
Champlin, MN 55316
763.422.9697

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Proposed 3 day license changes for waterfowl
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2017 3:28:47 PM

From: Brandon Marquardt [mailto:bwillmarquardt@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 3:05 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] Proposed 3 day license changes for waterfowl

GFP Commissioners,

Thank you for all your work in trying to come up with a solution that supports both the resident and non-resident hunter. Migratory Waterfowl, I would consider a continental resource and continuing to drastically limit and restrict the non-resident access is a weird way to go about it. This new plan I would argue has bigger economic implications on South Dakota residents, tax payers and hunters as more non resident's will choose to hunt in more non - resident friendly states. Another argument could be made that non - resident's are more responsible for the public land that produces much of the waterfowl as the SD resident is. If proposals like this continue to happen more people will be asking their chapters (DU, PF, Delta Waterfowl) to not invest in SD based on the heavy restrictions, which is a likely outcome for the limited availability to the non resident with these changes.

Myself and at least 5 members in our group apply and buy non -resident licenses every year and if birds are still around come Dec 1st then yes I'm all for that "late season" license as well. I can honestly say in my 12 years of hunting waterfowl in S.D. I have never had to compete with another group of hunters or had any issues with over crowding. The whole argument for "over - crowding" or non - resident's are chasing the birds away I would argue is 100% wrong, at least coming from my 12 years of hunting at least 2 weekends in Potter and Edmunds County.

Please reconsider keeping the license the same as proposed from last year's changes. Add in the additional counties and allow hunting on public lands as well as private, not many non-res hunters have access to private land. If you need to take 250 for statewide then do it, but don't mandate the Dec 1st and after deadline, I can count on one hand how many ducks I've seen in December over 12 years when late season pheasant hunting, yes I understand this is most likely for outfitter to hunt geese over the river.

Kind Regards,

Brandon Marquardt

11101 Independence Ave N

Champlin MN, 55316

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] proposed nrw license changes
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 1:27:58 PM

From: Jeff Smith [mailto:jsmith@wenzelhvac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 1:17 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] proposed nrw license changes
Commission-

Thank you for taking the time to read this opinion.

I'm not sure where the need keeps coming from to change the current nonresident waterfowl license structure.....could it be increased revenue? If so the solution is very simple – increase the license fee's!

As a non resident waterfowl hunter from Minnesota, I'd gladly pay more for the best quality experience in the COUNTRY!! For the last 50 years I've had the privilege to hunt Canada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri and Arkansas and consistently South Dakota provides the highest quality US experience. I'm sure there are lots of nonresident duck hunters that would agree with a fee increase if that will keep the current system in place and not increase numbers for the benefit of a few commercial operators. Commercial guides are not the people bringing money into the many small businesses around the state during duck season. The only people getting that money are the outfitters themselves!!

Please DO NOT change the NRW license system!

Regards-

Jeff Smith
Eden Prairie, MN
Cell 612-363-8669
Office 651-894-9898
Direct 651-233-2220
Fax 651-233-2221

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] proposed west river deer seasons
Date: Monday, May 08, 2017 8:30:39 AM

From: Douglas Tieszen [mailto:dtieszen1984@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, May 06, 2017 8:23 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] proposed west river deer seasons

I am a non resident landowner in Gregory county and have been for twenty years. I am OPPOSED to the elimination of the split season in Gregory as it allows for a better quality hunt by spreading out pressure on opening day and the early part of the season. Please leave it as it has been.

Sincerely,

Doug Tieszen

PO Box 646

Encampment, WY 82325

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Revised Non-resident plan
Date: Friday, May 19, 2017 9:12:35 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: epaulson [<mailto:epaulson@nvc.net>]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 9:02 AM
Subject: [EXT] Revised Non-resident plan

My name is Eric Paulson and I live in Pierre. I grew up in Aberdeen and my grandparents have a farm by Claremont. I spend a vast majority of my hunting season in Brown county whether its hunting waterfowl, deer, or pheasants. I wrote a couple of letters previously about the original proposal and the downside to it. From what I can tell, this revised proposal 1)still moves Brown county into a geographic grouping that makes zero sense especially for management purposes, 2)increases the total amount of licenses available for use in Brown County, 3)will continue the trend of increased pressure in Brown county and declining hunting quality. Like I've said previously in other emails, I don't hunt the other areas that will also see an increase much or at all so my comments will be directed towards Brown County.

First off I'd like start with saying the idea of splitting 500 of the licenses for NWR-00X will not cut down on the number of licenses sold to be used in Brown county. There is still 500 that can be used there during the peak of the migration. At least as it currently sits, the 500 are spread out over about 9 good hunting counties. Now the 500 would be spread out over 1 good hunting county and 3 ok counties and 7 poor counties for hunting prior to December, during the peak of the migration. You know, I know, and anyone else who hunts waterfowl knows, anyone hunting the river will get one of the 500 for December and on season and the other 500 will be used in the peak of the migration and those 500 will be used as far east as possible, and primarily speaking used in Brown County. And now on top of still having 500 available in the peak of the migration, there will also be another 500 available for "late season" in Brown county, I understand that the season does end about 2 weeks into December.

The fact of the matter is 1,000 licenses are now available to be used in one of the most pressured counties in the state. This does nothing to help alleviate the pressure I talked about in a previous email and again will elaborate on in this email. I'll reiterate, Brown county is the 3rd most pressured county in the entire state for resident hunting and the 2nd most pressured county in the state for nonresident hunting, this is from the survey in 2015 conducted by the GFP. Any form or amount of increase in Brown county is not warranted. It's already over pressured and already declining in quality hunting opportunities due to pressure and water drying up. I won't rewrite a book on the other topics in my letter covering the survey but again, they apply here for this revised proposal. I would encourage you to reread my last letter for those comments on increased pressure and hunter satisfaction over the last 10 years. They are very much pertinent here as well with this revised proposal. That letter was based on data provided in a GFP survey of hundreds of sportsmen, not emotional testimony from one individual who doesn't want to see quality waterfowl hunting in Brown county erode any further.

Another reason why any increase at all should be nixed right from the get go is, who knows if people are even going to be able to hunt water like they could before! I don't like water hunting, but some people do. The way the state is right now, in limbo, you could get yourself in some serious trouble hunting a non-meandered water hole if a farmer decided he wanted to call you in for trespassing. It's unclear at the moment where one can and cannot go. As it sits right now, there is 2,324 lakes/sloughs, of more than 40 acres of size, covering 325,000 acres and 26,709 lakes/sloughs, of 40 acres or less, covering 263,000 acres that are off limits according to how the GFP understood the Supreme court ruling in the non-meandered water case and has presented it at the non-meandered water meetings. Those numbers are taken from the power point presentation created by the GFP staff and presented to the public. You talk about condensing pressure! Take away 588,000 acres of access, primarily in northeast South Dakota and you are talking some serious limitations on where water hunters can and cannot go. This part alone should be a big enough reason to not allow any increases anywhere to even be considered, let alone in one of the most pressured counties in the state! Granted some of those waterholes are in walk-in or CREP, but the huge

majority will still be off limits. The pressure will be incredibly condensed!

I'm not sure if you remember my testimony a couple of years ago at the previous non-resident waterfowl work group meetings. I stated another example of the significant pressure in the northeast. It was about 2-3 years ago now we were hunting up in the northeast part of the state. We hunted ducks in a field one Sunday morning and they went right back to the field Sunday evening. We asked the landowner, who is a family friend, if we could hunt there again the following Saturday if the birds were still around. They said yes. We stopped back the following Friday to scout and just make sure it was still ok to hunt. The birds were there again. We stopped again. The landowner said during the week they had 19 different people stop to ask permission for 1 field! 17 of them were from out of state! If that doesn't scream over pressured than I don't know what does. This is 100% the truth and it's what the whole area up in the northeast is turning into. Tons of people hunting the same flock of birds. It's gotten quite ridiculous. And also, for those two days we hunted up there, we had friends from out of state hunting with us, which leads me to my next point.

Again I will reiterate this point as well, I am NOT against non-resident hunting. Like I've said before, I've had friends from a handful of different states that have come to South Dakota hunting. They should be allowed to come, within reason. Jacking up license numbers every single opportunity isn't the answer. Monkeying with "reallocations" to hide the fact that license numbers are increasing in pressured areas is not the answer. Licenses are, in my opinion after being out almost every weekend last fall hunting either birds or deer and watching the hunter traffic, significantly too high already. People are everywhere. Flashback to my previous letter talking about the guys hunting a refuge because that's all the birds they could find. I do think at this point a reduction is required, but to "compromise" I think a no change is necessary right now, but in the future I'd like to see the GFP propose a reduction of some quantity of licenses.

Right now there are not that many hunters, percentage wise, that get denied when applying. Last year there were, for licenses available for use in Brown county in 00Y or 00B, 4,225 people were drawn with their first choice in the first draw. 793 were not (taken from the drawing statistics on the GFP website). Of the 5,018 applicants, that is a mere 15.8% that were not drawn. 84.2% of applicants who had 00Y and 00B as their first choice got to hunt in South Dakota. The most telling factor that pressure WILL increase in the Brown county area given the demand for the licenses as laid out previously is this statistic, in the 00X region from last year 1,500 licenses were available, 0% of applicants were unsuccessful. In fact, only 107 licenses in the first drawing as a first choice were given out and 1393 first drawing first choice licenses remained. That is a take rate of a mere 7.1%.

That proves right there, you add the availability of these licenses to Brown county, or any other area for that matter, 92.9% of the licenses will be available for any new additional counties if trends continue and all license available to Brown County are sold out. Now you aren't talking Brown County being one of the most pressured counties in the state for nonresident waterfowl hunting, it would in all likelihood be THE #1 most pressured county in the state. An over pressured county already would become more pressured. Hunting would be completely ruined.

If the 15.8% of people who get denied a license truly wanted to hunt in South Dakota, they could have applied for the left over 00X or Bennett county licenses. There is opportunity out there, I know this because I hunted in 00X many times this year after the normal season in the northeast was closed, but they decided against hunting those spots. Truly no one was turned away from hunting in South Dakota, they decided not to hunt in South Dakota. In reality there were 1,296 unused licenses after all the drawings were completed that the 793 hunters could have taken. They chose not to take them and hunt here. That is not our fault. The license availability is already there for them, they just chose not to take advantage of the opportunity that was offered to them. If they don't want to hunt those counties, why do the rest of the residents in the already pressured counties and the nonresidents who get drawn in the pressured counties need to suffer by making things more pressured to accommodate for people who chose not to hunt in an available region because its not as convenient for them?

The only people in the world who would think an 84.2% success rate for license drawing the state is too low are the commercial guys. They won't settle until that number hits 100%. Their wallet depends on it. In reality, the number of licenses available already would be enough for 100% success. So nothing needs to increase. The license are there. It's the nonresident hunters who are choosing not to use them. Don't make everyone else suffer from their decision to leave licenses unused. Similar to deer hunting, if you can't draw in one county but truly want to deer hunt, you'll apply in a different county.

I did a quick count of letters filed with information Commission for the meeting in Custer. From what I counted,

there were 33 letters written in opposition of the proposal with 2 people writing 2 letters so really 31 letters in opposition. There were 11 letters written for the proposal with 3 writing 2 letters so really 8 letters for it. Of those 8, I know that at least 6 of them were written by clients, friends of guides, or guides. And also of those 8, most of them hunt in the Brown county area with a guide, they don't freelance hunt. Only 2 letters were written in opposition that I do not know if they have ties to commercial hunting. There were also 2 that were unclear to me on if they did or didn't oppose the proposal. That is overwhelmingly in opposition of the proposal as it originally stood. Really not much has changed so I'm quite confident those numbers would still hold for this proposal. The 31 who opposed were your average hunters from both in state and out of state. I'll say that again, out of state hunters also oppose this proposal too. The vast majority of people for the proposal have ties to commercial hunting in some way shape or form. Basically the only people who want this proposal to pass want to commercialize hunting. Your average hunter wants nothing to do with this proposal. Please listen to the average hunter and vote this proposal down!

By now you are sick of reading about pressure. Pressure and hunter success can be two very opinionated topics. But when there is statistical evidence, evidence gathered, and posted by the GFP no less, that backs those opinions, then the discussion turns from being an opinionated argument to being based on facts and numbers, not opinion. It is my opinion there are too many hunters in the northeast. It is fact that based on GFP numbers, Brown county is the 3rd most pressured county in the entire state for resident hunting and the 2nd most pressured county in the state for nonresidents. Too much pressure equates to low quality hunting, of which, as discussed in my previous email to you, is made evident in the statistical surveys conducted by the GFP showing declines in both hunter satisfaction and average daily bag even with daily limits at all time highs.

Thank you for reading my letter, again, and if you have any question on anything I've brought up in this letter or a previous one I encourage you to send me an email and we can line up a time to talk. I urge you to flat out deny this proposal. No revisions, just a flat out denial. The statistics on pressure, the already incredibly high draw rate, the ruling on the legalities of accessing non-meandered water, and the overwhelming majority against the proposal need to carry some significant weight in this. Please do not further increase the presence of commercial hunting in South Dakota. Thanks for your time and again, I urge you to please vote against this proposal. It is not good news for waterfowl hunting in South Dakota.

Thanks,
Eric

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission
Date: Friday, May 19, 2017 8:56:51 AM

From: Ken Rasche [mailto:kenbarb44@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 7:58 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

My comments are directed to the elimination of the split season opening dates for the South Dakota rifle deer season.

I have had the good fortune to the hunt firearms deer season in Gregory County for twelve of the last thirteen seasons. I have always appreciated the fact that your early start in that county has given me and numerous other non resident hunters the opportunity to enjoy a quality deer hunting experience and for that, I thank you.

However, I am also a hunting land owner in Michigan and have had the opportunity to hunt the opening day of deer season in my home state for the past sixty years. Hunting in Michigan is a family tradition and if you change the opening dates as proposed, myself and many others will be forced to make a choice between Michigan and South Dakota. I believe that its fair to say that none of the Michigan hunters whom I have hunted with in South Dakota over the years will be coming back. I also believe its fair to say that many hunters in other Eastern states will be effected in a like manner resulting in a serious loss of revenue to your department as well as hotels, motels, restaurants and numerous hunting outfitters.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you reconsider eliminating the split season opening dates. As I see it, unless there is some very sound game management reason for making this change, please leave it " AS IS". In other words, " If its not broken, don't attempt to fix it".

Thank you for allowing comments and also for allowing an old man the opportunity to hunt in your great state with your great people.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Rasche

Rogers City, Michigan 49779

kenbarb44@gmail.com

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Split Seasons for Mellette and Gregory counties
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 11:50:48 AM

From: Russ Walz [mailto:wallyf16c@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 11:26 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] Split Seasons for Mellette and Gregory counties

I'm writing to convey my desire to continue the split seasons for Mellette and Gregory counties. Merging the seasons will result in too many hunters competing for the same hunting grounds. I would like to see the split season remain as it has been for many years. Thanks

Russ A. Walz

Sioux Falls, SD

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] waterfowl- out of state
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2017 8:07:03 AM

From: Phillip Lowe [mailto:lowesttherapy@cs.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 6:36 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] waterfowl- out of state
Commissioners

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input. As a SC Representative to the House and a former SCDNR Board member I understand the need to manage a resource.

My first question is why. What is the purpose in the proposed change? If I knew the problem and how the proposal would help, I may be able to provide substantive comments.

Here is my concern. For 25 years my friends and family come to Potter County to hunt ducks and pheasants on private property. The three day permit has been readily available. Potter had 14 private land non-resident permits before Dec 1 last year. Potter will be lumped into a large group of counties that sold over 400 permits last year. By adding Brown County to the group you will be dangerously close to **limiting** the number of non-resident hunters with the proposed limit of 500 permits.

I presume that is your unstated purpose.

It seems you are combining two different types of land into the same group. The counties bordering the east bank of the Missouri River are much different than the counties comprising the lower Missouri Coteau. The Coteau has many times more potholes, ducks, and hunters than the rich farmland of the counties bordering the river.

Why would you do something that would punish the **14** non-resident hunters who only hunt private land. Why lump all the licenses together? Brown and Potter are entirely different. I never hear another shot most mornings we duck hunt.

Please separate the over hunted counties from the sparkly hunted ones.

Representative Phillip Lowe

lowesttherapy@cs.com

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] waterfowl proposal
Date: Friday, May 19, 2017 3:36:57 PM

From: Chris Johnson [mailto:chrisjohnson.johnson98@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 3:36 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] waterfowl proposal

My name is Chris and I live near Claremont, SD. I'm opposed the most recent waterfowl proposal that would create 500 3-day licenses that could be used in Brown Co. on private land only. I'm actually opposed by large to Brown Co. to being moved from the current 3-day North East SD unit that now is in. Please leave Brown Co. where it is now. Knowing the area well I can only see this Brown Co. deal is to please one group of people and it no way to make decisions that effects the local hunters. Don't fix what isn't broken and leave Brown alone.

Chris

Claremont

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] waterfowl tags
Date: Friday, May 12, 2017 8:02:52 AM

From: Brett - Bad River Bucks & Birds [mailto:info@badriverhunts.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 5:15 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] waterfowl tags

Im a outfitter in Jones County , just so Im reading this right your allowing a total of 250 non-resident tags in the counties in yellow (on YOUR MAP) which is about 7 tags per county.

First of all you messed up our deer tags so bad its hard enough for us to cover our leases and then you hand out 5 rifle tags to some people and 0 to others and don't say you don't

And most of those people don't have a place to hunt.

Then im supposed to nest all these duck and geese on private land and which no one can get a tag for and then fly down to NE and get shot to shit. I don't know what the hell you guys are trying to do but this is the dumbest thing I ever heard in my life. What you are trying to manage is a migratory bird, its not a pheasant, prairie chicken which I am assuming who ever the heck thinks this is a good idea could tell the difference. I helped out in collared deer, fawn loss , winter migrations, antelope loss and so on.

I personally helped talk to landowner to help make some of this happen, my local game wardens and I have a good relationship and I want to keep it that way but whoever is trying to do this needs some serious help

Sincerely

Brett Waibel

Bad River Bucks and Birds LLC

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] West River Deer Gregory County
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 3:24:42 PM

From: Jeremy Kirchhevel [mailto:JKirchhevel@hillyard.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 3:01 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] West River Deer Gregory County

I would like to see the split season in Gregory county for West River Deer to continue. Having this split season helps to spread out opening day hunting pressure.

Jeremy

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From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] West River Deer Seasons
Date: Monday, May 22, 2017 11:38:52 AM

From: Brad Beavers [mailto:beavers@longlines.com]
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 10:48 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] West River Deer Seasons

This is Brad Beavers. I am a west river and east river landowner. I am strongly opposed to the termination of the split Gregory county deer season. I own and operate a ranch in Gregory Co. I allow hunters on my property but only let one group on at a time. By doing away with this season there will be one group that won't be able to hunt. They plan their vacations a year in advance

and already have the time off this year.

I also know people that hunt the public areas and they have already made Motel reservations for this year for the early season. With the number of hunters on the limited amount of public land I feel it will be a total total disaster for public land hunters/landowners to have them all in the field during one season.

Another item I feel needs addressed is the antlerless season in both east and west river. This includes muzzleloader,youth and bow. Some of these seasons extend until the middle of January.

By then they are shooting a lot of bucks that have shed their antlers. Please look at closing these seasons the end of the year.

Thank You,

Brad Beavers
48219 334th street
Jefferson,SD 57038

OR

Brad Beavers
30156 Beaver Road
Fairfax,SD 57335
(712) 281-8749

From: [Cathy_Abe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: GFP News :: Multiple South Dakota Deer Hunting Seasons Proposed for 2017 and 2018
Date: Friday, May 05, 2017 1:08:42 PM

From: Mary Fisher [mailto:mjfisher@outlook.com]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 1:08 PM
To: SDGFPINFO
Subject: [EXT] Re: GFP News :: Multiple South Dakota Deer Hunting Seasons Proposed for 2017 and 2018

It is our opinion that a reduction in West River licenses is a huge error. Have any of the officers or commissioners driven out south and west of Hill City. You can't look any direction without seeing deer almost on every hill. They are so extremely over populated that there will be a disease die off again. It is just sad that more care is not taken in proper management. If they have not done a recent count they really need to. Mary Fisher

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From: South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2017 9:22:14 AM
To: mjfisher@outlook.com
Subject: GFP News :: Multiple South Dakota Deer Hunting Seasons Proposed for 2017 and 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 5, 2017
CONTACT: Emily Kiel at Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us

- GFP Commission Finalizes Several Furbearer Seasons
- Youth Deer Hunting Season in South Dakota Set for the Next Two Years
- GFP Commission Proposes the Archery Deer Hunting Seasons for the Next Two Years
- GFP Commission Proposes East River and West River Deer Hunting Seasons
- GFP Commission Proposes the 2017 and 2018 BH and CSP Deer Hunting Seasons
- GFP Commission Proposes Muzzleloader and Refuge Deer Hunting Seasons for the Next Two Years

GFP Commission Finalizes Several Furbearer Seasons

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission reviewed several furbearer seasons at their May meeting, and with no changes, the seasons will move forward for the next two years under the same season structure.

The 2017 beaver trapping and hunting season dates will be:

- **Year-round** for counties west of the Missouri River, except the portion of the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west SD Highway 79;
- **Nov. 4, 2017 – April 30, 2018** for all counties east of the Missouri River and portions of the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west of SD Highway 79 that are not owned by the U.S. Forest Service; and
- **Jan. 1 – March 31, 2018** for U.S. Forest Service land in the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west of SD Highway 79.

The skunk, opossum, jackrabbit, fox, raccoon and badger season dates will be open year-round and statewide.

The 2017 mink, weasel and muskrat trapping seasons will be:

- **Year-round** for all areas of the state, west of the Missouri River, except the portion of the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west SD Highway 79; and
- **Nov. 4, 2017 – April 30, 2018** for all areas of the state, east of the Missouri River and portions of the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west of SD Highway 79.
- **April 1, 2018 – Aug 31, 2018** will be the statewide muskrat hunting season and is only open to landowners and lessees, including School and Public Lands surface lease holders, on land they own or operate and state, county, or township highway officials within public road right-of-ways.

Youth Deer Hunting Season in South Dakota Set for the Next Two Years

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission made no changes for the 2017 and 2018 statewide youth deer hunting seasons and will operate under the same season structure as 2016; allowing for a single any antlerless deer license for hunters who have not reached the age of 18.

Season dates will be:

- Sept. 9, 2017 – Jan. 15, 2018
- Sept. 8, 2018 – Jan. 15, 2019

GFP Commission Proposes the Archery Deer Hunting Seasons for the Next Two Years

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed a change to the area where archery antlerless whitetail deer licenses would be valid during their May meeting.

According to the proposal, antlerless whitetail deer licenses would be valid in units 44A and 62A and not valid for units 17A, 25A, 41A, 50A, and 58A. These changes to Unit ARD-LM1 where antlerless whitetail deer licenses are valid aligns with the current population management objectives.

The proposed season dates for the 2017 and 2018 seasons would be:

- Sept. 23, 2017 – Jan. 15, 2018
- Sept. 22, 2018 – Jan. 15, 2019

The Commission also proposed to extend the end date for archery deer hunting in Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge from Dec. 31 to Jan. 15.

The Commission will finalize these proposals June 8-9 at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. Written comments can be sent to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be part of the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CDT on June 8. Please include a full name along with the city and state of residence. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held June 8 at 2 p.m. CDT at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma.

GFP Commission Proposes East River and West River Deer Hunting Seasons

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed to offer approximately 10,500 fewer licenses for the 2017 East River deer hunting season; with a majority of this reduction to antlerless whitetail licenses.

The Commission proposed 3,580 more one-tag licenses, 4,925 less two-tag licenses (10,150 tags), and 1,400 less 3-tag licenses (4,200 tags) compared to 2016. There would be a proposed total of 21,085 one-tag and 5,250 two-tag licenses available.

The Commission also proposed to create a new Limited Access Unit (Unit 13L) in Brule County restricted to the Army Corps of Engineer property, all Game Production Areas, and the Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area immediately adjacent to the Missouri River, and the Pease Game Production Area in southwest Buffalo County. This unit would consist of all public land and landowner preference would not apply. In addition, the Commission proposed to modify Unit 13A to include all of Brule County excluding that portion within Unit 13L and to modify Unit 14A to include all of Buffalo County excluding the Pease Game Production Area within Unit 13L.

With the creation of this limited access unit: archery, muzzleloader and youth deer hunters would be required to obtain a free, unlimited access permit from the department prior to hunting in this area.

The proposed dates for the 2017 and 2018 East River deer hunting seasons would be:

- Nov. 18 – Dec. 3, 2017
- Dec. 30, 2017 – Jan. 7, 2018 for antlerless deer tags only
- Nov. 17 – Dec. 2, 2018
- Dec. 29, 2018 – Jan. 6, 2019 for antlerless deer tags only

The Commission proposed to slightly reduce the total number of licenses available for the 2017 and 2018 West River deer hunting seasons compared to 2016 by adjusting resident license numbers with an increase in one-tag licenses by 995 and a decrease in two-tag licenses by 2,100. It was also proposed to adjust nonresident license numbers by increasing one-tag licenses by 80 and decreasing two-tag licenses by 168. The total number of proposed licenses would be 15,340 one-tag and 3,320 two-tag resident licenses and 1,231 one-tag and 266 two-tag licenses for nonresidents.

The Commission also proposed to discontinue the split seasons for Gregory and Mellette counties and to have them align with the West River deer hunting season. It was also proposed to change the season date for Unit 24B (Little Moreau) to 16 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday 12 days before Thanksgiving.

The proposed season dates for the 2017 and 2018 West River deer hunting seasons would be:

- Nov. 11-26, 2017
- Nov. 10-25, 2018

The Commission will finalize these proposals June 8-9 at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. Written comments can be sent to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be part of the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CDT on June 8. Please include a full name along with the city and state of residence. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held June 8 at 2 p.m. CDT at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma.

GFP Commission Proposes the 2017 and 2018 Black Hills and Custer State Park Deer Hunting Seasons

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed to increase the number of available antlerless whitetail licenses for the 2017 Black Hills deer hunting season.

The proposal would offer 200 more resident antlerless whitetail deer licenses and 16 more nonresident antlerless whitetail deer licenses for the BH-BD1 unit, compared to 2016.

Also proposed would be the expansion of the type and number of deer hunters allowed into Custer State Park. The proposal would offer 19 more any whitetail deer and five more any deer licenses as compared to the 2016 hunting season. Additionally, these licenses would be valid for only archery hunting from Nov. 1-15 and firearms and all allowable weapons for firearm hunting from Nov. 16-30.

In addition, Custer State Park would have 30 antlerless whitetail deer licenses available for hunters during the muzzleloader hunting season from Dec. 1-15.

The Commission will finalize these proposals June 8-9 at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. Written comments can be sent to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be part of the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CDT on June 8. Please include a full name along with the city and state of residence. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held June 8 at 2 p.m. CDT at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma.

GFP Commission Proposes Muzzleloader and Refuge Deer Hunting Seasons for the Next Two Years

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed a change to the area where muzzleloader antlerless whitetail deer licenses will be valid for the 2017 and 2018 hunting seasons.

According to the proposal, antlerless whitetail deer licenses would be valid in units 44A and 62A and not valid for units 17A, 25A, 41A, 50A, and 58A. These changes to Unit MZD-LM1 where antlerless whitetail deer licenses are valid aligns with the current population management objectives.

There would be 1,000 statewide any deer licenses and unlimited single-tag licenses for unit MZD-LM1 antlerless whitetail deer licenses available.

Season dates would be:

- Dec. 1, 2017 – Jan. 15, 2018
- Dec. 1, 2018 – Jan. 15, 2019

The Commission also proposed to offer 10 more resident and one more nonresident any deer licenses for LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge and to offer 10 less resident and one

less nonresident any deer licenses for Waubay National Wildlife Refuge. The Commission proposed to change all licenses within Waubay Wildlife Refuge to be restricted to muzzle-loading rifles.

Licenses and season dates for National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) would be:

Sand Lake NWR

- Resident: 100 any deer and 50 any antlerless deer licenses
- Nonresident: 10 any deer and 5 any antlerless deer licenses
- 2017 Season Dates:
 - November 11-15, November 16-20, November 21-26, November 27 – December 3, December 4-10, and December 30, 2017 - January 7, 2018.
- 2018 Season Dates:
 - November 10-14, November 15-19, November 20-25, November 26 – December 2, December 3-9, and December 29, 2017 - January 6, 2018.

LaCreek NWR

- Residents: 25 any deer licenses
- Nonresidents: 3 any deer licenses
- 2017 Season Dates:
 - Oct. 18-24 and Nov. 22-28
- 2018 Season Dates:
 - Oct. 17-23 and Nov. 21-27

Waubay NWR

- Residents: 20 any deer licenses
- Nonresidents: 2 any deer licenses
- 2017 Season Dates:
 - Nov. 11-18 and Nov. 27 – Dec. 3 and includes Waubay State Game Refuge
- 2018 Season Dates:
 - Nov. 10-17 and Nov. 26 – Dec. 2 and includes Waubay State Game Refuge

The Commission will finalize these proposals June 8-9 at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. Written comments can be sent to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be part of the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CDT on June 8. Please include a full name along with the city and state of residence. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held June 8 at 2 p.m. CDT at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma.

-GFP-

***GFP Mission:** The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks provides sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardship and safely connecting people with the outdoors.*

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From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Split deer season Gregory County-
Date: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 8:19:35 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: HESBY, MARTIN P [<mailto:Martin.Hesby@Cricketwireless.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 12:26 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Split deer season Gregory County-

Hello,

I wanted to write you all in regards to the proposed elimination of the Gregory county split deer season.

I enjoy the split season as it spreads out hunting pressure on the property I hunt. In general it really spreads out hunting pressure between the two seasons. It also pushes me to apply for the west river special buck tag so I can get more time in the field (to get away from pressure) and have the ability to hunt any open season. If s Asian dates were the same I would not spend more money and purchase the special buck tag. Lastly, eliminating the split will prevent me from drawing a tag at sand lake which I have six years preference to as the muzzleloader first season coincides with the proposed WSD season. I'd be forced to choose between seasons. I'm a deer hunter, and love the split season where I can hunt in Gregory county on Nov 1 for 4 days, then possibly get in a refuge hunt before east river.

Please consider leaving the current structure in place for Gregory county.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 8:14 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non resident waterfowl

Categories: Commission

From: Jason Long [mailto:jason_longdh@outlook.com]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 4:08 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Non resident waterfowl

GFP commissioner,

As a life long resident of South Dakota I'm very sad to see once again the NR waterfowl license issue arise. Once again I'm opposed to any change in current license allocations. I have chosen to stay in the area largely for the waterfowl hunting the area provides. Over the last 15 years the ability to access private hunting land in Brown Co. and other counties near by has gotten very hard. I grew up hunting the Sand Lake/Putney Slough area with my father, grandpa and bothers. In my opinion it has been ruined by paid hunting and leasing of land. Over the last few years it has gotten bad enough that I don't even hunt in that area. To move Brown Co. from the unit it is in now is a terrible move. Creating any licenses that are for private land only is clear step in the wrong direction and a 100% gain for guides and outfitters. These licenses will likely not ever sell out making it basically an over the counter licenses for NRs to hunt with guides on private land. Brown Co. is already being ruined by paid hunting! Keep money out of waterfowl hunting, it only takes away from the locals and the other great residents of South Dakota. My family, friends and myself are 100% against moving Brown Co. from its current unit in any shape or form. Jason Long. Aberdeen, SD

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 8:21 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] My Comments on discontinuing the 2017 split deer season in Gregory County
Attachments: Dear South Dakota GF&P Commission.docx
Categories: Commission

From: Ken Krieger [<mailto:oakcanyonranch@goldenwest.net>]
Sent: Sunday, May 28, 2017 1:38 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] My Comments on discontinuing the 2017 split deer season in Gregory County

Dear GF&P Commission,

Discontinuing the traditional 2017 split deer hunting seasons for Gregory and Mellette Counties is not a good idea and is not in the best interests of deer hunters, land owners and County residents. Once again, land owners and deer hunters are caught in the middle of this proposal with the GF&P's "we don't care attitude."

Someone surely isn't thinking clearly ... when the GF&P has all ready sold the 2017 Special Buck licenses, hunters have the tag in hand, planned their hunt (many of them for the first traditional deer season in the counties mentioned with land owner permission) and then the GF&P proposes closing the first season. What do private land owners tell the Special Buck hunters that were lucky enough to draw the tag, have taken their vacation time a year in advance to deer hunt and are planning to hunt the first four days of the traditional first season in 2017 in Gregory and Mellette counties if the season is discontinued? The first season hunters will not have a place to hunt in the second season if land owner have other guys hunting at that time. Is the GF&P willing to give these Special Buck hunters with no place to hunt their money back for the license?

Please see additional comments in my attached file on the negative economic effects closing the first season will have for the counties ... mainly Gregory County.

I would urge you to vote to continue the traditional split deer hunting season for Gregory and Mellette Counties for 2017 and beyond.

Ken Krieger

Burke, South Dakota

5-28-17

Dear South Dakota GF&P Commission,

I am sending my written comments to you about the proposed 2017 discontinue of the split deer hunting season for Gregory County West River Deer. This is certainly not a good idea and in not in the best interests of Gregory County residents. I would urge you to vote to continue the traditional split deer hunting season for Gregory County in 2017 and beyond.

The GF&P has already sold and sent out the 2017 Special Buck licenses to hunters. There are many Special Buck hunters with tags in hand that are planning to hunt in 2017 in the first four days of the traditional Gregory County split deer hunting season. Land owners have given these hunters their consent to hunt and the hunters have put the land owners name and phone number down on the Special Buck applications as a requirement for applying for the tag. What do private land owners tell the Special Buck hunters that were lucky enough to draw the tag, have taken their vacation time a year in advance to deer hunt and are planning to hunt the first four days of the traditional deer hunting season of 2017 in Gregory County if the season is discontinued? Is the GF&P willing to give these Special Buck hunters their money back?

Someone surely isn't thinking clearly here ... when the GF&P has already sold the 2017 Special Buck licenses, guys have a tag in hand, planned their hunt and then the GF&P and Game Commission discontinues the split deer hunting season in Gregory County.

Private land owners in Gregory County will not have room for all the sportsmen planning to hunt deer in 2017 if everyone is put into one season. Especially if they have given other sportsmen permission to hunt in the second season of our traditional split deer hunting season. You get too many people group up in one hunting area and no one is happy with the quality of their hunt. Close the first season and the first season deer hunters will not have a place to hunt. Lots of hot words and bad feelings will be the outcome and this will not be a positive thing for anyone ... especially the GF&P and the state of South Dakota.

Gregory County needs the economic income that the traditional split deer hunting season brings in to the small communities located in our county. The economic impact of discontinuing the split deer hunting season to Gregory County will be huge and not in a positive way. I guess no one thought about that when they are looking at closing the first season.

A couple of young guys in our county are talking about putting in a new wild game processing plant for deer. It is a business that our county needs. Their new business would be cut in half by the decision to discontinue the first deer season if all the first season hunters lose their scheduled time spot and place to hunt. I can't imagine a bank working with anyone on a loan if this happens.

We need the new game processing plant for deer as the older plant can't keep up with the number of deer taken to them in both seasons when the deer hunting is spread out over another four days of hunting with the two seasons. Close the first season, put all hunters in a tighter time slot and a lot of deer will get turned away and not get processed.

A lot of older sportsmen and younger kids hunt the first deer hunting season in Gregory County as the weather seems to be a lot nicer than the second season. Close the first season and a lot of these deer hunters will not have a place to hunt in the 2017 second season, especially on private land. Keeping kids involved in hunting is the future of the sport.

Discontinuing the first deer hunting season in Gregory County is not a good idea and is not in the best interests of Gregory County residents. Please vote to continue the traditional split deer hunting season in Gregory County for 2017 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Ken Krieger

Burke, South Dakota

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 7:39 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Waterfowl & increase in non-resident hunter numbers

Categories: Commission

From: Larry E. Lewis [<mailto:lew@nrctv.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 9:44 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Waterfowl & increase in non-resident hunter numbers

Don't sell our public waterfowl resource & quit supporting the privatization of our publicly owned wildlife. Outfitters bypass the local small town gas stations, cafe's, etc & will lease or buy the best hunting land in the area. Please quit pandering to their demands and support the average local sportsmen and women! Thank you....Larry Lewis, Hecla, SD

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 7:39 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Waterfowl & increase in non-resident hunter numbers

Categories: Commission

From: Larry E. Lewis [<mailto:lew@nrctv.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 9:44 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Waterfowl & increase in non-resident hunter numbers

Don't sell our public waterfowl resource & quit supporting the privatization of our publicly owned wildlife. Outfitters bypass the local small town gas stations, cafe's, etc & will lease or buy the best hunting land in the area. Please quit pandering to their demands and support the average local sportsmen and women! Thank you....Larry Lewis, Hecla, SD

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 2:14 PM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Waterfowl Season Changes

Categories: Commission

From: David Zumbaugh [mailto:david_zumbaugh@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 1:58 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Waterfowl Season Changes

SD:

I have questions and concerns on the proposed changes in migratory waterfowl seasons and non-resident licenses in South Dakota.

First, South Dakota nor it's citizens "own" the waterfowl that migrate through the state each autumn. Most states do not have a separate license requirement for waterfowl; a small game license, state stamp or habitat stamp and federal stamp suffice. The \$126 I pay each year is already a premium to hunt in SD. Is the reduced number of non-resident licenses based on science/harvest data or to give residents a huge opportunity advantage?

Secondly, limiting hunting in Brown County to "private land" for non-residents seems very odd. Why would SD restrict me from hunting on Sand Lake NWR on nearby WPA's? My duck stamp dollars bought/lease these acres and fund the maintenance efforts. Is this change based on wildlife management principles? I would like an explanation on this provision.

I have spent lots of money in SD over the last ten years. I would like to continue to enjoy the adventures SD offers. However, if your restrictions continue to increase, I will be forced elsewhere.

Regards,

Dave Zumbaugh
Shawnee, KS
VP Administration - Kansas Wildlife Federation
Member Outdoor Writers Association of America, Outdoor Writers of Kansas
New Phone Number: 913-626-4349

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 8:47 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: Comment on : GFP 2017 May Proposals - June Finals

Categories: Commission

From: Admin and Rules [<mailto:GFPAdminRules@STATE.SD.US>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 7:00 AM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Comment on : GFP 2017 May Proposals - June Finals

Name: Rick Downes

Address: 38244 108 st

City: Frederick

State: SD

Zip: 57441

Email: Rsdownes@hotmail.com

Phone:

Comment: I'm writing to comment on adding more non residents duck license. I beg you to not do this. Do not cave into the outfitters so that they can get more money for themselves and enable them to keep leasing up more land crowding out the locals. I'm already a victim to big money leasing up land I used to be able to hunt. The days of driving up to a farm and getting permission to hunt are few and far between now with land being leased out. If you add more out of staters you are crowding out the residents that live here paying taxes year round. Past legislators had the foresight to limit license to out of staters to keep our resources so as not to deplete it like other states have (why do you think there coming here). Let's not become a commercial state. We have pretty much done that already for pheasants. Let's not make hunting a rich man sport. Are you here for special interest groups or for the all people in this state. Thank you in advance a citizen and registered voter.

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 9:07 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Archery Deer Proposal

Categories: Commission

From: Justin Broughton [<mailto:JBROUGHT@premierbankcard.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 8:57 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Archery Deer Proposal

I am writing in response to your archery deer proposal for 2017/18. I strongly request that the commission consider limiting the number of non-resident tags available to archers. In 2016 almost 3500 non-resident hunters bow hunted in SD compared to 24,000 residents. The majority of these NR hunters are hunting on our limited public lands and creating pressure on our fragile mule deer herds in western SD. Specifically resident archers, outnumbering NR archers by a 6-1 margin harvested 481 mule deer bucks statewide while NR archers harvested 325. Only a difference of 156 animals versus a difference in 20,000 hunters. You can see my concern with the specific targeting of mule deer by NR hunters. They apply in other western states that ALL limit mule deer access by NR archers with the exception of Nebraska. When they do not draw, they all come to SD and hunt our limited public lands in pursuit of our dwindling mule deer. Each year this trend continues to grow and the pressure increases. I have written to the commission numerous times on this subject and have yet to see or hear it discussed. The big game commission also has brought this up as an issue. Limit mule deer targeting and harvest by managing the tag types through access permits or by creating a lottery for any deer tags for NR hunters. Whitetail tags can be left as is. Please consider the quality of hunt your residents are losing through this continued spread of mule deer hunters from out of state on our public lands west river. We are outnumbered at this point. Take a drive through the Black Hills, the Slim Buttes, or some other premier western public tracts and you will soon see my concern. This problem has an easy solution based upon processes that are already in place. Limit NR access to mule deer permits specifically via the access permit process. Thank you for your consideration.

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Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 8:41 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Gregory and Mellette county deer season

Categories: Commission

From: Lance Gerth [<mailto:lancegerth@outlook.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2017 5:23 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Gregory and Mellette county deer season

We see that there is a proposal to do away with the split season in Gregory and Mellette county and have it happen at the same time as other west river seasons. This would not work as well in our opinion. One of the reasons we like this season is because it allows us to hunt at a different time which causes less disruption in our workplaces. There are a lot of tags for these areas and if everyone shows up on opening weekend there will be a crowding problem. We are hoping that you will reconsider this idea and decide to keep these seasons the way they have been. Thank you,

Lance Gerth
Clear Lake SD

Brendan Gerth
Clear Lake SD

Les Duncan
Parker SD

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 10:32 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] NO to more Non resident waterfowl hunters

Categories: Commission

From: Widman Financial [<mailto:widmanfinancial@swiftel.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 10:19 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] NO to more Non resident waterfowl hunters

I still amazes me that this proposal is even out there for consideration after over 90% of comments and testimony were against it? How can commissioners not listen to the people of SD? (and the non-residents who testified to leave SD the way it is because it works now, and they've seen what it has done to their state when it was opened up.) That's proof you shouldn't ignore!

Some on the commission have said show us some surveys and prove it will hurt, but before you even get those surveys, you go with the opposition's extreme recommendation.

It does not look good when the commission ignores SDWF and SDWA recommendations, especially since we have the people who actually know what has and what will work!

Still haven't gotten an answer as to why the Governor refuses to meet with the SDWF and the sportsmen/women he is supposed to represent, but he will meet will the Commercial Waterfowl Hunting operator that is pushing for all these non-resident licenses? History has shown again and again that when you pick money over people, South Dakotan's lose every time.

Rich Widman
President
SDWF
929 8th Ave
Brookings, SD 57006

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 8:21 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non-resident waterfowl Licences

Categories: Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: Deb C [<mailto:dj27193@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 28, 2017 8:13 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Non-resident waterfowl Licences

GF&P Commissioners

Please do not add any more non-resident waterfowl licences to eastern South Dakota.

Thank You
Jeff Clow
Harrisburg, SD

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 9:27 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Nonresident waterfowl license proposal

Categories: Commission

From: george vandel [<mailto:gvandel3@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 9:17 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Nonresident waterfowl license proposal

Despite the modification in your April Proposal to reduce the number of 3-day nonresident licenses by 250 the overall impact of the May proposal will make the licenses more attractive to nonresidents, more will be sold which will result in a net loss of waterfowl hunting access for our 30,000 resident hunters. The bottom line is this is a big loss for resident duck hunters and a big gain for those in the commercial hunting business. Your actions will not improve hunting for resident hunters and in fact will contribute to even more resident hunters hanging up their guns. Such a result is not positive for South Dakota, our economy, support for our conservation efforts or our quality of life. I urge you to kill this proposal, and reduce the number of nonresident 3-day licenses to keep it as was intended when the "great compromise" created the licenses. Keep them on private land in the counties along the Missouri River where a public access program was developed. Actions by the Legislature, the Governor and now the Commission involving these 3-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses will make establishing future "compromises" involving nonresident license increases virtually impossible. Resident hunters are losing their trust in our state government involving this issue. Your vote to increase the number of nonresident waterfowl hunters in South Dakota is not the compromise you envision and it will not put an end to this issue.

George Vandel – Pierre, SD

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 7:39 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non-Resident Waterfowl Licenses...

Categories: Commission

From: isaacson@sio.midco.net [<mailto:isaacson@sio.midco.net>]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 7:03 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Non-Resident Waterfowl Licenses...

I want to go on record to say I am NOT in favor of anymore Non-Resident Waterfowl Licenses. Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Maynard Isaacson
3405 S. Pennant Pl.,
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 11:45 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non-resident waterfowl proposal- leave it the way it is

Categories: Commission

From: Terry Madson [<mailto:sdsdsuguy@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 11:34 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Non-resident waterfowl proposal- leave it the way it is

Please do not pass the proposals in any way!! Why are we making changes to Brown Co.? They are not needed. The proposal will not do anything to reduce pressure on public lands since a large percentage of the current 10 day licenses are used in Brown Co. but the proposal will make it much tougher to gain access to private land since the licenses are private land only. If passed we will not only will we have over pressured public but create a rat race land grab for private land. The proposal is a 100% gain for commercial hunting interest and a loss for resident hunters. IMO the Brown Co. proposal would actually increase pressure on public land because more private land will be leased pushing folks that previously hunted those farms onto public. Take it from a life long resident of Aberdeen, Brown Co. already has a crazy amount of waterfowl hunters so why are we looking to make access even tougher? It makes no sense to me. Surely this proposal of Brown Co. has Pay to Hunt ties. Please leave Brown Co. in the current NE unit. Don't fix what isn't broken and keep commercial hunting interest out of waterfowl hunting. Why make 1% happy at the expense of the other 99%?

Please vote against the Brown Co. move in any way.

Terry Madson, Aberdeen

Comes, Rachel

From: Cary, Joe
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] NR waterfowl license changes

Categories: Commission

From: mike.olmstead@comcast.net [<mailto:mike.olmstead@comcast.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 12:59 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Re: [EXT] NR waterfowl license changes

I'm still against any purposed changes for the reasons below. I also don't think it's in the best interest of the resource.

From: "mike olmstead" <mike.olmstead@comcast.net>
To: wildinfo@state.sd.us
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2017 1:15:31 PM
Subject: Re: NR waterfowl license changes

As a non-resident I am writing to say I am against the purposed NR waterfowl license changes.

I have been coming to SD for years to hunt waterfowl; the purposed changes will cause overcrowding and spoil the experience. Each year I have seen resentment towards non-resident hunters increase from both resident hunters and local farmers. The purposed changes will only aggravate this situation.

Contrary to popular belief; Change is not always a good thing. Please leave the system as is.

Mike Olmstead
Cottage Grove MN

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 8:38 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] NRW license

Categories: Commission

From: duke remitz [<mailto:dukeremitz@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2017 8:22 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] NRW license

Dear GFP,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to allotment of more NRW's in the NE part of the state.

I stand with SD Waterfowlers Assoc.in opposing the increase. On a biological perspective, Ducks are very sensitive to hunting pressure. They'll move if harrassed too much. Geese are more tolerable of the pressure. In the last two years the migrating birds have been pushed out areas I've been hunting for years. The only thing that has changed has been a guiding service in the area. Not only have I witnessed it here in SD but in Canada as well.

I understand if the lack of funding for GFP is in part due to the lack of pheasant hunting licenses sold. I'm sure you are being asked to do more with less. If true, I understand that. Please do not try to "make up" that gap by selling more NRW licenses. This would hurt our state and our residences. If you want to bridge the budgetary gap increase the price of Waterfowl licenses. Otherwise the few who benefit are the guides and most of that money stays with them and doesn't go into the community. On average,,,for every new dollar that comes into a community it changes hands 7(seven) times supporting other business and people.

Lastly, on a personal note. The sportspeople of this state are already getting squeezed out of fishing opportunities with recent SD Supreme Court rulings. Now SD outdoorsmen will be squeezed out more. These are two basic reason I have friends that are contemplating quitting hunting and fishing. These people have children that might not fall in love with the outdoor life. Think about it....less future license sales !

Please do the right thing for the wildlife in this state. Everything shouldn't have to be about the almighty dollar. Principles !!! Thank you.

With kind regards, Duke Remitz. Frederick SD.

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 7:38 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] Out of state waterfowl hunters

Categories: Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Kotula [<mailto:crk56@comcast.net>]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 5:12 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Out of state waterfowl hunters

I think that waterfowl hunting is the only thing we as residents have left. With the farmers controlling every thing now, its one more thing that they are going to want money for. As a resident i can't afford to pay to hunt on a farmers land all of the time. The money the state will make is minamal, and the farmer will just get richer!!! It's time to look out for the people that live in the state, and keep just a little bit of something for us. The non-residents already own pheasant hunting let us keep waterfowl hunt for us.

Sent from my iPhone