AGENDA
Game, Fish and Parks Commission

May 3-4, 2018
Custer State Park – Creekside Lodge
US HWY 16A, Custer, SD
Livestream link http://www.sd.net/home/

Governance 8:30 AM MT

Call to order 1:00 PM MT

Executive Session

Division of Administration

Action Items:

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approve Minutes of the April 2018 Meeting https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/meetings/apr2018minutes
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
4. License List Request

Information Items:

5. Resident Nonresident Discussion
6. Non-meandered Waters
   a. Reetz Agreement
   b. Recreation and Respect – Adopt a Lake
7. Fish and Wildlife Resources Summit
8. 100 Year of Tradition
9. Strategic Plan/Leadership Team Update

Petition

10. Youth and Mentored Deer Seasons

Proposals

11. Archery Deer Hunting Season
12. Mentored Hunter Restrictions
13. Maximum Size of Hunting Groups
14. Accompaniment While Hunting
15. Fur dealer License Application Requirements
16. Muzzleloading Rifle and Pistol Requirements
17. Bowhunter Education Requirement
18. Retention of Accrued Preference Points
19. Potential Adjustments to Snaring and Snare/Trap Marking Proposal from April Meeting
20. Hunting Requirement – Mandatory CWD Testing

This agenda is subject to change without prior notice.

Public Hearing 2:00 PM MT

Finalizations

21. East River Deer Hunting Season
22. West River Deer Hunting Season
23. Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Season
24. Archery Deer Hunting Season
25. Deer hunting Season Dates
26. Public Land Access Permits for Deer Hunting
27. Depredation Hunts
28. Apprentice Hunter Deer License
29. Custer State Park Non –Trophy Bison Harvest
30. Custer State Park Trophy Bison Harvest

Open Forum

Division of Parks and Recreation

Information Items:

31. Roy Lake Concession Prospectus Update
32. BOR Future Resource Management Plans
33. Mickelson Connector Trail
34. Parks Revenue and Camping Reservation Report

Division of Wildlife

Information Items:

35. Land-locked Public Lands
36. Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach and Education
37. Implementation of Amended Mentored Hunter program
38. Outdoor Campus West Shooting Sports Facility Development
39. Bighorn Sheep Workgroup Update
40. License Sales Update
41. Shikar Safaris Award

Solicitation of Agenda Items from Commissioners

Adjourn

Next meeting information:
June 7-8, 2018
Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center
1400 8th Avenue, Aberdeen, SD
GFP Commission Meeting Archives https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/4/

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
April 5-6, 2018

Chairman Barry Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. MT at GFP Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City, South Dakota. Commissioners Barry Jensen, Gary Jensen, Mary Anne Boyd, Cathy Petersen, Scott Phillips, Russell Olson and Douglas Sharp and approximately 100 public, staff, and media were present.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

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

Approval of Minutes

Chairman B Jensen called for any additions or corrections to the March 1-2, 2018 minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Phillips with second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1-2, 2018 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

No additional salary days were requested

License List Request

Chris Petersen, administration division director, presented a full fee licenses list request for West River Special Buck, West River Any Deer, West River Any Whitetail, and Black Hills Any Deer & Any Whitetail license holders for 2017 from Dakota Grey Ghost Chapter of Mule Deer Foundation of Sioux Falls, SD to be used to advertise notice of their first annual banquet.

Motioned by Olson, second by Peterson TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUESTS. Motion carried unanimously.

Black Hills and Badlands Tourism Association

Michelle Thomson, president/CEO of the Black Hills and Badlands Tourism Association welcomed the Commission to Rapid City and provided information on the Black Hills and Badland as vacation destination. She also shared videos they are currently using for marketing.

Nonmeandered Waters Update

Kevin Robling, special projects coordinator, informed the commission of implementation process as it has been 30 days since legislative session has passed. He stated letters were hand-delivered to landowners in regards to marking requirements for open waters as we transition from ice to open waters. To date 516 acres have been removed from the nonmeandered closure list while 4,500 acres remain closed. He is actively engaged with 6 different groups with hope to negotiate agreements.

Fish and Wildlife Resources Summit

Robling informed the Commission on the upcoming fish and wildlife resources summit to be held April 21, 2018 in Oacoma, SD. He explained 34 sportsmen and

sportswomen groups have been invited to listen, learn and share about key issues facing South Dakota's hunting, fishing and trapping resources. Challenge areas the group will focus on are sustainable habitat, public access, sustainable funding, recreation and respect and effective collective voice.

PETITION FOR RULE CHANGE

First Time Deer License

Janet Loux, petitioner, presented her reasons for asking the commission to propose a new type of deer license. Loux explained that she has been a Becoming an Outdoor Women (BOW) instructor and notices women are excited after completing the training and hunter safety course which take place in the fall past the license drawing deadlines. Newly certified hunters who are eager to hunt deer but are not eligible for a youth tag are forced to wait until the next year, where they must enter the lottery system and hope for the best. They can obviously apply for an antlerless tag in the following year. Loux thinks age should not be a factor in letting newly-certified hunters feed their newfound passion. The first time hunter tag should be state-wide for antlerless only deer for residents costing the same as a youth antlerless tag and only be available for those who have completed hunter safety in South Dakota that same year.

Loux noted she is open to withdrawing 4. Only those who have completed hunter safety in that same year are eligible 5. Only those who have completed hunter safety in South Dakota are eligible from her petition.

Peterson ask if there a reason to take away the hunt safe course.

Tony Leif, wildlife division director, noted that while the department promotes and encourages HuntSafe anyone 16 years of age and older are not required to complete the program, but do need to be with a responsible adult.

Loux amended her petition to remove 4. Only those who have completed hunter safety in that same year are eligible and 5. Only those who have completed hunter safety in South Dakota are eligible.

Phillips stated there are several hunting seasons such as pheasant hunting that do not require draws

Loux explained that newly certified hunters who are eager to hunt deer but are not eligible for a youth tag are forced to wait until the next year and that offering this tag would encourage big game hunting.

Motion by G. Jensen second by Petersen TO ADOPT THE PETITION AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSALS

Deer Hunting Season Dates

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, presented the recommended change for the 2018 east river deer hunting season

1. Adjust resident license numbers from no more than 21,085 one-tag and 5,250 two-tag licenses to no more than 20,900 one-tag and 5,250 two-tag licenses.
2. Create a new Limited Access Unit (Unit 59L) in Hughes and Sully counties limited to all Game Production, Corp of Engineer, and Park Recreation Area Lands north of Oahe Dam in Hughes County and west of US Hwy 1804 to Bush's Landing boat ramp in Sully County at 182nd St.; excluding the Spring Creek Recreation area (see map). This unit is all public land and landowner preference does not apply and hunters must obtain a free access permit to hunt archery, muzzleloader, youth or mentored youth as required on other Limited Access Units.
3. Eliminate Unit 59B (that potion of Sully County east of U.S. Highway 83).
4. Modify Unit 59A to include all of Sully except that portion within 59L.
5. Modify Unit 36A to include all of Hughes County excluding that portion within Unit 59L, Farm Island Recreation Area, LaFramboise Island, and the land from the entrance to Farm Island west through the city of Pierre.
6. Modify the antlerless-only deer hunting season dates from 9 days beginning on the Saturday after Christmas to be either:
    a) nine consecutive days beginning the Saturday following the 16th day of the East River deer season; OR
    b) beginning December 26 through January 1.

Olson inquired where people can go to get free access tags.

Switzer responded the tags can be obtained from the GFP licensing office in Ft. Pierre or online. He noted some are unlimited while others would require a draw.

Phillips noted the vast amount of public input received.

Peterson asked what the season would look life if the mid-December option was selected.

Kirschenmann, wildlife deputy director, explained the east river season begins November 17 and would run until December 2 for 2018. The antlerless would begin December 8 and run for nine consecutive days including two full weekends and conclude prior to the holidays.

Phillips said he is a proponent of earlier seasons and also thinks it is important for landowners to get the break between Christmas and New Years for landowners and Conservation Officers.

Olson explained he would prefer the other option as the Christmas break allows times for people to hunt when they have typically have time off. He said the break also gives animals a time to rest.

Motioned by Phillips, second by G. Jensen TO AMEND THE PROPOSAL SELECTING AN OPTION OF BEGINNING THE ANTLERLESS HUNTING DATES THE SATURDAY FOLLOWING THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF THE EAST RIVER DEER SEASON. Roll call vote: Boyd-yes; G. Jensen-yes; Olson- no; Peterson-no; Phillips – yes Sharp- yes; B. Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 5 yes votes and 2 no vote. Motion passes.

Motioned by Phillips, second by G. Jensen TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL SELECTING AN OPTION OF BEGINNING THE ANTLERLESS HUNTING DATES THE SATURDAY FOLLOWING THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF THE EAST RIVER DEER SEASON AMENDED. Motion carried.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the 2018 west river deer hunting season.

1. Reinstate the antlerless-only deer season hunting dates to be either:
   a) nine consecutive days beginning the Saturday following the 16th day of the East River deer season; OR
   b) beginning December 26 through January 1.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Phillips TO AMEND THE PROPOSAL SELECTING AN OPTION OF BEGINNING THE ANTLERLESS HUNTING DATES THE SATURDAY FOLLOWING SIXTEENTH DAY OF THE EAST RIVER DEER SEASON. Motion passes.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL SELECTING THE OPTION OF BEGINNING THE ANTLERLESS HUNTING DATES THE SATURDAY FOLLOWING THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF THE EAST RIVER DEER SEASON AS AMENDED. Motion carried.

Switzer presented the recommended change to the 2018 general muzzleloader deer hunting season.

1. For Unit MZD-LM1, close unit ERD-59L.
2. Both any deer and antlerless whitetail deer licenses are valid December 1 – January 1.

Motioned by G. Jensen, seconded by Olson TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE MUZZLELOADING DEER SEASON. Motion carried.

Archery Deer Hunting Season

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the 2018 archery deer hunting season

1. Allocate 40 resident and 4 nonresident free archery access permits for ERD-13L.
2. Allocate 80 resident and 7 nonresident free archery access permits for ERD-59L.
3. Allocate 40 resident and 4 nonresident free archery access permits for WRD-24B.
4. Allocate 40 resident and 4 nonresident free archery access permits for WRD-27L.
5. Allocate 250 resident and 20 nonresident free archery access permits for WRD-35L.
6. Archery access permits for limited access units are valid for the entire archery deer season outside the Black Hills deer hunting unit, except during the regular (16 day) West River and East River firearm seasons.
7. For Unit ARD-LM1, close unit ERD-59L.
8. Modify the season end date from January 15 to January 1.
9. Antlerless whitetail deer licenses are not valid after January 1.
10. Change the archery season end date for Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, and Waubay State Lake State Game Refuge from December 31 to January 1, except during the firearm deer seasons established for such refuges.

G. Jensen asked why the recommendation limits nonresidents proportionally to residents.

Kirschenmann explained the challenge is to determine the right number of licenses and allocation and to limit archery hunting on limited access units. He explained that staff looked at numbers for last 3-4 years looking forward with the traditional 8 percent allocation. He noted there is nothing that defines the 8 percent.

G. Jensen requested this portion of the proposal be postponed until May to be addressed with the limited access discussions.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Boyd TO APPROVE RECOMMENDED CHANGES 7-10, NOT PERTAINING TO ALLOCATION OF LICENSES, TO THE 2018 ARCHERY DEER HUNTING SEASON.

Kirschenmann also reminded the Commission a proposal was developed at the March meeting to end the Youth Deer hunting season on January 1. There is no action sheet within the booklet but this item is set to be addressed during the May Commission meeting.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the access permits required for specific deer hunting units and public land. The evaluation of hunter use and harvest data collected over previous years from hunters possessing a free access permit warrants a restriction on the number of the free access permits allocated to archery hunt Limited Access Units, etc. Limiting the number of free archery access permits will help meet the objectives of limiting hunting densities and providing a quality hunt on these specified public lands.

1. Require any resident and nonresident deer hunter possessing an archery deer license to obtain and possess a free access permit to hunt in the Black Hills as defined in ARSD 41:06:19:02. An unlimited number of free access permits may be issued.
2. Restrict the number of free archery access permits for West River Deer Units 24B, 27L, 35L and East River Deer Units 13L and 59L. The free archery access permit allocation will be specified in the Archery Deer Hunting Season administrative rule chapter.

Based on the discussions and the determination not to move forward with limiting access permits during the archery season for residents and nonresident on Limited Access Units, recommended change number 2 was removed.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ACCESS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS. Motion carried.

Switzer presented the recommended change in administrative action to allocate deer hunting licenses by unit.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Olson TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ALLOCATING DEER LICENSES. (Appendix A). Motion carried.

Pheasant Hunting Seasons

Switzer presented the requirements and restrictions of the 2018, 2019 and 2020 pheasant hunting season, youth pheasant hunting season and resident pheasant hunting season with no recommended changes.

Grouse, Partridge and Quail Hunting Seasons

Switzer presented the requirements and restrictions of the 2018, 2019 and 2020 grouse, partridge and quail hunting season with no recommended changes.

Dove, Crane, Crow and Snipe Hunting Seasons

Switzer presented the requirements and restrictions of the 2018, 2019 and 2020 mourning dove, sandhill crane, crow, and common snipe hunting season with no recommended changes.

Squirrel and Rabbit Hunting Seasons

Switzer presented the requirements and restrictions of the 2018, 2019 and 2020 tree squirrel and cottontail rabbit hunting seasons with no recommended changes.

Depredation Hunts

Keith Fisk, wildlife damage program administrator, presented the recommended changes to the depredation permits.

1. Modify the dates that big game species (excluding elk) depredation hunts may occur from December 1 to March 31, to August 15 to the following March 31.
2. Modify the dates that the pool of hunters is valid from December 1 to the following December 31 for all species.
3. Eliminate the $20 fee for elk depredation permits.

Fisk explained depredation hunts typically occur outside of traditional hunting seasons.

Fisk noted Landowners are eligible for permits if they experience documented big game depredation and are operating agricultural or grazing land in which a depredation hunt has been authorized. Any person is eligible to apply for an elk depredation permit, except persons who hold an elk hunting license from the current elk drawing. And any elk depredation permit holders would not lose any preference points they accumulated over the years; landowners who participate in a hunt would not lose their eligibility to apply for a license for the subsequent elk season.

Phillips inquired how much meat from depredations hunts were used for consumptions and what went to Feeding South Dakota.

Fisk responded in the past year near Belle Fourche River 100 tags were issued and all went meat went home hunters.

Motioned by Olson, seconded by G. Jensen TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO DEPREDATION PERMITS. Motion carried.

Custer State Park Non-Trophy Bison Harvest

Mark Hendrix, parks and recreation division staff specialist, presented the recommended change to adjust the Custer State Park non-trophy bison harvest from 47 days to 40 days beginning the first Monday in October instead of the last Monday. He explained this allows the non-trophy bison to be harvested as soon as they have been identified and sorted from the other sale animals in late September. And shortening the season will allow it to close before the trophy season begins.

Motioned by Sharp, seconded by Phillips TO APPROVED THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE CUSTER STATE PARK NON-TROPHY BISON HARVEST AS PRESENTED. Motion carried.

Custer State Park Trophy Bison Bull Harvest

Hendrix presented the recommended change to adjust the Custer State Park trophy bison harvest from 47 days to 61 days beginning the third Monday in November instead of the last Monday. He explained the 14-day season extension allows for more flexibility in scheduling the 3 days trophy hunts. Currently two hunters are scheduled each week. If a bull has not been harvest by the second day two hunters overlap. Our goal is to have 1 bison hunter in the park at a time to provide them with the best hunting opportunity.

Motioned by Boyd, second by Sharp TO APPROVED THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE CUSTER STATE PARK TROPHY BISON HARVEST AS PRESENTED.

Custer State Park Trophy and Non-Trophy Bison Harvest Fees

Matt Snyder, parks and recreation regional supervisor noted the fees for the Custer State Park trophy and non-trophy bison harvest with no recommended changes.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 2:07 p.m. and concluded at 3:27 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2018 and began at 8:05 a.m. and concluded at 8:06 a.m. on Friday, April 6, 2018. The minutes follow these Commission meeting minutes.

FINALIZATIONS

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.

Motion by G. Jensen, second by Peterson TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE 2018-2019 BLACK HILLS ELK HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried

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).

Motion by Sharp, second by Phillips TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE 2018-2019 ARCHERY ELK HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried.

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.

Motion by Phillips, second by Boyd TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE 2018-2019 PRAIRIE ELK HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried.

Switzer presented the recommended changes for the 2018-2019 Custer State Park any elk hunting seasons noting the changes to conform with the bull hunting opportunities for the remainder of the Black Hills.

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

Motion by Boyd, second by Sharp TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE 2018-2019 CUSTER STATE PARK ANY ELK HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried.

Switzer presented the recommended changes for the 2018-2019 Special 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 Lame Johnny Road, southeast on Lame 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

Motion by Peterson, second by G. Jensen TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE 2018-2019 SPECIAL CUSTER STATE PARK ANTLERLESS ELK HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried.

Switzer presented the administrative action to allocate licenses for the 2018-2019 Black Hills, archery, prairie and Custer State Park elk hunting seasons

Motion by G. Jensen, second by Peterson TO FINALIZE THE 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.

Landowner Preference Eligibility Requirements

Switzer presented the recommended changes to landowner preference for elk hunting license

1. Change the minimum size from 240 acres to 1,000 acres for land within an elk unit which has had at least 500 days of elk use OR any amount of privately owned/operated land with over 2,000 elk use days.
2. Eliminate the need for a written agreement for an agricultural lease.
3. Applicant must physically live on the farm or ranch, or within 60 miles of such eligible land.
4. For legal entities, remove the 160 acres or more land size requirement to no less than the minimum number of acres as described under the elk application requirement rule.
5. Remove the ability for a landowner or tenant to claim landowner preference for same qualifying property.

John Kanta, wildlife regional terrestrial resourcessupervisor, presented land ownership statistics for each elk hunting season by unit. He also presented elk landowner preference statistics identifying success rates for each elk season for 2009-2016.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Olson TO REJECT THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ELIGIBILTIY FOR LANDOWNER PREFERENCE FOR ELK HUNTING LICENSE. 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.

Mark DeVries, SD Stockgrowers Association, spoke in regards to the fish and wildlife resources summit. Stated he thought it was agencies from other states meeting. Not sure who is on the invite list sounds like a good meeting. DeVries would like to attend representing the Stockgrowers Association. He recommends a meeting with GFP, Ag organizations and landowner groups.

Robling responded the current list of 34 represents sportsmen and women groups. Currently no landowner groups are included but the department is looking at putting together a landowner summit.

Hepler explained the intent of the fish and wildlife resources summit is to discuss and spend time with the department's traditional organizations and discuss items unique to this group. He stated landowners are important and the department will have separate conversation with preserve operators as well. The plan is initial conversations with each group then work to bring these groups together like a habitat summit.

De Vries responded that when the time comes and the topic is appropriate he would like to get together and move the conversation forward.

Jeff Johnson, Gregory, SD spoke in regards to late season doe hunting. Preserve operator support the doe season and mentor season and commends the Commission on their efforts. He read the 5 year pheasant plan and it needs some emphasis on predator control.

Ross Swedeen, Rapid City, SD spoke in regards to the deer focus groups. He participated in the meeting and found some numbers very interesting. He took the average number of people that apply for more than one tag and with simple mathematics to divide by 3 it makes success rates go from 51 percent West River to 94 percent. This still provides opportunity to draw multiple tags and get multiple units. Hard to draw units are still difficult to receive tags. He noted one of these changes only eliminates the possibly of a person drawing multiple first choice licenses in a year. This also eliminates the odds of drawing multiple first draw tags in a year.

Dana Rogers, SD Bowhunters and Big Game Coalition, fourth generation east river landowner and small landowner in the Black Hills. Greatly appreciate the work done by GFP staff on deer archery season like seeing all units close January 1st and limited access unit caps for residents and nonresidents good when people are waiting for tags. Noted Black Hills does not have limited access units yet and things that you

will see an unlimited number of nonresident archers go to the Black Hills and Missouri River. Would like to see a cap on nonresident archery permits at 8 percent or in limited access units. Also would like to know how limited access units will be enforced. Feels that all land-locked public lands should have at least one access point even if only by foot.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Custer State Park Private Cabin Lease Transfer

Matt Snyder, parks and recreation regional supervisor, presented resolution 18-03 requesting transfer of a private cabin located in Custer State Park to a family member who is a frequent user of the cabin. The owners are aware that all leases expire in 2029 per court settlement. At that time the owner can remove their cabin or it will become property of the state. Snyder said there are approximately 35 private cabins in Custer State Park.

Motioned by Sharp with second by Olson TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 18-03 (Appendix C) as presented Motion carried unanimously.

Helmsley Charitable Trust Grant

Katie Ceroll, parks and recreation division director, updated the Commission on the $1.8 million grant recently awarded to the Custer State Park to assist with efforts rehabilitate the park and to mitigate the impact of the devasting Legion Lake fire from the Helmsley Charitable Trust

Snyder explained the funds will be used for erosion control such as tree planting and air seeding, stream rehabilitation as well as weed control by ground and air spraying and sediment control. He said they are also doing salvage logging with 8,000 acres contracted out.

BOR Future Resource Management Plans

Will be presented at a future meeting

Mickelson Connector Trail EIS Update

Ceroll provided some history on the Mickelson connecter trail and discussed feasibility of alternatives. She they will continue with surveys through month of June with EIS out for comment late September early November. Parks staff will be present at the May meeting with staff from the US Forest Service for an in-depth discussion and map.

Parks Revenue Report

Bob Schneider, parks and recreation assistant director, provided the year to date revenue report by item as well as the breakout of district revenue indicating an increase of 7 percent. Schneider noted the decrease in 7 day Custer State Park passes is due to weather and roads shut down for logging, but they expect it to increase as the weather warms up. He also explained the camping services increase is due to the fee increase.

B. Jensen asked what the impact Custer State Park will see due to the fire for the upcoming summer.

Schneider said it is early, but revenue by district show an increase of 4 percent as people are making reservations.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Threatened and Endangered Species Status Report

Kirschenmann provided the Commission an update on the Threatened and Endangered Species Status Report. He explained that it should be consider a working document with adjustments being made as necessary. He then asked for their adoption similar to management plans. He noted these species are state listed threatened and endangered species and that some may also be on the national list.

Switzer stated the recommendation to go through process every two years.

B. Jensen how determinations are made.

Kirschenmann explained how this report gives us the opportunity to establish criteria. He noted state listed species require commission action to add or remove species from the list.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Olson TO APPROVE THE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES STATUS REPORT

Snaring on Game Production Areas

Fisk provided an update in regards to snaring restrictions on public lands specifically noting requirement to set devices and dates in which snares are not permitted on public lands or road right-of-ways. He also provided date restriction and tagging requirements for surrounding states and types and approximate acres of public lands open to trapping in South Dakota.

G. Jensen recommended changes to the current restrictions as follows allowing for a 60 day comment period with final action taken at the June meeting.

1. For all public lands and improved road rights-of-way east of the Missouri River, extend the existing prohibition on the use of snares to run through the last day of the pheasant season.

2. For all public lands and improved road rights-of-way west of the Missouri River, remove the dates that restrict use of snares and allow snares to be used year-round.

3. Create a new administrative rule which requires all traps and snares placed on public lands and improved road rights-of-way, statewide, to be marked with the owner's name and address or personal identification number. The Department will generate and issue one unique personal identification number to each individual.

Motioned by G. Jensen, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO USE OF SNARES ON PUBLIC LAND AS PRESENTED. Motion carried.

Land-locked Public Lands

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

Bighorn Sheep Workgroup

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

Outdoor Campus West Shooting Sports Facility Development

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

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

Adjourn
Motioned by Petersen, second by Olson TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Appendix A

Deer Hunting Season – Hunting Unit License Allocations

2018 East River Deer

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident Licenses							
		AnyD	AtlD	AD+AtlD	2 AtlD	AnyW	AtlW	AW+AtlW	2 AtlW
		01	03	08	09	11	13	18	19
01A	Minnehaha	450	100						
03A	Brown	1,100	1,300						
04A	Beadle					500	100		
05A	Codington	250							
06A	Brookings	450	100						
07A	Yankton	250							
07B	Yankton		75						
08A	Davison					200			
10A	Aurora					350	200		
12A	Bon Homme	150							
12B	Bon Homme						50		
13A	Brule	100				600		200	
13L	Brule	20							
14A	Buffalo	100						250	
16A	Campbell	20				400	300		
17A	Charles Mix	100				150			
18A	Clark	600							
19A	Clay	200							
22A	Day	600							
23A	Deuel	400							
25A	Douglas					150			
26A	Edmunds			700	600				
28A	Faulk			600	800				
29A	Grant	300							
32A	Hamlin	600							
33A	Hand	20				450	400		
34A	Hanson					200			
36A	Hughes	150				250	175		
37A	Hutchinson					100			
38A	Hyde	20						500	200
40A	Jerauld					350	200		
42A	Kingsbury	500	100						
43A	Lake	300	100						
44A	Lincoln	200	50						
46A	McCook	350	100						
47A	McPherson	500			500				
48A	Marshall	500							
51A	Miner	400	350						
52A	Moody	350	100						
54A	Potter	150						500	400
55A	Roberts	500							
56A	Sanborn					350	200		
57A	Spink	900	400						
59A	Sully	80				500	150		
59L	Sully	40							
61A	Turner	100							
62A	Union	250	50						
63A	Walworth	50				400	300		
	TOTAL	**11,050**	**2,825**	**1,300**	**1,900**	**4,950**	**2,075**	**1,450**	**600**
Unit #	Unit Name	AnyD	AtlD	AD+AtlD	2 AtlD	AnyW	AtlW	AW+AtlW	2 AtlW
		01	03	08	09	11	13	18	19

East River Deer
2017 vs 2018 Comparison

Unit #	Unit Name	2017 Resident Licenses	2018 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2017 Resident Tags	2018 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
01A	Minnehaha	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
03A	Brown	2,400	2,400	0	0%	2,400	2,400	0	0%
04A	Beadle	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
05A	Codington	250	250	0	0%	250	250	0	0%
06A	Brookings	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
07A	Yankton	250	250	0	0%	250	250	0	0%
07B	Yankton	75	75	0	0%	75	75	0	0%
08A	Davison	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
10A	Aurora	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
12A	Bon Homme	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
12B	Bon Homme	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
13A	Brule	900	900	0	0%	1,100	1,100	0	0%
13L	Brule	20	20	0	0%	20	20	0	0%
14A	Buffalo	350	350	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
16A	Campbell	720	720	0	0%	720	720	0	0%
17A	Charles Mix	250	250	0	0%	250	250	0	0%
18A	Clark	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
19A	Clay	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
22A	Day	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
23A	Deuel	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
25A	Douglas	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
26A	Edmunds	1,300	1,300	0	0%	2,600	2,600	0	
28A	Faulk	1,400	1,400	0	0%	2,800	2,800	0	
29A	Grant	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
32A	Hamlin	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
33A	Hand	870	870	0	0%	870	870	0	0%
34A	Hanson	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
36A	**Hughes**	**600**	**575**	**-25**	**-4%**	**600**	**575**	**-25**	**-4%**
37A	Hutchinson	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
38A	Hyde	720	720	0	0%	1,420	1,420	0	0%
40A	Jerauld	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
42A	Kingsbury	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
43A	Lake	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
44A	Lincoln	250	250	0	0%	250	250	0	0%
46A	McCook	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
47A	McPherson	1,000	1,000	0	0%	1,500	1,500	0	0%
48A	Marshall	500	500	0	0%	500	500	0	0%
51A	Miner	750	750	0	0%	750	750	0	0%
52A	Moody	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
54A	Potter	1,050	1,050	0	0%	1,950	1,950	0	0%
55A	Roberts	500	500	0	0%	500	500	0	0%
56A	Sanborn	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
57A	Spink	1,300	1,300	0	0%	1,300	1,300	0	0%
59A	**Sully**	**450**	**730**	**280**	**62%**	**450**	**730**	**280**	**62%**
59L	**Sully**	**470**	**40**	**-430**	**-91%**	**470**	**40**	**-430**	**-91%**
61A	Turner	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
62A	Union	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
63A	Walworth	750	750	0	0%	750	750	0	0%
	TOTAL	**26,325**	**26,150**	**-175**	**-1%**	**31,575**	**31,400**	**-175**	**-1%**

Archery Deer Access Permits
2018

State Park or Hunting Unit	Number of Access Permits			
	Any Deer	Any Whitetail Deer	Antlerless Whitetail Deer	Total
Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve	5	0	25	30
Good Earth State Park	5	0	0	5
WRD-24B	0	40	0	40
WRD-27L	40	0	0	40
WRD-35L	250	0	0	250
ERD-13L	40	0	0	40
ERD-59L	80	0	0	80

*An additional 8% of the number of access permits for hunting units will be available to nonresidents.

2017 vs 2018 Comparison

Designated Area	Number of Access Permits			
	Any Deer	Any Whitetail Deer	Antlerless Whitetail Deer	Total
2017 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve	5	0	25	30
2018 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve	5	0	25	30
2017 Good Earth State Park	5	0	0	5
2018 Good Earth State Park	5	0	0	5
2017 WRD-24B	Unlimited			
2018 WRD-24B	0	40	0	40
2017 WRD-27L	Unlimited			
2018 WRD-27L	40	0	0	40
2017 WRD-35L	Unlimited			
2018 WRD-35L	250	0	0	250
2017 ERD-13L	Unlimited			
2018 ERD-13L	40	0	0	40
2017 ERD-59L	Unlimited			
2018 ERD-59L	80	0	0	80

*An additional 8% of the number of access permits for hunting units will be available to nonresidents.

Appendix B

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

2017

Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	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**
Contigency	**NA**	**230**	**230**

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

2018-2019

Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	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**
Contigency	**NA**	**140**	**140**

Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	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**

Appendix C

RESOLUTION 18-03

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has been advised that Martha Bennett is a joint owner of a cabin located in Custer State Park (Custer County) on property described as:

> The Oakes No. 2 in the SW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 20, Township 3 South, Range 6 East of the Black Hills Meridian, Custer County, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the property upon which the cabin is located is owned by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks and has been leased to Martha Bennett and other joint owners by permit by reason of a Stipulation of Settlement and Dismissal entered in Craft v. Wipf, Civil Action No. 85-5092, U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota, Western Division, and subsequent agreements and permits executed thereafter based on said Stipulation and Dismissal; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that Martha Bennett desires to and has transferred and assigned all of her joint interest in said cabin and cabin site permit to Ron Millett; and;

WHEREAS, the Commission has been requested to approve said Transfer and Assignment.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that in the event the Department receives an executed Agreement and Assignment of the cabin site permit and cabin and appurtenances located thereon and which further provides that said Assignee agrees to abide by all of the terms and conditions of the aforementioned Stipulation of Settlement and Dismissal and all subsequent agreements relative thereto, including but not limited to Cabin Site Permits, Addendums, and all agreements relative to establishing the lease or rental payments due the Department, then in that event, the Department is authorized to execute a Consent to the requested Assignment.

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission
March 5-6, 2018

The Public Hearing Officer Scott Simpson began the public hearing at 2:07 p.m. at GFP Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City, South Dakota with Commissioners Barry Jensen, Gary Jensen, Mary Anne Boyd, Cathy Petersen, Scott Phillips, Russell Olson 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. A second public hearing was held on March 6, 2018 beginning at 8:05 a.m. and concluding at 8:06 a.m. as no comments were received.

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

Jeff Kline, Newcastle, WY, ranches on SD/WY boarder. Landowner or leasing tenant who owns or leases 240 acres and has a minimum of 500 elk days per year would be eligible to apply for landowner elk license which would amount to 46 percent of the total permits for the hunt area and preference points should be awarded to landowners who do not draw a permit. Landowners or leasing tenants who own or lease 240 acres and has over 5000 elk days per year will authomatically receive an elk tag which they would have to harvest on the land they own or lease. In addition 8 percent of the tags would be designated to nonresidents and out of state landowners with 240 acres and 500 elk use days will be eligible for 4 percent of the nonresident tags with the remaining 46 percent available for residents. Need to get a handle on the elk population. Feels landowners should not have to sign contracts with GFP and that GFP should cover all depredation costs such as fixing fences because the elk bring money to the state.

Nathan Alexander, Hill City, SD- pass

Gary Brundage, Rapid City, SD CSP any elk season has a quality hunt and moving it back will take it ouf of the peak of the rut and allow three full weekends and complete before the other season opens. Research shows that by day four the herd will move out of the park.

Victor Alexander, Hill City, SD – pass

Jason Alexander, Hill City, SD pass

Landowner Preference Eligibility Requirements

Paul Schipke, Deadwood, SD owns 300 acres of forested land and had received landowner preference elk tags in the past. He disagrees with adding language requiring people to physically live on the land even though it doesn't affect him. Spoke in regards to managing forested lands and stated acreage is less important than the actual usage and most are managed by absentee landowners who do the best job managing their property.

Royce Huber, Custer SD, Fourth generation landowner operates 4,000 acres to support land and make a living. Focus on 300 acres in Custer County. Would like to address the most important negative effect which is potential sale of ag sale for

realestate development. He has been pressured to sell for development. Huber has wildlife and access to major highway. Ranchers and farmers are having a difficult time making a living on small acreages. The small ag lands are important in establishing the threshold to allow for ag landowners to apply for elk tags. Staff do not have responsiblitiy or time to manage the land for elk that is just on the 300 acres. There are at least 100 landowner with 240 acres and 500 use days and can use this data that can be obtained from GFP to show that 24,000 acres of private land is producing 50,000 acres for elk. It is important to recognize the value of landowners.

Matt Rippentrop, Hot Springs, SD spoke in opposition to the current landowner elk tag petition. In a two week period almost 75 landowner applicants were contacted and most did not know about this possible change. GFP staff did send some letters and agenda in regards to the petition and meeting.

Held two meetings 40 landowners who agreed need to have one voice and have a good relationship with GFP, sportsmen and women and conservation groups. These people decided to start the group South Dakota Landowners Supporting Wildlife. The group appreciates the effort that went into the elk management plan and the workgroups indicated no recommended change. Their three main meeting topics were 1. it is a privilege to apply for a landowner elk tag, but do not agree with this petition. 2. While the group understands the need to wait their turn they do not agree with being forces to sit out each year. 3. Would like an earlier notification perhaps by email blast when topics like this come up. He took time to call 13 states west of Mississippi river that have elk. This proposed change would make SD the most restricted tag. He indicated some states even allow for nonresident tags.

Terry Mayes, SD Wildlife Federation, Rapid City, SD, retired State Trooper for 31 years working hand in glove with GFP. Currently vice president of SD Wildlife Federation, on Camo Coalition board of directors and on Rapid City wildlife management board and involved with GFP over the last 20 years through boards and workgroups. Stated SD Wildlife Federation is opposed to increasing the acreage for landowners. Also any conversation around elk is land owner preference and should be heavily discussed. Mayes is a landowner and some land for paid hunting. Says this issues is about three things: fairness, optics and facts. Have never drawn a bull tag nor has son. Some landowners draw bull tags virtually every year. Feels landowner should always draw a tag, but not always a bull tag.

David Hall, Lead, SD, rancher who feels current proposal will create bunch of extra work and burden on tax payer dollars. Thinks all landowner depredation should be taken care of.

Don Hausle, Spearfish, SD operates small ranch. Says commissioners and staff have been up to see his operations. Began as dairy operations transitioned into cattle. In 2012 he lost about $3,000 worth of hay and 28-29 ton of forage based on 800 elk use days on 160 acres. Thanked GFP staff for their depredation assistance. He and his neighbors oppose this change.

Craig Brueske, Huron, owns land in elk unit 15. He spoke in opposition to the recommended change for landowner elk tag eligibility acreage minimum to 1,000 acres, 2,000 elk use days and requirement to live within 60 miles. Bruseke is in favor of the current state statute for landowner elk tags that requires a minimum of 240 acres and

500 elk use days noting current eligible landowners provide hunter opportunity and wildlife habitat.

Mark DeVries, SD Stockgrowers Associations, SD noted correspondence from his organizations executive director Sylvia Christiansen. They realize this is a petition and not a staff proposal. Current language addresses things adequately at this time. Willing and interested in being involved in this matter and future issues.

Andrew Scull, Rapid City, SD, thanked Commission for public services and commitment to conservation, wildlife and habitat. Spoke in opposition to the recommended change for landowner elk tag eligibility. Current system has been widely accepted by the majority of landowners in the black hills and creates good balance and increases hunter opportunity. The proposed changes increase odds for a small number of landowners. Landowners are considered major stakeholder and considered key components in 21 of the 54 objectives of the elk management plan. He also noted the need for private landowner to enter into conservation easements and the work GFP does in regards to abatement.

Jim Scull, Hill City, SD, noted email he sent. Spoke in opposition to the recommended change for landowner elk tag eligibility because it is not in the best interest of management. He is from the area and has purchased land for habitat by putting conservation easements on it. He thinks GFP has done a good job and elk management is a difficult job. Noted most people will not get the opportunity. Noted passionate people from the black hills are interested in wildlife, taking care of the land and retaining the black hills as we know it.

Nathan Alexander, Hill City, SD ranches 15 miles west of Hill City, SD has a tremendous amount of elk use on his property. He opposes the recommended change. Said every time he turns around elk hunters are asking where the elk are and sometimes goes with the hunter.

Pat Coy, Hill City, SD, had a ranch west of Hill City. Spoke in opposition to the recommended change noting his first concern is depredation. Coy says he does more to help people have a successful hunt and has always had a good relationship with GFP. He thinks tolerance could change relationships. He not just a ranches, but loves the elk. Says it's about fairness and relationships and if you take away 17 percent of the tags in unit 2 and we will be at your door.

Zane Brink, Rapid City, SD. Spoke in opposition to the recommended change. Said until yesterday he considered himself a landowner. Enjoy working the land and raising cattle, but not primary business. He own about 70 head of cattle and 70 head of elk and had to buy $10,000 of hay because of this. Agrees landowners are important, but didn't know about this until yesterday and requested better communication. He urged the commission to unanimously deny the change. .

Aaron Thompson, Spearfish Livestock Association, Spearfish, SD Said he opposes the petition. Feels 1,000 acres is a hurdle that group members cannot clear. Have heard from a lot of ranchers today, but have not heard from people who own these properties as investments. He noted the original intent and said the change doesn't serve the sportsmen of South Dakota. Untimely no matter what decision is made there will be people who do not get a tag that should and people who get a tag that should not. Need to address this issue now. We need to define what it means to be a landowner in the eyes of the department. Also need to define what the goals of the

landowner elk tags are. Who is the department behold to the sportsmen of South Dakota or the minority

Paula McInerney-Hall, Rapid City, SD spoke on behalf of her mother who has small ranching operation. Disagrees with the regulations that require you to live within a certain distance as there is not anyone within 25 miles and there is not anyone who runs an operations alone. They have working relationships with the snowmobile trails and good working relationship with staff who help fix fence that is damaged by snowmobiles and mostly elk. Said her father was a big supporter of elk habitat. And that for the money people invest they could all go purchase trophy hunts in New Mexico. State people do it because they want to be partners with the state and support habitat. As well as the symbol of relationships and it impacts not only wildlife, but trail system. Neighbors and people in the room are in support of the current structure and do not want this change and it is not supported by science.

Victor Alexander, Hill City, SD in addition to prior comments would like the people in the room to stand in opposition. These are the people who make the elk herd what it is in the black hills

Travis Bies, SD Landowners for Wildlife and Conservation, Fairburn, SD. Spoke in opposition to the recommend change. Says he lets a lot of people hunt and put forth a lot of time and expense. He recommended putting forth a time limit for further review.

Rick Soelzer, Piedmont, SD would like to reiterate positive comments made by landowners today.

John Gisi, Pringle, SD. Rescued land from development because buffalo and elk were there before he was and would like to continue to see them there.

Ben Raver, Custer, SD, as a fourth generation landowner his family has been stewards and caretakers of the land. He disagrees with the proposal and feels there is enough depredation to qualify.

Joe Raver, Custer, SD, requested the Commission deny the proposal.

Darrel Hohn, Deadwood, SD, opposes the change

Jeff Olson, Rapid City, SD, Black Hills Sportsman Club opposes the change

Robert Hunseker, Fairburn, SD – pass

Charles Nicholas, Spearfish, SD, tree farms of year and has never harvested an elk that was not on his own property. Opposes the recommended change.

John Mattson, Deadwood, SD spoke in opposition of the elk landowner preference eligibility requirements.

Russ Roberts, St. Onge, SD, landowner elk tags are not for sale because 240 acre minimum would allow you 120 elk hunts anywhere you wanted to in the United States.

Steve Hobart, SD, said one of the topics not discussed today that is very important is who feeds the elk. Private property has grass which is way more feed than the forest raises for grass.

GFP Commissioner Russel Olson provided comments from Senator Bob Ewing who could not attend. Ewing is in opposition of the petition. If passed it would jepordize the good will Secretary Hepler has brought forward throughout his term.

GFP Commissioner Barry Jensen noted petitioner Scott Phillips called and said he was unable to attend as he is calving.

GFP Commissioner Scott Phillips is a west river landowner has had several phone calls every day for the last two weeks. He noted this is a landowner issue and lots of email to the commission and comments are all from landowners. He also acknowledged the high level of courtesy and respect among the concerned individuals.

GFP Commissioner Cathy Peterson is an east river landowner/ farmer rancher and is very impressed with all with respect. She stated that all the commissioner here care for the land, farmers and ranchers that care for the land, conservationist and hunters. Noted how good people like this come forward to help in times of need as she has had with her health issues lately. She said this is a process regardless if the commission agrees or disagrees and thanked the attendees for their respect and passion.

Tara Kaiser emailed "Dear G, F & P Commissioners, I would like to comment on the landowner elk preference petition. I believe this petition will benefit landowners and non-land owners. Coming from a family of ranchers and farmers I know the struggle to raise cattle every year with the grass and hay provided. So when you add extra wild life such as elk and deer to the situation it makes for just that much more of a struggle. I believe this would benefit the sportsman and landowners with such high population of elk living on own their land on a day to day basis. Thank you for your time."

Rick Hanson, Spearfish, SD emailed "Dear Commissioner's I am writing you about my concerns for the proposed changes to the landowner elk tag. I am not a landowner but believe that this new proposal will only hinder the elk population in South Dakota. I know from the outside that it would look good to sportsmen, more tag opportunity but in the long run I have a few points that I would like you to consider. 1. First of all, I would like to say without conservationist landowners, we as South Dakotan's lose opportunity because they don't complain about these animals. Which would also help our population of elk grow. Allowing more hunting opportunity on public land. More elk = more opportunity. 2. I for one would like to see these conservationist landowner's that like to see elk, to have the opportunity for this tag. In turn this might slow the development of the Black Hills meadows that these elk feed on. For example, all you have to do is go north or south of Trails Head Lodge in the northern Black Hills to see the development of the meadows. I think this adds value to these meadows so they are not developed. 3. I don't see the difference in landowners, a ranch, a recreational use, or whatever type of owner you want to call it they are all landowners. There should be no distinction between either. As long as these landowners comply with the current guide lines, I don't see why we should change. 4. The landowners that are complaining do they get the depredation payments we as sportsmen pay in preference points? We went from five to ten dollars for a preference point and I would pay twenty dollars if it would help with landowner tolerance, we as sportsman volunteer to give this money for the privilege to get a point and have an opportunity to get an any elk tag in South Dakota. Are these landowners trying to monopolize the elk tags, then later petition for transfer of elk tags? 5. Elk tags are a privilege in SD and I understand that not all landowners are drawing their preferred tag. If this is the case, give the unlucky

landowner a preference point for the next year and then a cow tag for year they did not draw. 6. I know this is a proposal for just elk landowners but if you are going to change the requirements for elk I think you should consider change for all species, deer, antelope etc. As I stated before I do not see any reason to change the way land owner tags are given but it only seems fair to change all species if that is the direction you want to go. Thank you for your time,"

Jeanie R Harper, Oral, SD, emailed "I would like to comment on this petition As a sportsmen I believe it is only right we give our landowners every opportunity to a landowner tag if they so want it. Having been a landowner and knowing first hand what destruction just deer and antelope can do to a place I can't imagine what the landowners losses are a year with elk. Quite frankly, it's probably the least that could be done for them. I'm talking about the landowners who make their living on their places and not the ones who just come in buy a few acres to qualify them for landowner preference, pull a tag and live somewhere else the rest of the year. We all know this is not what the landowner tag was created for. So I ask of you to make the proper corrections and make this a better deal for the landowner. Remember they are the ones who make that place available for everyone to hunt."
David Hall, Lead, SD, emailed "Hello commissioners. I wanted to touch on a few concerns I had on the proposal that could change the land owner preference in the Black Hills. I am a land owner that has been lucky enough to be able to get an elk tag. The way it has been set up was a very clear cut way to know if you get it or not. Simple is good. The problem I see is that it could bring a burden on the state to know first if the total 2000 elk use days are really happening. How are they ever going to be able to know for sure. It looks like to me it is going to waste a lot more tax money, investigating these. The other thing with most landowners. Is we can't see our whole ranch at all times. So just what we can see is not all of the elk that are on our property. I don't really know what the state is trying to accomplish here for sure. Is it they are trying to put more tags in the pool or what. If so it could potentially go the other way. Instead of having a minimum acreage. They are dropping it. Which looks like to me they are quite possibly gaining more landowners. Which means extra work for GFP to investigate. My suggestion is leave it the same. Have a min acreage of 240 and if they feel better raising the elk days so be it. If the state is working on eliminating some landowner tags. Which is not a big cut out of the pool in the first place. I believe there is a total of 43 landowners. Some of which I believe are lessees. Cut the lessees tags. Land owners are critical for the elk population in the hills. If it wasn't for our bigger parcels of property the elk would have no place to hide. I'm afraid that if this is taken away from us the landowners. Properties may be developed. Making no place for the elk. I may be speaking out of the box, and don't really know if all landowners feel the same. But I don't expect or want to be paid for elk damages. I've never asked for anything except panels to protect hay yards. I like the elk and I take care of them, however I can. But if the only payback is taken away. That being an elk tag. Then I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask for elk damage payback. If that is in the form of fencing of money to help cattle grazing. Elk are hard on on our property. They wreck much more grass then they eat. Thank you for reading and I hope you are having a great Easter weekend. Thank you"

Bill Miller, Hot Springs, emailed "Dear Game, Fish and Park Commissioners, The days of buying an elk tag are here. All it takes is to purchase or lease 240 acres to get a landowner elk tag. As the current requirements for a landowner elk tag are being looked at, I would like to comment on some of the issues I see as a landowner who has been overrun with elk throughout the years. I have spent countless hours and dollars

rebuilding fences and buying feed for my livestock, so part of the agreement with Game, Fish & Parks was to be issued a landowner tag if I met all of the requirements handed down by GF & P. This included a set number of elk use days and a set number of acreage affected by the elk. In essence, it was a landowner depredation tag. Now it appears this is no longer the case. Now the landowner tag is given to the landowner who owns or leases the minimum number of acres. As a landowner who is attempting to maintain his livelihood by subsisting off his own property, it is very frustrating to see the elk damage and then not draw a tag, as this has happened in the past. Over the years, numerous sportsmen have been allowed onto my property in an attempt to alleviate some of the elk issues, which can be verified through your office. With the current rules, the people who have chosen to purchase or lease 240 acres of land can skip the sportsman draw and be basically guaranteed a tag, which is not fair to the sportsman or the landowners. The highly sought-after land simply drives up property taxes for those of us who are trying to make a living out here. Some of the so-called landowner elk tag holders in the past have gotten the tag, closed off their property to the sportsman hunters and turned their land into a sanctuary for the elk, which only hurts the true landowners who are reliant on their land and makes it more difficult for the sportsman to find a place to hunt. In closing, I would like to commend Game, Fish and Parks for their assistance to me with numerous panels, and partial compensation for building a stack yard. It is much appreciated and has helped immensely with keeping my livestock's feed away from the elk. However, I believe there is still room for improvements in the landowner elk tag policy."

Shirley Kingsbury, Piedmont, emailed "SDCommisioners; This change is very complex of what would really take place as far as the change would be. I don't see what advantages there would be to changing the existing rules. Please give this a concideral amount of thought because it will affect quite a few landowners that would not get a chance for a licence. Thank you for your time."

Mike Jarding, Hot Springs SD, emailed. I do not agree with the current petition on the landowner preference. I would like to see South Dakota Game Fish and Parks make this tag what it is, a "Landowner Conservation Tag". Not a hardship tag, or a depredation tag, or a tag for "experiencing negative impact from wildlife". Times have changed. Some SD residents now buy land to have the privilege to obtain an elk tag if they have enough elk use on it. This is a benefit to both wildlife, agriculture production, and sportsman. It keeps important habitat for wildlife and agriculture land from being subdivided. These landowners are also willing to mitigate impact to the few landowners who do not want elk on their land. Game Fish and Parks has provided monetary support, food plots, elk/deer fencing, etc. to agriculture producers who have "hardships" due to wildlife. "Tolerance" seems to have become a "No Tolerance" no matter what is given to them. Many landowners who have elk use on their land and qualify for a Landowner Conservation tag do not receive any supplies or money from Game Fish and Parks. These landowners who buy land for recreation and agriculture use do a tremendous work and spend thousands of dollars protecting their land and save crucial habitat for the wildlife. The reason why not all landowners draw the Landowner Conservation Tag is, there is a small minority of landowners who insist on lowering elk numbers which directly affects their tags and tags allocated for other hunters. Not long ago in unit 3-, 400 any elk tags were issued yearly, now we are down to 80 any elk tags because the elk population is so low.

Gerald Woodford, Custer, SD emailed "Attn: SD GF&P Commissioners I am a landowner and a tenant of leased agriculture land used for cattle grazing and have done this for the last 15 years in the Custer area in unit 2. I would like to share my concerns about the petition that has been submitted to SD GF&P Commissioners for the March 2018 meeting which would restrict landowner preference based on number of acres owned and or leased. I feel that what is currently in place is working and should not be changed. My family has owned various properties near Custer in unit two for 100 years that have always been used for raising cattle and hay crops. This should be a factor in being qualified for landowner-operator preference. There are few landowners with 1000 acres or more in current elk units. So if the minimum was to change are these landowners going to start charging for hunters to access their property. I manage over 500 acres and have allowed hunting on the property with permission. If the present minimum acreage changes to 1000 acres this property would not be available for access. I would hope that the GF&P Commission gives this petition little consideration as it is not benefitting the smaller land owners in the elk units. Thank you for your consideration on this issue."

Jim Scull, Hill City, SD, emailed "To the GFP Game Commissioners: I have spoken to some of you commissioner by phone, but didn't get through to all about my concerns with the proposed changes to the qualification of landowner elk tags. My position is these changes are not in the best interest of Elk Management in the Black Hills. They do not follow the recently completed Elk management plan which was rigorously vetted over a two year period. The system now in place has worked very well and you don't need fix something which is not broke. I have 320 acres of land west of Hill City in Unit H-2. I have an abundance of elk use days, perhaps in the range of 4000 to 5000 would be my estimate, but it is a little hard to determine when you have this kind of use. Consequently, the proposed petition changes would not effect my receiving an elk tag. However, I do not feel these changes would be in the best interest of elk management the GFP has been practicing for many years with pretty darn good success. Elk numbers are very near the maximum numbers desired based on landowner tolerance and available habitat as I understand it. Landowners, it seems after much contact and conversation, are pleased and tolerant of the elk numbers in all units except in the unit where the petitioner lives, Unit H-3. The petitioner has requested 4 major changes based on his observation. ***The first is to raise the acreage numbers from 240 acres to 1000 acres or 2000 elk use days. Where I reside, Unit H-2, which is the largest unit, holds the most elk by far and has the most tags, however the 1000 acre rule in Unit H-2 would leave 1 land owner in the pool unless you have 2000 elk use days. To the best of knowledge there is 1 landowner who has 1000 acres or more. In comparison Unit H-3 has somewhere between 30 to 50 landowners over 1000 acres. No one seems to know exactly at this time but pretty sure it is over 30 landowners. ***The second, Raising elk use days from 500 to 2000 elk days. It seems the petitioner is proposing this without any limit on amount of land acres. I would like to say it is no doubt possible to have 40 to 100 acres or something less than 240 acres of land with the right food plots and water sources to qualify under this scenario. I don't feel this would be good elk management for the Black Hills. The management plan is working well with the minimum 240 acre rule currently in place. Also, counting 500 elk days in most cases is an estimate at best and fairly easy to estimate by general herd size and local and habitat. It would just seem to me documenting 2000 elk use days would be much more challenging to certify and be effective. ***Third, Concerning living within 60 miles of the ranch. Data from the GFP records for the last five years shows only one unit has a zip code which shows a landowner tag holder living more than 60 miles away

from the unit. The only unit showing this condition is the petitioners unit, Unit H-3. No other unit has a single zip code outside the Black hills units. Unit H-3 shows a total of 10 times in the last five years that this has occurred. Hardly a problem in my eyes. ***Fourth, It is becoming harder for landowners to draw a landowner tag. Landowners are eligible for 50% of the tags in the pool, however GFP statistics show that only 17% of the total tags for the last two years have been issued to landowners. In the majority of units there is more than enough tags to meet the needs of landowners. Where there is too few landowner tags such as in the northern units, Unit H-9, these landowners collaborate to see that they fairly share the tags from year to year, knowing that it is never more than 1 in 3 years they don't have a tag. This is not a problem for these landowners as they understand elk numbers in this unit are not such that more tags are available. The only unit with a problem with number of tags for landowners is Unit H-3. This is a challenge for several reasons. First, landowner tolerance for elk has been less and as a result the elk numbers have been reduced according to tolerance and, second, in alignment with this, fewer tags are available for hunting. As a result, where there used to be 50 tags available for landowners, there now appears to be about 40 tags available for landowner preference. Unfortunately, there are 43 to 45 landowners requesting tags in this the last couple of years. This is a success rate of something over 85% each year for landowners. This would appear to be pretty darn good. This shouldn't be a problem particularly if they worked together a little, because their success is like 8 out of every 10 years. In conclusion this is a problem only in Unit H-3 and affects none of the other units in the Black Hills. In conclusion, the current system is working very well as it is. There appears to be no qualified reasoning to change this system. Perhaps you have to address some landowner challenges in unit H-3 but to realign the entire system to appease the needs of few doesn't seem reasonable. I urge you to reject this petition for changes."

Benjamin Brown, Pierre, SD, emailed "Dear SD GFP Commissioners, I don't support the petition, because I appreciate all the landowners that provide Hunter opportunity and wildlife habitat. Thanks"

Dalton Hall, Lead SD, emailed "To whome it may concern, First off thank you for taking the time to read my email. I am not in favor of the new proposition for a few reasons. I believe it will have an opposite effect on the amount of Landowners who will be applying. Since the minimum amount of acreage has been dropped to, no minimum acreage of privately owned land, then what is to stop literally anyone from applying for the landowner elk tag? Yes of course the applicant will need the 2,000 elk use days but its up to the GF&P to come and prove they didn't have the required amount of elk use days. The new proposition also states that a landowner is eligible for an elk tag as long as they are within the 60 miles of the property. I think this is a good idea except for the fact it does not exclude out of state landowners. Please see new proposition section 41:06:01:15 #1 Only a resident of the state may apply for a license; #2 EXCEPT for a qualifying landowner-operator applicant; These are contradicting statements, I think we all know that the GF&P did not want out of staters getting the tag but these statements are allowing them to apply. If the statement read, #2 Except for a qualifying landowner/operator applicant but must reside in the state of South Dakota; I believe this would cover all loopholes out of staters might try to jump through to get the elk tag. The idea of increasing the Elk use days to 2000 from 500 is a fine idea but if it had a minimum acreage attached to it like 160 or even just leaving it at 240 acres then it would be a great idea. This would eliminate, for example anyone that owns a 5 acre parcel next to town from applying for the landowner tag. Like I said before it's up to the

GF&P to prove these landowners wrong, and for the GF&P to prove them wrong they have to go out to the property in question walk around for hours literally looking for elk droppings. As a South Dakota tax payer I truly believe that our tax dollars could be used a little more efficiently than this. Finally if it is absolutely necessary to try and bring down the amount of Landowners who apply, maybe don't take the opportunity away from the actual landowners pull the landowner status away from the Lesees. Yes, I know this would be an absolute all out fight but it doesn't make sense to punish the actual Landowners. Especially since they are the ones who must deal with not only the wildlife tearing down the fences (I'm not saying the Leases don't deal with this, but generally it's the Lessors responsibility to have the fences taken care of) but also paying the taxes and dealing with the government on any matter regarding the land. The Lesees do not have to deal with this burden, typically. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to read over this and I would be happy to elaborate on any of the points I brought up if you have any questions whatsoever. Have a blessed Easter Sunday and a great week as well! Thank You."

Scott G. Phillips, Hot Springs, SD, emailed "Dear G, F & P Commissioners, I would like to comment on the landowner elk preference petition. I believe the intent for the landowner tags has become forgotten. Landowner tags were originally intended to help farmers and ranchers tolerate the elk destruction to fences, crops and grass, which they make their living off of. Many of these same landowners are now no longer receiving tags due to loopholes in qualifying for these tags. Our petition will not only help the landowners it originally was intended to help, but will also put more tags back into the hands of the sportsman. I realize this is not a 100% cure all, but I do believe it is a big step in the right direction. I also realize that there will be collateral damage on both sides, but possibly less with this proposal. Adopting this change rather than leaving it as is will help the farmers, ranchers and sportsman alike. I ask you please don't just put a Band-Aid on it by adding a few more tags. Let's fix the problem so this doesn't come up every year."

Craig Brueske, Huron, SD, emailed "I am a landowner in Prairie Elk unit 15. I am opposing the proposal from Scott Phillips in regards to his new changes for landowners currently eligible for elk tags with 240 acres minimum1 requirements along with all his other changes in the current policies. I spoke with the game warden who oversees my Prairie unit and he said probably none of the landowners there would even meet the proposed requirements. It would probably close our unit. We have been in this unit for 9 years and haven't heard a complaint or any problems associated with the current regulations and draws. While the rancher or farmer endures some wildlife conflicts and tags are part of compensation for that, landowners who buy land primarily for hunting usually make significant investments in habitat and reduced rent income that results in greater game populations that benefit us all and the landowner tags are beneficial. I fear that this type of thinking regarding the elk, if this proposal is adopted, could spill over to deer, antelope and turkeys. It would have a negative effect, no doubt, on hunter access to some private lands. It would seem foolish to potentially upset a large number of landowners to satisfy a few (or one). I think GFP should survey ALL landowners who have applied for an elk tag in the last several years to see if dissatisfaction runs beyond just a few. It works now, why change it? In closing, we own 320 acres because we wanted to be able to hunt elk on our own property. Should we not meet the requirement for land owner tags, we would not let other elk hunters have the access to our property as we allow at the present time. We feel that we would not be the only ones denying

hunting access. I am willing to visit or attend any meetings, if needed, to oppose any changes to the current policy."

Mike Welu, Hill City, SD emailed "SD GF&P commissioners, The proponents of the changes to qualifications for land owner elk tags seem to believe that the sole purpose for landowner tags is to compensate agricultural users. Perhaps I am wrong, but I do not believe this is the sole purpose to allocate tags to landowners. The GF& P maintains programs to compensate agriculture landowners through Food plot, Hayland, and Protective Stackyards compensation. I have always believed that landowner tags are available to landowners due to the landowners providing the necessary habitat that maintains the wildlife in this state. Elk do not care what the main source of income is of the landowner when they graze, water and bed on private lands. Therefore, source of income should be irrelevant when issuing land owner tags. The current proposal for a minimum of 1,000 acres to qualify for landowner tags eliminates all but a handful of large ranches. I would argue that 250 acres of well maintained habitat that provides food water and shelter for the elk is more valuable than 1,000 acres that has been grazed by cattle to near bear dirt. Especially in the Black Hills, private ownership of land tracts less than 1,000 acres that are maintained with wildlife habitat as part of the land management plan, saves these parcels from subdivision and development. Changing the minimum acreage to qualify will greatly reduce the incentive to protect these properties from development. An additional benefit of landowner tags is to establish a good working relationship between GF&P and private landowners. Issuing landowner tags paves the way for cooperation of the landowner and decreases opportunities for conflict. Landowners who receive tags are more willing to allow others to hunt on their private lands, opening opportunities for other hunters. Currently, the elk use days requirement is set at 500 per year. This is more of a yes/no decision. Any common-sense person can walk a property and determine if elk use the property on a regular basis, therefore meeting the requirement. If elk use days are set at 2,000, the local game warden is put into a very difficult position and conflict with landowners will be inevitable. What will happen if a game warden tells a landowner he only thinks they get 1500 elk use days a year and do not qualify? Conversely, what will happen if a game warden determines a property receives over 2,000 elk use days, while another property owner in the same unit that did not qualify disagrees with that assessment? Conflicts with landowners will be inevitable. Those that proposed the changes to landowner qualification appear to be motivated by jealousy and greed. Their proposal eliminates all but themselves and a few other landowners from this program. The current system rewards landowners who provide habitat that sustains the elk herd. Please do not fix what is not broken ."

Chris Cooper, Custer, SD, emailed "Good afternoon, My name is Chris Cooper and I am a Landowner in the area that is being discussed by Mr. Phillips. Although I was not able to attend the initial meeting I have listened to the recorded session. The conversation brings me to a few comments and questions. If the request is to truly change the landowner tag to ranchers that make their living off of the ranch, let me be very clear. My family operates approximately 390 acres in this area which is NOT enough land to make a living. However I hold down a full time job as well as running 35 head of cows and bulls and cutting and baling our pasture ground and hay fields. I would like for you to rest assured that I work every bit as hard if not harder than Mr. Phillips at making my ranch a success. I am restricted to the heard size as I do not have the opportunity to obtain government lease land to graze in the summer months. These leases are held by the larger ranchers in the area and are not available to those of us

considered by Mr. Phillips as not making a living off of our land. If the comment is true about his property damage (fences) by the elk herd is true then I would suggest rather than make the requested change (that may or may not have any effect on his property damage)he works with the GF & P for a better solution. One that comes to mind would be for the GF & P to approve 10 additional cow tags for sale of which would be only good for his property. This would reduce the heard size which is directly affecting his property. The GF & P have had great programs in the past and present to help landowners ie: aluminum cables for the top wire of fences, hay pen assistance for materials and crop damage funding are three methods that I am aware of. I manage a small herd of cows and I have property in the area where elk frequent our pastures and hay fields. I know for a fact that I have more damage to my fences and pastures by far from open range cow herds than I do from the elk herd. I don't come asking for help from the forest service or GF & P, I simply work closely with my neighbors and fellow rancher friends. One of the benefits that I receive for owning land and working at making my (smaller) ranch a success is a landowner elk tag. I intend to purchase more land as I can afford it but not to obtain an elk license. In my area land is listed for $3000 to $4000 dollars an acre. I have never heard or suspected that anyone is buying 250 acres of land for $750,000 in an effort to obtain an elk license. It could happen but I think it would be a rare occurrence. I think that pursuit of this change will impact the landowner relationship with hunters asking for trespass rights in the future. Also I think there are better solutions to Mr. Phillips elk problems than just changing a few landowner tags, and that would be work with the GF &P and neighbors rather that the elimination of a few property owners. Whether the requested change affects my landowner elk license rights or not, I hope that the commission put a lot of thought into their decision. This situation stirs up emotions and attitudes from both sides of the situation. The residents of South Dakota, GF & P, Forest Service, landowners, hunters, and yes even the elk will be impacted by the decisions you make. Thank you for your consideration and time"

Craig A Brueske, Huron SD, emailed, "Hello South Dakota Game, Fish & Park Commissioners This is our petition to oppose the filed petition by Scott Phillips brought to your board of SD Game, Fish and Parks Commission on March 1st, 2018. That proposal wanted to change the land owner elk eligibility laws. We, the undersigned, do hereby acknowledge to keep the current state statutes. Please find attached 28 pages with 522 signatures and best we can tell there are 75 current landowner elk tag qualifiers that signed the petition, which does not include counting their family members. Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate all that you do for South Dakota."

Gary C. Brundige, Rapid City, SD, emailed "Greetings from the Black Hills, I'm contacting you in the official capacity of an interested citizen and sportsman. This is in regard to the modification of CSP Any Elk season proposed at the March meeting. The Any Elk season in CSP opened on the 3rd Saturday in September and ran for 16 days, giving the hunters 3 weekends. This timing puts the hunt over the peak of the rut, giving the hunters the opportunity to get out early while the big bulls were staging, establishing dominance and starting to gather harems. This means they were much more responsive to a bugle. I believe that is what makes this hunt the premier elk hunt in the state, and justifies the premium paid. As the season progresses, and the herd bulls have their harems they are harder to bring to a call. In 2018, the proposal will move the season back 2 weeks to 1 October, missing the peak period of working a trophy bull with a bugle. I have 24 preferences for the hunt and maybe your new cube formula will benefit

me. I would be disappointed to miss the opportunity to hunt the early part of the rut if I'm lucky enough to draw a tag some year. While it is a wonderful opportunity to hunt elk in SD, moving the rifle elk season in CSP back to Oct 1 would depreciate this unique high quality hunting opportunity. A little history, beginning in the early '60s elk hunting in CSP was the only game in town. The early hunts were guided by park personnel. In the '80s when I was doing my Master's in CSP elk hunts were no longer guided but elk hunting was still limited to CSP. When I returned as the CSP Biologist in '91 there was the Any Elk season (16 days beginning the 3rd Sat in Sept), Late Archery Elk (23 days beginning on the 3rd Sat in Nov), and the brand new Early Archery Elk (Sept 1 through the Friday before the Any Elk). The population was growing and beginning in '94 we added the Antlerless Elk season as a mechanism to control population growth. This season evolved as the population continued to grow and we needed additional harvest. The formula we established in the 1995-2010 Resource Management Plan was Early archery would have 20% of the number of tags available for the Any Elk season and the late Archery season 120% (in '95 there were 8 early archery, 40 any elk, and 50 late archery). The number of tags for the any season were based off the information we collected from 3 annual fall helicopter surveys (composition data) and 3 annual winter helicopter surveys (population size). We used this field data to make science based recommendations on the number of licenses we would issue for each of the seasons to soundly manage the population in harmony with the grazing model and other wildlife populations in the park. While all this was going on we were conducting elk research in CSP (Josh Millspaugh did his Master's and PhD in the park from '93 - '99). One thing we learned early on was the sensitivity of elk to human disturbance. We documented movement out of the park as a result of as few as 8-10 late archery elk hunters pressuring them. We knew that when elk left CSP, they moved east to private land, and landowner tolerance in Unit 4 was a significant issue. We initiated the CSP/Unit 4 landowner annual meetings in cooperation with DOW in the mid 1990's to address this issue. Knowing disturbance was an issue, we nestled the Antlerless Elk season in amongst the other fall seasons, and we split the antlerless season into 2 units in order to limit the number of hunters afield at any one time. This was an attempt to limit the disturbance below a threshold that would push the elk out of the park. By 2000 we had approximately 1,200 elk in CSP, well over our target population and needed additional antlerless elk harvest. In order to limit the number of hunters in the field at any one time we added a 3rd antlerless unit in January and issued up to 150 total antlerless tags. I think the January hunts (up to 50 tags) when the animals were congregated was too much and the winter of '05 - '06 we saw the exodus of the Racetrack Butte group of 150-200 elk. We never had more than 50 hunters in any elk season afield at any one time. Additionally, we did not overlap elk seasons with other seasons. The recent fire in CSP will have a significant impact on the elk herd. Not just elk but most of the huntable species in CSP. We saw the significant population increases of the 1990's following the Galena Fire of 1988 and the Cicero Peak Fire of 1990. The negatives are there is a significant decrease in security cover. We know from the research that this will make the animals much more susceptible to disturbance and could negate the benefit of all that new forage. This is compounded by the increased visitation the park now sees. The combination of the increases in the number of tags and season extensions across seasons in CSP, the increased pressure and access by visitors through the summer and shoulder seasons, and this proposal will lead to an increase in the number bodies in the field with little respite for elk. We know that unhunted populations are less susceptible to disturbance. However, with a fairly high level of certainty we can predict dispersal of elk in this hunted population and concurrent decreases in landowner tolerance adjacent to the park as elk disperse away from disturbance. Additionally,

dispersal of elk will make the wildlife of CSP less visible to the Park visitor, I've seen it. So, in addition to moving the Any Elk hunt out of the peak of the bugle the proposal creates overlap among seasons. With the current push to maximize opportunity (and tags) for all seasons, and as the elk herd grows necessitating additional antlerless tags, pressure and duration of isturbance will have a profound impact on the watchability of wildlife in CSP. I would recommend the Commission maintains the current season structure in CSP to allow managers to control populations while maximizing the watchability of wildlife for the visitor rather than maximizing hunter opportunity and season conformity.

Lance Weatherly, Sioux Falls, SD, emailed GFP Commission, thank you for your dedication regarding South Dakota parks, fisheries, and wildlife. The April agenda includes a proposed rule change to elk landowner tag eligibility to change the spirit of ARSD 41:06:01:07 Landowner Preference to be retitled Agricultural Producer Preference. I would offer the intent of the administrative rule is as written, based on acreage, ownership, but void of requirement of agricultural livelihood. I would suggest the South Dakota resident landowners who are eligible for the elk landowner tag and do not generate the majority of their livelihood from agriculture still contribute greatly to supporting wildlife for all to enjoy. In South Dakota a vote against agricultural interests is unpopular, however please consider the interests and rights of all South Dakota resident landowners in considering this rule change. Please vote no regarding this proposed rule change regarding elk landowner tag eligibility. Sincerely,"

Will Eidsness, Yankton, SD, emailed "GFP commissioners, Our extended family has owned 1480 acres of land in Fall River County for over 25 years. We manage the land for wildlife conservation. It is ideal habitat where elk, deer and other wildlife have very little interaction or interference from humans. One member of the family currently qualifies for landowner elk tag preference annually, and we are in favor of keeping the regulations as they are. If the petition to exclude landowners who live greater than 60 miles away were to be put into place, we would not qualify, even though we actively manage the property and believe our land is invaluable for elk production in the Black Hills. I listened to the audio from March 1 GFP meeting and I believe many of the commissioners asked great questions and had very common sense comments about this petition. It was good discussion by all. I believe it was commissioners Sharp and Boyd who commented basically that some of the aspects in this petition seemed to be pretty drastic changes to accomplish what at present seems to be a very small minority of landowners that want a change. I am not sure how many other landowners would be negatively affected as we would be if this change is implemented. I think this discussion is a good one to have but I think the present qualifications for landowner elk tags seem very reasonable. I do agree with your stated goal to get the landowner license and all the licenses in general to the people that deserve them. I look forward to hearing this discussion in the next few days. Thank you for your service and consideration. Sincerely."

Craig A Brueske, Huron SD, emailed "Hello South Dakota Game, Fish & Park Commissioners This is our petition to oppose the filed petition by Scott Phillips brought to your board of SD Game, Fish and Parks Commission on March 1st, 2018. That proposal wanted to change the land owner elk eligibility laws. We, the undersigned, do hereby acknowledge to keep the current state statutes. Please find attached 28 pages with 522 signatures and best we can tell there are 75 current landowner elk tag qualifiers that signed the petition, which does not include counting their family members.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate all that you do for South Dakota."

Jon Gisi, Custer, SD, emailed "Matt please forward this on with my permission to the Commissioners, My name is Jon Gisi and I live at 26698 Remington Road, Custer, South Dakota. I am writing this letter in response the land owner elk application petition, I currently own 340 acres and lease several hundred more, I run approximately 60 head of buffalo on my property and leases, I have invested a substantial amount of money to develop water and pasture for my herd, although I do not make my income at this time from raising buffalo, this hopefully will be a large source of income in my future, that being said I am most definitely against the new proposed elk qualifications. As I do have a lot of elk traffic on my summer pasture due to the development of water wells on my property that are in use year around, in most months it is the only water for quite some distance so the elk and other wildlife do frequent them, I do agree some folks have much more elk usage days and should not have a problem drawing and elk tag every year, I don't feel I should be excluded from landowner status as I do have elk damage and depredation every year but I feel that its just part of the deal. I urge the Commission to leave the rules as they are, possibly small modifications to help folks who have large numbers of elk year round to be able to draw more frequently. Thank you for your time and consideration."

Mike Hiltunen, Volga, SD emailed "Dear Gary, I am emailing my concern about the proposed change to the amount of acres needed to receive or be in the draw for a landowner elk tag. I believe that the smaller landowner (240-1000) group brings a lot of benefits to the table when it comes to maintaining a healthy elk population along with plenty of benefits to many other wildlife species that can be enjoyed by the outdoors crowd. I firmly believe that eliminating the smaller landowner from the "pool" will have negative effects on the elk population moving forward. Thanks for your time."

Lew Papendick, emailed "Dear Commissioner: Please vote against the recent proposed petition concerning land owner preference elk tags. My wife and I own a 375+ acre ranch adjacent to Wind Cave. It was burned in the major fire of about 10,000 acres 5-6 years ago south east of Pringle,SD. We have been repairing damage the past 5 years, including fencing, dam repair, building damage, dead tree removal, road rehab, cattle damage, and noxious weed control. We have leased pasture for neighbor rancher cattle. We have hayed and sold to ranchers. We have year around fresh running water in Cold Spring Creek. We believe in leaving the land in better condition than when we obtained it. Wildlife habitat is very important to us. We have established rainbow trout in the damed areas. We have planted hardwood oak trees, plum trees, Choke Cherries, Goose Berries, for diversity of vegetation and to improve wildlife populations. We have diverse grasses and legumes. We are planning to have bee hives for pollinators. Since we have year around water, when the National Forrest shuts down the water after grazing permits are complete, the wildlife use our fresh water. Elk, Deer, Turkeys, Grouse, Rabbits, Eagles, Osprey, Hawks, Mountain Lions all utilize our resources. We have allowed hunters access to the National Forrest for retrieval of game. We have allowed mentor youth hunting. The land owners that will be affected by the petition's changes are mostly of the same mind set as good stewards to their land. This improves wildlife for all hunters and nature lovers. And yes, I archery hunt elk. This is a great privilege for stewards of the land of the Black Hills. My dad taught me. I have taught my children. And now I hope to pass it on to my grand children. Sincerely,"

Matt "Rip" Rippentrop, Hot Springs, SD emailed "SD GFP Commissioners, Thank you for all your time and what you do for South Dakota. I'm writing you in opposition to the current landowner elk tag petition that was brought before you during the last SD GFP Commissioner meeting on March 1st. Currently we are a qualifying landowner elk tag applicant in Unit H3. However, we do not own over 1,000 acres as the elk petition requests. If this is approved, well over half of the current landowner elk tag applicants in the Black Hills would no longer qualify. In my opinion the landowners that own between 240 to 999 acres, help reduce the elk depredation for the ranchers with 1,000+ acres that do not want the elk on their property. If this petition is passed and the smaller current qualifying landowners don't tolerate elk depredation on their property anymore, the elk will return to the landowners with 1,000+ acres. Over time this will cause the landowner elk tolerance to go down, which in turn the elk population and hunting tags will be significantly reduced. The elk petition also included a requirement that the landowner needs to live within 60 miles of their property. Over the last five years there has been 205 individuals that have applied for a Black Hills landowner elk tag. Only 9 of these individuals out of the 205 have a zip code that do not live within the Black Hills. Is this really a current problem when less than 5% of the landowner elk tags allocated over the last 5 years have gone to landowners not living in the Black Hills? Please oppose the landowner elk tag petition that was submitted to you on March 1st. Thank you for your time and consideration.

The public Hearing concluded at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly R Hepler

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

SD GFP COMMISSION 2018 NONRESIDENT DISCUSSION

A Commissioner's Outline for Commission Discussion

The goal is to have an informed, thoughtful public discussion on an increasingly sensitive subject to assist the **Commission** *in developing current criteria for a social and biological framework to move forward fairly and reasonably for South Dakotans and nonresidents.*

1. What is a resident, a non-resident?

2. Who are nonresidents - family, friends, customers, "strangers?" Can we identify them, does it matter who they are - why?

3. What are the reasons some propose restrictions for non-residents?

4. What factors should the **Commission** consider? Should we have nonresident goals? Decrease, increase - based on what?

5. Is there a legal basis for a distinction – why are nonresidents treated differently – has that been challenged in court?

6. What is the true nonresident fiscal impact – fees, federal funds, other.

7. When SD residents become nonresidents - do SD nonresident policies impact SD residents when we are in other states?

8. What are fair criteria the **Commission** should use for determining rules, what should those criteria be based on – philosophy, science (biological and social), public opinion, other?

9. How best can the **Commission** engage the public in this discussion?

This **Commission** discussion will begin at our May 2018 **Commission** Meeting in Custer State Park – the first of many steps. The discussion will continue at subsequent **Commission** meetings where stakeholders will be encouraged to offer their input to assist the **Commission** in reaching its goal.

Petitioner:

Darrick Van Dyke
1112 College Ave. N
Wessington Springs, SD 57382
Email: vandyke@venturecomm.net
(605) 770-9440

On behalf of Jerauld County Fish and Game Club

Petition Information:

Rule Identification: CHAPTER 41:06:44 YOUTH DEER SEASON

41:06:44:02. Number and type of licenses available. An unlimited number of "antlerless deer" licenses may be issued for this season.

Jerauld County Fish and Game Club proposes a change to the unlimited number of "antlerless deer" licenses issued for the Youth Deer Season and make it "antlerless whitetail"

Rule Identification: CHAPTER 41:06:01:12. MENTORED DEER SEASON

41:06:01:12. Mentored youth big game license -- Restrictions. A resident parent or guardian may purchase no more than one mentored "antlerless deer" license, one "doe-fawn antelope" license, one fall "any turkey" license, and one spring "male turkey" license for a designated mentored youth who is at least 10 and younger than 16 years of age. No youth participating in a mentored big game hunt may apply for a regular season license for that corresponding species and season.

Jerauld County Fish and Game Club proposes a change to the mentored youth big game "antlerless deer" license and make it "antlerless whitetail".

Reason:

First, Jerauld County Fish and Game Club would like to comment that IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY AWAY FROM YOUTH. However, statistics show that continuing to issue "unlimited any antlerless deer" licenses for mentor and youth seasons are causing harm to the statewide mule deer population.

According to the 2016 South Dakota mule deer hunting objectives, all counties that have a sustainable hunting population of mule deer would like to see an increase in numbers. MOST of the counties would like to see a SIGNIFICANT INCREASE in numbers. Once mule deer population objectives are met, the commission could reverse the restriction. Myself, Darrick Van Dyke, an East River landowner with mule deer on my property would like to see a significant increase in mule deer numbers also. For unknown reasons, during the winter of 2006-2007, my local area sustained a massive die-off of mule deer. The mule deer population locally in Jerauld County has not recovered since. On property owned and

operated by myself, Darrick Van Dyke between 60-80 head of mule deer would winter. That number has been drastically reduced to around 18 this winter of 2017-18.

A way to increase population numbers is to reduce the harvest of mule deer does. In 2014, unlimited issued antlerless archery, and unlimited issued antlerless muzzleloader licenses were restricted to antlerless whitetail. In 2013 there was a harvest of 2,758 mule deer does. After the implementation of the antlerless whitetail restriction in 2014, the number was reduced to 973 harvested mule deer does. That is a difference of 1,785 does that were left in South Dakota to continue to breed and re-populate! By restricting the youth and mentored seasons to "antlerless whitetail" we can leave approximately another 600 to re-populate.

Based upon the most recent 2016 data, youth and mentored hunters accounted for a majority of mule deer does harvested, that being 52%. 301 mule deer does were harvested under the mentored season and 323 were harvested under the youth season, accounting for 624 total mule deer does. Total mule deer doe harvest statewide in all 2016 seasons was projected at 1,195.

Put into perspective the ratio of antlerless whitetail harvested to antlerless mule deer harvested, the numbers are staggering. Between the youth and mentored seasons, there was a projected harvest of 3,391 whitetail does vs 624 mule deer does. That is an approximate 5 ½ :1 ratio. All other seasons statewide, excluding youth and mentored seasons, harvested 15,270 whitetail does vs 571 mule deer does. That is a ratio of 26 ½ :1! That means youth and mentor hunters are targeting way more antlerless mule deer then the rest of the general population. The statistics show that youth and mentor hunters are 5 times more likely to shoot a mule deer doe during their season than the general population's seasons. Why is this? Numerous hunting stories are told of how mentors take kids hunting and the only deer that will stand long enough for a shot is a mule deer. Is this a true hunting experience? A lesson in conservation? Conservation of our South Dakota resources should come before the opportunity to shoot at a deer. Something needs to be done to limit the harvesting of antlerless mule deer during youth and mentor seasons. Our petition for a rule change would be a step in the right direction for the conservation of the mule deer population and help meet the South Dakota mule deer hunting objectives without much limiting of the youth and mentored deer seasons.

The Jerauld County Fish and Game Club has communicated with other clubs and organizations statewide. We have received very positive support for this proposal. A majority of the South Dakota Bow Hunters Inc. board members support this petition. We look forward to a response from the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission about this petition.

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL

Archery Deer Hunting Season
Chapter 41:06:22

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Public Hearing	**June 7, 2018**	**Aberdeen**
	Finalization	**June 7-8, 2018**	**Aberdeen**

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The current archery deer hunting season is open statewide beginning on the fourth Saturday of September to January 1.

Alternatives for consideration:

1. September 1 to January 1
2. Begin on the second Saturday of September to January 1
3. No change to current season dates

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Prior to the development and adoption of the deer management plan, a petition was brought forward to the Commission requesting the start date of the archery deer hunting season be changed from the fourth Saturday of September to the second Saturday of September. The Commission denied the petition with the agreement that the archery season start date would be evaluated under the guidance of the deer management plan. Therefore, a list of potential alternatives and summary of archery season dates for adjacent states are presented for discussion and consideration.

State	2017/2018 Archery Season Dates
Colorado	August 25 - September 23
Iowa	Oct. 1 - Dec. 1 and Dec. 18 - Jan. 10
Minnesota	September 15 - December 31
Montana	September 2 - October 15
Nebraska	September 1 - December 31
North Dakota	September 1 - January 7
Wyoming	September 1 -30

APPROVE ____ MODIFY ____ REJECT ____ NO ACTION ____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL

Application for License
Chapter 41:06:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Public Hearing	**June 7, 2018**	**Aberdeen**
	Finalization	**June 7-8, 2018**	**Aberdeen**

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Proposed changes from last year:

Eligibility for mentored youth big game hunting licenses.

41:06:01:12. Mentored youth big game license -- Restrictions. A resident parent or guardian may purchase no more than one mentored "antlerless deer" license, one "doe-fawn antelope" license, one fall "any turkey" license, and one spring "male turkey" license for a designated mentored youth ~~who is at least 10 and younger than 16 years of age~~. No youth participating in a mentored big game hunt may apply for a regular season license for that corresponding species and season.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

During the 93rd South Dakota Legislative Session, Senate Bill 137 amended §41-6-81 by retaining those youth less than 16 years of age, but removed the minimum age requirement of 10 years of age for mentored youth hunting. Age requirements currently found within ARSD 41:06:01:12 are unnecessary and repetitive of state law.

APPROVE ____ MODIFY ____ REJECT ____ NO ACTION ____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL

HUNTING PARTY SIZE
CHAPTER 41:06:04

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	May 3-4, 2018	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	June 7, 2018	Aberdeen
	Finalization	June 7-8, 2018	Aberdeen

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Repeal 41:06:04:02 – Size of party limited.

41:06:04:02. Size of party limited. No more than 20 persons may possess a bow and arrow, crossbow, or firearm, including a muzzleloading firearm, while cooperating as a party in hunting, except when hunting a predator/varmint. The provisions of this section do not apply to a person who is only carrying a concealed pistol, if the person possesses a valid concealed pistol permit as provided in SDCL chapter 23-7.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

This recommendation originates from the Department rules review workgroup and aligns with the strategy of allowing more opportunity. This repeal would allow individual members of a hunting party to determine the safety guidelines for their particular hunt.

☐ **APPROVE** ☐ **MODIFY** ☐ **REJECT** ☐ **NO ACTION**

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL

ARCHERY RESTRICTIONS
CHAPTER 41:06:05

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	May 3-4, 2018	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	June 7, 2018	Aberdeen
	Finalization	June 7-8, 2018	Aberdeen

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Amend 41:06:05:03 to allow an archery hunter to possess a firearm in the field provided they possess a firearms big game license that is valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the archery license.

Amend 41:06:05:03.01 to allow for an armed nonlicensee to accompany an archery big game hunter in the field provided they possess a big game license that is valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the licensed archery hunter.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

41:06:05:03. Possession of firearm while archery hunting prohibited. No person who is licensed in a season restricted to archery only may possess a firearm in the field while hunting with bow and arrow except if the person is carrying a pistol and possesses a valid concealed pistol permit as provided in SDCL chapter 23-7.

41:06:05:03.01. Nonlicensee armed accompaniment prohibited -- Exception. No person accompanying a licensee who is hunting big game in the field with bow and arrow under an archery only license may:

(1) Possess a bow and arrow (or crossbow) if the person does not possess an archery big game license that is valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the licensed archery hunter; or

(2) Possess a firearm, including a muzzleloading firearm, except if the person is carrying a pistol and possesses a valid concealed pistol permit as provided in SDCL chapter 23-7.

☐ **APPROVE** ☐ **MODIFY** ☐ **REJECT** ☐ **NO ACTION**

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

FUR DEALERS
CHAPTER 41:09:10

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	May 3-4, 2018	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	June 7, 2018	Aberdeen
	Finalization	June 7-8, 2018	Aberdeen

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

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

Requirements and Restrictions:

41:09:10:04. License fees. The fee for a resident fur dealer license is $100. The fee for a nonresident fur dealer license is $500.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

2017-18 Nonresident Fur Dealer Licenses: 4
2017-18 Resident Fur Dealer Licenses: 25

41-6-25. Fur dealer's license--Privileges--License valid for one year--Violation as misdemeanor. It is a Class 1 misdemeanor for a person to purchase or contract to purchase for a commercial purpose the raw skins of fur-bearing animals or unskinned fur-bearing animals, including jackrabbits, without a fur dealer's license or in violation of the license or the rules of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission. For purposes of this section, commercial purpose is the purchase of or contract to purchase the property by persons who hold themselves out as engaging in the business of purchasing such property and does not include the isolated or occasional purchase of such property.

A fur dealer's license permits the licensee to purchase or contract to purchase the skins of fur-bearing animals, including jackrabbits, for the purpose of resale or other commercial purpose, to the extent and in the manner provided by §§ 41-14-22 and 41-14-23. A fur dealer's license is valid for a period of one year from July first to June thirtieth.

Any person convicted of issuing an insufficient funds check or no account check shall be denied a fur dealer's license until such time as all such checks are paid.

☐ **APPROVE** ☐ **MODIFY** ☐ **REJECT** ☐ **NO ACTION**

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

MUZZLELOADING RESTRICTIONS
CHAPTER 41:06:04

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	May 3-4, 2018	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	June 7, 2018	Aberdeen
	Finalization	June 7-8, 2018	Aberdeen

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Amend 41:06:04:11 and 41:06:04:14 to allow for the use of muzzleloading handguns for big game hunting, set the standards for muzzleloading handguns, and remove the factory-rated requirement.

Requirements and Restrictions:

41:06:04:11. Minimum size and type of big game ammunition. Except for wild turkey as provided in § 41:06:04:12 and elk as provided in § 41:06:04:13, a person may hunt, pursue, shoot at, shoot, or kill any of the big game animals of this state only with a shoulder-held firearm using ammunition which is factory-rated to produce at least 1,000 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle or a handgun using ammunition which is factory-rated to produce at least 500 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle. Only soft-point or expanding bullets are permitted.

41:06:04:14. Muzzleloading restrictions. In seasons restricted to muzzleloading rifles, no telescopic sights may be used. Telescopic sights are those sights that utilize magnification.

Recommended changes:

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

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

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The Department has received requests to clarify that muzzleloading handguns would be allowed for big game hunting. Current South Dakota regulations suggest that muzzleloading handguns are not expressly authorized. All states that border South Dakota currently allow muzzleloading handguns to be used when big game hunting, with varying regulations and season structures.

In addition, these changes would set a minimum standard for the use of .50 caliber bullets when hunting with a muzzleloading handgun. Setting the standard at .50 caliber is desirable, as the vast majority of loads using smaller calibers do not meet the minimum standard currently in place for foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle.

These changes would also clarify that hand loaded ammunition meeting the minimum energy standard is specifically authorized for big game hunting. As currently written, the use of the term "factory rated" suggests that hand loaded ammunition is prohibited.

Typical comparison of differences between muzzleloading handgun calibers:

Caliber	Powder	Energy at Muzzle
.44	46 grains Pyrodex	350 ft-lbs
.50	50 grains FFG	580 ft-lbs

☐ **APPROVE** ☐ **MODIFY** ☐ **REJECT** ☐ **NO ACTION**

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL

Bowhunter Education Certification Required for Certain Archery Hunters Chapter 41:06:05

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Public Hearing	**June 7, 2018**	**Aberdeen**
	Finalization	**June 7-8, 2018**	**Aberdeen**

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Proposed changes from last year:

Repeal the Bowhunter education requirement in place for all bowhunters under age 16, all first time archery licensees and all archery elk licensees.

~~**41:06:05:04. Bowhunter education certification required for certain archery hunters.** Beginning with the 1993 archery seasons, possession of a National Bowhunter Education Foundation certificate or a certificate of completion from a bowhunter education course approved by any state or provincial government is required of all archery big game licensees 11 through 15 years of age regardless of previous experience or licensing, all first-time archery big game licensees regardless of age, and all archery elk licensees.~~

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

South Dakota is currently one of 13 states where Bowhunter Education is mandatory for first time bowhunters. This regulation was enacted (1992) when archery seasons, in particular elk, were being established. At the time, archery equipment was not as advanced as today's equipment and archery hunting was not as readily accepted. To overcome some of the apprehension around archery specific seasons, an agreement was established to mandate Bowhunter education for first time bowhunters, all archery elk hunters and anyone under age 16.

Over the years since implementation, archery equipment has made great advancements. Bowhunting has become a readily accepted form of hunting. Information about shot placement, tree stand safety, tuning equipment, access to qualified bow technicians and information about bowhunting regulations is more readily available to new bowhunters than ever before.

Online Bowhunter Education was established in 2013 has become the preferred method of course delivery for 82% of residents taking the course in 2017. 86% of the 1387 online students were age 16 or over which is when hunter education is no longer a required to hunt with a firearm.

Bowhunter Education would remain available for anyone wishing to earn their National Bowhunter Education Foundation certification.

APPROVE ____ MODIFY ____ REJECT ____ NO ACTION ____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Public Hearing	**June 7, 2018**	**Aberdeen**
	Finalization	**June 7-8, 2018**	**Aberdeen**

Recommended changes from last year:

41:06:01:10. Prior application preference. Fifty percent of any licenses which are limited in number and are issued by application and computer drawing are set aside for landowner applications as described in § 41:06:01:07 for the Black Hills deer hunting season, the West River deer hunting season except for special buck licenses, the East River deer hunting season except for special buck licenses, the antelope hunting season, the spring wild turkey hunting season, and the fall wild turkey hunting season. If an applicant is unsuccessful in drawing a license for a first-choice unit in the initial drawing for a specific season, the applicant shall receive a preference point for that season if they chose to purchase a preference point. For elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and free access permits the applicant shall receive a preference point at no charge if they apply for one of these seasons in the first draw and are unsuccessful. Preference points shall be applied to a subsequent initial drawing application submitted by the applicant for the season in which the preference points were earned, except for elk hunting seasons pursuant to § 41:06:01:09. No additional preference points may be issued if an applicant decides to use preference points in the second draw for elk and is unsuccessful in the draw. ~~An applicant who fails to submit an initial drawing application in a single season for a period of five consecutive years forfeits any preference points accrued for that season.~~

The rule pertaining to the time period of forfeiting preference points is no longer needed as applicants now purchase preference points for limited draw licenses and the licensing system database is capable of storing these records.

APPROVE ____	MODIFY ____	REJECT ____	NO ACTION ____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL

Trapping Prohibitions
Chapter 41:06:02

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**April 5-6, 2018**	**Rapid City**
	Public Hearing	**May 3, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Public Hearing	**June 7, 2018**	**Aberdeen**
	Finalization	**June 7-8, 2012**	**Aberdeen**

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Current Restrictions:

1. From May 1 to November 13, inclusive, no snare is permitted on public lands or within any improved road rights-of-way, statewide.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. For all public lands and improved road rights-of-way east of the Missouri River, extend the existing prohibition on the use of snares to run through the last day of the pheasant season.

2. For all public lands and improved road rights-of-way west of the Missouri River, remove the dates that restrict use of snares and allow snares to be used year-round.

3. Create a new administrative rule which requires all traps and snares placed on public lands and improved road rights-of-way, statewide, to be marked with the owner's name and address or personal identification number. The Department will generate and issue one unique personal identification number to each individual.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal:

1. To align an affected administrative rule with proposed change #2; Modify the dates that trapping and snaring equipment (i.e. traps, snares, stakes, cables, chains, wire, etc.) must be removed from public lands and improved road rights-of-way west of the Missouri River, to allow that type of equipment to be placed year-round.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The prohibition of the use of snares on public lands and improved road rights-of-way, east of the Missouri River, through the last day of the pheasant season, will eliminate incidents of hunting dogs getting caught in snares on these areas during the pheasant season.

The removal of the date restriction that snares can be used on public lands and improved road rights-of-way, west of the Missouri River will increase the opportunity for fur harvesting on these areas.

The new administrative rule requiring identification of traps and snares will assist GFP officials with the identification of private property left on public lands and improved road rights-of-way.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Public Hearing	**June 7, 2018**	**Aberdeen**
	Finalization	**June 7-8, 2018**	**Aberdeen**

41:06:04:21. Mandatory submission of samples for chronic wasting disease testing. Each successful elk hunter shall submit samples for chronic wasting disease testing for all elk harvested from any Custer State Park elk hunting unit.

Recommended changes from last year:

1. Modify ARSD 41:06:04:21 to include the mandatory submission of required samples for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing for all deer harvested from any Custer State Park (CSP) deer hunting season.

This disease management action was implemented to strengthen the sample size for determining a random prevalence rate of elk within CSP; mule deer and white-tailed deer are also susceptible CWD. Department staff will evaluate disease test results and adapt as needed for future CWD management and hunting seasons.

APPROVE ____	MODIFY ____	REJECT ____	NO ACTION ____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION

East River Deer Hunting Season
Chapter 41:06:21; 41:06:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**April 5-6, 2018**	**Rapid City**
	Public Hearing	**May 3, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Finalization	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2018 hunting season

Season Dates: November 17 – December 2, 2018
Antlerless Deer Tags: December 8-16, 2018

Open Area: See the attached map

Licenses: 20,900 one-tag and 5,250 two-tag licenses (total of 31,400 tags)

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference.
2. In addition to these licenses, 500 "any deer" licenses are available through the "Special Buck" application as approved at the March GFP Commission meeting.
3. Landowners not possessing a license that allows the harvest of a buck may purchase an "any deer" or a two-tag "any deer + antlerless deer" license that is valid on their property only.
4. Initially, all licenses are available only to residents. Nonresidents may apply for licenses remaining after the second lottery drawing.
5. A portion of southeastern Minnehaha County is closed to hunting with firearms other than muzzleloaders and shotguns using slugs.
6. Only unfilled "any antlerless deer" and "antlerless whitetail deer" tags are valid December 8-16, 2018.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Adjust resident license numbers from no more than 21,085 one-tag and 5,250 two-tag licenses to no more than 20,900 one-tag and 5,250 two-tag licenses.
2. Create a new Limited Access Unit (Unit 59L) in Hughes and Sully counties limited to all Game Production, Corp of Engineer, and Park Recreation Area Lands north of Oahe Dam in Hughes County and west of US Hwy 1804 to Bush's Landing boat ramp in Sully County at 182nd St.; excluding the Spring Creek Recreation area (see map). This unit is all public land and landowner preference does not apply and hunters must obtain a free access permit to hunt archery, muzzleloader, youth or mentored youth as required on other Limited Access Units.
3. Eliminate Unit 59B (that potion of Sully County east of U.S. Highway 83).
4. Modify Unit 59A to include all of Sully except that portion within 59L.
5. Modify Unit 36A to include all of Hughes County excluding that portion within Unit 59L, Farm Island Recreation Area, LaFramboise Island, and the land from the entrance to Farm Island west through the city of Pierre.
6. Modify the antlerless-only deer hunting season dates from 9 days beginning on the Saturday after Christmas to nine consecutive days beginning the Saturday following the 16th day of the East River deer season.

APPROVE ____ MODIFY ____ REJECT ____ NO ACTION ____

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

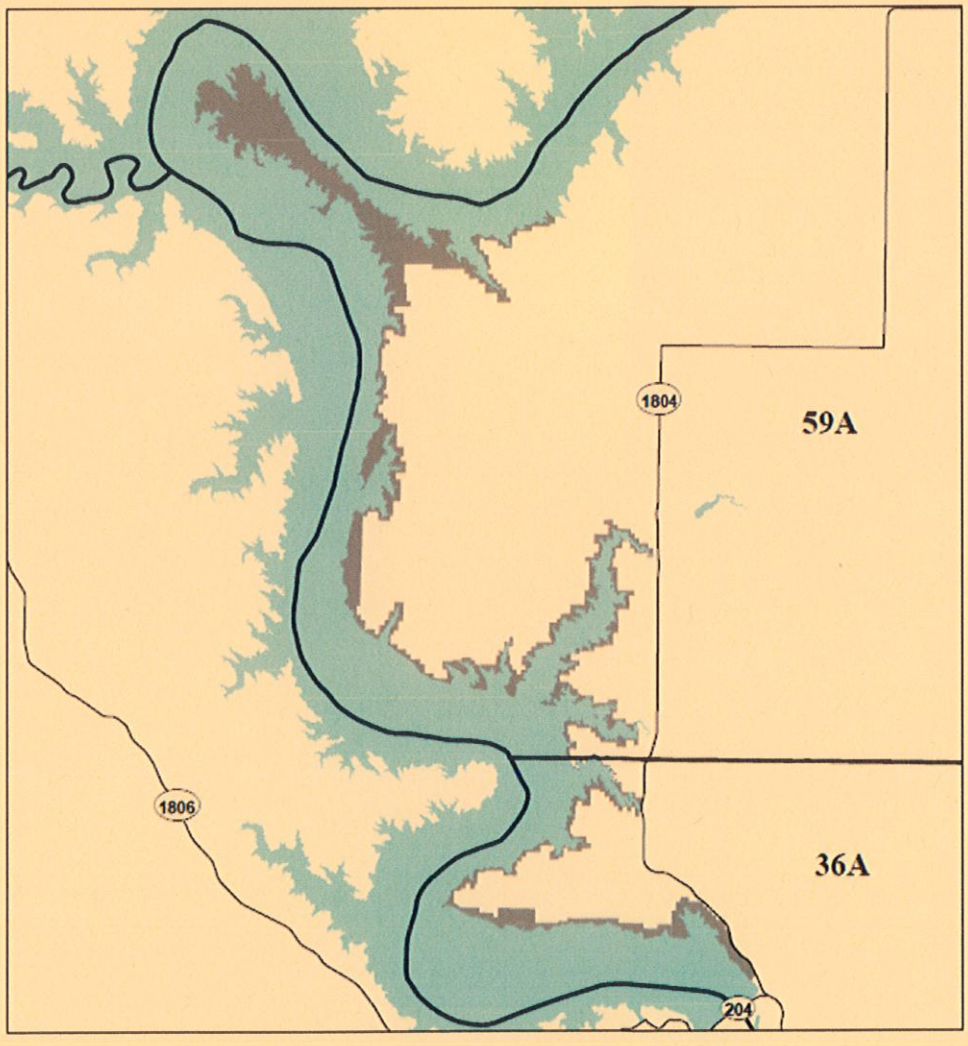
Recommended changes from proposal:

1. Retain 2017 resident license numbers.
2. Rescind the establishment of Unit ERD-59L.
3. Retain current unit boundaries for Unit ERD-59A, Unit ERD-59B, and Unit ERD-36A.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The SDGFP Commission will be discussing criteria and a guiding framework for the allocation of nonresident opportunities in the near future. Therefore, it's the Department recommendation to go through this Commission and public process before implementing any further limited access units and restricting archery opportunities.

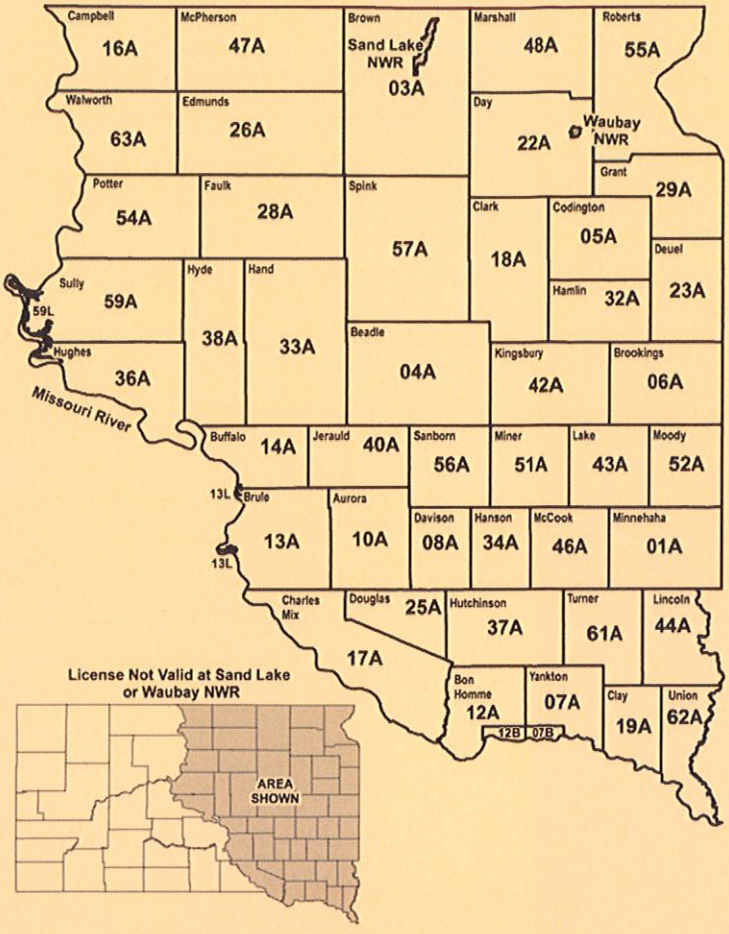
Proposed Unit 59L



Unit 59L Acres: 13,206

APPROVE ____ MODIFY ____ REJECT ____ NO ACTION ____

EAST RIVER DEER UNITS



2018 – License and Tag Numbers by Unit

Unit	Licenses	Tags	Unit	Licenses	Tags	Unit	Licenses	Tags
01A	550	550	**18A**	600	600	**43A**	400	400
03A	2,400	2,400	**19A**	200	200	**44A**	250	250
04A	600	600	**22A**	600	600	**46A**	450	450
05A	250	250	**23A**	400	400	**47A**	1,000	1,500
06A	550	550	**25A**	150	150	**48A**	500	500
07A	250	250	**26A**	1,300	2,600	**51A**	750	750
07B	75	75	**28A**	1,400	2,800	**52A**	450	450
08A	200	200	**29A**	300	300	**54A**	1,050	1,950
10A	550	550	**32A**	600	600	**55A**	500	500
12A	150	150	**33A**	870	870	**56A**	550	550
12B	50	50	**34A**	200	200	**57A**	1,300	1,300
13A	900	1,100	**36A**	575	575	**59A**	730	730
13L	30	30	**37A**	100	100	**59L**	40	40
14A	350	600	**38A**	720	1,420	**61A**	100	100
16A	720	720	**40A**	550	550	**62A**	300	300
17A	250	250	**42A**	600	600	**63A**	750	750

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION

West River Deer Hunting Season
Chapter 41:06:20

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**April 5-6, 2018**	**Rapid City**
	Public Hearing	**May 3, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Finalization	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Commission Proposal: 2018 hunting season

Season Dates:	Unit 30A (Gregory):	November 3-6 and November 19-25, 2018
	All Other Units:	November 10-25, 2018
	Antlerless Deer Tags:	December 8-16, 2018
Open Area:	See the attached map	
Licenses:	Residents: 15,340 one-tag, 3,320 two-tag, and 0 three-tag licenses Nonresidents: 1,231 one-tag, 266 two-tag, and 0 three-tag licenses	

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. 500 resident and 500 nonresident "any deer" licenses are available through the "Special Buck" application.
2. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference applicants.
3. Landowners may also purchase an "any deer" or "any deer + any antlerless deer" license that is valid only on their property as long they do not hold a regular West River deer license that allows the harvest of a buck.
4. Only persons using a wheelchair may apply for the licenses in Stanley County (Unit 58D) designated as a special "Hunters with Disabilities Unit."
5. Only unfilled "any antlerless deer" and "antlerless whitetail deer" tags are valid from December 8-16, 2018.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Reinstate the antlerless-only deer season for nine consecutive days beginning the Saturday following the 16th day of the East River deer season

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: None.

APPROVE ____ MODIFY ____ REJECT ____ NO ACTION ____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION

General Muzzleloading Deer Hunting Season
Chapter 41:06:45

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**April 5-6, 2018**	**Rapid City**
	Public Hearing	**May 3, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Finalization	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2018 hunting season

Season Dates: December 1, 2018 – January 1, 2019

Open Area: "Any Deer" Licenses: Statewide
"Antlerless Whitetail Deer" Licenses: Unit MZD-LM1

Licenses: 1,000 "any deer" licenses
Unlimited single tag "antlerless whitetail deer" licenses

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Only residents are eligible to apply for "any deer" tags. Residents and nonresidents may purchase "antlerless whitetail deer" licenses.
2. Individuals may purchase one "antlerless whitetail deer" license for Unit MZD-LM1 (see map).
3. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
4. Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge, Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Waubay State Game Refuge, Farm Island State Recreation Area, LaFramboise Island Nature Area, and the Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management South unit and the signed portion of the North unit are closed to general muzzleloading deer hunting.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. For Unit MZD-LM1, close unit ERD-59L.
2. Both any deer and antlerless whitetail deer licenses are valid December 1 – January 1.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal:

1. Rescind proposed change to Unit MZD-LM1.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Retain current boundary for Unit MZD-LM1 as Department recommends not moving forward with the proposed establishment of ERD-59L.

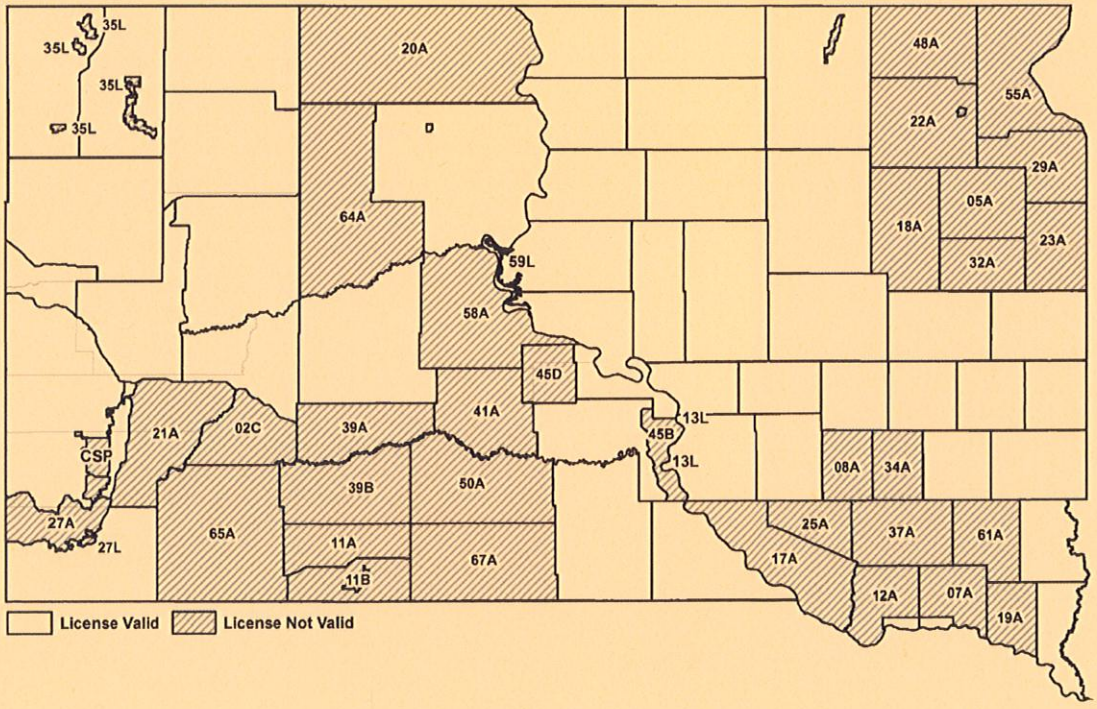
APPROVE ____ MODIFY ____ REJECT ____ NO ACTION ____

Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Season
2018 "Antlerless License" Restrictions

1. The Unit MZD-LM1 single-tag "antlerless whitetail deer" license is valid in all areas except the shaded areas.

Muzzleloader Antlerless Whitetail Deer

Unit MZD-LM1



GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION

Archery Deer Hunting Season
Chapter 41:06:22

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**April 5-6, 2018**	**Rapid City**
	Public Hearing	**May 3, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Finalization	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2018 hunting season

Season Dates: September 22, 2018 – January 1, 2019

Open Area: "Any Deer" Licenses: Statewide, East River, West River
"Antlerless Whitetail Deer" Licenses: Unit ARD-LM1

Licenses: Unlimited "any deer" licenses
Unlimited single tag "antlerless whitetail deer" licenses

Access Permits: "Any Deer" Access Permits: No more than 460 resident and 39 nonresident
"Antlerless Whitetail Deer" Access Permits: No more than 25 resident

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Resident and nonresident hunters may purchase one (1) statewide "any deer" license or one (1) East River "any deer" license and one (1) West River "any deer" license.
2. Residents and nonresidents may purchase one (1) "antlerless whitetail deer" license.
3. Individuals may purchase one "antlerless whitetail deer" license for Unit ARD-LM1 (see map).
4. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
5. Sand Lake NWR is open October 20, 2018 – January 1, 2019, except during the Sand Lake NWR firearm deer season.
6. Waubay Lake State Game Refuge and Waubay NWR in Day County are open through January 1, except during refuge deer seasons.
7. Lacreek NWR is open through January 1, except during the Lacreek NWR firearm deer seasons.
8. Licensees must obtain an access permit from the Department issued by lottery drawing before hunting Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve and Good Earth State Park.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. For Unit ARD-LM1, close unit ERD-59L.
2. Modify the season end date from January 15 to January 1.
3. Antlerless whitetail deer licenses are not valid after January 1.
4. Change the archery season end date for Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, and Waubay State Lake State Game Refuge from December 31 to January 1, except during the firearm deer seasons established for such refuges.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal:

1. Rescind proposed change to Unit ARD-LM1.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Retain current boundary for Unit ARD-LM1 as Department recommends not moving forward with the proposed establishment of ERD-59L.

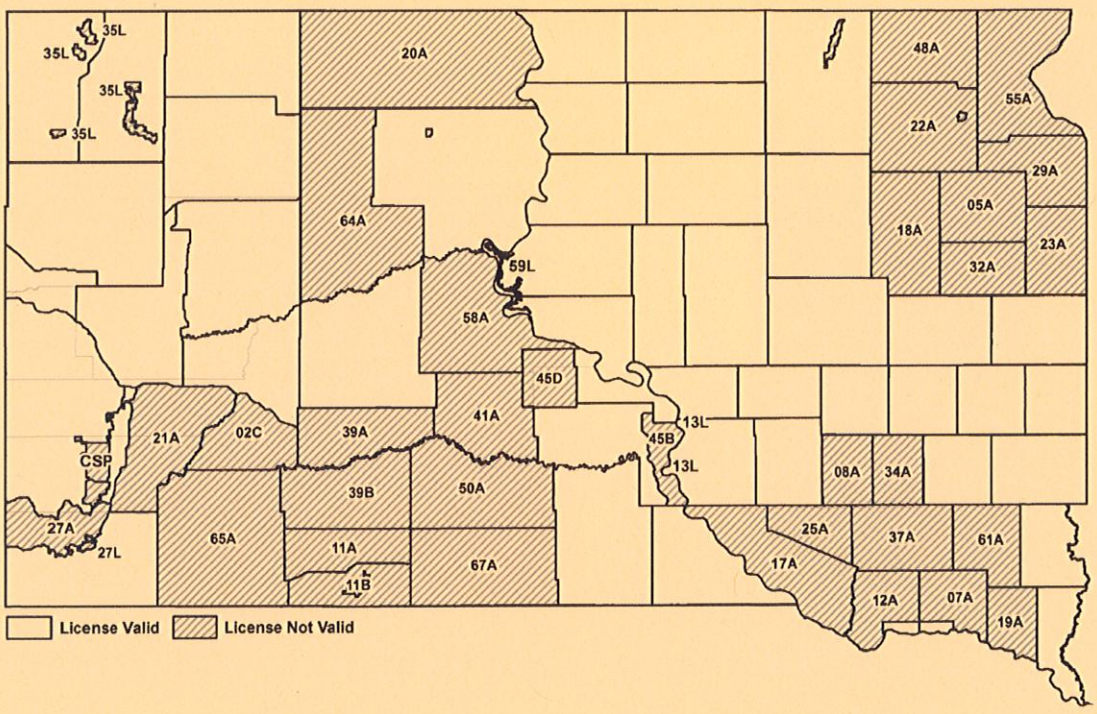
APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

Archery Deer Hunting Season
2018 "Antlerless License" Restrictions

1. The Unit ARD-LM1 single-tag "antlerless whitetail deer" license is valid in all areas except the shaded areas.

Archery Antlerless Whitetail Deer

Unit ARD-LM1



GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION

Deer Hunting Seasons
Chapters 41:06:20; 41:06:21: 41:06:22; 41:06:36; 41:06:44; 41:06:45

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**March 1-2, 2018**	**Pierre**
	Public Hearing	**May 3, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Finalization	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Proposed changes from last year:

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

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal:

1. Change the antlerless deer season dates at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge from nine consecutive days beginning on the Saturday following December 25 to nine consecutive days beginning on December 24.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The modified antlerless-only deer hunting season dates of nine days beginning the Saturday following the 16th day of the East River deer season overlaps with the last any deer season at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Sand Lake NWR has five deer seasons and the last season would overlap two days with the East River antlerless deer season four of the next five years. Since applicants are using several years of preference to obtain licenses for this season, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Department staff would prefer these two seasons do not overlap. To maintain hunter opportunity and meet deer population objectives at Sand Lake NRW, the recommendation is to adjust the start date to keep the current nine day antlerless-only deer season and end on January 1.

Year	Sand Lake Season #5		WR & ER Antlerless		# Days
	Start	End	Start	End	Overlap
2018	Dec-03	Dec-09	Dec-08	Dec-16	2
2019	Dec-02	Dec-08	Dec-14	Dec-22	0
2020	Dec-07	Dec-13	Dec-12	Dec-20	2
2021	Dec-06	Dec-12	Dec-11	Dec-19	2
2022	Dec-05	Dec-11	Dec-10	Dec-18	2

APPROVE ____ MODIFY ____ REJECT ____ NO ACTION ____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION

Application for License
Chapter 41:06:01

Commission Meeting Dates:			
	Proposal	April 5-6, 2018	Rapid City
	Public Hearing	May 3, 2018	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 3-4, 2018	Custer State Park

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

41:06:01:17. Access permits required for specific deer hunting units and public lands.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Require any resident and nonresident deer hunter possessing an archery deer license to obtain and possess a free access permit to hunt in the Black Hills as defined in ARSD 41:06:19:02. An unlimited number of free access permits may be issued.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: None.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

Access Permit Survey Archery Deer Harvest Projections

Custer National Forest (35L)

Year		Permits Issued	Projected Hunted	Hunter Success	Permit Success	Harvest Projections: Whitetail Bucks Adult	Whitetail Bucks Fawn	Whitetail Does Adult	Whitetail Does Fawn	Mule Deer Bucks Adult	Mule Deer Bucks Fawn	Mule Deer Does Adult	Mule Deer Does Fawn	Total Deer Harvest
2014	Resident	262	112	14%	6%	3	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	15
	Nonresident	105	75	28%	20%	2	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	21
2015	Resident	355	176	12%	6%	3	0	0	0	16	0	1	1	21
	Nonresident	102	71	22%	15%	4	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	16
2016	Resident	488	270	13%	7%	8	0	4	1	19	0	1	0	34
	Nonresident	172	134	24%	19%	3	0	0	0	28	0	0	1	32
2017	Resident	497	298	8%	5%	3	0	0	0	21	0	1	0	25
	Nonresident	326	248	21%	16%	7	1	4	0	30	1	8	0	51

Hill Ranch GPA (27L)

Year		Permits Issued	Projected Hunted	Hunter Success	Permit Success	Harvest Projections: Whitetail Bucks Adult	Whitetail Bucks Fawn	Whitetail Does Adult	Whitetail Does Fawn	Mule Deer Bucks Adult	Mule Deer Bucks Fawn	Mule Deer Does Adult	Mule Deer Does Fawn	Total Deer Harvest
2014	Resident	126	54	14%	6%	4	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	7
	Nonresident	23	8	29%	10%	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2015	Resident	136	61	9%	4%	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Nonresident	33	18	0%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	Resident	157	51	6%	2%	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Nonresident	52	24	24%	11%	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	6
2017	Resident	149	58	17%	7%	0	0	4	0	6	0	0	0	10
	Nonresident	62	22	18%	6%	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4

Little Moreau GPA (24B)

Year		Permits Issued	Projected Hunted	Hunter Success	Permit Success	Harvest Projections: Whitetail Bucks Adult	Whitetail Bucks Fawn	Whitetail Does Adult	Whitetail Does Fawn	Mule Deer Bucks Adult	Mule Deer Bucks Fawn	Mule Deer Does Adult	Mule Deer Does Fawn	Total Deer Harvest
2014	Resident	82	17	7%	1%	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Nonresident	15	6	40%	15%	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
2015	Resident	95	23	26%	6%	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Nonresident	22	12	11%	6%	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2016	Resident	118	30	14%	4%	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
	Nonresident	28	4	33%	5%	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2017	Resident	113	25	10%	2%	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Nonresident	47	7	33%	5%	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

Brule County certain GPA/Corps (13L)

Year		Permits Issued	Projected Hunted	Hunter Success	Permit Success	Harvest Projections: Whitetail Bucks Adult	Whitetail Bucks Fawn	Whitetail Does Adult	Whitetail Does Fawn	Mule Deer Bucks Adult	Mule Deer Bucks Fawn	Mule Deer Does Adult	Mule Deer Does Fawn	Total Deer Harvest
2017	Resident	112	16	17%	2%	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
	Nonresident	44	0		0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Black Hills Unit Harvest

Year		Permits Issued	Projected Hunted	Hunter Success	Permit Success	Harvest Projections: Whitetail Bucks Adult	Whitetail Bucks Fawn	Whitetail Does Adult	Whitetail Does Fawn	Mule Deer Bucks Adult	Mule Deer Bucks Fawn	Mule Deer Does Adult	Mule Deer Does Fawn	Total Deer Harvest
2014	Resident	NA	NA	NA	NA									
	Nonresident	NA	NA	NA	NA									
2015	Resident	NA	NA	NA	NA									
	Nonresident	NA	NA	NA	NA									
2016	Resident	NA	NA	NA	NA	384	31	215	11	83	0	15	5	744
	Nonresident	NA	NA	NA	NA	76	4	39	3	49	0	7	0	177
2017	Resident	NA	NA	NA	NA	448	13	258	17	85	0	24	0	844
	Nonresident	NA	NA	NA	NA	101	3	49	3	35	0	12	0	204

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Deer Hunting Seasons – Hunting Unit License Allocations

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**April 5-6, 2018**	**Rapid City**
	Public Hearing	**May 3, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Finalization	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**

LICENSE ALLOCATION BY SEASONS AND UNITS

See Attached Spreadsheet

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident Licenses								License Totals			
		AnyD	AtlD	AD+AtlD	2 AtlD	AnyW	AtlW	AW+AtlW	2 AtlW	RES	RES	RES	RES
		01	03	08	09	11	13	18	19	1-tag	2-tag	Licenses	Tags
01A	Minnehaha	450	100							550	0	550	550
03A	Brown	1,100	1,300							2,400	0	2,400	2,400
04A	Beadle					500	100			600	0	600	600
05A	Codington	250								250	0	250	250
06A	Brookings	450	100							550	0	550	550
07A	Yankton	250								250	0	250	250
07B	Yankton		75							75	0	75	75
08A	Davison					200				200	0	200	200
10A	Aurora					350	200			550	0	550	550
12A	Bon Homme	150								150	0	150	150
12B	Bon Homme						50			50	0	50	50
13A	Brule	100				600		200		700	200	900	1,100
13L	Brule	20								20	0	20	20
14A	Buffalo	100						250		100	250	350	600
16A	Campbell	20				400	300			720	0	720	720
17A	Charles Mix	100				150				250	0	250	250
18A	Clark	600								600	0	600	600
19A	Clay	200								200	0	200	200
22A	Day	600								600	0	600	600
23A	Deuel	400								400	0	400	400
25A	Douglas					150				150	0	150	150
26A	Edmunds			700	600					0	1,300	1,300	2,600
28A	Faulk			600	800					0	1,400	1,400	2,800
29A	Grant	300								300	0	300	300
32A	Hamlin	600								600	0	600	600
33A	Hand	20				450	400			870	0	870	870
34A	Hanson					200				200	0	200	200
36A	Hughes	175				250	175			600	0	600	600
37A	Hutchinson					100				100	0	100	100
38A	Hyde	20						500	200	20	700	720	1,420
40A	Jerauld					350	200			550	0	550	550
42A	Kingsbury	500	100							600	0	600	600
43A	Lake	300	100							400	0	400	400
44A	Lincoln	200	50							250	0	250	250
46A	McCook	350	100							450	0	450	450
47A	McPherson	500			500					500	500	1,000	1,500
48A	Marshall	500								500	0	500	500
51A	Miner	400	350							750	0	750	750
52A	Moody	350	100							450	0	450	450
54A	Potter	150						500	400	150	900	1,050	1,950
55A	Roberts	500								500	0	500	500
56A	Sanborn					350	200			550	0	550	550
57A	Spink	900	400							1,300	0	1,300	1,300
59A	Sully	100				250	100			450	0	450	450
59B	Sully	20				350	100			470	0	470	470
61A	Turner	100								100	0	100	100
62A	Union	250	50							300	0	300	300
63A	Walworth	50				400	300			750	0	750	750
	TOTAL	**11,075**	**2,825**	**1,300**	**1,900**	**5,050**	**2,125**	**1,450**	**600**	**21,075**	**5,250**	**26,325**	**31,575**
Unit #	Unit Name	AnyD	AtlD	AD+AtlD	2 AtlD	AnyW	AtlW	AW+AtlW	2 AtlW	RES	RES	RES	RES
		01	03	08	09	11	13	18	19	1-tag	2-tag	Licenses	Tags

EAST RIVER DEER
2017 vs. 2018 Comparison

Unit #	Unit Name	2017 Resident Licenses	2018 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2017 Resident Tags	2018 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
01A	Minnehaha	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
03A	Brown	2,400	2,400	0	0%	2,400	2,400	0	0%
04A	Beadle	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
05A	Codington	250	250	0	0%	250	250	0	0%
06A	Brookings	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
07A	Yankton	250	250	0	0%	250	250	0	0%
07B	Yankton	75	75	0	0%	75	75	0	0%
08A	Davison	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
10A	Aurora	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
12A	Bon Homme	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
12B	Bon Homme	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
13A	Brule	900	900	0	0%	1,100	1,100	0	0%
13L	Brule	20	20	0	0%	20	20	0	0%
14A	Buffalo	350	350	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
16A	Campbell	720	720	0	0%	720	720	0	0%
17A	Charles Mix	250	250	0	0%	250	250	0	0%
18A	Clark	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
19A	Clay	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
22A	Day	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
23A	Deuel	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
25A	Douglas	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
26A	Edmunds	1,300	1,300	0	0%	2,600	2,600	0	0%
28A	Faulk	1,400	1,400	0	0%	2,800	2,800	0	0%
29A	Grant	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
32A	Hamlin	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
33A	Hand	870	870	0	0%	870	870	0	0%
34A	Hanson	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
36A	Hughes	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
37A	Hutchinson	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
38A	Hyde	720	720	0	0%	1,420	1,420	0	0%
40A	Jerauld	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
42A	Kingsbury	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
43A	Lake	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
44A	Lincoln	250	250	0	0%	250	250	0	0%
46A	McCook	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
47A	McPherson	1,000	1,000	0	0%	1,500	1,500	0	0%
48A	Marshall	500	500	0	0%	500	500	0	0%
51A	Miner	750	750	0	0%	750	750	0	0%
52A	Moody	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
54A	Potter	1,050	1,050	0	0%	1,950	1,950	0	0%
55A	Roberts	500	500	0	0%	500	500	0	0%
56A	Sanborn	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
57A	Spink	1,300	1,300	0	0%	1,300	1,300	0	0%
59A	Sully	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
59B	Sully	470	470	0	0%	470	470	0	0%
61A	Turner	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
62A	Union	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
63A	Walworth	750	750	0	0%	750	750	0	0%
	TOTAL	**26,325**	**26,325**	**0**	**0%**	**31,575**	**31,575**	**0**	**0%**

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION

Depredation Permits
Chapter 41:06:46

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**April 5-6, 2018**	**Rapid City**
	Public Hearing	**May 3, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Finalization	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. The commission by resolution shall specify the number and type of all big game depredation permits that may be issued.
2. Elk depredation hunts may be conducted any time throughout the year.
3. Other big game species depredation hunts may only occur from December 1 to the following March 31.
4. Only residents may register and online registration is required.
5. Hunters that register for depredation hunts from December 1-31 will be randomly selected to determine the order in which they are contacted if a depredation hunt is needed. After December 31, additional hunters will be registered in the pool in the order that they enroll.
6. The pool of standby hunters expires on April 15 each year, except the pool of hunters registered for elk, which expires on December 31 of the following year.
7. Landowners are eligible for permits if they experience documented big game depredation and are operating agricultural or grazing land in which a depredation hunt has been authorized.
8. Any person is eligible to apply for an elk depredation permit, except persons who hold an elk hunting license from the current elk drawing.
9. Any elk depredation permit holders would not lose any preference points they accumulated over the years; landowners who participate in a hunt would not lose their eligibility to apply for a license for the subsequent elk season.
10. An elk depredation permit shall be issued for a fee of $20.
11. Other big game species depredation permits are free-of-charge.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Modify the dates that big game species (excluding elk) depredation hunts may occur from December 1 to March 31, to August 15 to the following March 31.
2. Modify the dates that the pool of hunters is valid from December 1 to the following December 31 for all species.
3. Eliminate the $20 fee for elk depredation permits.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Due to extensive crop damage that can occur during the growing season in some areas with high wildlife populations, GFP would like to expand the time-period which depredation hunts may be utilized.

The time-period which the pool of hunters is valid would need to be adjusted so there would be a pool of available hunters should a depredation hunt be needed prior to December 1.

GFP recommends to eliminate the fee charged for elk depredation permits to be consistent with all other big game species depredation permit fees, which there is no charge.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION

Apprentice Hunter Deer Season
Chapters 41:06:01; 41:06:02; 41:06:44

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**April 5-6, 2018**	**Rapid City**
	Public Hearing	**May 3, 2018**	**Custer State Park**
	Finalization	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2018 hunting season

Season Dates: September 8, 2018 – January 1, 2019

Open Area: Statewide

Licenses: Single tag "any antlerless deer" license

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Both residents and nonresidents that have not reached the age of 18 years old on June 30 may purchase an apprentice hunter deer license. Resident hunters who have not previously held a license to hunt deer in South Dakota may purchase an apprentice hunter deer license.
2. Allow a resident parent and/or guardian to purchase an apprentice hunter deer license.
3. Each hunter must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
4. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
5. Receipt of a license does not affect eligibility for other seasons.
6. Hunters may purchase up to one (1) apprentice hunter deer license valid statewide.
7. Waubay State Game Refuge, Farm Island State Recreation Area, LaFramboise Island Nature Area, and the Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management South unit and the signed portion of the North unit are closed to those with an apprentice hunter deer license.

Proposed change from last year:

1. Rename ARSD Chapter 41:06:44 from Youth Deer Hunting Season to Apprentice Hunter Deer Season.
2. License is valid for any resident who has not previously held a license to hunt deer in South Dakota.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal:

1. Mentor hunters are eligible to hunt during the apprentice deer hunting season.
2. Remove the current closed restriction on Farm Island State Recreation Area and LaFramboise Island Nature Area in Hughes County.
3. Change license eligibility for any resident who has not held a license to hunt deer during the previous 10 years.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Recommended changes to proposal would: 1) establish the season when mentor hunters are eligible to deer hunt; 2) allow the use of archery equipment for mentor and apprentice hunter deer licenses at Farm Island State Recreation Area and LaFramboise Island nature Area in Hughes County; and 3) to recruit and reactivate deer hunters, regardless of origination of previously held deer licenses and if the applicant had not held a license to hunt deer during the previous 10 years, to be eligible for the apprentice hunter deer license.

APPROVE ____ MODIFY ____ REJECT ____ NO ACTION ____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION

Custer State Park Non-Trophy Bison Harvest
Chapter 41:06:60

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**April 5-6, 2018**	**Rapid City**
	Public Hearing	**April 5-6, 2018**	**Rapid City**
	Finalization	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

41:06:60:01. Season established.

The non-trophy bison harvest in Custer State Park is open for ~~47~~ **40** days beginning the ~~**last**~~ **first** Monday in October. A licensee is restricted to one day for the hunt and shall arrange their hunting date with the Custer State Park office.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Fifteen non-trophy bull bison licenses are issued with seven allocated to South Dakota residents in a first draw. License holders are restricted to one day for the harvest, must arrange the hunt date with the Custer State Park office and shall be accompanied by an authorized park official when hunting.

We are proposing to change the season start date to the first Monday in October to allow the non-trophy bison to be harvested as soon as they have been identified and sorted from the other sale animals in late September. The last few years we have had to hold the non-trophy bison in a separate area until the hunts started. Shortening the season from 47 to 40 days will allow for all non-trophy bison hunts to be completed before the trophy bison hunts begin yet still allowing enough time to complete each hunt.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION

Custer State Park Trophy Bison Bull Harvest
Chapter 41:06:42

Commission Meeting Dates:	**Proposal**	**April 5-6, 2018**	**Rapid City**
	Public Hearing	**April 5-6, 2018**	**Rapid City**
	Finalization	**May 3-4, 2018**	**Custer State Park**

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

41:06:42:01. Season established.

The trophy bison bull harvest in Custer State Park is open for ~~47~~ **61** days beginning the ~~**last**~~ **third** Monday in November. A licensee is restricted to three consecutive days for the hunt. Licensees shall arrange their hunting dates with the Custer State Park office.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Eight trophy bull bison licenses are issued with seven allocated to South Dakota residents in the first draw. Custer State Park's trophy bison harvest is the tool used to remove over mature bison bulls (10+ year-old), but is a sought after trophy opportunity. These bulls are eligible for Boone and Crockett awards and most qualify above the 115" minimum score. License holders are restricted to three days for the harvest and must arrange their hunting dates with the Custer State Park Office and be accompanied by an authorized park official when hunting.

The proposed 14-day season extension allows for more flexibility in scheduling the 3 days trophy hunts. Currently two hunters are scheduled each week. If a bull has not been harvest by the second day two hunters overlap. Our goal is to have 1 bison hunter in the park at a time to provide them with the best hunting opportunity.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

Division of Parks and Recreation

April YTD 2018 Revenue by Item

	2017		2018		%
	Number	**Dollar**	**Number**	**Dollar**	**Change**
Annual	4,908	$ 147,225	3,926	$ 117,767	-20%
2nd Annual	835	$ 12,521	548	$ 8,220	-34%
Combo	3,772	$ 169,734	3,874	$ 174,324	3%
Transferable	427	$ 27,770	418	$ 27,140	-2%
Daily License	4,058	$ 21,571	2,346	$ 14,075	-35%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	221	$ 2,208	102	$ 1,017	-54%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	580	$ 8,700	399	$ 5,985	-31%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	291	$ 1,164	294	$ 1,176	1%
Motorcoach Permit	398	$ 1,194	392	$ 1,176	-2%
CSP 7 Day Pass	4,925	$ 98,495	3,483	$ 69,669	-29%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	53	$ 530	67	$ 673	27%
Rally Bike Band					
One-Day Special Event		$ 800		$ 850	6%
PERMITS	***20,467***	***$ 491,912***	***15,848***	***$ 422,071***	***-14%***
Camping Services		$ 4,188,100		$ 4,406,510	5%
Picnic Reservations		$ 6,565		$ 4,632	-29%
Firewood	555	$ 2,774	502	$ 2,510	-10%
Gift Card		$ 4,308		$ 6,150	43%
LODGING	***555***	***$ 4,201,747***	***502***	***$ 4,419,801***	***5%***
TOTAL	***21,022***	***$ 4,693,659***	***16,350***	***$ 4,841,872***	***3%***

Division of Parks and Recreation

April 2018 YTD Revenue by District

LOCATION	2017	2018	%
Pickerel Lake			
Fort Sisseton			
Roy Lake			
Sica Hollow			
DISTRICT 1	***$ 185,533***	***$ 195,180***	***5%***
Richmond Lake			
Mina Lake			
Fisher Grove			
Amsden			
Lake Louise			
DISTRICT 2	***$ 85,744***	***$ 85,384***	***0%***
Pelican Lake			
Sandy Shore			
Lake Cochrane			
Hartford Beach			
DISTRICT 3	***$ 152,312***	***$ 157,415***	***3%***
Oakwood Lakes			
Lake Poinsett			
Lake Thompson			
DISTRICT 4	***$ 315,555***	***$ 353,456***	***12%***
Lake Herman			
Walker's Point			
DISTRICT 5	***$ 97,849***	***$ 100,256***	***2%***
Snake Creek			
Platte Creek			
Buryanek			
Burke Lake			
DISTRICT 6	***$ 159,304***	***$ 178,597***	***12%***
Palisades			
Big Sioux			
Lake Vermillion			
DISTRICT 7	***$ 257,142***	***$ 240,079***	***-7%***
Newton Hills			
Good Earth			
Union Grove			
Lake Alvin			
Adams			
DISTRICT 8	***$ 154,499***	***$ 169,371***	***10%***

LOCATION	2017	2018	%
Lewis & Clarks			
Chief White Cran			
Pierson Ranch			
Springfield			
Sand Creek			
Tabor			
DISTRICT 9	***$ 674,560***	***$ 710,862***	***5%***
North Point			
North Wheeler			
Pease Creek			
Randall Creek			
South Shore			
South Scalp			
Whetstone			
White Swan			
DISTRICT 10	***$ 238,560***	***$ 248,534***	***4%***
Farm Island			
West Bend			
DISTRICT 11	***$ 212,032***	***$ 229,710***	***8%***
Oahe Downstream			
Cow Creek			
Okobojo			
Spring Creek			
DISTRICT 12	***$ 176,234***	***$ 158,998***	***-10%***
West Whitlock			
East Whitlock			
Swan Creek			
Indian Creek			
Lake Hiddenwood			
Revheim Bay			
Walth Bay			
West Pollock			
DISTRICT 13	***$ 128,678***	***$ 129,316***	***0%***
Mickelson Trail			
Bear Butte			
DISTRICT 14	***$ 18,279***	***$ 10,068***	***-45%***
Shadehill			
Llewellyn Johns			
Rocky Point			
DISTRICT 15	***$ 175,139***	***$ 184,963***	***6%***
Custer			
DISTRICT 16	***$ 1,317,387***	***$ 1,282,809***	***-3%***
Angostura			
Sheps Canyon			
DISTRICT 17	***$ 244,972***	***$ 285,761***	***17%***
PIERRE OFFICE	***$ 99,880***	***$ 121,113***	***21%***
TOTAL	***$ 4,693,659***	***$ 4,841,872***	***3%***

Division of Parks and Recreation

April YTD 2018 Camping by District

LOCATION	2017	2018	%
Pickerel Lake	40	14	-65%
Fort Sisseton	21	11	-48%
Roy Lake	60	19	-68%
Sica Hollow	1	-	
DISTRICT 1	***122***	***44***	***-64%***
Richmond Lake	47	13	-72%
Mina Lake	78	36	-54%
Fisher Grove	9	9	0%
Amsden	6	1	-83%
Lake Louise	41	19	-54%
DISTRICT 2	***181***	***78***	***-57%***
Pelican Lake	72	11	-85%
Sandy Shore	3	4	33%
Lake Cochrane	19	2	-89%
Hartford Beach	181	79	-56%
DISTRICT 3	***275***	***96***	***-65%***
Oakwood Lakes	218	61	-72%
Lake Poinsett	105	41	-61%
Lake Thompson	84	42	-50%
DISTRICT 4	***407***	***144***	***-65%***
Lake Herman	122	72	-41%
Walker's Point	71	12	-83%
Lake Carthage	2	-	
DISTRICT 5	***195***	***84***	***-57%***
Snake Creek	154	162	5%
Platte Creek	19	15	-21%
Buryanek	75	51	-32%
Burke Lake	-	-	
DISTRICT 6	***248***	***228***	***-8%***
Palisades	313	182	-42%
Big Sioux	452	239	-47%
Lake Vermillion	417	146	-65%
DISTRICT 7	***1,182***	***567***	***-52%***
Newton Hills	428	216	-50%
Good Earth	-	-	
Union Grove	73	21	-71%
DISTRICT 8	***501***	***237***	***-53%***

LOCATION	2017	2018	%
Lewis & Clark	643	416	-35%
Chief White Crane	280	172	-39%
Pierson Ranch	88	38	-57%
Springfield	30	10	-67%
Sand Creek	-	-	
Tabor	2	-	
DISTRICT 9	***1,043***	***636***	***-39%***
North Point	81	34	-58%
North Wheeler	4	3	-25%
Pease Creek	26	5	-81%
Randall Creek	72	29	-60%
South Shore	8	2	-75%
South Scalp	14	1	-93%
Whetstone	11	3	-73%
White Swan	-	2	
DISTRICT 10	***216***	***79***	***-63%***
Farm Island	279	111	-60%
West Bend	191	203	6%
DISTRICT 11	***470***	***314***	***-33%***
Oahe Downstream	444	248	-44%
Cow Creek	68	86	26%
Okobojo	10	7	-30%
DISTRICT 12	***522***	***341***	***-35%***
West Whitlock	45	18	-60%
East Whitlock	15	3	-80%
Swan Creek	8	3	-63%
Indian Creek	91	141	55%
Lake Hiddenwood	1	-	
Walth Bay	-	-	
West Pollock	9	77	756%
DISTRICT 13	***169***	***242***	***43%***
Bear Butte	48	4	-92%
DISTRICT 14	***48***	***4***	
Shadehill	67	20	-70%
Llewellyn Johns	-	-	
Rocky Point	291	147	-49%
DISTRICT 15	***358***	***167***	***-53%***
Custer	1,051	660	-37%
DISTRICT 16	***1,051***	***660***	***-37%***
Angostura	837	674	-19%
Sheps Canyon	29	25	-14%
DISTRICT 17	***866***	***699***	***-19%***
TOTAL	***7,854***	***4,620***	***-41%***

Division of Parks and Recreation

April YTD 2018 Visitation by District

LOCATION	2017	2018	%
Pickerel Lake	2,489	2,961	19%
Fort Sisseton	3,453	2,486	-28%
Roy Lake	12,373	12,313	0%
Sica Hollow	2,582	1,345	-48%
DISTRICT 1	***20,897***	***19,105***	***-9%***
Richmond Lake	15,819	5,056	-68%
Mina Lake	5,093	3,846	-24%
Fisher Grove	2,898	1,283	-56%
Lake Louise	4,545	4,169	-8%
DISTRICT 2	***28,355***	***14,354***	***-49%***
Pelican Lake	1,170	3,677	214%
Sandy Shore	2,342	2,595	11%
Lake Cochrane	308	370	20%
Hartford Beach	11,716	9,261	-21%
DISTRICT 3	***15,536***	***15,903***	***2%***
Oakwood Lakes	12,846	7,138	-44%
Lake Poinsett	8,368	6,593	-21%
Lake Thompson	7,388	7,863	6%
DISTRICT 4	***28,602***	***21,594***	***-25%***
Lake Herman	17,837	14,799	-17%
Walker's Point	6,935	5,615	-19%
DISTRICT 5	***24,772***	***20,414***	***-18%***
Snake Creek	15,074	9,489	-37%
Platte Creek	13,208	12,127	-8%
Buryanek	2,895	2,829	-2%
Burke Lake	4,712	4,803	2%
DISTRICT 6	***35,889***	***29,248***	***-19%***
Palisades	16,864	12,813	-24%
Big Sioux	10,092	8,478	-16%
Beaver Creek	7,063	5,034	-29%
Lake Vermillion	15,921	10,590	-33%
DISTRICT 7	***49,940***	***36,915***	***-26%***
Newton Hills	15,212	16,130	6%
Good Earth	16,454	8,942	-46%
Union Grove	1,503	1,371	-9%
Lake Alvin	5,571	6,512	17%
Spirit Mound	4,070	5,365	32%
Adams	7,239	7,327	1%
DISTRICT 8	***50,049***	***45,647***	***-9%***

LOCATION	2017	2018	%
Lewis & Clark	82,481	73,348	-11%
Chief White Crane	2,590	2,657	3%
Pierson Ranch	9,574	7,605	-21%
Springfield	22,028	17,799	-19%
DISTRICT 9	***116,673***	***101,409***	***-13%***
North Point	12,887	9,945	-23%
North Wheeler	2,481	2,209	-11%
Pease Creek	3,405	1,899	-44%
Randall Creek	8,150	7,347	-10%
Ft. Randall Boat Club	1,310	472	-64%
DISTRICT 10	***28,233***	***21,872***	***-23%***
Farm Island	31,351	30,957	-1%
West Bend	5,006	3,232	-35%
LaFramboise Island	21,071	16,684	-21%
DISTRICT 11	***57,428***	***50,873***	***-11%***
Oahe Downstream	81,464	46,875	-42%
Cow Creek	51,025	35,989	-29%
Okobojo	5,373	7,341	37%
Spring Creek	17,462	17,466	0%
DISTRICT 12	***155,324***	***107,671***	***-31%***
West Whitlock	3,554	2,551	-28%
Swan Creek	7,977	3,250	-59%
Indian Creek	7,928	7,421	-6%
Lake Hiddenwood	4,344	3,243	-25%
Revheim Bay	15,685	19,006	21%
West Pollock	8,597	13,015	51%
DISTRICT 13	***48,085***	***48,486***	***1%***
Bear Butte	3,871	3,802	-2%
DISTRICT 14	***3,871***	***3,802***	***-2%***
Shadehill	4,184	4,137	-1%
Llewellyn Johns	903	745	-17%
Little Moreau	3,753	2,880	-23%
Rocky Point	15,082	9,575	-37%
DISTRICT 15	***23,922***	***17,337***	***-28%***
Custer	227,466	224,926	-1%
DISTRICT 16	***227,466***	***224,926***	***-1%***
Angostura	25,746	23,494	-9%
Sheps Canyon	8,436	5,673	-33%
DISTRICT 17	***34,182***	***29,167***	***-15%***
TOTAL	***949,224***	***808,723***	***-15%***

License Sales Totals

(as of April 26)

date updated: 27 April 2018

Resident	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	+/- Licenses	+/- Revenue
Combination	26,499	28,476	29,288	29,481	25,897	-3,584	$ (197,120)
Junior Combination	2,758	2,959	2,911	3,097	2,115	-982	$ (26,514)
Senior Combination	4,550	5,334	5,829	6,206	6,010	-196	$ (7,840)
Small Game	1,518	1,393	1,383	1,225	1,252	27	$ 891
Youth Small Game	744	731	685	676	683	7	$ 35
1-Day Small Game	128	192	227	182	166	-16	$ (192)
Migratory Bird Certificate	14,206	12,593	11,955	12,120	11,316	-804	$ (4,020)
Predator/Varmint	869	903	1,116	835	855	20	$ 100
Furbearer	2,338	2,209	2,078	2,024	2,319	295	$ 8,850
Annual Fishing	22,561	24,912	24,775	25,203	16,222	-8,981	$ (251,468)
Senior Fishing	5,451	6,065	6,332	6,286	4,595	-1,691	$ (20,292)
1-Day Fishing	744	843	809	977	563	-414	$ (3,312)
Gamefish Spearing/Archery	1,823	1,798	1,718	1,891	1,776	-115	$ (575)

Nonresident	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
Small Game	2,184	2,840	2,809	2,118	2,056	-62	$ (7,502)
Youth Small Game	144	179	209	160	138	-22	$ (220)
Annual Shooting Preserve	56	95	72	72	64	-8	$ (968)
5-day Shooting Preserve	503	539	562	579	555	-24	$ (1,824)
1-day Shooting Preserve	161	225	299	217	208	-9	$ (414)
Spring Light Goose	4,572	4,249	3,964	4,494	4,694	200	$ 10,000
Youth Spring Light Goose	165	161	138	159	178	19	$ 494
Migratory Bird Certificate	256	60	156	179	158	-21	$ (105)
Predator/Varmint	732	839	870	841	856	15	$ 600
Furbearer	5	4	2	2	4	2	$ 550
Annual Fishing	8,976	10,584	11,612	10,672	9,290	-1,382	$ (92,594)
Family Fishing	3,081	3,550	3,587	3,330	2,757	-573	$ (38,391)
Youth Annual Fishing	361	387	515	352	293	-59	$ (1,475)
3-Day Fishing	3,625	4,411	4,938	4,593	4,888	295	$ 10,915
1-Day Fishing	2,768	2,824	2,928	2,811	2,005	-806	$ (12,896)
Gamefish Spearing/Archery	398	386	454	431	456	25	$ 125
TOTALS =	**112,176**	**119,741**	**122,221**	**121,213**	**102,369**	**-18,844**	**$ (635,162)**