

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
March 1-2, 2018

Chairman Barry Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CT at RedRossa Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Barry Jensen, Gary Jensen, Mary Anne Boyd, Scott Phillips and Douglas Sharp and approximately 60 public, staff, and media were present. Commissioner Russ Olson joined via phone.

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 January 11-12, 2018 minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Phillips with second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11-12, 2018 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Commissioner Phillips requested 2 additional salary days for participation in snare and deer meetings. Commissioner G. Jensen requested 1 additional salary day for participation in the snare and Custer State Park meetings.

Motioned by Boyd, second by Peterson TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS. Motion carried unanimously.

License List Request

Chris Petersen, administration division director, presented two license list requests to the Commission.

Glacial Lakes and Prairies Tourism Association of Watertown, SD submitted a full fee licenses list request for out of state fishing license holders from 2016 for one-time commercial use.

Matt Rippentrop of Hot Springs, SD submitted a full fee license list request for the 2016 and 2017 Black Hills and Prairie Elk Landowner Applicants for the firearm and archer elk seasons to be used for one-time use in research and contacting landowners.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Boyd TO APPROVE BOTH LICENSE LIST REQUESTS. Motion carried unanimously.

South Dakota Missouri River Tourism

Karen Kern, executive director, welcomed the Commission to Pierre and provided information on mission of SD Missouri River Tourism to promote and market the Missouri River from the throughout South Dakota. There were established 50 years ago to provide access to the river and began by promoting hunting and fishing which evolved into marketing small community businesses and events to both out of state and in state visitors. One of the main goals is to help small businesses find resources they need such as marketing. The organization is housed at the Oahe visitor's center in

partnership with the Oahe Dam and they receive over 10,000 visitors each year. Kern invites all to stop out and provided the Commissioners a copy of their guide book.

Boyd thanked Kern for speaking to the group and expressed interest in continued efforts and advertising with their organization on aquatic invasive species.

Legislative Update

Secretary Hepler provided an update on department sponsored legislation that passed and was recently signed by the Governor. This legislation included HB1046 to allow certain resident farmers or ranchers to receive a big game license during the Black Hills deer season and HB1047 to revise certain provisions defining fur-bearing animals. He also spoke to other legislation as it pertained to Game, Fish and Parks (GFP). HB1219 revise certain provisions regarding the use of night vision equipment in hunting, HB1106 to authorize hunting preference points to be granted to persons age ten years, HB1148 revise certain provisions regarding the eligibility to serve on the GFP Commission HB1295 revise certain provisions regarding the eligibility to serve on the GFP Commission and SB137 revise certain provisions regarding the minimum hunting age.

Nonmeandered Waters Update

Kevin Robling, special projects coordinator, informed the Commission of the five pieces of legislation that were introduced pertaining to nonmeandered waters. At this time staff are watching two particular pieces of legislation which are HB 1081 repeal the sunset clause regarding the recreational use of nonmeandered water that has been amended to repeal the sunset clause and SB24 to extend the effective date of certain provisions regarding the recreational use of nonmeandered water which should be voted on soon on the house floor.

Robling indicate that to date 5,009 acres/2 percent of waters have been closed. Staff continue to build relationships to open closed waters. They have had numerous landowner meetings and more are schedule for the month of March. He noted waters are open unless closed and people can always ask landowners for permission. Robling said up to date information is always available on the GFP website and maps are available on the newly updated mobile app. Staff continue education and outreach effort as well as posting information on social media. They will also be working on transition of signs and marking requirements as ice thaws.

Robling noted that per the petitioners request the Goose Lake petition will be heard in conjunction with the April Commission meeting in Rapid City on Friday, April 6 at 10:00am, MT.

Hepler reminded the group how nonmeandered waters is a passionate topic. He thanked them for all their efforts and noted more work to come. He noted GFP has been working with landowners because of the belief in partnerships to open waters. He also stated a Fish and Wildlife Resources Summit has been scheduled for April 21 to fostering effective working relationships and discuss challenges and with key outdoor interest groups.

Website/Mobile App Progress

Calley Worth, webmaster/social media, provided an update on the GFP website and mobile app explaining that they have been following the analytics to identify and

compare trends which show an average of 5,000 more page views each day from the previous year. They predict this will decrease as new sites see an influx of traffic and the new site has been designed with fewer click and pages to go through to obtain information viewers are searching. She noted 40 percent of users are entering our site from a mobile device. Worth said the top pages visited are consistent with previous analytics.

The mobile app update launched February 15 including six new features including a customizable backpack feature where licenses, key dates are stored as well as downloadable handbooks and maps. Worth said promotional efforts continue for the website and app which will include education on social media.

PETITION FOR RULE CHANGE

Missouri River Waterfowl Refuges

Joel Bich, petitioner, presented his reasons for asking the commission to remove areas of the Missouri River that are on the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation from the DeGrey and Joe Creek State water-line Waterfowl Refuges. Bich further noted the significant changes in waterfowl fall migration patterns have affected the timing and quality of waterfowl hunting along the Missouri River reservoirs. Typically, ducks and geese are arriving later and later in the fall and moving through our area faster and less consistently which results in greatly diminished hunting opportunities. In the past few years, waterfowl staging numbers on the Lake Sharpe downstream from Pierre have gone from hundreds of thousands for several months to the tens of thousands for a few weeks or even days. It is no longer feasible for many goose hunting operations to function; the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe's Mni Sho Sho (Clark) goose camp (see map) has been closed since 2016 and converted to a walk-in hunting area. The DeGrey and Joe Creek State Waterfowl refuges are no longer holding large numbers of waterfowl for significant periods of time in the fall. Changes in refuges are necessary to increase hunting opportunity while maintaining refuges that are continuing to provide intended functions. The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe desires to improve waterfowl hunting opportunities for tribal members and non-members on the Reservation lands and waters with this proposal. The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Department of Wildlife, Fish and Recreation and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks have enjoyed a productive, cooperative working relationship for many years; this proposal is another step in the co-management of the natural resources that we share. This proposed change would provide some new hunting opportunities. Both Tribal Member and non-member hunters would be able to utilize this area for hunting; the Tribe has hunting/fishing jurisdiction for Tribal Members and land-based non-members while the State has jurisdiction for over-water hunting and fishing for non-members (the jurisdictional line is the water's edge).

Peterson requested clarification on the license requirements.

Bich responded the tribe has complete jurisdiction to have tribal licenses not state license. Therefor non tribal members would need a state license and tribal license.

Commissioner B. Jensen asked the public to provide their comments in regards to the petition.

Steve Nelson, SD Migratory Bird Association member, spoke in opposition of the petition. He has hunted the area for number of years noting it is good hunting because it is a refuge. The tribe's petition is well intended but not a good idea. Once you bother geese on water they will move and then it will no longer be go for hunting. Nelson indicated the number of geese in the DeGrey area has decreased and if you allow this petition you will take away hunter opportunity for thousands. He said there is a need more refuges not less.

Terry Etzkorn, DeGrey, SD, spoke in opposition of the petition. He has lived in area entire life and is asking the Commission to reject the petition as refuges provide a safe haven.

Larry Steffen, SD Migratory Bird Association President, Pierre, SD, spoke in opposition of the petition. He said the reason to scatter refuges is to allow more people opportunity in a bigger area. We need to protect not open refuges. Pressure on refuges is terrible on goose season.

Nick Faulk, Degray, SD, spoke in opposition of the petition. He thinks it will do the exact opposite of what its intended to do. He compared opening the refuge to a pheasant honey hole and how going through it will drive out the species.

Dale Bisson, Ft. Pierre, SD, spoke in opposition of the petition. He has farmed the area in the past when a proposal was brought forward saying it would increase opportunity because one mile of the refuge was open. Because they do not stay in the area where they are harvested this petition would cause them to leave. Every time you mess with a refuge you reduce hunting opportunity for all. Most of the geese from his farm area near the refuge are now in Pierre. If there is not a safe place for waterfowl you with not have waterfowl. It only takes one person in a boat on the water shooting to ruin it for everybody.

George Vandell, Waterfowl Association President, Pierre, SD, does not have a formal position at this time. He stated Missouri River refuges are a highly controversial issue. Decisions should always benefit the public and not private landowner as they are on public water. He recommends the department review all Missouri River refuges and he volunteer to be involved. His concern is with allowing tribal members opportunity to hunt and not others.

Tony Leif, wildlife division director, provided alternatives/options for the commission. He explained that if they accept the petition as presented it would initiate the rule making process or they can reject the petition via adoption of resolution which states reasons for the denial. He reminded them this is a take it or leave it option only per statute. If they want to propose changes they would need to deny the petition and propose a rule change which would allow for a public comment period and finalization and upcoming meeting.

Hepler noted the Commission has already requested staff to review refuges therefor he recommend voting down the petition at this time and including it in broader discussion in June. He noted good working relationship with Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and stated he doesn't think this will reduce hunting for tribal members.

Leif said staff are currently working on criteria to evaluate all current and future refuges and would do similar analysis of the Missouri River refuges.

B. Jensen stated it makes a lot of sense to look at all of them at the same time. If the decision is contrary to what the tribes feels should be done then they could petition once we do our evaluation.

G. Jensen asked when an evaluation of the Missouri River could be done as the refuges in northeastern South Dakota will be done in June. This would provide the tribe a timeline.

Leif said he would expect it to take a month or two after the northeastern evaluation. So no changes would be made for this season due to rules process....

G. Jensen recommended doing the Missouri River refuge meetings in Pierre sometime in December or January.

Robling said staff are planning to bring package of northeastern lakes in June. Once presented it will need a 30-60 day comment period for finalization in July or September. He would expect Missouri River refuges to be a 3-4 month process and criteria may change. He hopes to have a package at the November or December meeting with waterfowl seasons set for 2019.

B. Jensen asked how many refuges would be included.

Robling responded approximately 15.

Motion by G. Jensen second by Phillips TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 18-2 (Appendix A) DENYING THE PETITION. Motion carried unanimously.

Sharp stated he is a strong proponent to not have boats on water during roosting or nesting seasons and said this will not prevent their area from being part of the study. He anticipates seeing the refuge studies.

Landowner Preference

Scott Phillips, petitioner, and Jeff Collins, both of Hot Springs, SD presented their petition to change the elk landowner preference requirements. Collins explained they are seeking to further define and restrict the qualifications for obtaining Landowner Preference for the purposes of hunting elk. They feel the original intent behind the development of Landowner Preference for elk, has been 'forgotten' and an increasing number of individuals are receiving these licenses thus taking them away from those whom were truly intended to receive them. They feel the original intent of landowner preference regulations were to identify individuals who were truly making their living off the land through agricultural practices and were experiencing negative impacts from wildlife. Through giving some preference for obtaining licenses to these 'qualifying' landowners, GFP receives a higher tolerance from the landowners for higher numbers of elk. This equates into more elk licenses for sportsmen too. They are seeing more and more applicants approved under the current regulations and are concerned that many do not make their living from the land, do not experience the economic hardships and are quite simply finding loopholes to obtain these licenses. True agricultural landowners are now frequently unable to draw a license.

Commissioner Phillips inquired how many people this change would affect.

Petitioner Phillips said three that he is aware from his area. He said people are buying or leasing just enough land to get an elk tag. This takes licenses away from the true intent of where they are supposed to go.

Peterson asked if going from 250 acres to 1000 acres how many landowners would be eliminated.

Petitioner Phillips responded probably about 10 in his area and only 1 of them is a true landowner. He noted Collins' son didn't get a tag this year due to the current loopholes.

Collins said this system was started to offset the elk breaking fences and eating hay and grass because these elk directly affect their livelihood. He welcomes anyone to say how you could make a living off just 1,000 acres.

Petitioner Phillips said the license does effect checkbooks but this is a tool utilized to offset having elk on property if they have depredation.

Commissioner Phillips stated with deer if you do not get a landowner preference tag you can get a landowner owned land tag. Have you thought of this as an alternative for elk?

Collins said different landowners have land in different locations so they suffer depredation in their own place and now its hunting season and the elk have moved on. The goal is to bring these loopholes to light without coming up with a whole new plan.

G. Jensen stated that people with 240 acres sometime have elk on their property.

Collins responded they can have elk on their land, but with 240 acres you are no longer considered a big operator as it now takes thousands of acres to make a living because the soil and moisture is different. People are buying just the minimum number of land required to meet the current requirements to receive a tag. He just wants it to get back to the original intent to offer tags to those who have their livelihood and suffer financial loss by the elk.

G. Jensen asked so why 1,000 acres as you indicated it take much more to make a living?

Petitioner Phillips explained they just wanted to increase it to where it would be an amount where people wouldn't just go out and buy the minimum of only 240 acres to obtain a tag. Thought petition would be rejected at 2,000 acres figuring the Commission would think it was too high.

Sharp asked the last time this rule was changed.

Leif responded approximately 10 years ago.

Matt Rippentrop, Hot Springs, SD, said he is neighbors with guys who just spoke. He does not make a living on land and currently owns 326 acres and qualifies him for a tag. He noted that most of the people they are referring to are leasing the ground back to local guys. He said it is difficult to find people to meet requirements. Currently there are 600 tags with 300 going to landowners and 100 currently going out the other 200 are drawn by the public who are not landowners. The 100 landowners those not making a living are still providing a place for elk to go and alleviating some depredation for the landowners. A lot of people with the smaller number of acres are having these elk on their land. He said at this time hunters are 90 percent successful. He agrees that landowners should have a tag every year. At the end of the stakeholder meeting it was agreed no change. No one see this conservation easement coming. Not all current landowners take easement payments as they felt it should go to those who make a living off the land. Last year he didn't apply for a tag because he was going out of state and didn't want to diminish opportunity for others. He asked how can we help these people and make a difference without accessing the programs available.

Leif provided statute that authorizes the licenses stating the petition as written conflicts with current state statute. He also noted the stakeholder group recommended providing alternatives.

Per recommendation by the Commission Petitioner Phillips amended his petition to include the underlined portions below.

A landowner or tenant, but not both, may claim landowner preference for the ~~same~~ qualifying property.

A ranch unit is described as all private property owned and leased for agricultural purposes ~~by written agreement~~ by an individual qualifying landowner in the state.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Commissioner Phillips TO ADOPT THE PETITION AS AMENDED. Roll call vote: Boyd-no; G. Jensen-yes; Peterson-yes; Phillips – yes Sharp- yes; B. Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote.

PROPOSALS

Elk: Black Hills, Archery, Prairie and Custer State Park

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, presented the recommended change for the 2018-2019 Black Hills elk hunting seasons to maintain the population.

1. Adjust the total number of available licenses to 425 "any elk" and 700 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,125 licenses).
2. Adjust dates for units H1B, H7B, and H9B which are currently open from the Monday closest to October 15 to October 31, inclusive and from December 1 to the Friday closest to December 15 to October 15-31 and December 1-16.
3. Adjust dates for units H2B, H2E, H2H, H3B, and H3E which are currently open from the Monday closest to October 15 to October 31 to October 15-31.
4. Adjust dates for units H2C, H2F, H2I, H3C, and H3F which are currently open from December 1 to the Friday closest to December 15 to December 1-16.
5. Adjust dates for units H2D, H2G, H2J, H3D, and H3G which are currently open from the Saturday closest to December 15 to December 31 to December 17-31.

Switzer presented the recommended changes for the 2018-2019 archery elk hunting seasons noting the hunter success rates for the last 5 years.

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 147 “any elk” and 130 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 277 licenses) to 142 “any elk” and 80 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 222 licenses).

Switzer presented the recommended changes for the 2018-2019 prairie elk hunting seasons noting the highest prairie harvest in modern history.

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 59 “any elk” and 90 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 149 licenses) to 68 “any elk” and 73 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 141 licenses).
2. Establish a new unit comprised of Harding County (Unit 35A) with season dates of September 15 to October 31 and from December 1-31.

Switzer presented the recommended changes for the 2018-2019 Custer State Park any elk hunting seasons noting the changes to mirror bull hunters during rut season.

1. Adjust the season dates from 16 consecutive days beginning on the third Saturday of September to October 1-31.

Switzer presented no recommended changes for the 2018-2019 Custer State Park early archery elk hunting seasons.

Switzer presented the recommended changes for the 2018-2019 Custer State Park antlerless elk hunting seasons.

1. Modify the unit boundary of CAE-CU1 and CAE-CU2 from all of Custer State Park south and west of line beginning at the CSP west boundary and Lower French Creek Road southeast to Highway 87, north to Wildlife Loop Road (WL), southeast along WL to Oak Draw Road, east on Oak Draw Road to WL, south on WL to Lane Johnny Road, southeast on Lane Johnny Road to CSP east boundary fence, south then west then north along the CSP boundary fence to point of beginning to that portion of Custer State Park south of the R & D Pasture fence line

Phillips asked if staff anticipate the elk to move back that left during fire.

Switzer responded most are still within the vicinity of the portion of the park that did not burn and it is anticipated they move back home. Staff will continue to monitor and if that does not occur staff would discuss and bring forward recommended changes.

Motion by Phillips, second by G. Jensen TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE 2018-2019 ELK HUNTING SEASONS FOR BLACK HILLS, ARCHERY, PRAIRIE AND CUSTER STATE PARK AS RECOMMENDED INCLUDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO ALLOCATE LICENSES (Appendix B). Motion carried.

Deer Hunting Season Dates

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife deputy director, presented the proposed changes to the deer hunting seasons per the workgroups recommendations noting these recommendations do not include depredation seasons that have a separate process and criteria. He also noted the 60 day comment period to allow for input in regards to deer social considerations to be obtained through the focus groups.

1. Change end dates for all deer hunting seasons that currently go past January 1 to end no later than January 1 for east and west river
2. Eliminate administrative rule language which specifies that only antlerless licenses are valid from January 1-15 in the archery and muzzleloader deer seasons.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Olson TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE DEER HUNTING SEASONS. Motion carried.

Kirschenmann also presented proposed changes as two options to the antlerless deer seasons per the workgroups recommendations.

1. Add the extra days of antlerless only tags back into the West River deer season.
2. Two options to consider for the structure of the antlerless only tags:

Option 1: December 26-January 1; available for both West and East River deer seasons.

OR

Option 2: Begin the Saturday after the conclusion of the East River deer season and run for 9 consecutive days; available for both West and East River deer seasons.

3. Unfilled antlerless tags would be valid for deer hunting Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge following proposed option listed above (currently available for 9 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday following Christmas).

Motioned by Phillips, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ANTLERLESS DEER HUNTING SEASONS WITH BOTH OPTIONS ALLOWING FOR PUBLIC FEEDBACK. Motion carried.

Phillips thanked staff for their hard work and noted the inclusion of commissioners Phillips and Olson in all of the workgroup meetings. He also stated he is looking forward to the public comments on the rule changes.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 2:02 p.m. and concluded at 2:15 p.m. and the minutes follow these Commission meeting minutes.

FINALIZATIONS

Public Water Safety Zoning

Bob Schneider, parks and recreation assistant director, presented the finalization to modify the no wake zone at West Bend Recreation Area to include the waterfront beginning on the south east corner of the boat ramp parking lot running approximately 400 yards in a south easterly direction upstream to camping cabins. The second change in water safety zoning pertains to the west boat ramp at Shadehill Reservoir. The recommendation proposes the waters beginning approximately 600 feet east of the west boat ramp and extending from the north shoreline to the south shoreline encompassing the bay where the west boat ramp is located to be a no wake zone.

He explained how this stretch of shallow waterfront is not only popular to swimmers and campers, but its shoreline is susceptible to wake generated erosion. The proposed no wake one would increase safety for beach users and protect the shoreline from erosion damage.

Schneider also explained how the recent addition of a privately owned cabin lots adjacent to the Shadehill Reservoir has made the west boat ramp more popular. The higher volume of use has led to a budgeted project to expand the boat ramp parking lot. As this encourages additional use a no wake zone surrounding the boat ramp is recommended to protect boaters and boats during launching and loading.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Sharp TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO PUBLIC WATER ZONING AT WEST BEND RECREATION AREA AND SHADEHILL RESERVOIR 41:04:02. Motion carried.

Public Land Safety Zoning

Schneider presented the finalization to the restrictions on use of firearms to include Oakwood Lakes State Park. He explained how the park with irregularly shaped boundaries has an extensive established campground and designated day use area where hunting is prohibited per administrative rule. Over the past decade modifications to the park have changes visitor use patterns and decreased the area where rifle hunting is safe therefore recommending the change to allow hunting in the park be limited to shotguns, bows and crossbows. He noted there are still over 1,500 acres of GPA surrounding the park that provide rifle hunting.

Motioned by Phillips, second by Peterson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO PUBLIC LAND SAFETY ZONING AT OAKWOOD LAKES STATE PARK 41:03:01. Motion carried.

Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

Switzer presented the recommended change the administrative rules chapter from Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season to be Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season and establish unit 3 as described as that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River and that portion of Jackson County north of the White River, excluding the Badlands National Park.

Switzer explained how staff have been working with the Badland National Park to establish a herd. He said the park currently has a research project with radio marked sheep and said some of these sheep outside the park are available for hunting. The partnership is with park, tribes, and some landowners. He noted the irregular boundary is due to concerns of potential contact with domestic sheep. This would allowing hunters to harvest opposed to department needing to euthanize.

Switzer also presented the administrative action to allocate 1 bighorn sheep license in unit BHS-BH3 for the 2018-2019 hunting season.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Phillips TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASON 41:06:56 AND APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO ALLOCATE 1 BIGHORN SHEEP LICENSES FOR THE 2018 - 2019 HUNTING SEASON IN THE BHS-BH3 UNIT. Motion carried.

Muskellunge Harvest Restriction

John Lott, fisheries chief, presented the finalization to the fish limits rules to remove minimum length limits and restrict all waters statewide to catch and release only for muskellunge and northern-muskellunge (tiger) cross. He also noted the

departments recommended changes from proposal to increase the minimum length for muskellunge and northern-muskellunge (tiger) cross from 40 inches to 48 inches to provide additional protection of larger muskellunge and northern-muskellunge (tiger) cross while being consistent with many of the minimum size restrictions utilized in other states.

G. Jensen asked if people would come to South Dakota to fish musky.

Adams responded probably, but it would not be like a Minnesota or other states that have large numbers of waters with musky fisheries. He explained there are so few fish over 50 inches in length and there will continue to be a low abundance due to forage and shallow nature of our waters.

G. Jensen stated he prefers catch and release as it provides opportunity for multiple people to catch the same fish.

Geno Adams, fisheries program administrator, stated that with each species catch and release a large number of them do not get caught again. He explained how fisheries do not manage for individual fish but for the population so the chance of someone catching a trophy fish is going to have very little impact if kept instead of released.

G. Jensen said he asked around and people do not seem to be eating these large fish.

Phillips said this would not have impact on other species

Adams agreed stating fish are eating the same things and with musky in such a low density they do not impact the other fish populations

B. Jensen noted the overwhelming response in favor of catch and release with the exception of two commenters in opposition as they had concerns it would affect other fish populations.

Peterson asked if this was monitored could changes be made in the future.

Adams said it is difficult to change regulations as we move forward due to public support.

B. Jensen inquired how long would it take for the fish to die out?

Adams responded based on what Minnesota statistics show that over 12-15 years you will see declines in populations if you do not continue to stock. He said you are going to see some of this anyway as you have older fish dying out.

Motioned by G. Jensen, seconded by Boyd TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE FISH LIMITS 41:07:03 TO RESTRICT ALL WATERS STATE WIDE TO CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY FOR MUSKELLUNGE AND NORTHERN-MUSKULLUNGE (TIGER) CROSS. Motion carried.

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. All open forum comments were in reference to the petitions and taken at that time they were presented to the Commission.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Roy Lake Resort Prospectus

Sean Blanchette, concessions manager, provided the Commission information on the settlement agreement with Roy Lake Resort LLC, Concessionaire at Roy Lake Resort. The operation consists of 8 rental cabins, a 4-plex lodging unit, main lodge with 2 lodging units, C-store, dining room and on-the-water gas sales. The current concession lease includes a franchise fee of 4 percent on revenues up to \$200,000 and 5 percent for revenues in excess of \$200,000 and expires on December 31, 2018. The property has been appraised and the department developed a prospectus to advertise for the resort sale and concession lease opportunity. The required purchase price has been established by the appraisal at \$975,000.00 which includes structures and personal property. Recommendations for a new lease were 10 year term with Franchise Fees, required services and operating season all remaining the same as in the current lease. The new lease would also include a 2 percent repair and maintenance reserve. Settlement agreement sets up terms and conditions of closing. The Commission approved the settlement agreement and granted the department authorization to advertise concessions prospectus with terms as discussed back in November 2017. Per request by Roy Lake Resort LLC Blanchette is again requesting authorization to advertise a prospectus for sale of the concession lease.

Motioned by G. Jensen with second by Sharp TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE AND ADVERTISE A PROSPECTUS FOR THE SALE OF ROY LAKE CONCESSION LEASE. Motion carried.

Parks Revenue and Camping Reservation Report

Katie Ceroll, parks and recreation division director, provided the year to date revenue report by item as well as the breakout of district revenue indicating an increase of 8 percent. She noted there is now only one unattended vehicle daily pass. Ceroll stated this report shows the increase of fees, includes reservations paid to date and is trending as expected. Future reports will further determine the impact of fee increases.

Al Nedved, parks and recreation assistant director, provided an overview of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program. The federal assistance program comes from the National Park Service and is administered in South Dakota by GFP. The program provides up to 50 percent reimbursement for outdoor recreation projects.

Randy Kittle, grant and loan specialist, provided information on the apportionment of funds to South Dakota over the last 52 years. He explained the open project selection process and use of SCORP to identify the priorities. He noted it is a competitive program and out of the 38 applications received this year 10 were awarded. Since 1965 LWCF have funded 1,509 projects in South Dakota.

Hepler noted it is competitive to get federal funds and encouraged Commissioner engagement.

B. Jensen agreed.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Pheasant Management Update

Kirschenmann provided the Commission an update on pheasant management beginning with the first season in 1919. He talked about how the seasons have changed over the years and explained how the pheasant population revolves around habitat. He detailed planning efforts with focus on habitat development and management. He noted 15 pheasant management plan strategies reference or utilizes conservation provisions of the Farm Bill and 5 department strategic plan strategies are tied to the Farm Bill. He further explained partnerships, programs and initiatives being used to promote habitat which is most important and critical for survival and production of pheasants.

Phillips said the focus on habitat has been there since days of the soil bank. Is there something else we can look at or is it solely habitat? What is number two thing we can do? What about the woody habitat and is there a certain type?

Kirschenmann said we can talk extensively about different habitat components and focus on specific pieces of property, but the key objective is thermal habitat. Some landowner's primary focus is for deer, but we can also add shrubs and bushes that would be good for small game. There are also brood plots with flowering species throughout the growing season providing high level of insects/food source for pheasants. This would be in addition to typical corn food plots. We can also work on other management activities which are usually predator control and release of pheasants. If we are doing the job right to develop habitat it will help negate the predator's and provide for wild pheasants to produce.

Sharp said it was a great report. He asked if there are opportunities to work with counties and townships to manage areas. He inquired about the right of way where people are farming to the road? And asked if there is a requirement to keep signing people up for programs on a yearly basis to help landowners continued development of good habitat.

Kirschenmann recommended discussions at the state level beginning with roadside mowing then conservation at the county and township levels. He noted some use as forage for their livestock. In regards to properties on landowner owned lands these are typically annual but sometimes multiyear agreements. We have cost shares for planting and it is their responsibility for care and maintenance. Walk in areas are usually year by year some are multiyear for access to property.

Elk Population and Management Plan Update

Andy Lindbloom, senior wildlife biologist, presented a powerpoint on the objectives they are currently working on which include: managing for biologically and socially acceptable elk populations in each elk management unit; managing elk populations in the Black Hills and CSP for quantity and quality recreational hunting opportunities with an emphasis in CSP on view ability for visitors to the park; cooperatively work with private landowners to resolve elk depredation to growing crops, stored-feed supplies, and private property; and monitor and evaluate risk and impact of disease in wild elk herds in South Dakota. Lindbloom also provided detailed information

on elk surveys and research updates as well as harvest data and season recommendations.

Deer Hunting Season Alternatives

Robling and Kirschenmann provided detailed information on potential alternatives to the current deer license allocation process that would potentially increase the number of hunters who draw their preferred deer license. They explained how during the development of the statewide deer management plan several social management considerations were identified through stakeholder group meetings and public comments to the deer plan. One area which received considerable attention from the public was deer license allocation. The Commission has asked the Department to identify alternatives which would increase the number of hunters who draw their preferred deer license. To date, Department staff have developed alternatives to the current license allocation process, and the process of gathering public feedback began with discussion of alternatives with the deer management stakeholder group. Additional feedback will be collected using focus groups made up of deer applicants. These focus groups will be held starting in March and conclude in early May. An email has been sent to resident deer applicants who provided an email address (18 and older) asking for focus group participants. There will be nine focus groups in total and each group will be capped at 30 participants. Applicants were asked to select the locations where they are interested in participating and a random draw will be used to select participants for each location. Participants may only participate in one focus group. The draws to select participants will be done in order of meeting date: Pierre, Philip, Yankton, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Rapid City, and Mitchell. The main objective of these focus groups will be to 1) discuss the potential alternatives; 2) receive feedback on level of support or opposition for the alternatives; and 3) determine how participants would apply for deer licenses under each alternative.

Concerns with Wildlife Feeding

Due to lack of time this item will be presented at a future meeting

Land-locked Public Lands

Due to lack of time this item will be presented at a future meeting

Snaring on Public Lands

Fisk, wildlife program administrator, provided information in regards to snaring on public lands per Commissioner request on concerns brought forward by individual. He noted a meeting was held to discuss these concerns. Fisk said many people not aware that trapping and snaring is allowed on public land. Staff plan to note this in the hunting handbook and on social media to inform the public and will also work to create a video on how devices work so individual can free their dog from a trap. He explained that there is no real consensus to submit a change in rule to prohibit snaring on public lands at this time. He will begin with additional education and outreach in hopes to reduce issues.

G. Jensen asked how big of an issue snaring on public lands is. He also asked Fisk to define dispatch snares and wondered if they do not need to be on public lands during overlapping seasons.

Fisk responded dispatch or kill spring snares typically have a spring on the cable that applies constant pressure on the animal so it doesn't release. Depending on the location of the device it will either keep the animal alive or euthanize it.

G. Jensen feels there was a consensus that these types of snares do not need to be used on public land.

B. Jensen asked if it is possible to release a dog from this type of snare.

Fisk responded with use of a cable cutter, as with any snare, if you pinch the cables off you can release the dog.

Hepler said policy positions begin with education then further discussion among staff and then presentation of a prepared plan for the Commission.

G. Jensen asked how we currently identifying whose snares are on public land.

Fisk said there are not requirements to mark traps or locations of snares. He said there are conflicting opinions as to the justification for the requirements and he is not aware of any state that requires GPS location of snares.

B. Jensen inquired if it is feasible to restrict snaring during certain seasons.

Fisk said the Commission has the authority to make those changes.

Revised Big Horn Sheep Management Plan

Switzer and John Kanta, regional wildlife terrestrial's supervisor, provided an update on the bighorn sheep management plan. They detailed the public involvement process beginning with the internal planning team. Switzer said the final draft along with a list of notable edits from the draft will be sent to the Commission by March 14th for review and adoption at the April Commission meeting.

Muskellunge Management

Brian Blackwell, fisheries biologist, presented information on the South Dakota musky program beginning in 1975 with Amsden Dam which has low population numbers since initial stocking. He said 14 waters were stocked between 1975-1999 with Amsden Dam being the only one to develop into a fishery. Currently there are 6 waters on the eastern side of the state being stocked. Blackwell stated the goals of the musky programs are to maintain low density populations provide quality fish and diversity to the angling public and provide anglers with a unique opportunity to catch a trophy fish. He also noted a research project will begin this summer to estimate post-stocking survival, dispersal and movement rates and describe habitat use and selection of age-0 musky

Adams provided information on muskellunge management from other states. He said Minnesota has an extensive public input process with concerns specifically on the impact to walleye and bass. Because we have so few musky there would be minimal impact. Adams noted size limits from surrounding states noting they are going away from hybrids and some have multiple limits on different lakes while some have no minimum size limits. In summary while many different length limits exist 1 over 40

inches and 1 over 48 inches is still common. Most have low density; low harvest and length restrictions don't have a biological impact.

Missouri River Accomplishments

Mike Smith, senior fisheries biologist, provided a review of the Missouri River and its fisheries, current management, goals, objectives and strategies as well as review of work done to date and upcoming work. He noted the 7 issues that have been identified and plan objectives noting accomplishments, work from 2014 to present and completed and in progress tasks from all four reservoirs.

Year-end 2017 License Sales

Scott Simpson, wildlife administration chief, provided the license sales report as of February 22, 2018 for all resident and nonresidents for all license types for the past 5 years. The report indicates resident combination licenses consistent with last year and annual resident fishing licenses are up as there was a good ice fishing season. Nonresident annual fishing licenses are down 4 percent, but hoping to see an increase in the open waters season.

SOLICITATION OF AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

No new agenda items were requested at this time.

Adjourn

Motioned by Phillips, second by Jensen TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Appendix A
RESOLUTION 18-02

WHEREAS, Joel Bich of Lower Brule, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated February 2, 2018, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:05:02:68 (Missouri River refuges) to remove Degrey and Joe Creek Waterfowl Refuges for the reasons more fully set out in the petition (hereinafter referred to as “the Petition”); and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed and carefully considered the requirements and procedures set out in SDCL §1-26-13 and the contents of the Petition, including the reasons advanced by Petitioner in support of eliminating Degrey and Joe Creek Waterfowl Refuges; and

WHEREAS, the Department is currently going through an evaluation process of all boating restrictions and refuges in the state; and

WHEREAS, the refuge evaluation is being divided into two phases with Phase I considering refuges across the state not associated with the Missouri River and, Missouri River refuges evaluations to be conducted as Phase II; and

WHEREAS, Phase I refuge evaluations are to be concluded in the summer of 2018 and then beginning the process of evaluating Missouri River refuges with recommendations to be brought forward to the Commission in late 2018; and

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

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

Appendix B
Elk Hunting Seasons – Hunting Unit License Allocations
LICENSE ALLOCATION BY SEASONS AND UNITS

2017

Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	75		
H1B		30	
H2A	250		
H2B		175	
H2C		125	
H2D		25	
H2E		200	
H2F		200	
H2G		125	
H2H		15	
H2I		15	
H2J		15	
H3A	80		
H3B		15	
H3C		15	
H3D		15	
H3E		50	
H3F		50	
H3G		50	
H4A	8		
H4B			
H5A	5		
H7A	20		
H7B		20	
H9A	5		
H9B		10	
TOTAL	443	1,150	1,593
Contingency	NA	230	230

2018-2019

Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	60		
H1B		20	
H2A	250		
H2B		75	
H2C		75	
H2D		25	
H2E		75	
H2F		75	
H2G		75	
H2H		15	
H2I		15	
H2J		15	
H3A	80		
H3B		15	
H3C		15	
H3D		15	
H3E		50	
H3F		50	
H3G		50	
H4A	10		
H4B		10	
H5A	5		
H7A	10		
H7B		10	
H9A	10		
H9B		20	
TOTAL	425	700	1,125
Contingency	NA	140	140

Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	25	10	
H2A	90	105	
H3A	25	10	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	5	5	
H9A			
30A			
TOTAL	147	130	277

Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	20	10	
H2A	90	50	
H3A	25	20	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	5		
H9A			
30A			
TOTAL	142	80	222

Prairie Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
9A	10	40	
11A		10	
11B	12		
11C	12		
11D		20	
15A	10	10	
27A	15	10	
30A			
35A			
TOTAL	59	90	149

Prairie Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
9A	10	10	
11A		18	
11B	16		
11C	16		
11D		30	
15A	8	5	
27A	10	10	
30A			
35A	8		
TOTAL	68	73	141

Custer State Park			
Season	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
CEE-CU1	3		
CUE-CU1	9		
CAE-CU1		10	
CAE-CU2		10	
CAE-CU3		10	
CAE-CU4		10	
CAE-CU5		10	
CAE-CU6		10	
TOTAL	12	60	72

Custer State Park			
Season	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
CEE-CU1	3		
CUE-CU1	9		
CAE-CU1		10	
CAE-CU2		10	
CAE-CU3		10	
CAE-CU4		10	
CAE-CU5		10	
CAE-CU6		10	
TOTAL	12	60	72

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission
March 1, 2018

The Public Hearing Officer Scott Simpson began the public hearing at 2:02 p.m. at RedRossa Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota with Commissioners Barry Jensen, Gary Jensen, Mary Anne Boyd, Scott Phillips and Douglas Sharp 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. Simpson then invited the public to come forward with oral testimony.

Public Water Safety Zoning

No oral or written testimony was received.

Public Land Safety Zoning

No oral testimony was received.

Nick Kludt, Brookings, SD, emailed "To whom it may concern: Please do not restrict hunting opportunity by eliminating the use of rifles in Oakwood State Park. Please consider my opinions and arguments against the proposed change, outlined below. This regulation starts at the base assumption that hunters are not sure of their target and what lies beyond. It further assumes this is a routine occurrence. If this has occurred, and someone recklessly discharged a firearm in the direction of a building, etc., the solution is not a regulation which wouldn't prevent this from happening again. Instead, that person should be cited. It should also be noted that a reckless shot, whether from a slug gun, muzzleloader, or rifle, is still a reckless shot and equally dangerous. While it is possible to create a hypothetical situation where a rifle could pose a danger in the hands of an over-eager, unsafe individual, it would be unreasonable to create a new type of management/regulatory zone to account for every potential contingency we can imagine. Safety is ultimately not something achieved by regulations, but by personal responsibility and accountability. It is just as easy to be unsafe with the proposed arms as it is with the currently allowed arms. The inverse is also true - it is perfectly easy to be safe with the current arms. Furthermore, what then becomes of hunters who wish to use straight-walled cartridges in either carbines or pistols (see Iowa's new firearm regulation) during the firearm season? The ballistics of these cartridges, although certainly capable of taking a deer, are well below those of slugs and even some in-line muzzleloaders. An entire class of firearms "safer" (from the proposal's standpoint) than those proposed would then be disallowed. Finally, consider the hunter access ramifications. A considerable number of SD residents own rifles. Although neither number is quantifiable, it logically follows that a considerably smaller number own slug guns. Given there has never been a slug requirement before, there has not been a need, so ownership of said arm is likely low. I emphasize slug guns, as opposed to bird hunting shotguns firing slugs, as the proposal's aim is greater safety - greater accuracy of slugs is generally achieved through a rifled slug barrel. Do we really want to close one of the largest tracts of public land in Brookings Co. to a majority of the hunters, unless they purchase an additional firearm? While I understand safety is a concern for the Park's management, I do not believe this this regulation will achieve the desired goal. It might hypothetically reduce risk, but in reality I believe it will do little-to-no good, as firearm safety ultimately is the result of individual choices. Have a nice day, and thanks for your time."

Brian Pauly, Huron, SD, emailed, "To whom it may concern: I would encourage the commission to consider still allowing muzzleloaders to be used on Oakwood State Park, along with shotguns and archery. Thanks for the consideration,"

Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

No oral testimony was received.

Jeff Olson, Rapid City, SD, emailed "Dear Commissioners Attached are comments on the bighorn sheep management plan from the Greater Dacotah Chapter of SCI. It is a very good plan however we think a suggested 20% harvest of available rams is aggressive compared to neighboring states that are at 8%. We have spent quite a bit of time researching and discussing this plan. Our chapter has given almost 60,000 to bighorn sheep management over the last 18 years since we formed a chapter. It has been a great working relationship and we want to thank all those with GFP who has worked closely with us and this important resource. Safari Club International (SCI) is the world's leading hunter-conservationist group and has more than 200 active chapters worldwide. The Greater Dacotah Chapter (GDC) is proud to be part of SCI's great tradition of ensuring hunting opportunities and conserving our wildlife resources. GDC was formed in 1999 and our first goal was assist the Department of Game Fish and Parks with bighorn sheep management in South Dakota and 19 years later this is still one of the highest priorities providing support and funding to ensure the future of bighorns sheep and hunting opportunities in South Dakota. Thanks for the opportunity to provide input on this important management plan. Our Chapter goals and objectives are more clearly outlined at: <http://greaterdacotahchaptersci.org/main/> GOALS, OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES The goal for bighorn sheep management in South Dakota is to maximize user opportunity while maintaining populations consistent with ecological, social, aesthetic, and economic values of the people of South Dakota and our visitors. Partnerships are essential to bighorn sheep management, from agencies, private landowners and NGO's, cooperative efforts are essential to introductions, management, and hunter opportunity. Objective 1. Management and monitoring of disease pathogens in bighorn sheep herds across South Dakota. Strategy A. Continue to inventory and document domestic sheep and goats in areas adjacent to wild bighorn herds. Strategy B. Work with conservation organizations to develop cooperative programs to discourage domestic sheep and goat ownership in areas adjacent to wild bighorn herds. Consistent with the partnership at Elk Mountain. Strategy C. Continue to educate the public about bighorn sheep disease and the risk that domestic sheep and goats pose to wild sheep. Develop media options with FNAWS, provide funding for brochures, PSA'S, and other outreach efforts. Strategy D. Continue to offer assistance to owners of domestic sheep and goats in an effort to minimize the risk of disease transmission to wild sheep. Fencing options if appropriate, buy out and replacement with other domestic livestock, with small producers, or hobby farms, Strategy E. Manage and monitor bighorn sheep disease events and attempt to mitigate losses of bighorns through disease mitigation management when feasible; implement testing and removal of bighorns that are identified as shedders of M. ovi. in populations that are experiencing pneumonia die-offs in an attempt to recover these populations at a faster rate. Strategy F. Through transfer augment established populations recovering from disease events that are at critically low population levels once M. ovi. are no longer detected. Strategy G. Implement Department policy (Appendix 1) for the lethal take of bighorn sheep when associated with domestic sheep or goats. Develop public support and if possible utilize hunters in the removal, Objective 2. Monitor the status of bighorn sheep populations. Strategy A. Annually conduct surveys including

ground and hunter harvest. Males will be classified during surveys according to body and horn size (Geist 1968). Strategy B. Where feasible, conduct aerial surveys and obtain abundance estimates utilizing markresight or other methodologies. Strategy C. Supplement survey data with research findings when available. Utilize all efforts to improve monitoring opportunities without negative impacts on ewes and kids during lambing. Objective 3. Bi-annually review and set bighorn sheep management objectives; use harvest strategies to provide the public with the available resource. Strategy A. Bi-annually review bighorn harvest strategies, license allocation, and unit boundaries and develop 2-year recommendations based on available biological data, public input, and staff recommendations. strategy B. we will consider: 1) population size and trend, 2) lamb recruitment (lamb: ewe ratios), 3) some index to the number or availability of rams in the population (ram: ewe ratios, the number of mature rams estimated or seen during surveys, average age of harvested rams), and 4) trends in hunter success or hunter effort, or both, from recent hunting seasons. strategy c. when feasible, use subunits and create new units to maximize hunting opportunities, distribute hunters, and minimize hunter conflicts. For the management of bighorn sheep, a season will be closed when <75 sheep are observed during surveys for 3 consecutive survey periods (i.e., years). A season may get opened or reopened when 3 criteria are met: 1) >75 sheep are observed during surveys for 3 consecutive survey periods (i.e., years), 2) observed a ram: ewe ratio of >30 rams/100 ewes for 3 consecutive surveys, and 3) observed a lamb: ewe ratio of >30 lambs/100 ewes for 3 consecutive surveys. consistent strategy for management very similar to Montana. StrateBy D. Maintain high hunter success rates (>90%) and/or high hunter satisfaction in all units. Maintain ram harvest between 10 to 20% of the available rams in the population depending upon ratios and population size. The 20% harvest rate for all available rams is very high considering other state management plans. GDC realizes that disease issues, utilizing hunters in special management actions to harvest rams could reach 20% in certain units; GDC recommends a 10% harvest rates for rams which is more realistic and will maintain quality class 4 rams for hunter harvest. Underspecial circumstances management options could reach 20% to maintain population goals and herd health, and dynamics. Strategy E. Ewe harvest can be implemented depending upon guiding factors found in Matrix (Table 2). Translocation of excess ewes should always be considered prior to the implementation of sport harvest. Utilize translocation into suitable habitats within South Dakota with public involvement. SD Game fish and Parks should also utilize opportunities with other states requesting bighorn sheep ewes to supplement their herds before utilizing hunting seasons for ewes, Objective 4. Maintain, manage, and protect existing bighorn sheep habitat and augment populations to either maintain or establish herds in vacant habitat in South Dakota. Strategy A. Maintain existing partnerships with the USFS, BLM, NPS, private landowners, and other state, local, and private conservation partners to support programs and practices encouraging proper bighorn sheep habitat management on public and private lands. Strategy B. Continue to support and utilize SDGFPs forest service liaison position in USFS planning processes to assure bighorn sheep habitat needs are considered. Strategy C. Through trap-and-transfer augment established populations that are at critically low population levels or create new populations in vacant habitat. Vacant habitat evaluation techniques utilizing GIS models, habitat inventories, and management opportunities to ensure goals are met. Transplants on public or private lands should include a cooperative agreement with the land management agency, or private landowner and SD Game Fish and Parks outlining responsibilities. Provide habitat management opportunities on public lands already supporting bighorn sheep populations by working with NGO's, state and federal agencies to improve forage production, maintain critical openings, viewsheds, water

development, consistent with bighorn sheep ecology. Objective 5. Continue to use science-based research, habitat inventories, and surveys to answer questions related to bighorn sheep ecology and public attitudes towards bighorn sheep management. Strategy A. Annually evaluate and prioritize research/survey needs for bighorn sheep. Develop research/survey proposals and seek funding opportunities. Strategy B. Use research/survey findings to guide bighorn sheep management where available and feasible. Objective 5. The SDGFP will inform and educate the public on bighorn sheep ecology, management, research, and provide viewing opportunities. Strategy A. By March 2018, provide an electronic copy of the "South Dakota Bighorn Sheep Management Plan 2018-2022" on the department's website. Printed copies will be available upon request. Strategy B. Use all available media to educate and inform the public regarding bighorn sheep status, ecology, and harvest. Work with the South Dakota Animal Industry Board and the public to discuss potential risks to bighorn sheep from domestic sheep and goats in South Dakota. Strategy C. Brief bighorn sheep hunters annually to provide them useful information on habits, ecology, and sound management of bighorn sheep. Strategy D: Promote viewability of bighorn sheep for the enjoyment of the public. Opportunities exist where tourism viewsheds such as CSP, Rapid City, and Deadwood provide the public a unique setting to observe their behavior as a quality experience. Urban sheep population management provides public interactions and viewing opportunities, but also negative impacts related to an urban environment. Relocation efforts adjacent to urban environments should be evaluated based upon scientific and biological needs for bighorn sheep, and not be politically driven. An investigative report on the suitability of an urban transplant site should be completed and provided for public comment prior to any relocation efforts. The Greater Dacotah Chapter Board of Directors thanks the Department of Game, Fish and Parks for the opportunity to provide comments to the bighorn sheep draft management plan and look forward to working together to improve bighorn sheep management in South Dakota. In summary, please note the suggested changes/additions are in bold. The GDC of SCDNR would like to see a strong emphasis on habitat and working with their partners (BHNH and NGO'S) to ensure a good plan moving forward. We feel that the suggested zoyo ram harvest is too high and out of line with neighboring states and request that be changed as noted."

Muskellunge Harvest Restriction

Taylor Anderson, Groton, SD spoke in favor of statewide catch and release. One negative is concern when they are fowl hooked or illegal to catch then thrown back a large fish is caught. This may cause that fish to be caught multiple times. He also discussed skin mount vs replica mount where everyone gets to enjoy it and that fish is still swimming. This is a fish you need to treat as a big game animal comparing it to waiting to get an elk tag. Some people think we should have a right to keep the fish we catch. Department recommendation is consistent with surrounding states that have some catch and release lakes. Wishes we were 48 inches a few years ago although would like to see higher length limits and still in favor of catch and release

Casey Baumgard, Webster, SD spoke in favor of statewide catch and release and that his comments were similar to Anderson's comments. He began fishing for muskie 6 years ago and his first catch was 38-40 inches. State law would have allowed him to keep, but he was told by other fisherman it was not a trophy fish. Once you release one it makes it easier to let them go. Tourism would benefit in our state if we grew fish 50 inches plus.

Brad Sheridan, Groton, SD, said he is an avid muskie fisherman noting that once you catch one it changes everything. Catch and release would explode SD muskie fishing. Muskie fishing in Minnesota is huge because they have a 54 inch length limit. Recently attended fishing expos and discussed the muskie issue. Said other states have fish in 35-44 inches and now that they have 50 in minimum they are seeing larger fish. People will come to South Dakota to catch these larger fish especially when they see it on social media.

Scott Vander Meulen, Sioux Falls, SD, emailed, "Dear GFP Commission, I am sending this email as a formal request to ask for your support of a "Catch & Release Only" option for the South Dakota Musky fishery. Currently, Musky fishing is one area of angling throughout the nation that is seeing one of the biggest rise or surge in popularity. Natural reproduction of musky does not occur in South Dakota lakes and the musky population is supported solely by a very limited stocking program. It is also my understanding that currently musky stocking happens every other year. A separate debate could be made that stocking should happen every year and even into additional lakes in South Dakota. With a limited stocking program and a small musky population it is my concern that the current rule for harvest (40 inch minimum) may not be sustainable. Also the musky population currently is not large enough to support a scientific conclusion or determination on the best management practices for musky in South Dakota, so it may be prudent to err on the side of caution. A 40 inch musky is definitely a great fish but not considered a true trophy by musky fishing standards. It is common belief that a true trophy is obtained when the length is 50 inch or greater and is basically what every musky fisherman dreams of. South Dakota may not see many 50 inch fish if they are harvested at 40 inch. The time factor is probably the biggest limiting factor in growing the fishery since it may take nearly 15 years to reach 50 inches in length. The SDGFP has spent a significant amount of time and resources to get our musky fishery to where it is today. Please continue to protect the investment and hard work spent on the musky fishery by voting for a "Catch & Release Only" option. "Catch & Release Only" may be considered a proactive step to attempt to better maintain and protect the musky population. If at some time in the future additional scientific data becomes available or the current musky management rules change, then the rules may be considered for further modifications as supported by scientific data. There are also economic and tourism benefits that could also be considered, however without a healthy population of muskies that benefit would be zero. Since Minnesota has actual fishing seasons there are some Minnesota anglers who travel to South Dakota specifically to guide for and fish for musky while awaiting their season to open. In closing, this email is asking for your support of a "Catch & Release Only" option for the South Dakota Musky fishery. Thank you for all you do for the South Dakota Sportsman"

Jonathan P Brown, Brandon, SD, emailed, "Dear Commissioners, I support "Catch and Release Only" for muskies. I know you have already received much input on "Catch and Release Only" so I will not go into a lot of detail here other than to mention that, by and large, all true musky hunters are strictly "Catch and Release Only". There is no purpose in harvesting a musky. If I want to eat a fish, I will catch walleye or perch. The musky, however, needs to be carefully handled and returned safely to the water. A musky is such a valuable resource and should be shared with other sportsmen for as long as possible. It is common for the same fish to be caught and released several times over a period of years. I drive to a "Catch and Release Only" lake in Ontario every year to have a chance to boat (and release) large muskies. In my opinion (and I am not

a biologist) Catch and Release Only will result in more and larger fish and, therefore, should attract out of state Musky fisherman to our state and, further, should cause many of us to “stay home” to catch and release muskies (as opposed to spending our money in other states or provinces). Over the past 15 years I (and my family) have traveled to Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario in pursuit of the musky. It is an exciting fish to catch, but the opportunities to catch large fish have, in my opinion, been better outside of South Dakota. I would like to see that change. I firmly believe that Catch and Release is the only way to go in terms of growing larger fish and promoting the musky fishery in South Dakota. Please vote to make the musky a “Catch and Release Only” fish in South Dakota. I very much appreciate all that you and the SDGF&P do to make South Dakota a Great State! Thanks! “

Mitch Hanson, Aberdeen, SD, emailed, “GFP Commission, I am in favor for increasing the statewide minimum length on muskellunge and northern muskellunge to a statewide catch and release. The following will explain my opinion in why we should go to a catch and release. As a part-time taxidermist I have mounted many large fish and with all species it is nearly impossible to remove all the meat and grease from the head. A taxidermist would commonly use an artificial head in this case to replace the real one for fear of the real head greasing out over time and ruining the mount and to avoid shrinkage of the real head when it properly dries. In this case we are only harvesting a Muskie larger than forty inches as of now to use mainly just the skin from the head on back and throwing the head in the garbage. I believe in using replica/reproduction mounts when it comes to a species of fish like these and I am sure many others will agree. The advantages of a replica Muskie mount would be as follows: The mount will never deteriorate. It will last forever. Will look as lifelike as the real fish. There will be no worry of mould or insect infestations. The catch and release proposal would not only protect the Muskie but would also increase revenue for the state from fisherman coming from other states in search of record muskies knowing we have a catch and release law. Also, I am not sure how many people harvest a Muskie for a meal but I would guess it's quite low with abundance of harvestable species such as walleye, perch, crappie etc...”

Blake Anderson, Groton, SD, emailed, “Commissioners, I am emailing in favor of the proposal to put the Muskie size limit to catch and release only. South Dakota has the opportunity to put themselves “on the map” with a regulation like the proposed. I hope that the proposal does not get changed to a length limit of any kind. A economic boost will surely come when anglers see the change and the quality of Muskie in these waters. With all the negativity focused on South Dakota fishing for various reasons this will be a positive to look forward too. Thank you for your time”

Bill Leonard, Eden, SD, emailed, “I am in favor of total catch and release of all muskie. Please vote in that direction. Thank you”

Chris Kassube, Bath, SD, emailed, “I would like to say I am in favor of all musky being catch and release. This is an opportunity for our state to be on top of this. Thank you.”

Laura Smith, Hazel, SD, emailed “Hello, Please enact an increase in the musky minimum. An increase is needed to protect these fish. Musky fishing is mostly catch and release, so a catch and release only statewide would make sense. There is very little need to harvest one of these fish. “

Taylor Anderson, Groton, SD, emailed, “ SDGFP Commission, Thanks for your consideration in enacting an increase in the statewide muskie minimum for South Dakota. I encourage you to pass the statewide catch-and-release proposal. By passing such a regulation you protect and ensure quality muskie fishing for future generations to come. Since the January meeting the amount of positive support regarding this proposal has been great. Support has come from not just muskie anglers, but also from anglers who target panfish and walleyes primarily (like myself). There has been a small amount of negative public input, which always seems to revolve around “stigma and old school thinking” and not biological facts and studies. One thing I ask you to consider is the fact that we currently are actively managing five lakes for muskies. The SDGFP has spent taxpayer money to stock muskies in these five lakes. Various initial stocking dates on these lakes vary from 2002, 2010, 2011 depending on the fishery. All that anglers are now asking for is protection of these fish. If we are not going to protect these fish and try to produce a trophy class fishery, what was the purpose of even starting muskie fisheries in the first place? The following bullet points lay out various reasons why we should pass a catch-and-release regulation in the state of South Dakota. I have highlighted in red what I think are three of the main reasons for going to a statewide catch and release regulation. Muskellunge and tiger-muskellunge in South Dakota have outgrown their current regulation. Our state currently has fish in the lower 50 inch mark. Muskie is an expensive fish for the SDGFP to raise. Other states have shown that it costs roughly \$12 to raise a stocked muskie. It takes 40 stocked fish, to get one muskie 40 inches making that fish worth roughly \$480. It takes 500 stocked fish, to have one of them reach the 50 inch mark, making that fish worth roughly \$6,000. Therefore, if every lake stocked in South Dakota has on average 2-3 muskies in the 50 inch range harvested yearly, that is \$12,000-\$18,000 roughly. Pretend they have another 10-15 fish in the 45 inch range harvested, which puts those fish in the roughly \$2,500 range. Out of five lakes total if the numbers are true, we are potentially looking at a loss of roughly in the \$185,000 range yearly. This dollar amount can only be blamed on one thing, and that’s an inadequate minimum length. Our state has plenty of other opportunities for harvesting fish for meals, so keeping a muskie is now irrelevant. Advancements in replica mounts/artificial amounts have made keeping trophy class muskies obsolete. Muskie fishing is primarily catch and release. Our current muskellunge and northern-muskellunge (tiger) regulation allows for the harvest of fish in the 40 inch range. A 40 inch muskie is no longer considered a “trophy fish”. Other states have increased their minimums and are experiencing “trophy class fishing”. Our state is behind others on muskie length minimums. Minnesota is currently at 54 inches. Wisconsin has lakes with minimum length restrictions of 45 inches, 50 inches, 54 inches, and some lakes which are strictly “catch and release”. Most Wisconsin waters to my knowledge currently fall under the 50 inch minimum. North Dakota’s current minimum length limit is 48 inches. This petition/proposal has the current support of anglers, bait shops, fishing guides, lodging, gas stations, restaurants, and other various establishments in areas near waters currently stocked with muskellunge. Thanks for your consideration in this matter

Roger McNary, Spearfish, SD, emailed “Dear Commissioners, The High Plains Anglers are opposed to the proposed change in the muskie regulations. We do not want to see “catch and release” instead of the 40 inch minimum. The current 40 inch minimum is definitely adequate and the fisherman (man, woman or child) can make the choice to keep or release. We want the muskie minimum length kept at 40 inches. We oppose any other change to the muskie minimum length.”

Greg Petersen, Warner, SD, emailed "I writing this email to show my support of the State implementing a "catch and release" only on Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge. Our state is way behind others on this issue. If we as a state are all in on having Muskie in our fisheries, why limit the fish from reaching their full potential. Local lodges may argue, but this actually is better for them as well. Keeping every 40" Muskie for pictures and their Facebook page may serve as great advertising, but when their gone their gone. This method is not sustainable. Muskie in my view is a fish of sport and challenge, not a fish for family meals or hanging over the fireplace. So why not make them "catch any release" only. Think of the advertising power house this would create. "Another 55" Muskie caught and released on Lynn Lake". "Catch your walleyes, and then search for a monster!". Its time to either be all in, or let the dream of a sustained Trophy Muskie lake die. Thanks for your time."

Chuck Berdan, Belle Fourche, SD, emailed "Dear Commissioners, I am adamantly opposed to any change in the muskie regulations. I do not want a change to "catch and release" or a 50 inch minimum. The 40 inch minimum has been working. I have never caught a muskie but would want the decision to be mine if I did catch one. A 40 inch fish beautiful trophy fish and without there being any biological reasons to change the minimum the decision needs to be the fisherman decision to keep or release the fish. These decision affecting our fish and wildlife in this state need to be made with sound biology and science and what is best for the resource not personal preference and bias I oppose any change in the muskie minimum length. Leave the muskie minimum length at 40 inches."

Rik Bartels, Belle Fourche, SD, emailed, "Dear Commissioners, The Center of the Nation Sportsman's Club is opposed to any change in the muskie length regulations. We do not want it changed to a 50 inch minimum or to a "catch and release". We want it to stay at the 40 inch minimum and the fisherman can make the decision to keep or release the fish. There is no biological reason to change the muskie length minimum. We oppose ANY change in the muskie minimum length."

Shane Spooner, Watertown, SD, emailed. "Please establish laws to help protect our Muskie population. We need to have a catch and release program for our future generations to enjoy."

Casey Adam Baumgarn, Webster, SD, emailed, "I write this email in reference to the Musky petition, I'm 100% for a catch and release for the muskellunge in our state of SD! Over the course of the last 6 years of me fishing for musky I have been educated by many true musky fisherman. They have taught me that they are a true trophy fish and that there are no reasons to keep a musky when the option of doing a replica is an option. At first I was like wow that's crazy, but after releasing multiple fish from 48"-50" it's much more gratifying to watch the fish swim away than to kill something that takes so long to grow to that length let alone the cost to get them to that length. I have seen multiple pictures of the same fish I released less than a week apart getting kept and taken to the taxidermist. This is very disheartening when the replica option is as good as the real fish. With so few musky our state needs to approve the catch and release and SD will be landslides ahead of other states. Currently we are way behind the times with our 40" minimum. To put that in perspective it's like mounting a 3lb-6lb walleye! So when fisherman realize after they kept a 40"-49" musky they realize it's not truly a trophy and I fear to guess that the majority of them are wasted. It's really no fault of their own because they aren't educated enough to know that it truly isn't a giant like they

assumed when they initially caught it. Our lakes can and will grow musky over 50", I've seen them first hand and have received many photos of musky up to 52" in our state. So what does this mean for our state? TOURISM!!!! If we put a catch and release and start growing fish up to 52" and in my opinion we will surpass that and hopefully up to 54" we will with no doubt get more and more people from outside our state coming to fish for these giants! At the rate we are going and me personally knowing of 14 musky 42"-51" KEPT in 2017 out of 1 lake this will KILL the majority of our musky not allowing for the musky to get to trophy length. I ask that you to please pass this law and make it catch and release so we can be landslides ahead of other states and grow some true trophy's in our state!"

Sean Grefe, Cold Springs, MN, emailed, "Hello, I'm writing in to support 100% catch and release of muskies and Lynn lake and any other South Dakota lakes that are stocked. I travel to Lynn Lake A multiple times a year to fish musky and I would hate to see that come to an end because of over harvest. Muskies are a very valuable resource.. Their natural reproduction is very limited so catch and release and stocking is very important to keep a good healthy population and to have a chance at a trophy Muskie."

Joe Honer, Eden, SD, emailed, "The subject of size limits or the ability to harvest Muskie basically depends on a few questions. 1. Why did they introduce them in the first place. The answer u would receive from 99 out of 100 people would be, for the chance to catch a very large fish! That experience a lone is why 100 percent of Muskie fishermen incurred the cost time and effort to fish them. Question 2. Why after the cost and effort to plant them and the length of time it takes for them to grow to that large size. Why would we want to harvest them. There is NO evidence anywhere to show they in anyway take over the lake or overpopulate. In the day of fiberglass reproduction there is no need to kill a fish. In an effort to keep this short and to the point weather u increase the minimum or have a no harvest at all. Ask ur selves these questions or more that may logically follow. Thanks for ur concern!!"

Chelsey Sheridan, Groton, SD, emailed, "SDGFP Commission, I am asking that you consider catch and release only for muskies. Muskies are considered a game fish and South Dakota's catch limit of 40" is extremely low compared to surrounding states. By making muskies a catch and release only fish, I'm hoping that the musky population will grow and that the state of South Dakota will attract more musky fisherman. Thank you,"

Trent Baumeister, Aberdeen, SD, emailed, "I wanted to share my thoughts regarding the proposed change to state-wide catch and release only regulations for Muskies in South Dakota. First and foremost, I appreciate that SD GFP is recognizing muskies as a resource that's worth protecting, and as a muskie fisherman, I would love to see larger fish in the lakes where they are stocked. However, I don't agree that this proposed change would have those affects. Also, I don't think it's appropriate to enforce a catch and release only regulation state wide. The muskie community almost exclusively practices catch and release already, so this regulation wouldn't really change anything for us who target these fish. However, if a fish is foul hooked and injured or caught during the summer months and not likely to survive after release, the fisherman should be able to exercise good judgement and harvest that fish rather than put it back in the lake to die and rot. The sport would be better served by having that

fish mounted and displayed vs. disappearing in a lake never to be caught or seen again. In my opinion, we lose more fish to hooking mortality than harvest each year. Rather than restrict it to catch and release only statewide, manage these lakes like you would for walleyes. For example, prior to the non-meandered lakes issue, Reetz Lake was managed as a true trophy walleye fishery with a minimum length of 28", not catch and release only. Why not do the same for a lake that is capable of growing 44"+ muskies? Set the minimum length to 44" or 48" on a lake by lake basis. Also If there's a desire to have larger, more abundant muskies in South Dakota, maybe it's worth exploring introducing them to larger, deeper water lakes in NE South Dakota. Waubay and Bitter would both offer deep water refuge during the summer months, as well as more acreage to hide in. I realize both of these lakes see far more pressure than Lynn, 81 ponds, or Sinai do, but I think the amount of structure and deep water areas would allow a good percentage to grow to true trophy size. Thank you for allowing public input on this regulation."

Harley Baumeister, Hutchinson, MN, emailed, "Dear Commissioners, I'd like to offer comments on the proposed rule change to make Muskies a catch and release only fish. I am an avid Muskie fisherman, and by choice, I practice 100% catch and release, with the key point, it's my choice. To mandate that everyone has to make the same choice is short sighted and could do more harm than good. Natural resources are to be enjoyed by the public and managed so everyone can enjoy them. Taking away the chance for a child or someone who doesn't fish much the opportunity to mount and enjoy a very special fish to them takes away that option and makes the fish now less attractive due to the inability for some to enjoy it in a manner of their choosing (a real mount, vs. a replica which can be a lot more expensive). Hooking mortality will most likely be a larger impact to the overall population than the occasional kept fish but the positive impact of being able to keep a few fish by a reduced population of anglers seems well worth it. Imagine what it does to the fisheries if a young person has a fish on the wall and all his/her friends get to see it! Now we have motivated youth wanting to both fish and "catch a big one". They become more knowledgeable about the species, maybe become advocates for more stocking, take on more self-management of their fishing practices, not because they have to, but because they want others to have the chance to catch in their minds, another "big one". Take away the possibility to keep a fish or make it too restrictive, and suddenly we have a fish that the public doesn't want to fund, finds no practical reason to have, and we end up with another Amsdam lake where the locals want the fish out of the area. Isn't it funny that the lake that has produced almost all the state records isn't be stocked anymore? Why is that? I hope you carefully consider the impacts of such an extreme position and don't go too far. Even a 50" minimum is too extreme in my mind as few lakes can grow fish of that size. If by chance an exceptional lake comes into play, consider managing it on an exception basis and let the public enjoy the possibility of keeping a special fish on the other lakes. Letting fish die of old age vs. letting the public enjoying them more by letting them select when it's appropriate to keep one seems like a more logical means to grow the sport, gain the support of the public, and increase the number of our youth enjoying the outdoors. Bottom line, manage for the norm (most lakes won't grow a 50" due to a lack of cold water and forage) and know when to have the exception (if Lynn will grow a possible 50", move the limit to 48"), but for the rest, make the limit length a practical value like the 40" or a 44". And if someone really thinks Lynn could become a Leach lake or Vermillion lake world class fisheries, then for that lake only, go to 100% catch and release. But do it in increments, not an all or nothing approach that is being discussed. Thanks for listening, and good luck finding a balance between the general

fisherman and the species select group. And hopefully you can appreciate the value of not forcing the will of a few on the backs of the many. “

Brian Jordan, Belle Fourche, emailed, “I disagree with mandatory catch and release proposal. I feel that raising the minimum length to fifty inches and allowing one fish is sufficient. If nothing else handle it like paddlefish with a tag system with an affordable tag that only allows an angler to keep one that size per year. If a person fishes where there is a chance of catching one or you target them you can still practice responsible catch and release with or without the tag. I feel it would be great to treat the musky like the true trophy it is like deer, elk, bighorns, mountain goats and mountain lions. Thank you.”

Jim Kath, Lake Shore, MN, emailed, “Dear Commissioners: Greetings from the Brainerd Lakes Chapter of Muskies Inc. We are writing this letter to show our support for the proposed legislation to have South Dakota become a statewide, catch and release muskie fishery. We believe that this policy will benefit the state as well as local community members by providing increased access to trophy fishing opportunities, increased business opportunities, and provide a sustainable resource in the state of South Dakota. Our chapter also believes that the decision to increase muskie fishing opportunities in the state is a valid cause that needs to be supported and followed through on based on scientific data and reasoning. South Dakota has a rich history and growing interest from anglers of surrounding states. Increasing water furthers opportunities for angling as well as providing incredible fish growth potential with the high concentration of eutrophic and mesotrophic lake systems. Despite the increasing fishing opportunities in South Dakota, there are relatively few lakes that are managed for muskies. We believe the proposal to have muskies be a catch and release resource will lead to increased trophy opportunities for our growing number of muskie anglers locally as well as anglers throughout the country. The economic impact of moving to a catch and release fishery and increasing muskie fishing quality in the state is a direct benefit to the local businesses in the area. Throughout the state of MN, where we reside, resort owners, baits shops, fishing guides, and small business owners report a positive impact of muskie stocking in their areas. Local and statewide fisherman all provide increased economic opportunities to these areas with no negative impact to native fish populations. This has been demonstrated repeatedly through conclusive studies and needs to be the basis of future management decisions. Those areas that are target destination for other fish populations, such as panfish and walleyes, continue to be great fisheries even after muskies are introduced. It is truly a win-win situation. Sustaining and improving our natural resources is the responsibility of both our citizens and the states GFP Commission. Muskies Inc. has been a front-runner in recognizing that the enjoyment of our natural resources does not always need to be a “take” philosophy. Since our inception, catch and release tactics have been encouraged as a way to preserve our fisheries for generations to come and provide true trophy fishing opportunities. This philosophy has set our organization apart from many others as a truly conservation minded group versus a sportsman’s rights group. We have over 175 active members in our Brainerd Lakes chapter with multiple family memberships. We commend you for the work you do in your state and encourage you to look at increasing muskie fishing quality as a way to continue your efforts of providing the best outdoor experience for those in and who visit your state. The Brainerd Lakes Chapter of Muskie Inc. believes in the proposed catch and release muskie fishery for the state of South Dakota. We believe there are multiple local economic benefits as well as a resource benefit for the citizens in your state and throughout the country. We thank you for your

work with all of our natural resources and commend your efforts to make the best research based decisions for the citizens of your state. “

Jake Rehnstrom, Watertown, SD, emailed, “As a avid muskie angler who spends a lot of time fishing lynn lake and west 81 for muskie i am very much in favor of catch and release only for these fish and think it will provide trophy fishing for many years to come”

Luke Manthey, Eagan, MN, emailed “I support catch and release only for Muskies. “

Aaron Meyer, Sauk Rapids, MN, emailed “I would like to comment on the proposal to change South Dakota's muskie management to total catch and release. I am a multi-species angler and hunter from Minnesota. I have travelled to South Dakota several times on hunting trips. I would strongly **support** your proposal for catch and release regulations on muskies. I have been quite involved in Minnesota's muskie management since several years ago when the lake where I grew up was proposed for muskie stocking. Through many long discussions with fisheries managers and biologists I learned that muskies do not negatively effect any other gamefish or panfish populations. Numerous scientific studies on muskie lakes throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ontario have all proven these statements. Beyond that, much evidence on our Minnesota lakes suggests that the more we protect our muskie populations, the more they resemble natural, native fisheries. Muskie fishing is the fastest growing segment of freshwater fishing in the country! It would be great see our neighboring state protecting these exciting fisheries!”

Dan Bather, Brookings, SD, emailed, “After reading the recent article in regards to the recent proposal to make a Muskie a trophy only fish I totally disagree. The last thing South Dakota needs is another fishing regulation. I am not a avid Muskie fisherman, but consider them a unique opportunity. I fish 60 to 70 days a year I. South Dakota and have happened to catch 3 muskies in a matter of 12 years of fishing in South Dakota. Two years ago I was fortunate enough on the 81 ponds to catch and keep a 45.5” 25lb Muskie. That fish was a magnificent fish to me and I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to make it a trophy. I mounted the fish and it currently is in my basement. The fish is a reminder of an amazing event in my life that I got to share with family and friends. There are not enough Muskie fisherman in South Dakota to make them a trophy only fish. Fisherman that have an opportunity to catch one that meets the minimum requirement should have the choice to do as they wish with the fish. Over the course of the past 5 years I have heard of 3 trophy fish being caught one out of Lynn lake and two out of the 81 ponds all of which were mounted. Thank you for your consideration “

Jon Biederman, West Union, IA, emailed,” I understand there is a possibility of increasing the size limit for muskies in South Dakota. I fully support a 50” minimum size limit, or larger. I have come to South Dakota for a week each year for the past 15 years and have spent a lot of time fishing for muskies on one of the better known lakes near Webster. We have caught a lot of muskies, released all of them, and have a great time. However, we have noticed the larger ones, greater than 45” are hard to come by and have seen pictures of kept fish. It takes many years for a musky to grow to 45”+ and those are a very valuable resource. Keeping them alive should be a high priority.

I also spend time fishing muskies in Minnesota each year and feel the 54" limit they have is a great thing. Last fall I was fortunate enough to catch a 54" musky in MN, truly the fish of a lifetime. I didn't even consider keeping it even though it was a legal fish. Instead I am getting a replica made that will look as good and likely better than a real fish mount would be. Thank you for your time."

Mark Smedsrud, Hartford, SD, emailed, "I FULLY SUPPORT CHANGING THE HARVEST RESTRICTIONS ON MUSKIES TO CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY. TOO MANY LOW 40 INCH FISH ARE NEEDLESSLY BEING KILLED BEFORE THEY REACH TRUE TROPHY SIZE. IF HANDLED WITH CARE, THESE FISH CAN BE CAUGHT AND RELEASED MULTIPLE TIMES. I AM ALSO IN FAVOR OF EXPANDING WATERS IN SOUTH DAKOTA THAT ARE MANAGED FOR MUSKIES. THANK YOU,"

Jim Lilienthal, Cushing, MN, emailed, "I would like to speak in favor of the GFP's proposal for a Catch & Release muskie fishery in South Dakota. With just 5 lakes that have muskie management a harvest limit defeats the purpose of providing a unique trophy fishing experience on these long lived fish. I have worked on muskie management in Minnesota for over 40 years, and can reassure you that a catch & release muskie fishery will pose no threat to the management of other species in these waters. I come to South Dakota to hunt and fish each year and look forward to enjoying a muskie fishing opportunity."

Kermit Born, Aberdeen, SD, emailed "What is going on??.....Muskie fishing on Lynn and Middle Lynn.....and these two lake are closed in the meandering water issues.....Why are we supporting any fishing activity (stocking etc) on lakes that are not open to public access.....Something is wrong here.....Either stop supporting stocking etc on lakes that do not have public access, or open the lakes to public access as it probably should have been done.

Cory Kassube, Big Stone City, SD emailed "Good morning, I am writing to show my support to the change of the Muskie regulations to Catch and Release only. Most people that target muskie know how difficult they are to catch and do not want to keep them. I have heard stories of anglers keeping 40" fish just to get them out of the lake, and not because they want to harvest that fish. I have also heard rumors of people cutting the gills and releasing these fish. Muskies need to be protected and a C&R Only would do just that. "

Steve Horswell, Milford, IA, emailed, "Although I haven't fished for muskies in South Dakota, I applaud the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission for considering a change to its fishing regulations to make muskies catch-and-release only. I hope the proposal is approved soon. My own state, Iowa, currently has a 40 inch minimum on muskies. I believe this minimum is too low and would support catch-and-release muskie fishing in Iowa as well. Adult muskies are at the top of the predator-prey pyramid. As such, they are relatively scarce and are, therefore, trophies when caught. And although catch-and-release fishing ethic is widely practiced today in bass fishing, the roots of catch-and-release fishing can be traced to efforts by Muskies, Inc. in the 1970's. Over the past 40 years, Muskies, Inc. members have successfully caught and released over 395,000 muskies. Each of the muskies released helped maintain predator-prey balance and were available to be caught again by other anglers. Muskies, Inc. records contain numerous instances of uniquely colored muskies being later

caught, recognized, and released again. Anglers for walleyes and perch frequently complain that the muskies are eating all of “their” fish. I have read a lot of studies showing that muskies have a minimal impact upon walleye and perch numbers. Additionally, research indicates muskies contribute to larger walleyes and perch by helping reduce the competition those fish have. My own observation on lakes in Iowa is that more large predator fish are needed to help prevent stunted perch and reduce the number of yellow bass. Again, I encourage the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission to approve the catch-and-release proposal for muskies.”

Brett Waldera, West Fargo, ND, emailed, “To whom it may concern, I am writing to support the proposal for the Catch and Release only season for muskellunge in South Dakota. I am a non-resident who has been specifically fishing for muskies in SD since 2002. I live in West Fargo, ND but travel to fish in SD for muskie fishing a few times a year in May on Lynn Lake or Amsden Dam. Last spring I had a group of 12 guys planning to go to Lynn Lake for a weekend until the non-meandering water issue hit and we had to unfortunately cancel our trip. I often spend hundreds of dollars during my trips in SD for lodging, gas, and food. I am a multi-species fisherman who fishes for Perch, Smallmouth Bass, Pike, and Walleyes also in South Dakota. I know that this proposal will not have any adverse effects on other fish species due to the natural low density management of muskies. I hope the proposal passes and I can continue to spend time enjoying the trophy muskie fishing opportunities that SD has to offer. Thanks,”

Gary Rutherford, Pengilly, MN, emailed, “Dear Commision Members, I am a past local President of Muskie Inc. I was very excited to hear you are considering putting Your Muskies on a catch & release only. I wish all the State with Muskie would head in that direction. Thanks for your time.”

Comment continue on the following page

We the undersigned support increasing the minimum length limit to take muskellunge and northern-muskellunge in South Dakota from 40 inches, to a statewide catch-and-release.

This petition will be sent to the SDGFP Commission and will be made available to the public.

	Printed Signature	Signature	City, State
1.	Taylor Anderson	Taylor Anderson	Groton, SD
2.	T.J. Johnson	T.J. Johnson	Groton SD
3.	Nathan Trostke	Nathan Trostke	Turton SD
4.	Blake Jeschke	Blake Jeschke	Aberdeen SD
5.	mark Ellingson	mark Ellingson	Britton SD
6.	Andrew Schuster	Andrew Schuster	Eden SD
7.	Sam Strickland	Sam Strickland	Verde, S.D.
8.	Daniel E. Pass	Daniel E. Pass	Eden, S.D.
9.	Travis Pass	Travis Pass	Eden SD
10.	Justin Manson	Justin Manson	Lagford SD
11.	Max Stoffachung	Max Stoffachung	Aberdeen SD
12.	ody Tolustud	ody Tolustud	Mellott, SD
13.	Doug Sombke	Doug Sombke	Groton, S.D.
14.	Chad Weizhaue	Chad Weizhaue	Aberdeen S.D.
15.	Brad Jones	Brad Jones	Britton S.D.
16.	Greg Sombke	Greg Sombke	Conde, S.D.
17.	Bryan Sombke	Bryan Sombke	Conde, SD
18.	Nathan Hadler	Nathan Hadler	Tasewich, SD
19.	JEFFREY A. CLARK	JEFFREY A. CLARK	Verde, SD
20.	Kevin Pitzl	Kevin Pitzl	Eden, SD
21.	DAN Summe	DAN Summe	Groton SD
22.	Shane Klein	Shane Klein	Verde, SD
23.	Andrea Klein	Andrea Klein	Verde, SD
24.	Chris Osterkamp	Chris Osterkamp	Northville, S.D.
25.	Michael Loeb	Michael Loeb	Aberdeen, SD
26.	Ryan C. Patterson	Ryan C. Patterson	Britton, SD
27.	Alan Schuster	Alan Schuster	Postville SD
28.	Ronald Anderson	Ronald Anderson	Groton SD
29.	Justin Toole	Justin Toole	Aberdeen, SD
30.	Barry Winkler	Barry Winkler	Aberdeen, SD
31.	Andy Johnson	Andy Johnson	Aberdeen, SD
32.	Michael Babcock	Michael Babcock	Aberdeen, SD
33.	MARK A. Bledsoe	MARK A. Bledsoe	Aberdeen, SD
34.	Tony Skette	Tony Skette	Mina SD
35.	Britton Sutton	Britton Sutton	Aberdeen, SD
36.	Gunnar Hanson	Gunnar Hanson	Groton, SD
37.	Carleen Johnson	Carleen Johnson	Ferney, SD
38.	London Jung	London Jung	Aberdeen, SD

We the undersigned support increasing the minimum length limit to take muskellunge and northern-muskellunge in South Dakota from 40 inches, to a statewide catch-and-release.

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39.	Matthew Kiefer	Matthew Kiefer	Aberdeen, SD
40.	Annas Smith	Annas Smith	Haupt SD
41.	Doug Bragg	Doug Bragg	Watertown SD
42.	Janet Bragg	Janet Bragg	Watertown SD
43.	Jacob P. Smith	Jacob P. Smith	Hazel, SD
44.	Cathy Smith	Cathy Smith	Hazel, SD
45.	Austin Clark	Austin Clark	Groton SD
46.	Michael Ewalt	Michael Ewalt	Groton SD
47.	Amber Sombke	Amber Sombke	Corde, SD
48.	Lee Forman	Lee Forman	Britton, SD
49.	Danny Michlitsch	Danny Michlitsch	Eden S.D.
50.	Nate Petersen	Nate Petersen	Northville SD
51.	Dana Dargatz	Dana Dargatz	Aberdeen SD
52.	Mitch Hanson	Mitch Hanson	Aberdeen SD
53.	Greg Petersen	Greg Petersen	Warner SD
54.	Ron Anderson	Ron Anderson	Groton SD
55.	Jonathan Weller	Jonathan Weller	Groton SD
56.	Dale Pitzl	Dale Pitzl	Eden S.D.
57.	Terry Sattler	Terry Sattler	Eden S.D.
58.	Charles Gray	Charles Gray	Valhalla SD
59.	BLANE STEINER	Blane Steiner	Lake City, SD
60.	Kallie Neether	Kallie Neether	Eden, SD
61.	Susan Heitmann	Susan Heitmann	Lake City, SD
62.	Larry N. Schuster	LARRY SCHUSTER	EDEN SD,
63.	Curtis Healy	Curtis Healy	Lake City, SD
64.	Ernest Schuster	Ernest Schuster	Busby SD
65.	Mark Johnson	Mark Johnson	Pierpont SD
66.	Audrey Johnson	Audrey Johnson	Pierpont SD
67.	Nest Bien	Nest Bien	Valhalla SD
68.	Robert Herley	Robert Herley	Butler S. Dak
69.	Rolland K. Kiefer	Rolland K. Kiefer	Britton S. Dak
70.	Kent Holler	Kent Holler	Pierpont SD
71.	TIM RONSHAUGEN	Tim Ronshaugen	PIERPONT SD
72.	JOHN SEVERSON	John Severson	PIERPONT SD
73.	Galen Jensen SR	Galen Jensen	Pierpont SD
74.	Marty Bucholz	Marty Bucholz	Pierpont SD
75.	Karen Bremman	Karen Bremman	Pierpont SD
76.	SARA Ronshaugen	Sara Ronshaugen	Pierpont, SD
77.	Ryan Quiggle	Ryan Quiggle	Groton, SD

We the undersigned support increasing the minimum length limit to take muskellunge and northern-muskellunge in South Dakota from 40 inches, to a statewide catch-and-release.

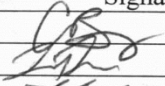
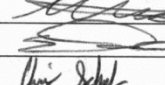
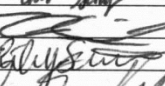
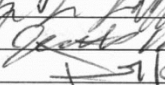
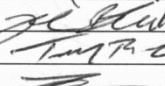
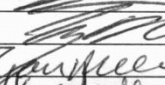
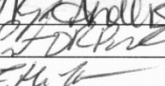
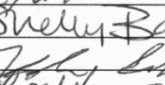
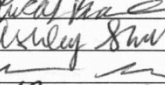
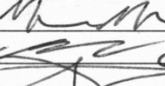
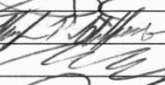
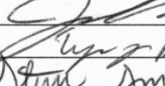
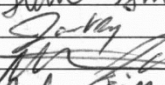
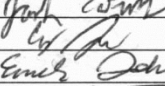
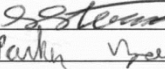




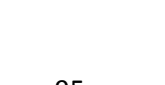
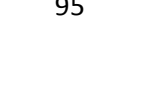

This petition will be sent to the SDGFP Commission and will be made available to the public.

78.	Scott Swanson	Scott Swanson	Aberdeen SD 57401
79.	Kevin Pitzl	Kevin Pitzl	Eden SD 57232
80.	Keith Pitzl	Keith Pitzl	Eden SD 57232
81.	Jeremy Schepsteg	Jeremy Schepsteg	Eden SD 57232
82.	John Huhgel	John Huhgel	Eden SD 57232
83.	John Huhgel	John Huhgel	Eden SD 57232
84.	Naman Steiner	Naman Steiner	Eden SD 57232
85.	Glen Steiner	Glen Steiner	Eden SD 57232
86.	James Michlitsch	James Michlitsch	Langford SD 57454
87.	Andrew Michlitsch	Andrew Michlitsch	Eden SD 57232
88.	Danny Michlitsch	Danny Michlitsch	Eden SD 57232
89.	Dan Michlitsch	Dan Michlitsch	Eden SD 57232
90.	Julie Michlitsch	Julie Michlitsch	Langford SD 57454
91.	John Hoop	John Hoop	Andover SD 57422
92.	Trudy Smith	Trudy Smith	Andover SD 57422
93.	Dale Henriksen	Dale Henriksen	Bristol SD 57219
94.	Tommy Hoops	Tommy Hoops	Pierpont SD 57468
95.	Barry Smith	Barry Smith	Andover SD 57422
96.	Carl Schwab	Carl Schwab	Andover SD 57422
97.	ROD HANSON	ROD HANSON	Ferne SD 57439
98.	Nicole K. Kotzer	Nicole K. Kotzer	Groton SD 57445
99.	Kevin RADK	Kevin RADK	Corde SD 57434
100.	Jeff Hurd	Jeff Hurd	Groton SD 57445
101.	Dalton Locke	Dalton Locke	Groton SD 57445
102.	Kasey Waage	Kasey Waage	Groton SD 57445
103.	Brett Anderson	Brett Anderson	Groton SD 57445
104.	Bruce Krueger	Bruce Krueger	Stratford SD 57474
105.	Scott Kampa	Scott Kampa	Groton SD 57445
106.	Nicole Kampa	Nicole Kampa	Bath SD 57427
107.	Myndi Kampa	Myndi Kampa	Groton SD 57445
108.	Darci Spanier	Darci Spanier	Groton SD 57445
109.	Bob Walen	Bob Walen	Groton SD 57445
110.	Roger Spanier	Roger Spanier	Groton SD 57445
111.	Mike Siegel	Mike Siegel	Groton SD 57445
112.	Brad Waage	Brad Waage	Groton SD 57445
113.	Rick Carlson	Rick Carlson	Groton SD 57445
114.	Douglas Jorgensen	Douglas Jorgensen	Groton SD 57445
115.	Chris Kresky	Chris Kresky	Bath SD 57427
116.	Brad Larson	Brad Larson	Groton SD 57445

117.	Karen Spanier	Karen Spanier	Groton SD 57445
118.	Ron Belden	Ron Belden	Groton SD 57445
119.	Randy Stanley	Randy Stanley	Groton SD 57445
120.	Shawn Lambeth	Shawn Lambeth	Groton SD 57445
121.	Spencer Locke	Spencer Locke	Groton SD
122.	Dixie Smith	Dixie Smith	Hazel SD 57242
123.	Doris Anderson	Doris Anderson	Groton SD 57445
124.	Laura Anderson	Laura Anderson	Groton SD 57445
125.			

We the undersigned support increasing the minimum length limit to take muskellunge and northern-muskellunge in South Dakota from 40 inches, to a statewide catch-and-release.

This petition will be sent to the SDGFP Commission and will be made available to the public.

	Printed Signature	Signature	City, State
1.	Casey Bawgarn		Webster SD
2.	Jason Becker		Groton, SD
3.	Alex Heesch		Watertown, SD
4.	DARREN EICHACKER		SIOUX FALLS, SD
5.	Chris Schaefer		Bryant, SD
6.	Zack Kirsch		Aberdeen, SD
7.	Riley Schott		Moabridg, SD
8.	Zach Hulse, Son		Brookings, SD
9.	Jerminal Pearl		Brookings, SD
10.	Daniel Bloom		Florence SD
11.	JOE Blake		SIoux Falls, SD
12.	Troy Berich		Sioux Falls, SD
13.	Lynn Nelson		Redfield SD
14.	Craig Evenson		Craig Clearlake, SD
15.	Evan McCleary		Aberdeen, SD
16.	Kayla Anderson		Scotland, SD
17.	Preston Pratt		Watertown, SD
18.	Ethan Herdahl		Howard, SD
19.	Shelby Bailey		Watertown, SD
20.	Kyle Schmetz		Miller SD
21.	Lucas Buechler		Doland SD
22.	Ashley Shultz		Roberts Hazel, SD
23.	Anna Misar		Hartford, SD
24.	Makenna Maldenald		Hartford, SD
25.	Chad Quasvold		Clark, SD
26.	Arthur Long		Watertown, SD
27.	Kyle Steffensen		Watertown, SD
28.	Steve Biteler		Harrisburg, SD
29.	Jacob Garkowski		Sioux Falls, SD
30.	Tyler Pringle		Sioux Falls, SD
31.	Steven Smith		Vankton, SD
32.	Jason Vilberg		Aberdeen SD
33.	Matt Pavel		Vankton, SD
34.	Josh Fields		Watertown, SD
35.	Wdy Jensen		Roslyn, SD
36.	Emily Johnson		Roslyn SD
37.	Snyder Stenrod		Watertown, SD
38.	Patkel Xmap		Watertown, SD

We the undersigned support increasing the minimum length limit to take muskellunge and northern-muskellunge in South Dakota from 40 inches, to a statewide catch-and-release.

This petition will be sent to the SDGFP Commission and will be made available to the public.

39.	Austin Block	Austin Block	Watertown, SD
40.	Joshua Hoes	Joshua Hoes	Clear Lake SD
41.	Brandon Firth	Brandon Firth	Pollock SD
42.	Gage Schmidt	Gage Schmidt	Watertown, SD
43.	Brandon Thyne	Brandon Thyne	Watertown, SD
44.	Wesley Sudbeck	Wesley Sudbeck	Dinmont, SD
45.	James Bruns	James Bruns	Watertown, SD
46.	Austin Schwarz	Austin Schwarz	Bristol, SD
47.	Steve Tractner	Steve Tractner	Webster, SD
48.	Matt Harmel	Matt Harmel	Watertown, SD
49.	John Tractner	John Tractner	Webster, SD
50.	Marty Harmel	Marty Harmel	Watertown, SD
51.	Logan Martin	Logan Martin	Sioux Falls, SD
52.	Matt Selover	Matt Selover	Battle, SD
53.	Austin Hanson	Austin Hanson	Watertown, SD
54.	Jacob Kilman	Jacob Kilman	Sioux Falls, SD
55.	Tyler Valsky	Tyler Valsky	Watertown, SD
56.	Kris Konradi	Kris Konradi	Webster, SD
57.	Chris Wold	Chris Wold	Watertown, SD
58.	Ryan Briggs	Ryan Briggs	Wyn, SD
59.	Tiffany Binders	Tiffany Binders	Clear Lake, SD
60.	MATTHEW TRAUMGARN	MATTHEW TRAUMGARN	Webster, SD
61.	McGraw, Reed	McGraw, Reed	Clark, SD
62.	Tamir Muller	Tamir Muller	Mitchell, SD
63.	Austin Dutenhoeffer	Austin Dutenhoeffer	Gettysburg, SD
64.	Kurt Bies	Kurt Bies	Salem, SD
65.	Cody Becker	Cody Becker	Crofton, SD
66.	Guy Anok	Guy Anok	Hwy, SD
67.	Eric Lewis	Eric Lewis	Watertown, SD
68.	Patrick Brown	Patrick Brown	Watertown, SD
69.	JUST BRYANT	JUST BRYANT	Watertown, SD
70.	Philip Keller	Philip Keller	Watertown, SD
71.	Todd R. Wierstjes	Todd R. Wierstjes	Brookings, SD
72.	Corey W. Richardson	Corey W. Richardson	Brookings, SD
73.	Joe Aldenstam	Joe Aldenstam	Watertown, SD
74.	Beth Rame	Beth Rame	Watertown, SD
75.	Jamie Bachman	Jamie Bachman	Abundon, SD
76.	Darin Bus	Darin Bus	Madison, SD
77.	Jason Bain	Jason Bain	Brookings, SD

78.	Cory Rubenberg	Cory Rubenberg	Platte, SD
79.			

Recipient: GFP Commision

Letter: Greetings,

Changing the South Dakota Muskellunge minimum from 40" to catch and release only.

Name	Location	Date
Brad Sheridan	Groton, SD	2018-02-18
Chelsey Sheridan	Groton, SD	2018-02-19
Randy Fetherhuff	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-19
Adam Ehrk	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-19
Marisa Sundermeyer	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-19
Nathan Miller	Houghton, SD	2018-02-19
McKensey Konold	Clear Lake, SD	2018-02-19
Tony Konold	Clear Lake, SD	2018-02-19
Brett Herman	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-19
Shelby Schleusner	Lake Lillian, MN	2018-02-19
Douglas Yockey	Conde, SD	2018-02-19
Brendan Letsche	Roslyn, SD	2018-02-19
Jared Gauer	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-19
Daniel Morrow	Riverfalls, WI	2018-02-19
Timothy Kaiser	Brookings, SD	2018-02-19
Jamie Hintz	Clear Lake, SD	2018-02-19
Bryan Olson	Clark, SD	2018-02-19
Eric Garrett	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-19
Alexius Gallagher	Montevideo, MN	2018-02-19
Forsting Forsting	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20

Name	Location	Date
Craig Kolb	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Kari Ehrk	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Merisa Weigel	Omaha, NE	2018-02-20
Daniel Lopez	Bismarck, ND	2018-02-20
Andrew Buller	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Leah Morrow	La Crosse, WI	2018-02-20
Jeremy Nelson	US	2018-02-20
Ann Sheridan Kolb	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Hannah Morrow	Minneapolis, MN	2018-02-20
Kyle Maple	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Eleanore Fontenelle	Searsmont, ME	2018-02-20
Karen Wolter	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Jennifer Grenier	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Kenzie Morrow	Eau Claire, WI	2018-02-20
Jacob Stauber	Chisago City, MN	2018-02-20
Brandee Buro	Lamoure, ND	2018-02-20
Sophia Lucas	New Richmond, WI	2018-02-20
Brady Lacher	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Jamie Rossow	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Sammantha Hoyles	Brookings, SD	2018-02-20
Sarah Breitag	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Cassandra Kaup	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20

Name	Location	Date
Rick Shea	Clear Lake, SD	2018-02-20
Katie Moulsoff	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Wendell Niewenhuis	aberdeem, SD	2018-02-20
Grace Regan	Omaha, NE	2018-02-20
Stacy Lein	Saint Croix Falls, WI	2018-02-20
Nicole Jacobsen	Pierre, SD	2018-02-20
Brett Andrews	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Craig Oyler	Rapid City, SD	2018-02-20
Chad Schoffelman	Sioux Falls, SD	2018-02-20
Grant Gappa	Nicollet, MN	2018-02-20
Chris Daniels	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Eric Reisenweber	Sioux Falls, SD	2018-02-20
Robbi buller	Parker, SD	2018-02-20
Clint hay	Brookings, SD	2018-02-20
Daniel Morrison	Britton, SD	2018-02-20
Max Woodrich	Brookings, SD	2018-02-20
Alex Meland	US	2018-02-20
Kyle Pietig	Brandon, SD	2018-02-20
Tyler Wanttie	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Trevor Hanson	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Blair Andrews	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
ryan strugar	Perham, MN	2018-02-20

Name	Location	Date
Brady Will	Estelline, SD	2018-02-20
Cody Klein	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Karl Gaalaas	Grand Rapids, MN	2018-02-20
Bridget Nelson	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Justin Bailey	Keewatin, MN	2018-02-20
Ivan Hofer	Pella, IA	2018-02-20
Jeffrey Nelson	Parker, SD	2018-02-20
Michael Dallager	Watertown, SD	2018-02-20
Ann Sanger	Manchester, IA	2018-02-20
Riley Greenhoff	Sioux Falls, SD	2018-02-20
Chase Severson	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Jade Gauer	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Gabe Dutenhoeffer	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-20
Jessica Freeseaman	Minneapolis, MN	2018-02-20
Andy strugar	North st Paul, MN	2018-02-21
Nick Hickman	Minneapolis, MN	2018-02-21
Kory Kolb	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-21
James Havelaar	US	2018-02-21
Ella Harrison	US	2018-02-21
Abigail Mongan	US	2018-02-21
Ben Cunningham	Colorado Springs, CO	2018-02-21
Eric Weiszhaar	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-21

Name	Location	Date
Amanda McKnelly	Sioux Falls, SD	2018-02-21
Mike West	Saint Michael, MN	2018-02-21
Ms G	Newport News, VA	2018-02-21
Beau Baker	Sioux Falls, SD	2018-02-21
Mitch Hanson	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-21
Kylie Reiners	Papillion, NE	2018-02-22
Darcey Fetherhuff	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-22
Breanna Potter	Mandan, ND	2018-02-23
Tonya Howard	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-23
Justin Roemmick	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Julie Lee	US	2018-02-24
Stephanie Schneider	US	2018-02-24
Laura Russell	US	2018-02-24
nick estes	US	2018-02-24
Evelyn Ortiz	US	2018-02-24
Hanna Wilson	US	2018-02-24
Michelle Smith	US	2018-02-24
Philip Guerin	US	2018-02-24
Carrie Eipper	US	2018-02-24
Scott Shelton	US	2018-02-24
Rene Farlow	US	2018-02-24
Jeremiah Holman	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24

Name	Location	Date
Julie Malsom	Mina, SD	2018-02-24
Dennis Beusch	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Miquette Morehouse	US	2018-02-24
David Beckler	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
carrie hammer	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Mary Vance	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Brittney Bushman	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Joshua Cowan	Omaha, NE	2018-02-24
Kori Wieting	US	2018-02-24
Lisa Cavanaugh	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Clinton Lauseng	Watertown, SD	2018-02-24
Jason Unruh	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Jordan Kjellsen	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Diane Bird	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Kelly Sexton	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Brad Blobaum	Mina SD, SD	2018-02-24
Cheryl Carlson	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Steven Hamman	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Renee Berger	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-24
Toni Cady	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-25
Barb Miller	Houghton, SD	2018-02-25
Kari Maple	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-25

Name	Location	Date
Myron Haar	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-25
Patty Johnson	Frederick, SD	2018-02-25
Dennis Chasteen	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-25
mary Arndt	Aberdeen, SD	2018-02-25
Haydn Herman	Miller, SD	2018-02-25
Michael Schwingler	Wessington, SD	2018-02-25

The public Hearing concluded at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary