

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

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

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

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

Approval of Minutes

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

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

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

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

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

License List Request

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

Budget

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

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

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

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

Glacial Lakes & Prairies Tourism Association

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

Nonmeandered Waters Update

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

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

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

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

Hunter Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation

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

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

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

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

PETITION FOR RULE CHANGE

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

EMERGENCY RULE

Firewood Restriction

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

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

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

PROPOSALS

Firewood Restriction

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

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

Fall Turkey

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

Recommended changes from last year:

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

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

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

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

Archery Equipment Restrictions

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

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

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

- ~~(3) Arrow rests that have more than three inches of continuous contact with the arrow;~~
- ~~(4) Electronic devices mounted to the bow that aid in the taking of game. However, cameras, video cameras, cell phones used exclusively for photographic purposes, lighted sight pins, and illuminated arrow nocks may be used. An electrical device mounted to the bow to project a light beam or image to a target;~~
- (5) Electronic arrow or electronic string releases;
- ~~(6) Compound bows with a let off of more than 80 percent;~~
- ~~(7) Compound bows shorter than 28 inches as measured from the top of the upper wheel or cam to the bottom of the lower wheel or cam;~~
- ~~(8) Telescopic sights;~~
- ~~(9) An arrow, including the attached broadhead, weighing less than 275 grains when hunting a big game animal;~~
- ~~(10) An arrow that is less than 26 inches long when measured from the notch of the nock to the end of the shaft, not including the blunt or broadhead;~~
- (11) An arrow without a broadhead (fixed or mechanical) that has at least two metal cutting edges when hunting big game animals. However, an arrow tipped with any point may be possessed when used for practice; except blunt points may be used when hunting a turkey or small game and both field points and blunt points may be possessed and used when hunting small game, or at any time when possessed and used as practice arrows;
- (12) A bow that measures less than 40 pounds pull when hunting elk ~~with a mechanical broadhead or a bow that measures less than 40 pounds pull when hunting any other big game animal with a mechanical broadhead; or~~
- (13) A bow that measures less than 30 pounds pull when hunting big game animals other than elk. ~~with a fixed blade broadhead or a bow that measures less than 30 pounds pull when hunting any other big game animal with a fixed blade broadhead.~~

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

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

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

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

Refuge and Boating Restrictions (Swan Lake)

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

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

Olson asked if electric motors are defined in rules.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Robling responded that he is the lead point of contact.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fish Limits – Reetz Lake

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

FINALIZATIONS

Archery Deer Hunting Season

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

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

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

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

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

Peterson noted public comments indicated support for the earlier season.

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

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

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

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

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

Mentored Hunter Restrictions

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

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

Sharp asked for clarification on who can be a guardian.

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

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Maximum Size of Hunting Groups

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

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

Alban responded yes.

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

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

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

Accompaniment While Hunting

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

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

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

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

Fur Dealer License Application Requirements

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

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

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

Muzzleloading Rifle and Pistol Requirements

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

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

hunting.

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

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

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

Bowhunter Education Requirement

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B. Jensen inquired if promoting education will continue.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Retention of Accrued Preference Points

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

B. Jensen inquired if there is an ending date.

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

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

Snaring and Snare/Trap Marking

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

Proposed changes from last year:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hunting Requirement – Mandatory CWD Testing

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

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

B. Jensen asked what gets removed.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

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

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

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

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

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Spring Creek Prospectus

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

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

Private Cabin Lease Transfer (withdrawn)

Custer Park Resort Lease Amendment (withdrawn)

Emerald Ash Borer

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

Olson inquired what the cost is to treat a tree.

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

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

Parks Revenue and Camping Reservation Report

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

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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

East River Fisheries Plan Update

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

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

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

License Sales Update

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

Solicitation of Agenda Items from Commissioners

No agenda items were recommended

Adjourn

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

Appendix A
2018-2019 Fall Turkey

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

2016-17 vs. 2018-19 Fall Turkey

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

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

Appendix B

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

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

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #1

Recommended changes from last year:

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

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

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

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

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



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #2

Recommended changes from last year:

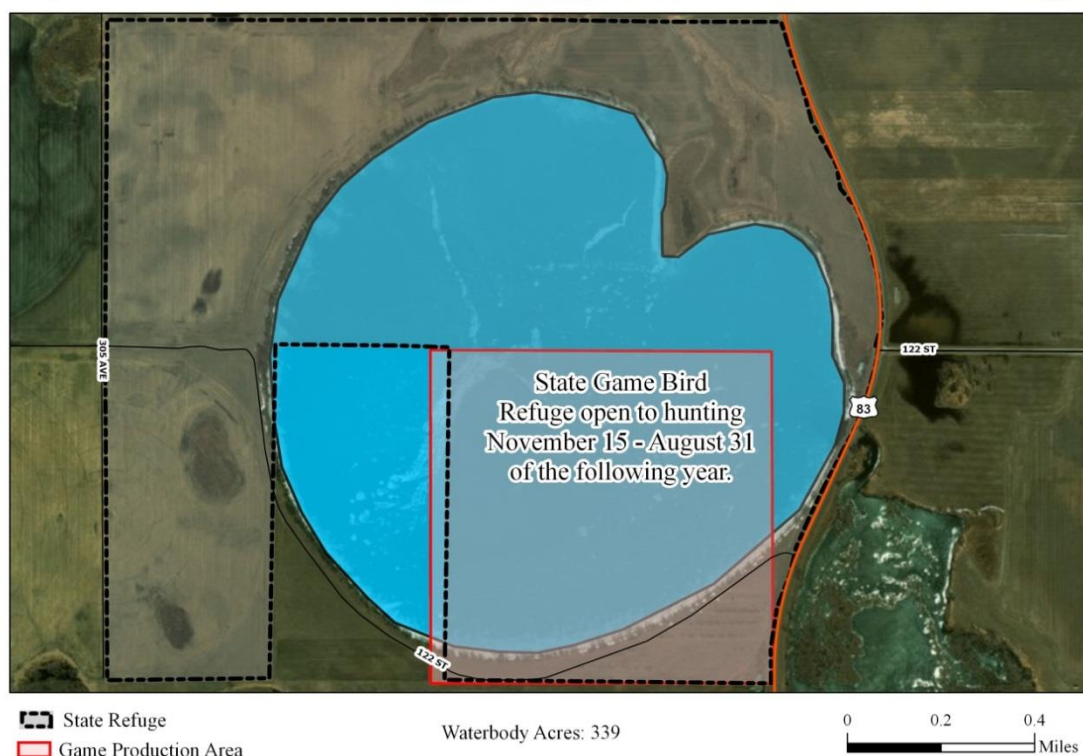
- 1) Remove the Sand Lake Game Bird Refuge

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

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



Sand Lake, Campbell Current Status



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #3

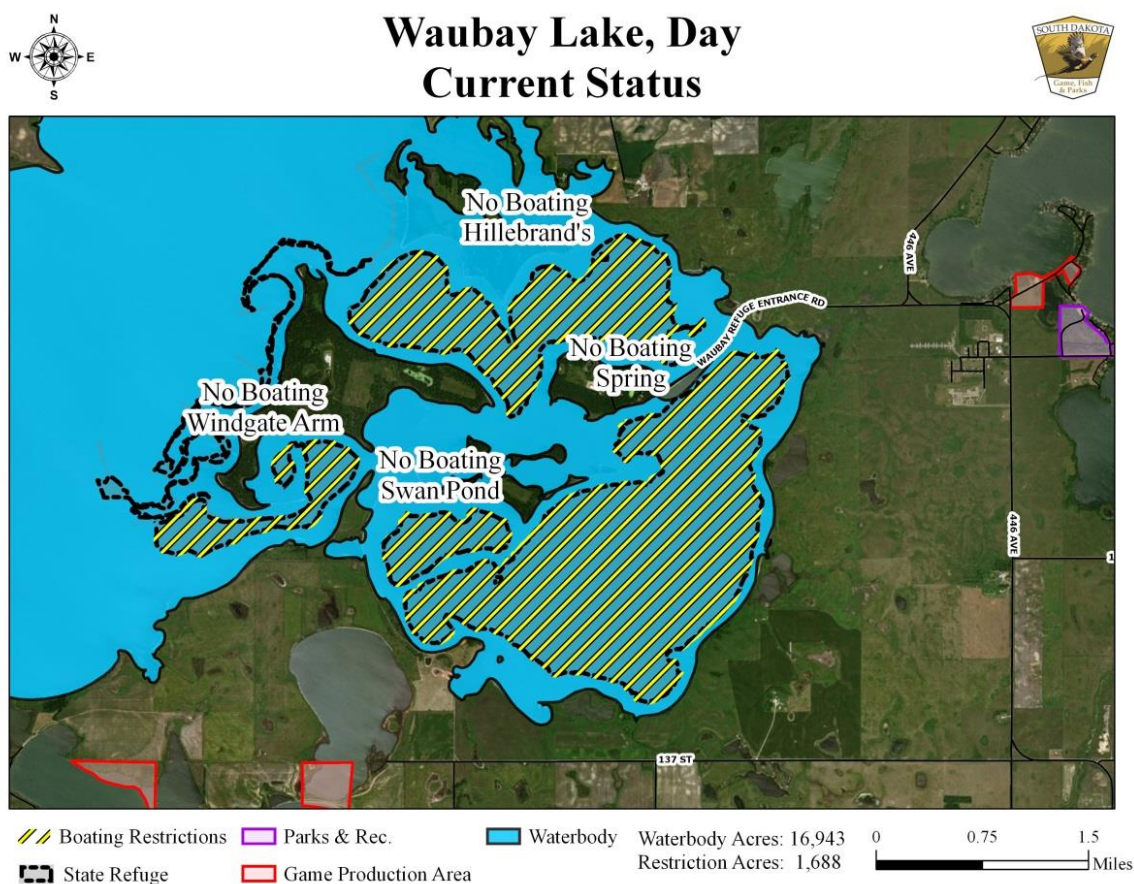
Recommended changes from last year:

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

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

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

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



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #4

Recommended changes from last year:

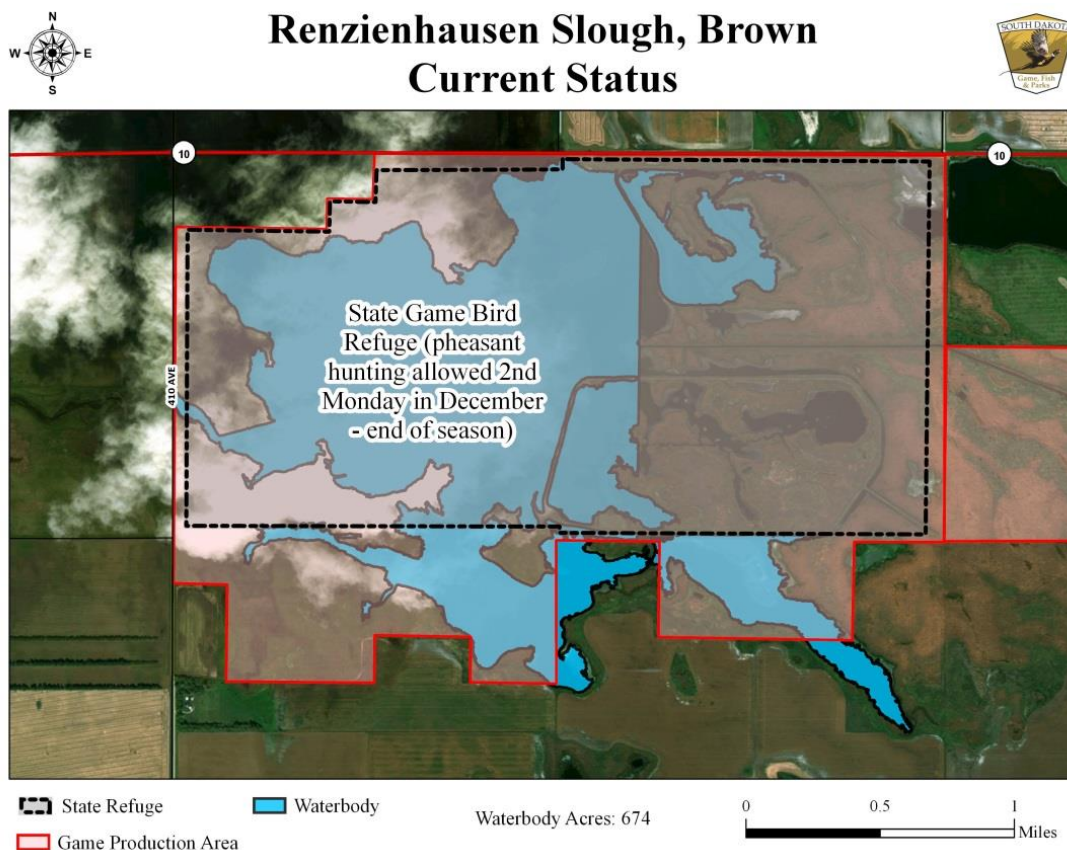
- 3) Modify the pheasant hunting starting date from the 2nd Monday in December to December 1 for Renziehausen State Game Bird Refuge including its shooting and retrieval zones, Gerken State Game Bird Refuge, and White Lake State Game Bird Refuge.

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

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

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

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





STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #5

Recommended changes from last year:

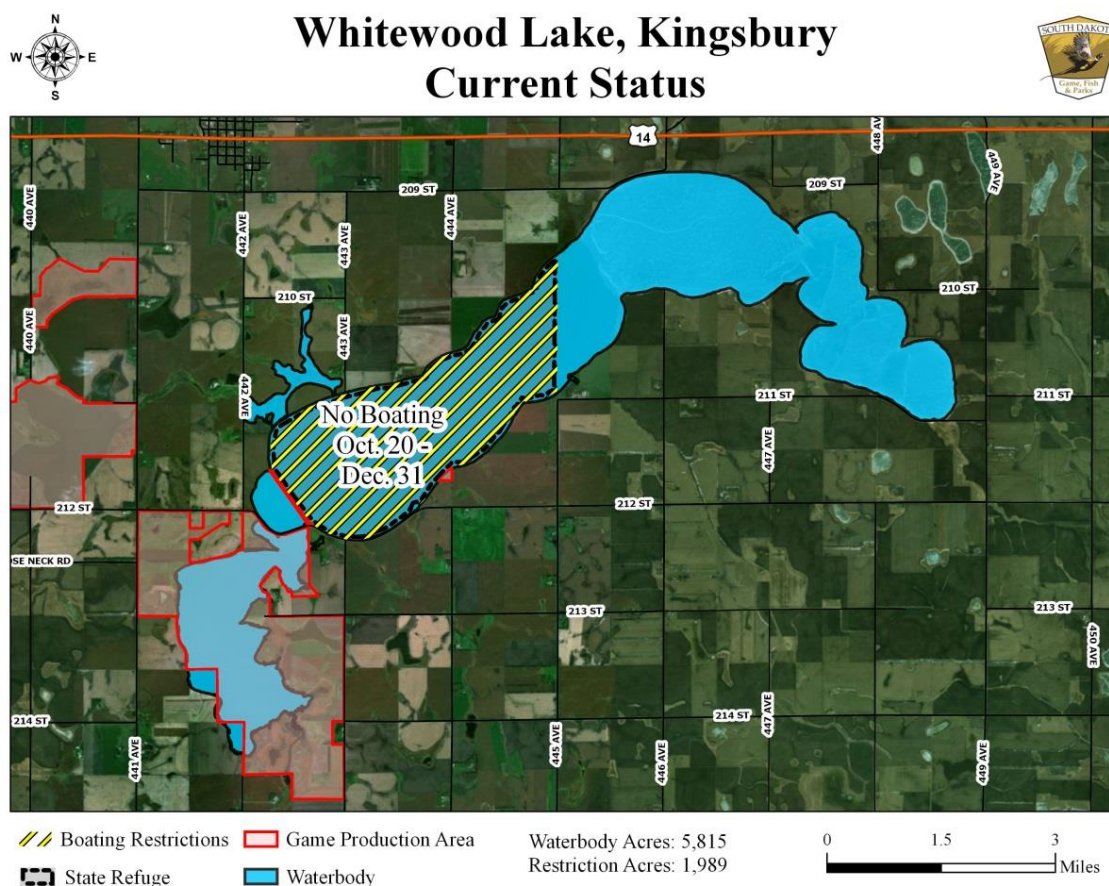
- 1) Remove the Whitewood Lake State Waterfowl Refuge and the "no boating zone" from October 20 to December 31

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

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

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

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



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #6

Recommended changes from last year:

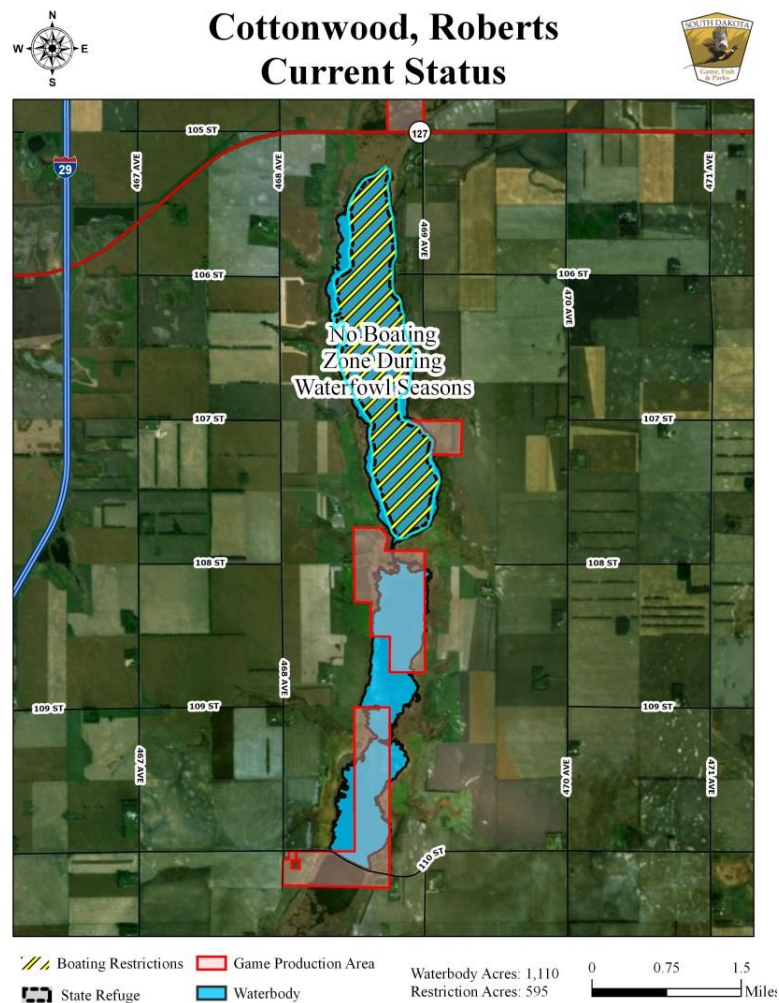
- 2) Change the “no boating zone” during the open season on migratory waterfowl to “electric motors only” from October 20 – December 31.

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

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

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

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



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #7

Recommended changes from last year:

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

41:05:02:57. Spink County refuges. Spink County refuges are as follows:

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



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

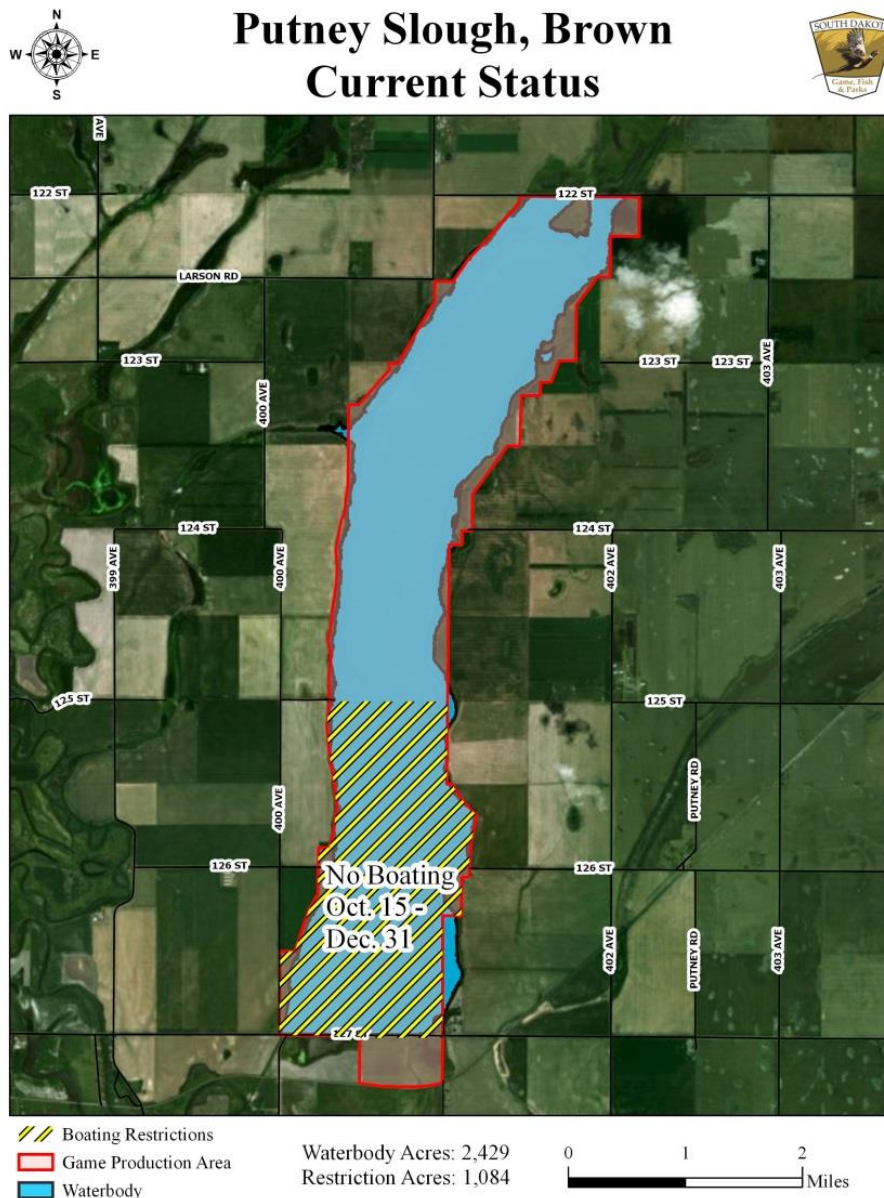
ACTION ITEM #8

Recommended changes from last year:

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

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

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



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

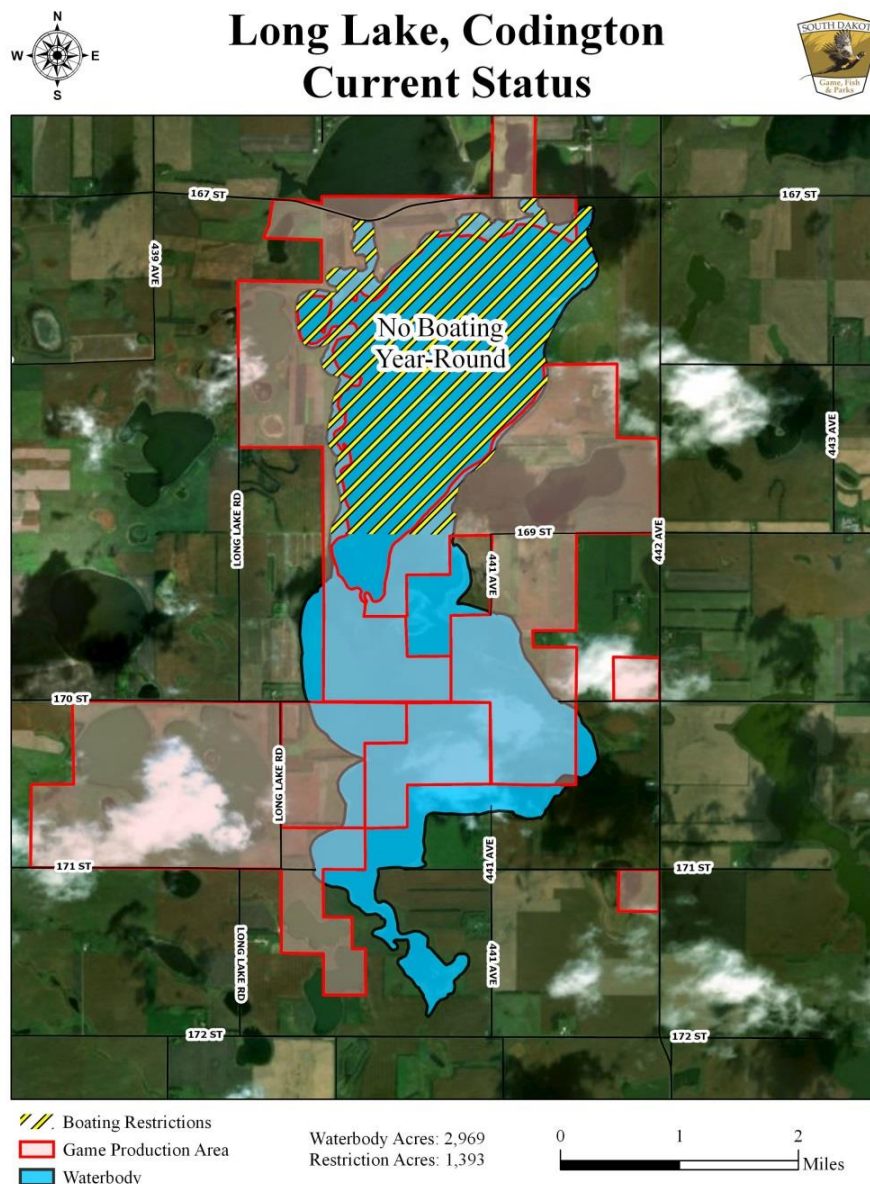
ACTION ITEM #9

Recommended changes from last year:

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

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

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



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #10

Recommended changes from last year:

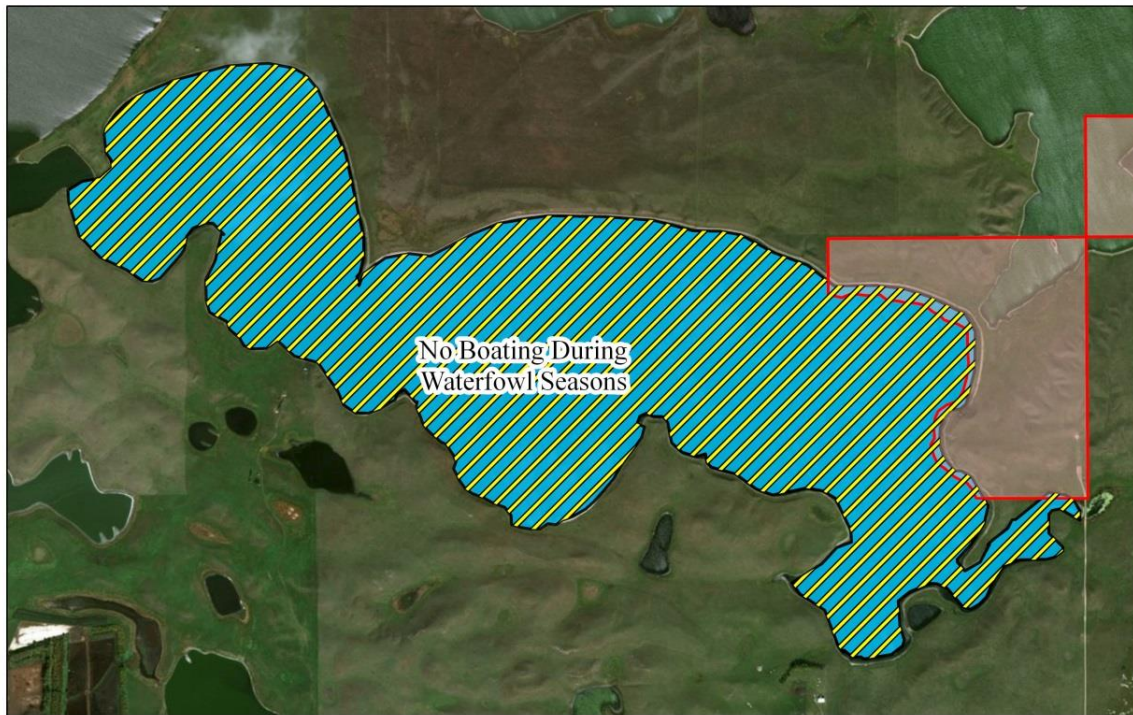
- 1) Modify the “no boating zone” during open season on migratory waterfowl on McKilligan Lake to “electric motors only” from October 20 – December 31.

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

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



McKilligans Lake, Codington Current Status



Boating Restrictions Waterbody
Game Production Area

Waterbody Acres: 522

0 0.25 0.5
Miles

STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #11

Recommended changes from last year:

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

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

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



Horseshoe Lake, Codington Current Status



Boating Restrictions

Game Production Area

Waterbody

Waterbody Acres: 806

0 0.42 0.85
Miles

STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

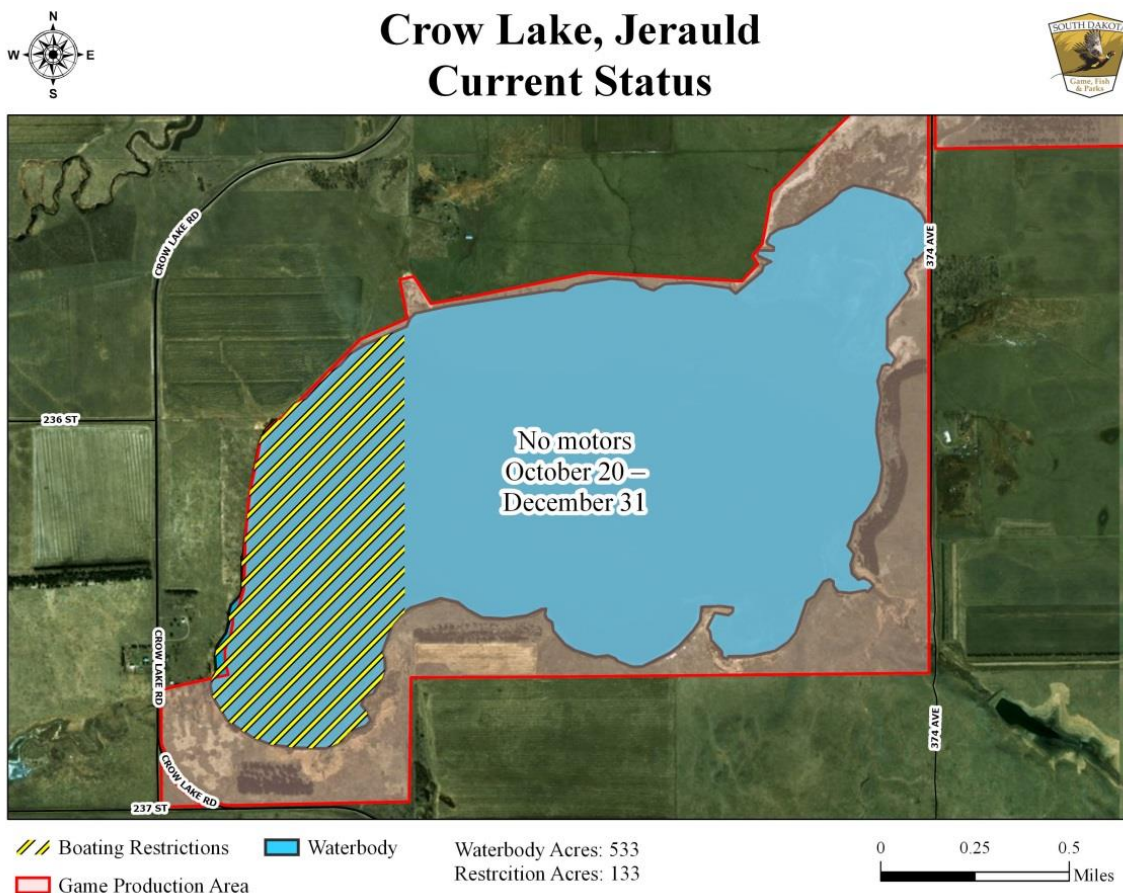
ACTION ITEM #12

Recommended changes from last year:

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

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

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



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

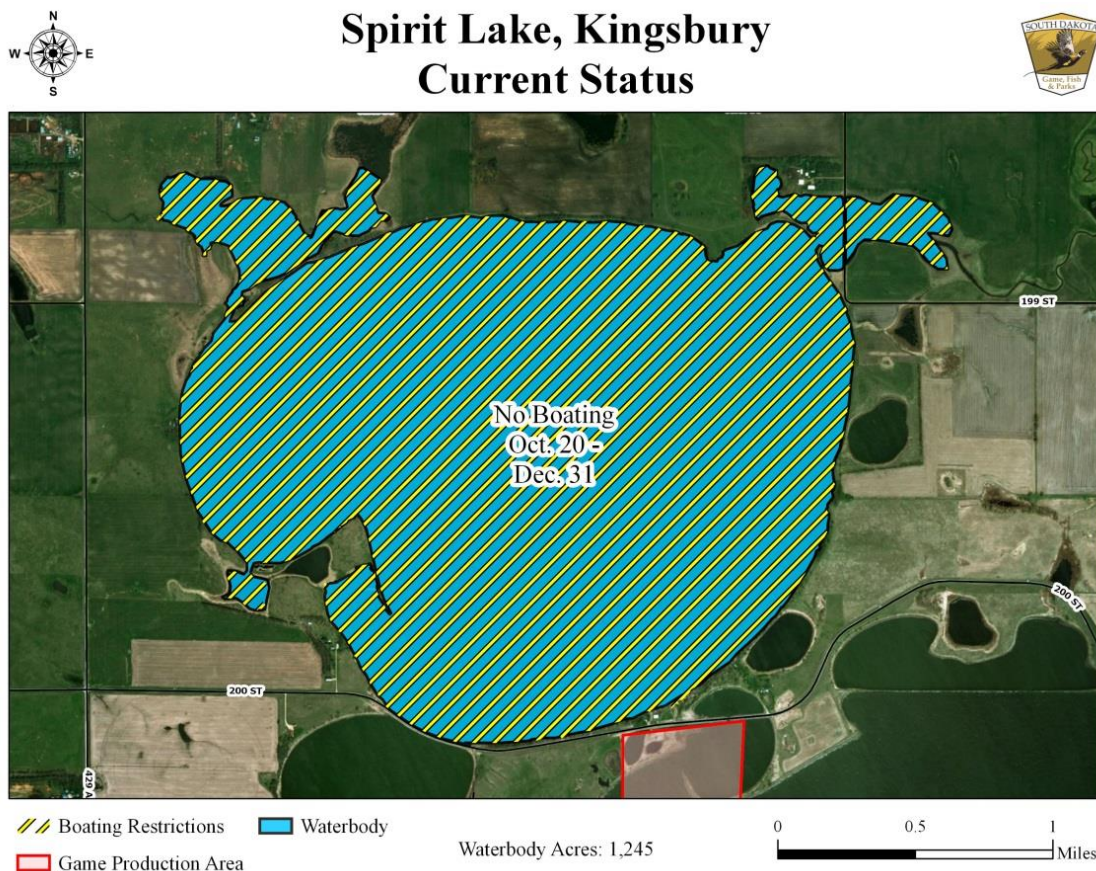
ACTION ITEM #13

Recommended changes from last year:

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

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

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



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #14

Recommended changes from last year:

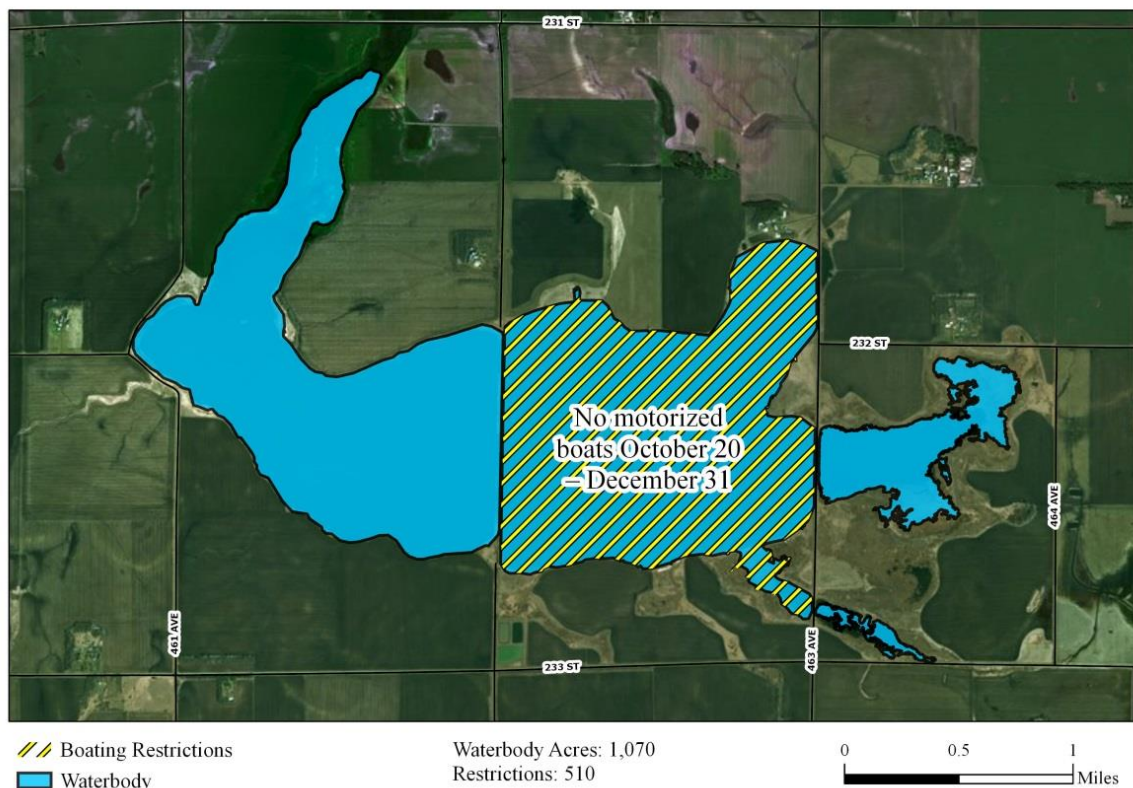
- 5) Remove the “no motors zone” on Milwaukee Lake from October 20 to December 31.

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

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



Milwaukee Lake, Lake Current Status



STAFF COMMENTS

This change will allow more recreational opportunity and simplify regulations.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #15

Recommended changes from last year:

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

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

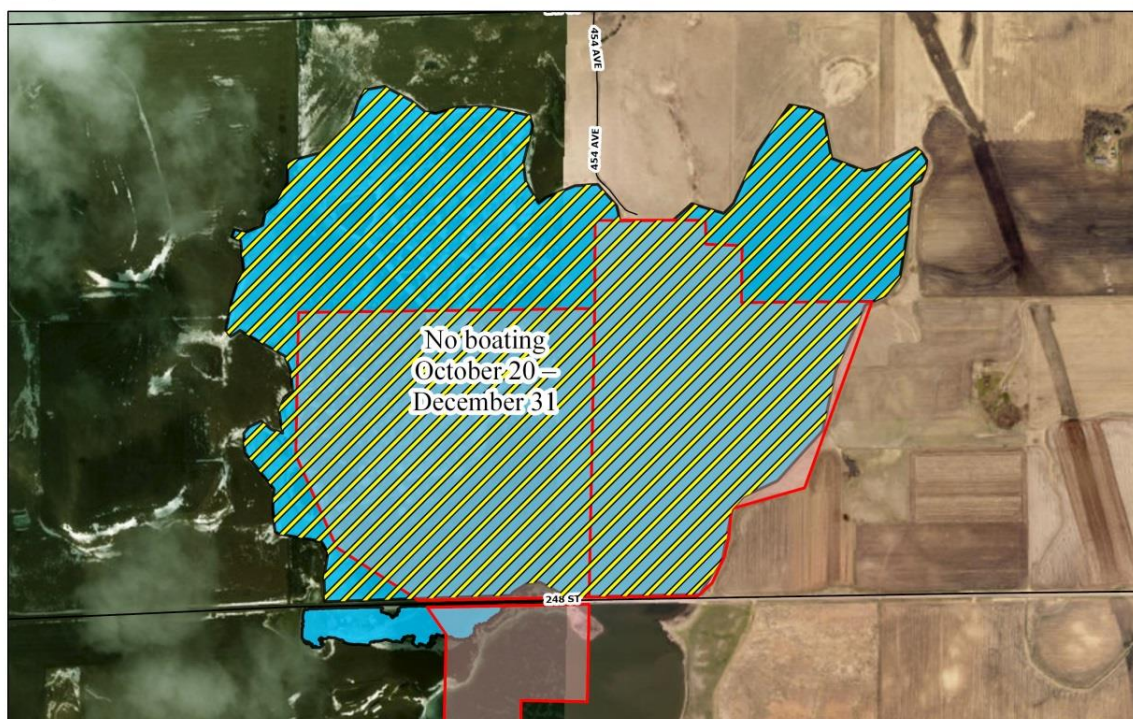
~~(2) That portion of Island Lake lying north of McCook County Road 6 is a “no boating zone” from October 20 to December 31, inclusive.~~

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

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



Island Lake, Minnehaha Current Status



Boating Restrictions Waterbody
Game Production Area

Waterbody Acres: 458
Restriction Acres: 447

0 0.25 0.5
Miles

STAFF COMMENTS

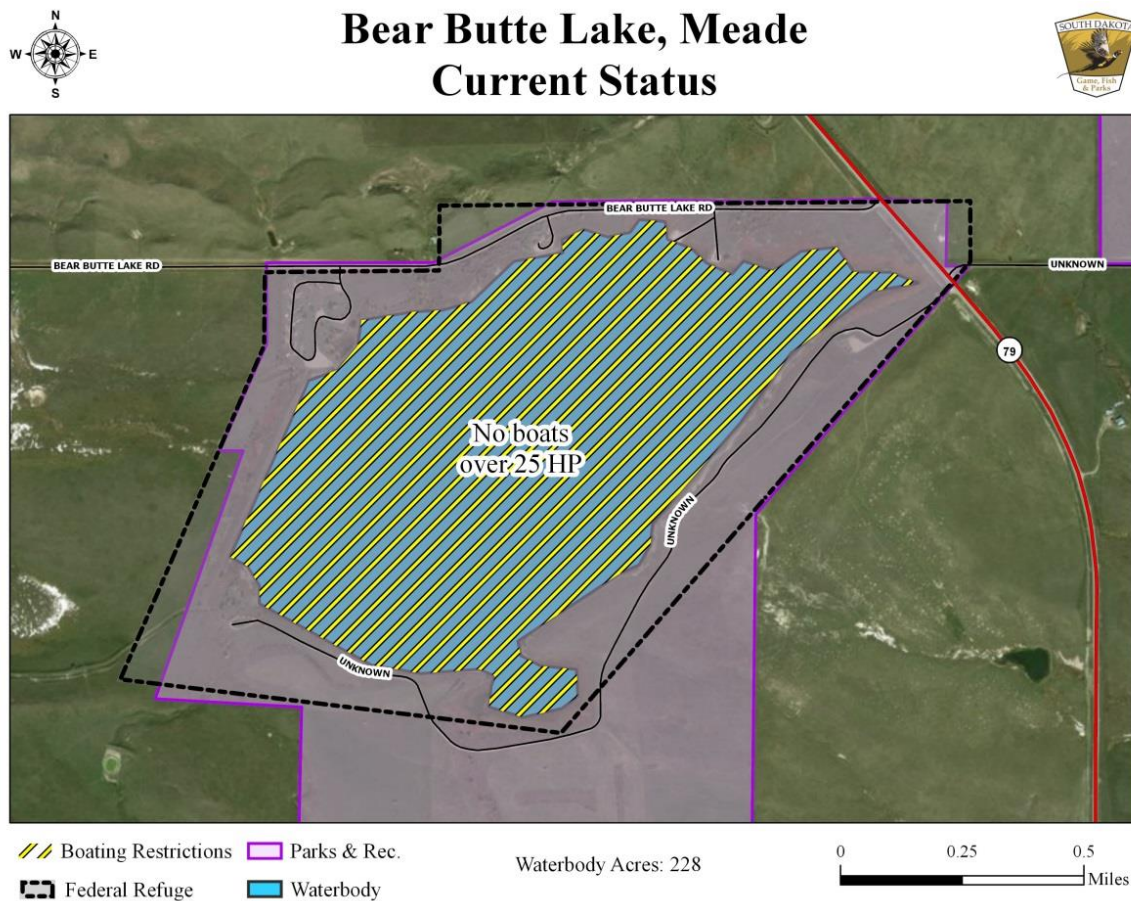
Island Lake is a popular fishery with a diverse fish community. Field staff hear from the public requesting the ability to fish longer into the fall. Clear Lake (472ac) is located 6.5 miles SE of Island Lake which has a similar boating restriction.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
ACTION ITEM #16

Recommended changes from last year:

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

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



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

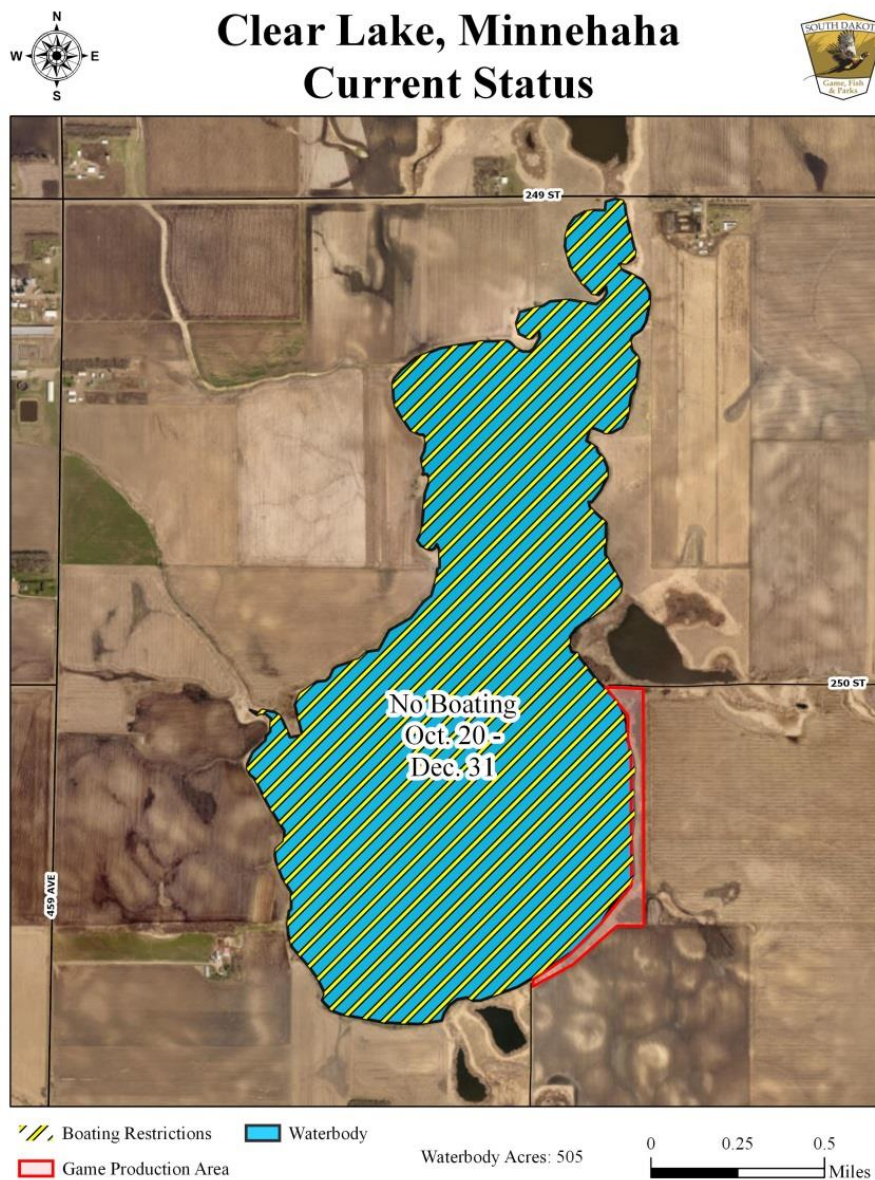
ACTION ITEM #17

Recommended changes from last year:

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

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

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



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #18

Recommended changes from last year:

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

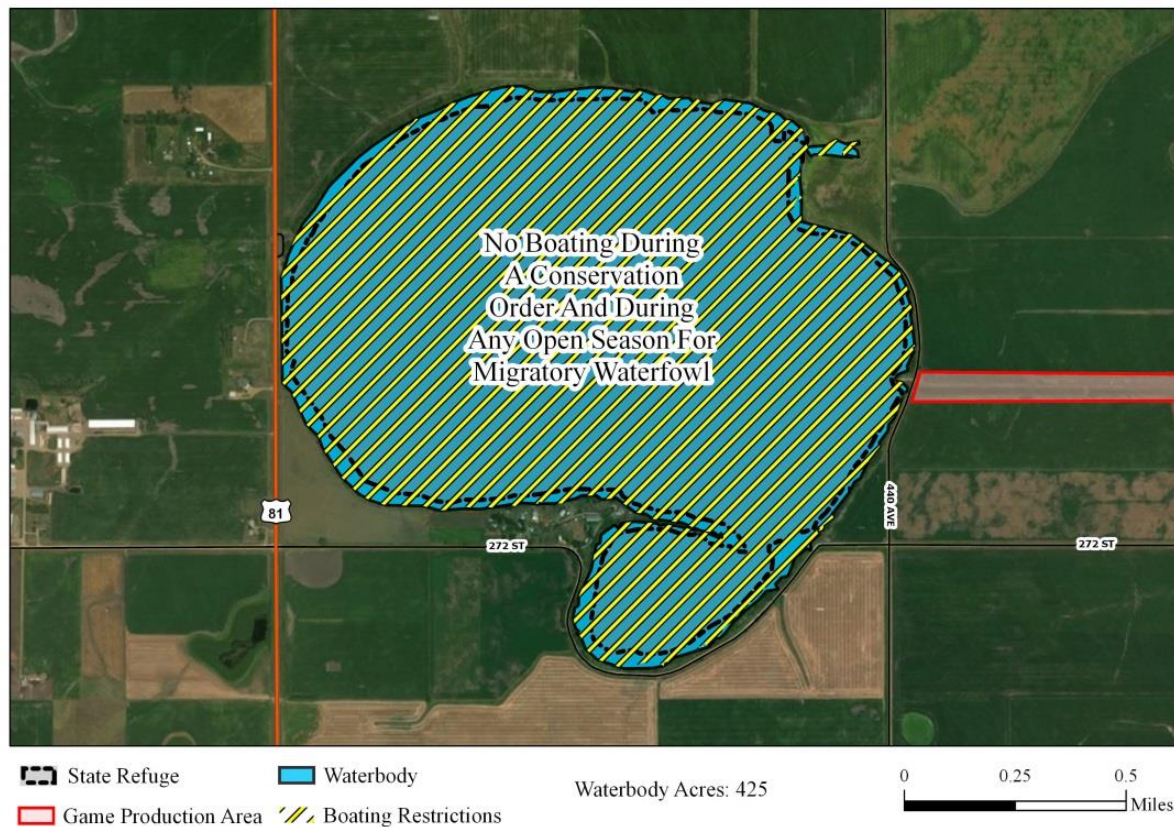
41:05:02:33. Hutchinson County refuges. The following refuge is in Hutchinson County: the Silver Lake Waterfowl Refuge comprises all of Silver Lake below the high-water mark including all islands and bars lying within the high-water mark.

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

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



Silver Lake, Hutchinson Current Status



STAFF COMMENTS

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEM #19

Recommended changes from last year:

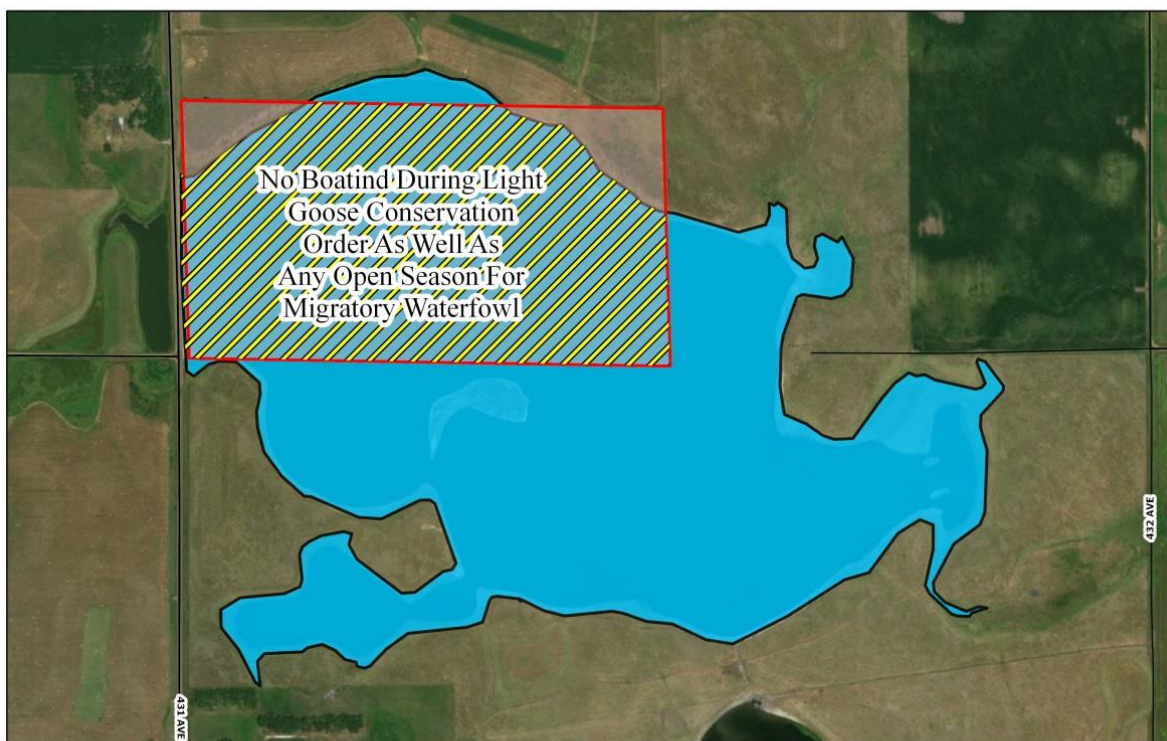
- 4) Modify the “no boating zone” during a Conservation Order and during any open season for migratory waterfowl on Lehrman Game Production Area to “electric motors only” from October 20 – December 31.

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

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



Lehrman Slough, McCook Current Status



Boating Restrictions
Game Production Area

Waterbody

Waterbody Acres: 200
Restrictions: 75

0 0.25 0.5
Miles

STAFF COMMENTS

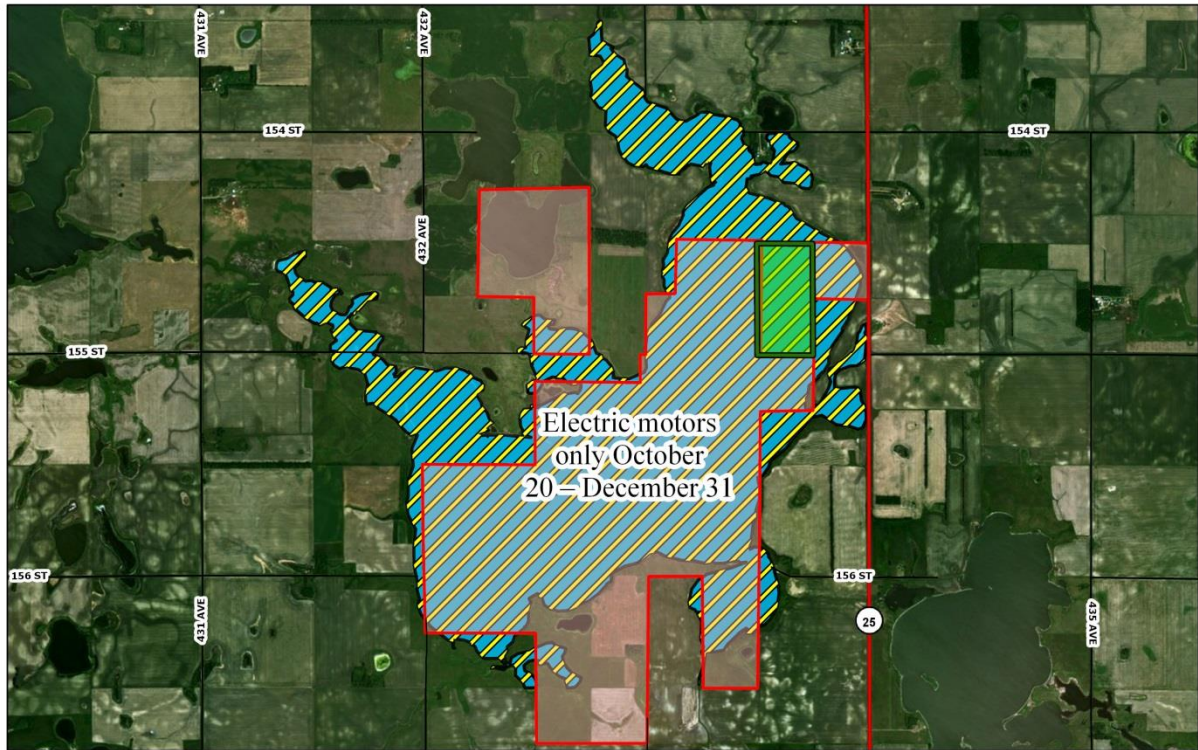
This change will allow more recreational opportunity and simplify regulations. It will also allow recreational users to access the northeast corner of the GPA that is currently landlocked.

Recommended changes from last year:

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



Swan Lake, Clark Proposed



Boat Restrictions

Game Production Area

Waterfowl Production Area

Waterbody

Waterbody Acres: 1,795

0 0.75 1.5
Miles

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission

June 7-8, 2018

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

Archery Deer Hunting Season

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

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

Kurt Rahlf
Mobridge SD
starky069@yahoo.com

I think starting sept 1 is a great idea

Daniel Amen
Rapid City SD
dakotainc@gmail.com

I do think this is a good idea and support this proposal.

Dylan Marsh
Sioux Falls SD
mmarshalldylan@aol.com

I highly agree with the state date of Sept 1st. Gives you a chance to harvest a velvet buck and hunt a buck without pheasant hunters running them all over.

Roger Heintzman
Aberdeen SD
r_heintzman@hotmail.com

I support the changes or all above listed proposals to be finalized June 7th.

Andrew Erickson
Centerville SD
andrew_erickson_23@hotmail.com

No comment text provided.

Josiah Christoffer
Sioux Falls SD
josiahchristoffer@gmail.com

I would love to see this change. I am surely not abreast of the potential drawbacks of a start date move, but I do feel it would greatly increase my chance of success. I would much rather hu

James Cantalope
Eureka SD
cantajam@yahoo.com

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

Timothy Moore
SD

No comment text provided.

Dan Kavanaugh

Pillager MN

Dan@dankavanaugh.com

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

Joseph Kavanaugh

Denver CO

jkavanaugh@skybridgeresources.com

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

Jeremiah Johnson

Sioux Falls SD

Jeremiah_j77@hotmail.com

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

Andy Viet

Sioux Falls SD

Aviet88@hotmail.com

No comment text provided.

Neil Hylla

Gregory SD

neilhyla@hotmail.com

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

Damon Brueggemen

Miller SD

I think it would be great!

Aaron Glasford

Aberdeen SD

aglasford@hotmail.com

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

Lee Nelson

Rapid City SD

leemnelson@hotmail.com

No comment text provided.

Dave Kavanaugh

East Gull Lake MN

Dave@kavanaughs.com

No comment text provided.

Bryan Vyhldal

Harrisburg SD

bvyhldal@yahoo.com

-Lengthen the season 3 weeks.

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

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

Thank you for your time! BryanV

Collin Rhine

Philip SD

Collin.rhine@state.sd.us

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Matthew Werpy
Rapid City SD
Mattwerpy@gmail.com

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

Adam Newman
Rapid City SD
Adampaulnewman@me.com

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

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

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

Chad McCreight
Lincoln NE
Cmccreight@neb.rr.com

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

Brett Johnson
Rapid City SD
Brett_mjohnson@yahoo.com

I support the Sept 1 opener for archery deer.

Zach Hawkins
Sioux Falls SD

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

Rusty Lytle
Wall SD

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

Larry Hannan
Rapid City SD

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

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

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

Brian Barnes
Rapid City SD
brianbarnes1996@gmail.com

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

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

Justin Allen
Pierre SD

Dear Commissioners,

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

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

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

Randy Routier
Buffalo SD

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

Andrew Ward
MN

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

Scott Guffey
Rapid City SD
guffeyscott@gmail.com

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

Meghan Biermann
Rapid City SD
Meghan_2012@hotmail.com

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

Marc Moore
Custer SD
Carrieknows02@goldenwest.net

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

Eric Stiefvater
Belle Fourche SD
edshusker@yahoo.com

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

Cody Ruml
Letcher SD
codyruml1998@gmail.com

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

Andrew Krier
Harrisburg SD
andrewckrier@gmail.com

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

Sean Newberg
Parker SD
newbergsean92@gmail.com

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

Mark Smedsrud
Sioux Falls SD
Maksmedsrud@msn.com

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

Chris Medill
Aberdeen SD
chrismedill@yahoo.com

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

Wade Harkema
Volga SD
Wharkema68@gmail.com

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

Brian Hansen
Bath SD
Bhansen@northernelectric.coop

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

Lester Roggenbauer
Elk Point SD
roggenbauer@gmail.com

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

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

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

Nate Baumgarn
Webster SD
natin02@hotmail.com

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

Christian Mchugh
Mobridge SD
cmchugh@jacks.sdstate.edu

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

Branden West

SD

tbwest@gwtc.net

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

Nick Welch

Mccook Lake SD

Vmax508502@aol.com

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

Matt Fonder

Aberdeen SD

mfondur@yahoo.com

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

Rick Hanger

Sioux Falls SD

hangfire49@sio.midco.net

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

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

Andrew Krier

Harrisburg SD

Andrewckrier@gmail.com

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

Conner Mesman

Sioux Falls SD

No comment text provided.

Jim Bjoekmann

Howard SD

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

Nathan Lukkes
Pierre SD
lukkesn@hotmail.com

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

Craig Niemann
Volga SD
craigniemann2018@gmail.com

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

the 4th Saturday of September.

Reasons I support this:

1. Opportunity to chase a velvet buck

- I say opportunity because while I would like to chase a big mule deer in velvet; I have a real problem only buying one tag for the year. I most likely would wait till the 4th Saturday and get an east and west river tag. Others only get a statewide tag and would probably choose to hunt Sept. 1st.

2. Makes the person wanting to hunt earlier choose to have 1 state wide archery tag or 2 tags; one each for east and west river.

3. Not many people will get out and hunt September 1st because it is still hot, humid, and full of mosquitoes.

4. Gives archery hunters an opportunity to hunt before duck opener. Duck opener is the 4th Saturday of September. Good public deer hunting lands become not good deer hunting because the shotguns start banging the same morning we have first crack with the bow.

5. Just another way to improve the deer hunting opportunity in the best state to deer hunt in the USA.

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

Thank you,

Craig Niemann

Nicholas Renemans
Fort Pierre SD

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

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

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

Mike Wilson
West Branch IA
Bison4me@icloud.com

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

Paul Johnson
Rapid City SD

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

Renee Allen
Pierre SD

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

Brian Hansen
Bath SD
bhansen@northernelectric.coop

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

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

Curtis Kline
Aberdeen SD
cjkline2870@gmail.com

Dear Commission,

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the consideration,
Curtis Kline Aberdeen SD

Joshua Hagemann
Mission Hill SD
Jghagemann@hotmail.com

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

Thank you, Josh Hagemann

Daniel Morrison
Britton SD

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

William Schwarz
Brookings SD
schwarz.billy@gmail.com

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

Tom Jensen
Harrisburg SD
Tom.I.Jensen@wellsfargo.com

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

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

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

Russ Roberts
St Onge SD
wgo@mato.com

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

Matt Rippentrop
Hot Springs SD
mattrippentrop@hotmail.com

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

Jon Faulks
Fremont WI
jfaulks@waupacasand.com

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

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

Justin Broughton

Sioux Falls SD

Justin.Broughton@premierbankcard.com

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

Ross Swedeen

Rapid City SD

reswedeen@yahoo.com

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

Dana Rogers

Hill City SD

dana.rogers.1@hotmail.com

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

Mentored Hunting Restrictions

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

Jim Dale

Watertown SD

dales120@wat.midco.net

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

Selena Spring

Custer SD

selenann@hotmail.com

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

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

Bryan Vyhlidal
Harrisburg SD
bvyhlidal@yahoo.com
No comment text provided.

Collin Rhine
Philip SD
collin.rhine@state.sd.us

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

Kelan Lechner
Aberdeen SD
kelan@nrctv.com

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

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

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

Mike Karcz
Huntley IL
michaeljkarcz@yahoo.com

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

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

Thank you, Mike Karcz

Jessr Hartman
Lennox SD
jesserhartmann@gmail.com

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

Curtis Bossert
Aberdeen SD

sdsmt78@gmail.com

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

**Steve Chilson
Florence SD**

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

Maximum Size of Hunting Groups

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

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

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

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

**Micahel Gebes
Philip SD
mmgebess@gwtc.net**

I would oppose this on public hunting grounds not on private ground.

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

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

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

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

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

**Jeff Clow
SD**

No comment text provided.

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

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

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718

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

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

Accompaniment While hunting

No verbal comments were received.

Leon Ewert
Piedmont SD
cw5lhewert@gmail.com

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

Leon Ewert
Piedmont SD
cw5lhewert@gmail.com

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

Dustin Thill
Mitchell SD
glimmerman151@hotmail.com

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

Sam Sommers
Sioux Falls SD
AKSam1953@gmail.com

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

Marc Moore
Custer SD
Carrieknows02@goldenwest.net

I oppose this rule change. Current law is sufficient.

Chet Barney
Vermillion SD
chet@byu.net

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

Dr. Chet Barney

Roger Heintzman
Aberdeen SD
r_heintzman@hotmail.com

Do away with extened rifle season for doe only.

Fur Dealer License Application Requirements

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

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

Muzzleloading Rifle and Pistol Requirement

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

Scott Miles

Colman SD

scottmiles674@gmail.com

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

Matthew Luebke

SD

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

Robert Wright

Sioux Falls SD

robert.wright@augie.edu

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

Marc Moore

Custer SD

Carrieknows02@goldenwest.net

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

Chet Barney

Vermillion SD

chet@byu.net

No comment text provided.

Bowhunter Education Requirement

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jim Twamley
Parker SD

Secretary Hepler and Commissioners,

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

Program and Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

The Original Basic Course is designed to be a minimum of 8 hours of direct training by a certified team of 3 or more Instructors cove ng the mandatory requirements of the NBEF Program. Due to the length of the course the "Team Approach" is a mandatory requirement to provide the students with the best instruction possible as each instructor within the team had the experience to aid in the training. Every course had the same class materials and provided the NBEF Certified training requirements but Instructor teams set up their individual class schedule that best met their students needs. The training model is largely composed of Instructor- Student participation and hands on training with shot placement, blood trailing, and treestand placement and safety being provided. Over the years, Instructors led between 50-60 Courses each year yielding approximately 100G1300 certified students. Online (distance learning) course

Field Days were implemented to hopefully satisfy the

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

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

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

implemented as an "option' for students. From the numbers I have heard since leaving as State Coordinator the on line program has averaged between 1600 and 2000 certifications annually. One of the concerns with the distance learning program is the absence of methodology to tell us if the training provided is adequate, especially in regard to treestand safety, shot placement, and blood kailing and game recovery. To my knorledge there were possibly +10 traditional classroom style courses held in 2017; mainly in Pierre, Rapid City, and possibly Watertown. Obstacles to inclusion of Bowhunter Education into Hunt Safe Program (from someone who also taught the South Dakota Hunt Safe course.) 1. Hunting with a bow is uniquely unlike hunting with any other piece of equipment. Bow hunters can be good firearm hunters, but firearm hunters are, by their choice of

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

Marilyn Bentz
Rapid City SD
mbentz@nbef.org

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

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

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

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

Younger

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

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

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

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

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

That is, a safe activity with structure and qualifies as a next step to an activity they are already engaged in in NASP. I know of one state that offers a combo course (online) hunter ed and bowhunter ed which exposes youth to bowhunting. Course completion requires a short 3-hour field day after which both

certificates are received. I would also suggest that you look at ways of offering a bowhunter education certificate with other activities. Perhaps a next step BOW class. Most archery classes are very popular and many times are repeated by participants. Another activity at the outdoor centers could be a structured how to

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

offered for archers in Rapid City. I would be interested in knowing the department's response to the following

questions: 1. Have statewide bowhunter numbers gone down (or up?) since 1992? 2. What are the specific department goals for increasing bowhunter numbers and why? 3. Are other methods of hunting being explored for increasing hunter numbers? 4. What role do you foresee bowhunters having in the long range SD

hunting model (5 years, 10 years)? 5. As a learning tool, why would bowhunter education be an impediment to new or existing bowhunters? In addition, please know that the NBEF would be willing to assist with whatever methods you may choose to promote bowhunting and bowhunter education. Please don't hesitate to call upon us.

Russ Roberts
St Onge SD
wgo@mato.com

I have been involved in teaching hunter safety courses in some manner for almost 20 years so I know how important these courses are and how much they can educate hunters on many levels. I ask that you continue

the bowhunter education requirement for archery licenses. Sending archers in the field less prepared and educated benefits nobody and is not good for the sport.

Matt Rippentrop
Hot Springs SD
mattrippentrop@hotmail.com

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

Will wounded animals from bad shot placement increase with no archery hunter education required anymore?

If you do decide to get rid of the archery education requirement, for a potential compromise could you please at least require the Hunt Safe Card as a replacement requirement for archery hunting?

Please consider not approving the removal of the archery hunter education. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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

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

Retention of Accrued Preference Points

No verbal comments were received.

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

Kelly Koistinen
Spearfish SD
kkoistinen@fs.fed.us

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

right to having preference by not using it within 5 years. Tough break for being lazy!! Now then, the other folks who do have preference points during that same time period, and use it when applying for tags no longer have an advantage over others! Because you will be rewarding those too lazy to utilize their preferences within 5 years. What sense does this make? You would then be taking away that preference over other applicants by eliminating the 5 year limit. This is not fair to those of us who want to apply with preference. These are the things that the commission doesn't even think about when making all their proposals.

Kevin Bruzelius

Pierre SD

kevin.bruzelius@state.sd.us

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

Snaring and Snare/Trap Marking

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

G. Jensen thank for position on dispatch snares.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5/7/2018

Comment:

Lee Nelson
Rapid City SD
leemnelson@hotmail.com

No comment text provided.

5/7/2018

Comment:

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

Kevin Thibodeau
Onida SD
tibs196@yahoo.com

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

trappers removal of predators. Thank you.

5/12/2018

Comment:

Kevin Thibodeau

Onida SD

tibs196@yahoo.com

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

5/12/2018

Comment:

Steve Alverson

Chester SD

stevealverson@hotmail.com

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

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

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

Steve Alverson

5/12/2018

Comment:

Steve Cherkas

Edgemont TN

sacherkas@msn.com

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

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

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

5/13/2018

Comment:

Larry- Rossum

Rapid City SD

larry4609@gmail.com

Dear commissioners,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thanks for your time!

Larry Rossum

Rapid City

5/13/2018

Comment:

Tim Larson

Centerville SD

Beaverskinner484@gmail.com

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

5/14/2018

Comment:

Shane Simon

Nemo SD

kingofwildfrontier@msn.com

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

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

Shane Simon

5/15/2018

Comment:

Tim Larson

Centerville SD

Beaverskinner484@gmail.com

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

5/15/2018

Comment:

Tracy Kaiser

Sioux Falls SD
tracyk39@outlook.com

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

5/20/2018

Comment:

Dan Kaiser
Sioux Falls SD
kaiser39@msn.com

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

5/20/2018

Comment:

Trevor Janssen
Sioux Falls SD
trevjanssen@hotmail.com

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

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

5/22/2018

Comment:

David Otten
Tea SD
davidotten999@gmail.com

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

all pay for this public land. Who gets the biggest share of it. Pheasant hunting brings in a lot of money. Predator control is big in this state, we pay a lot of money controlling coyote. If we have to wait until pheasant

hunters are done, what does that leave trappers? Picking up scraps. It's hard to trap or snare in the snow. Our pheasant hunters got to know they are not the only people out there. People got to realize they're not the only ones out there.

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

5/22/2018

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Tea SD
davidotten999@gmail.com

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5/22/2018

Comment:

Steve Chilson

Florence SD

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

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

5/23/2018

Comment:

Jerry Riedel

Watertown SD

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

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

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

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

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

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

5/23/2018

Comment:

Dan Krogman

White River SD

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

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

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

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

5/23/2018

Comment:

Kenneth Lipp

Rapid City SD

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

5/23/2018

Comment:

Kenneth Lipp

Rapid City SD

The second I believe are unnecessary I'm 68 years old and have trapped for years and have never seen a hunter with a bird dog. We do not have many game birds in Western South Dakota or the Black Hills. I should

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

5/23/2018

Comment:

Kenneth Lipp

Rapid City SD

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

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

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

5/23/2018

Comment:

Darci Adams

Hartford SD

dadams@humanesociety.org

May 23, 2018

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

523 East Capitol Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners:

5/23/2018

Comment:

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

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

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

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

makes it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to identify those who may be using traps illegally.

Traps used exclusively on private property would be exempt from this identification requirement.

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

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

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

dehydration, or starvation.

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

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

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

be abandoned on the landscape, leaving all animals vulnerable.

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

Sincerely,

Darci Adams

South Dakota State Director

The Humane Society of the United States

PO Box 733, Hartford, SD 57033

dadams@humanesociety.org

P 605-595-4860

humanesociety.org

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

Proulx, G., & Rodtka, D. (2017). Steel-Jawed Leghold Traps and Killing Neck Snares: Similar Injuries Command Change to Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 20(2), 198-203.

Proulx, G., Rodtka, D., Barrett, M. W., Cattet, M., Dekker, D., Moffatt, E., & Powell, R. A. (2015). Humaneness and selectivity of killing neck snares used to capture canids in Canada: A review. *Canadian Wildlife Biology & Management*, 4(1), 55-65.

Papouchis, supra note 1.

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

Jessica Betts

Oacoma SD
Jessinne@yahoo.com

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

5/23/2018

Comment:

Lori Lockman
Sioux Falls SD
Lolo2379@gmail.com

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

5/23/2018

Comment:

Jerome Eckrich
Spearfish SD

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

Thank you.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Melissa John
Sioux Falls SD

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Sara Parker
Sioux Falls SD
sara.parker@perceptivemedia.net

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

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Brenda Manning
Pierre SD
buzz_brenda@yahoo.com

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Janine Betts
Oacoma SD
janineinsd@yahoo.com

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

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Barry Betts
Oacoma SD
bioserve@midstatesd.net

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Sara Mart
Vermillion SD

sara.mart@usd.edu

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

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

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Sarah Taggart
Vermillion SD

sarahtaggart@outlook.com

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

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

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Terry Krsnak
Rapid City SD
tjkpj@msn.com

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

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Roberta Rotherham
SD

No comment text provided.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Becky Jensen
Meckling SD

rkjensen@usd.edu

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Casey Mart
Vermillion SD

Casey.mart3@gmail.com

I urge the SDGFP commission to support the proposal

5/24/2018

Comment:

Abby Protzman

Norfolk NE

nebraska.rose@gmail.com

No comment text provided.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Kelly Saunders

Vermillion SD

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Gina Mairose

Vermillion SD

gina.mairose@usd.edu

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Colleen Evans

Vermillion SD

hupiper82@gmail.com

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Kristine Brady

Vermillion SD

klbrady71@yahoo.com

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Holly Haddad

Vermillion SD

holly.haddad@usd.edu

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

John Kidney

Vermillion SD

Jake.kidney@gmail.com

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Robin Talsma

Sioux Falls SD

Bubaloo2@hotmail.com

No comment text provided.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Judy Zwolak

Vermillion SD
judithzwolak@gmail.com

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Deborah Dodge
SD

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

5/24/2018

Comment:

Morgan Hower
North Sioux City SD
Morgan.hower@yahoo.com

No comment text provided.

5/24/2018

Comment:

Maggie Peterson
Vermillion SD
Maggie.r.peterson@gmail.com

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

5/25/2018

Comment:

Brenda Moss
Vermillion SD
1blmoss@gmail.com

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

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

5/25/2018

Comment:

Jared Kaiser
Sioux Falls SD
pipersd15@gmail.com

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

5/27/2018

Comment:

Cheryl Bowden
Hot Springs SD
bowdens@gwtc.net

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

5/28/2018

Comment:

Jim Sparks
Spearfish SD
Jjsparks@rushmore.com

Prefer the law stays as it currently is.

5/28/2018

Comment:
Dennis Morton
Rapid City SD
bayushisoshu@gmail.com

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

Vincent Logue
Oelrichs SD
vjlogue@outlook.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

5/29/2018

Comment:
Larry Bowden
Hot Springs SD
bowdens@gwtc.net

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

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

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

5/30/2018

Comment:
Charles Kelsey
Hot Springs SD
ctkelsey@earthlink.net

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

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

5/30/2018

Comment:
Michael Morris
Henley MO
ufc.moose@yahoo.com

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

5/30/2018

Comment:

Daniel Turbak

Revilla SD

turbakda@hotmail.com

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

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

5/30/2018

Comment:

Lesel Reuwsaat

Creighton SD

leereuwsaat@yahoo.com

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

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

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

5/30/2018

Comment:

Mandi Reuwsaat

Creighton SD

mandireuwsaat@yahoo.com

No comment text provided.

5/30/2018

Comment:

Tanner Opetize

Watertown SD

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

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

5/30/2018

Comment:

James Hanley

Cresbard SD

jphcar5@hotmail.com

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

5/31/2018

Comment:

Jason Kleist

Highland WI

kleist.jason1991@gmail.com

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

5/31/2018

Comment:
Dale Halling
Bryant SD
aaapurewater@yahoo.com

I have been a life long trapper and a member of the South Dakota Trapping Association. I oppose the changes you are wanting to make for snaring in the road right away and public hunting and trapping areas. Also, I would not like to have to put name tags on any traps or snares. Trappers catch many animals that consume the eggs of pheasants, ducks and geese. By doing this I feel all trappers are doing a service for the SD wildlife.

5/31/2018
Comment:
Marvin Halls
Hot Springs SD
tuffhalls@outlook.com

I oppose any changes to trapping regulations concerning public land.

5/31/2018
Comment:
Travis Hymans
Lake Norden SD
tkhymans@itctel.com

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

5/31/2018
Comment:
Enoch Pashby
Box Elder SD
enoch_pa@yahoo.com

Public ground should be available for the use of all legal outdoor recreation. Sportsmen who devote their lives to trapping or snaring should not be regulated out of the public grounds because of the big money that pheasant hunting brings to the state. The bottom line is this, it is the responsibility of the hunter to ensure the safety of his dog. We should not be punished so that pheasant hunters don't have to watch their dogs.

5/31/2018
Comment:
Tyler Kari
Bison SD
relyt1996@hotmail.com

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

6/1/2018
Comment:
Todd Chamley
Trent SD
karla-todd@goldenwest.net

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

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

6/1/2018

Comment:
John Hauge
Deadwood SD
jdhaug44@gmail.com

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

6/1/2018

Comment:
Mark Steck
Canton SD
dakotalinemark@yahoo.com

Dear Commissioners and Secretary Heppler,

Reason: Snaring regulations

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

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

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

6/1/2018

Comment:
Mark Steck
Canton SD
dakotalinemark@yahoo

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

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

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

6/1/2018

Comment:
Mark Smedsrud
Hartford SD
smedsrud@unitelsd.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6/1/2018

Comment:
Charlie Bode
Scotland SD

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

6/1/2018

Comment:
Marlin Ramse
Custer SD

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

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

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

6/1/2018

Comment:
Gregory Pettersen
Madison SD

Oldgreg82@gmail.com

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

6/1/2018

Comment:
Mike McGillivray
Madison SD

mightymac1515@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

6/1/2018

Comment:

Bill Wick

Sioux Falls SD

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

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

6/1/2018

Comment:

Jerry Herbst

Pukwana SD

philotto@midstatesd.net

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

6/2/2018

Comment:

William Winslett

Pierre SD

195Pilot@gmail.com

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

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

requiring trap ID tags would cause undue paperwork and added equipment

6/2/2018

Comment:

Shirley Winslett

Pierre SD

sdgirl42 @gmail.com

millions of acres restricted not pheasant habit

trap tags undue equipment

6/2/2018

Comment:

Cory Ferguson

Rapid City SD

hplainsd1@aol.com

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

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

Why should trapping happen, without regulators knowing who owns and set the traps on our public lands? How can the laws be enforced without some type of identification?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Cory Ferguson

6/2/2018

Comment:

Roger Auch

Brandon SD

auchden@alliancecom.net

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

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

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

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

6/3/2018

Comment:

John Almquist

Watertown SD

jcalmquist@aol.com

Dear commissioners,

South Dakota public lands were purchased and managed by sportsman's dollars. Therefore, the management of these public lands should include all user groups including trappers. The incident of the snared dog on public land is a reminder that accidents do and will occur with any outdoor activity. Whether it be hunting, trapping boating, hiking, snowmobiling, camping, cross-country skiing or any number of activities it is inevitable that accidents do and will occur. It is something that we all must realize when engaging in outdoor activities, and when accidents do occur we need to do our best to minimize in the future the problem in realistic ways. The proposal to eliminate snares on public lands and public right of ways is not a viable solution. Trappers play an important role in eliminating predators that prey on small game birds. Snares are a very effective method of harvesting fox and coyotes. Restricting trappers in the use of snares on public lands would have an adverse effect in trying to reduce predator populations while at the same time trying to maintain healthy bird populations for hunters. However, I would be in favor of possibly restricting the use of the dispatch snares on east river public lands until after the close of the pheasant hunting season. But allow the use of snares with deer locks on all public lands and right of ways beginning on a designated date similar to would we have had in the past few years.

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

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

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

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

Thank you
John Almquist

6/3/2018

Comment:

Kenneth McDonald

Elk Point SD

traci.holmquist.briarcliff.edu

No comment text provided.

6/3/2018

Comment:

Julie Anderson

Rapid City SD

signsofhope@rap.midco.net

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

dismissing this request. I support this amendment only because there is no other choice available to me.

Dave Skeide

Webster SD

Cloey@itctel.com

The public land is for everyone to enjoy, hunters trappers, fisherman. We as trapper,s already have restriction,s

on when we can set snares on public land.and now you want to restrict us even more? We the trappers assn,

and the state trappers can show the people who hunt with dog,s how to remove a snare from a dogs body.

Thank you for listening .

6/3/2018

Comment:

Craig Parkhurst

Armour SD

goodforgoose@yahoo.com

I am opposed to the requirement of trap tags on traps and snares. I believe that they constitute an unnecessary expense and provide addition opportunity for trappers to be harassed or entrapped by problems

such as tags falling off traps, etc.

I am also opposed to any restriction of snares on public lands.

6/4/2018

Comment:

David Love

Custer SD

djlove@gwtc.net

We believe that your proposal to require owner identification on traps is a step in the right direction. It makes no sense to enact laws regulating the use of traps unless those laws can be enforced. And if you have no way

of learning who is trapping illegally you cannot enforce the laws. Thank you for your dedication to duty.

6/5/2018

Comment:

Teah Homsey-Pray

Sturgis SD

teahhomsey@yahoo.com

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

6/5/2018

Comment:

Wendy Luedke

Lead SD

wendymloedke@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

6/5/2018

Comment:

Frank Dicesare

Rapid City SD

fdic917@outlook.com

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

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

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

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

Game Production Areas and Waterfowl Production Areas above water

6/5/2018

Comment:

Rory Halverson

Custer SD

ibowhunt298@yahoo.com

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

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

Also

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

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

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

pheasant hunters dog out of a snare or trap.

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

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

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

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

of time to release it from a snare.

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

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

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

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

6/5/2018

Comment:

Darci Adams

Hartford SD

dadams@humanesociety.org

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

rule finalization of trapping prohibitions.

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

6/5/2018

Comment:

Evan Anderson

Wasta SD

eandersonwasta@gmail.com

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

Thanks

6/5/2018

Comment:

Bill Kurtenbach

Groton SD

Members of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission:

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

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

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

effective as a total ban, because a very small percentage of snaring on GPA's/WPA's occurs after that date. I think we need to be very careful not to make changes based on emotion rather than facts. There are many special interest groups lying in wait to add fuel to that fire to take more and more rights from future sportsmen and sportswomen. In closing I would like to state that I am opposed to any changes in the current trapping and snaring regulations in South Dakota. Information could be included in the Hunting and Trapping Handbook to inform bird hunters of snare use and dog safety.

6/5/2018

Comment:

Daniel John Amen

Rapid City SD

dakotainc@gmail.com

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

5/7/2018

Comment:

Heather Nearman

SD

nearheat@gmail.com

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

Nancy Hilding

President

Prairie Hills Audubon Society

P.O. Box 788

Black Hawk, SD 57718

Hunting Requirements – Mandatory CWD Testing

No verbal comments were received.

Daniel John Amen

Rapid City SD

dakotainc@gmail.com

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

Heather Nearman

SD

nearheat@gmail.com

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

Nancy Hilding

President

Prairie Hills Audubon Society

P.O. Box 788

Black Hawk, SD 57718

Dear Commission,

Comments on proposed changes to trapping/snaring rules.

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

TRAPPER ID

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

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

TIME OF YEAR PROHIBITIONS

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

POWERED SNARE DEVICES

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

OTHER CHANGES ARE NEEDED - ARGUMENT.

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

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

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

Link to Born Free's Scorecard:

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

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

OTHER CHANGES SUGGESTED

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

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

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

2. That they use a smaller pounds of pressure for breakaway force - 285 instead of 350 pounds, (see Michigan Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Snaring Guide, which is attached)

We ask that the break occur at the loop, not at the ground tie, so the animal does not drag the severed cable around with them, continuing the constriction and possibly getting hung up on other objects.

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

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

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

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

We attach

1. The Born Free Extended Score Card,

2. The Michigan Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Snaring Guide

3. Relaxing Snare Requirement for Bobcat Sets - 2013

4. Modern Snares for Capturing Mammals - Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Here are links to some References:

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

SD's Furbearer Seasons

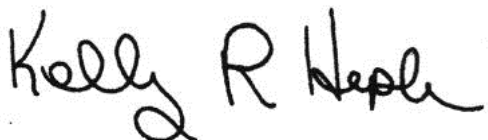
<http://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/DisplayRule.aspx?Rule=41:08:01>

Modern Snares for Capturing Mammals - Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/5515/2002/6134/Modern_Snares_final.pdf

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly R Hepler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary