



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

NOVEMBER 2, 2023 | PRAIRIE SHORES RESORT | MADISON, SD

Call Meeting to Order (1 pm CST / 12 pm MT)

Division of Administration

Action Items

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
4. Commission 2024 Schedule

Informational Items

5. Go Outdoors Update
6. New Staff Introductions

Open Forum – 2 pm CST / 1 pm MT

The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment on petitions, proposals, and other items of interest not on the agenda.

Petition

7. Petition #205: Nonresident Archery Licenses

Division of Parks and Recreation

Action Items

8. Lake Byron Land Trade

Informational Items

9. LWCF and RTP Final Project List
10. October Monthly Reports: Camping Units and Revenue

Division of Wildlife

Action Items

11. Nonresident One-Day Fishing License
12. Bighorn Sheep Plan Adoption

Informational Items

13. Oahe Smallmouth Bass – Walleye Interactions
14. Antelope Fall Classification Results
15. R3 Update
16. Avian Influenza Update
17. Pheasant Season Report & License Sale Update

Solicitation of Agenda Items

Now is the time to submit agenda items for the Commission to consider at a following Commission Meeting.

Adjourn

Next meeting will be held on December 7-8, in Pierre, South Dakota.

GFP Commission Meeting Minutes

Cadillac Jack's Resort | Deadwood, SD | October 5-6, 2023

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm MT at the Springhill Suites in Deadwood, SD on October 5, 2023. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Julie Bartling, Jim White, Robert Whitmyre, Travis Bies, Jon Locken, Bruce Cull, and Charles Spring were present. With all eight members present, a quorum was established. The public and staff can listen via SDPB Livestream and participate via conference or in person, with approximately 51 total participants attending via Zoom or in person.

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure [Action Item]

Chair Rissler requested the disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest, but none were brought forward.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes [Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for any additions or corrections to the regular minutes of September 2023 meeting. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>.

Motioned by Bartling, seconded by Locken to APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2023 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Additional Salary Days [Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for additional salary days from the Commissioners. None brought forward.

4. 2024 Commission Meeting Calendar Approval [Action Item]

Deputy Secretary Scott Simpson brought forth the proposed 2024 commission meeting schedule from the Department.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO TABLE THE 2024 COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR TO THE NOVEMBER COMMISSION MEETING. The motion carried unanimously.

5. South Dakota GoOutdoors Update [Info Item]

Keith Fisk, Licensing Program Administrator, gave an update on the South Dakota GoOutdoors licensing system.

Public Hearing

Scott Simpson, Deputy Secretary, opened the public hearing at 2:00 pm MT on October 5, 2023, for discussion from those in attendance on finalizations that the commission would be hearing for the day.

- 2:03 pm: Nancy Hilding from Black Hawk, SD representing the Prairie Hills Audubon Society testified concerning the Free Park Entrance and Fishing finalization.

Simpson closed the public hearing at 2:07 pm MT.

Open Forum

Scott Simpson, Deputy Secretary, opened the floor at 2:08 pm MT for discussion for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda not as a finalization or may not be on the agenda.

- 2:08 pm: Dean Rose of New Castle, WY testified in person in opposition to the nonresident one-day fishing license action item.
- 2:09 pm: Sean Burns of Edgemont, SD representing Black Hill Fishing Guides testified in person in opposition to the nonresident one-day fishing license action item.

GFP Commission Meeting Minutes

Cadillac Jack's Resort | Deadwood, SD | October 5-6, 2023

- 2:12 PM: Patrick Weimer of Spearfish, SD testified in person in support of the nonresident raccoon hunting with hounds petition.
- 2:16 pm: Jeremy Wells of Sturgis, SD testified in person in support of the nonresident raccoon hunting with hounds petition.
- 2:20 pm: Gene Parrow of Britton, SD testified virtually in support of the nonresident raccoon hunting with hounds petition.
- 2:21 pm: Julie Anderson of Rapid City, SD testified virtually in opposition to the nonresident raccoon hunting with hounds petition.
- 2:24 pm: Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD representing the Prairie Hills Audubon Society testified virtually in opposition to the nonresident raccoon hunting with hounds petition.
- 2:28 pm: Zach Hunke of Watertown, SD representing the South Dakota Wildlife Federation testified in support of the Custer State Park airport decommissioning action item, in support of the nonresident one-day fishing license action item, in support of the Lake Byron land exchange.
- 2:30 pm: Lyssa Bruzelius of Pierre, SD representing South Dakota Missouri River Tourism testified in person in opposition to the nonresident one-day fishing license action item.
- 2:34 pm: Mike Allen of Chamberlain, SD testified virtually in opposition to the nonresident one-day fishing license action item.
- 2:37 pm: Cole Halmrast of Cogwells, ND representing North Dakota Coonhunter Association testified virtually in support of the nonresident raccoon hunting with hounds petition.
- 2:39 pm: Gary Allen of Chamberlain, SD testified virtually in opposition to the nonresident one-day fishing license action item.

Simpson closed the Open Forum at 2:43 pm MT.

6. Nonresident Raccoon Hunting with Hounds

[Petition]

Patrick Weimer of Spearfish, SD, submitted Petition #203, which would allow nonresidents the right to hunt with the aid of hounds with a limitation of a one raccoon harvest limit per licensed hunter.

The Department's recommendation to the Commission was presented by John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief. The department recommended denial based on the one raccoon harvest limit.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO DENY PETITION #203 WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR NONRESIDENTS TO HUNT RACCOON WITH HOUNDS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-29 WHICH DENIES PETITION #203. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Free Park Entrance and Fishing

[Finalization]

With three public comments received (two supporting and one other) and no other comments shared with staff or commissioners, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff VanMeeteren made a recommendation on behalf of the Department to ask the Commission to finalize the elimination of Mother's Day and Father's Day from the list of exemptions for the park entrance license and fishing. The exemption has had no real affect in enticing new customers to purchase PEL's or fishing licenses with many regular customers supporting the decision as they feel state resources should not be given away. Open House Weekend which provides for free park entrance and fishing over 3 days (3rd weekend in May) will continue to be offered.

GFP Commission Meeting Minutes

Cadillac Jack's Resort | Deadwood, SD | October 5-6, 2023

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY SPRING TO ADOPT THE FINALIZATION TO ELIMINATE MOTHER'S DAY AND FATHER'S DAY FROM THE LIST OF EXEMPTIONS FOR THE PARK ENTRANCE LICENSE AND FISHING. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Hunt for Habitat

[Finalization]

Tom Kirschenmann, Director of Wildlife, provided the background again for the commissioners on the reasons for bringing forward a change to the hunting packages included in the Hunt for Habitat. The result will be two more winners; a change from four hunting packages to six packages. The main difference is the removal of the antelope and create two stand-alone deer hunting licenses. The department is hopeful these changes will bring additional excitement to the opportunities and the result will be additional funds for creating or enhancing more habitat on Game Production Areas across the state.

MOTIONED BY LOCKEN, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADOPT THE HUNT FOR HABITAT FINALIZATION INCREASING THE HUNTING PACKAGES FROM FOUR TO SIX PACKAGES. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Custer State Park Airport

[Action Item]

After reviewing public input and discussing the potential closure with various pilot groups, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff VanMeeteren recommended to the Commission that the license be allowed to expire at the end of this year essentially closing the airport. The airport was originally built for fire protection and State of SD purposes and was never set up for recreational pilots. The Department of GFP does not desire to be in the airport management business. Given Wildland Fires and the State no longer use this airport, the limited use the airport receives from recreational pilots (estimated at 50-75 per year) who do not financially contribute to the airport and the pending repairs needed to the airport runway which would need to be supported by Department revenue with no federal funds available, the Commission put forward a resolution supporting the expiration/closure on Dec. 31, 2023.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO ALLOW THE CUSTER STATE PARK AIRPORT LICENSE TO LAPSE WITH DOT AERONAUTICS COMMISSION ON DECEMBER 31, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-30 WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO LET THE PERMIT WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LAPSE. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Lake Alvin Dam Update

[Info Item]

Adam Kulesa, Planning and Development Administrator, provided a very brief verbal update was provided to the commission about the Lake Alvin Spillway replacement highlighted by an expected completion date for the spillway replacement of spring 2025. A few questions were asked by the commission and were appropriately answered. No follow up required.

11. Lake Byron Land Exchange

[Info Item]

Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, provided as an information item the proposed land exchange that would trade .21 acres at Lake Byron LUA (encroached on by a neighboring storage shed) in Beadle County with 61 acres of land near Grenville in Day County. The .21 acres was appraised at \$11,500 and property in Day County is valued at \$61,000. The owner of the Day County land, James Kurkowski, would like the property to be named after the Kurkowski family name. This proposal will be put back in front of the commission in November for their approval or denial.

12. Buffalo Roundup Recap

[Info Item]

Matt Snyder, Regional Supervisor for West Region, reported to the Commissioners that the 58th Annual Governors Round Up and Arts Festival was a huge success. Hearing nothing but compliments. The event

GFP Commission Meeting Minutes

Cadillac Jack's Resort | Deadwood, SD | October 5-6, 2023

saw record numbers with 22,590 visitors in attendance compared to 22,078 in 2015 for the 50th. Over 150 staff helped facilitate the event from across the Department. SDPB has live streamed the event the past three years with over 71,000 views at the time of the Commission meeting. Approximately 1,500 animals were rounded up by 60 horseback riders. The three-day Art's Festival had over 170 vendors with record numbers of 18,396 visitors taking part in the festival. Beautiful fall weather was experienced all three days. Friday night the park hosted 4 hot air balloons who performed a night lighting. What is next? Park staff will work buffalo through the corral system the week of October 10-13. Annual auction will take place on Saturday, November 4, 2023, live streamed in the Visitor Center. The Park plans on auctioning approximately 500 animals.

13. 25th Anniversary of Mickelson Trails Trek

[Info Item]

Dana Garry-Reiprich, George S. Mickelson Trails Manager, presented to the Commissioners that 600 folks attended the 3-day bicycle ride on the Mickelson Trail celebrating the 25th Anniversary. We had the pleasure of hosting 26 states, six 25-year riders and Mark and Amy Mickelson – son and daughter of the late Gov. George S. Mickelson and trail name's sake. The ride was a success with perfect weather, a wonderful group of likeminded individuals and 109 miles of pristine trail riding surface! The Anniversary celebration was held on Friday, September 15 at the Beacon in Custer, SD. The panel consisted of Mark Mickelson (stories of his Fathers work), Doug Hofer (Director of GFP at the time), Susan Johnson (sister of Guy Edwards, the catalyst behind the trail), Kevin Mills (Rails to Trails National Director)- They were able to give a cohesive overview of the challenges and successes of the early years of the Trail. The celebration was attended by about 400 individuals. A huge thanks to the Parks and Wildlife Foundation, and the Party planners: Kitty Kinsman, Steve Zellmer, Dave and Jane Snyder, Susan Johnson and many others for making the event a success.

14. Fall Events in the Parks

[Info Item]

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff VanMeeteren showcased a list of planned park events for the remainder of this fall. A PowerPoint was presented highlighting 10 of the Halloween focused fall events that will occur in October. These events are designed to: 1) draw new customers into our parks in the fall, 2) provide an opportunity for park staff to collaborate with their local communities in putting these events on, and 3) for staff to engage their creative talents in hosting these unique events.

15. Camping, Visitation and Revenue Report

[Info Item]

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff VanMeeteren shared with the commission that September was a good month for camping with only one out of the five weekends being rainy across the state. Overall visitation and camping unit numbers are tracking close to the 2022 numbers. Park entrance license sales in September were excellent with a 21% growth from 2022. Marketing the new 2024 PEL will continue over the fall including the holiday season for customer gift possibilities. Lodging marketing efforts are starting to pay off with numbers as of October 3, 2023, having already exceeded last year's total by 209 nights and we still have 3 months to go.

16. Nonresident One-Day Fishing Licenses

[Action Item]

Director Kirschenmann presented and reviewed the same presentation on nonresident one-day fishing licenses as shared during the September meeting. Discussion focused on the number of licenses purchased by individuals and how that number dramatically reduces once 3 licenses were surpassed. The consideration of removing the one-day license was focal point and what that would mean financially, how it would influence opportunities, and impacts to the industry. Several comments of opposition were shared with the commission, primarily from the guiding and tourism industry. The commission decided to table the conversation until their November meeting to obtain additional public input and to have the time to further weigh other options.

GFP Commission Meeting Minutes

Cadillac Jack's Resort | Deadwood, SD | October 5-6, 2023

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BIES TO TABLE TO NONRESIDENT ONE-DAY FISHING LICENSE ACTION ITEM UNTIL THE NOVEMBER MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

17. CWD Update

[\[Info Item\]](#)

Byron Buckley, Senior Wildlife Biologist, provided an overview of the South Dakota GFP goals for CWD monitoring (determine presence/absence of CWD, reduce the spread of CWD, and inform the public). Chronic wasting disease has been present since 2001 and has spread into different areas of South Dakota. Typical testing for CWD is done with ELISA test (the gold standard) however, new testing methods (RT-QulC) are showing promising results when using different tissues sampled from cervids. We began a pilot study to examine the potential of using RT-QulC with testing elk ear tissue. At present we have found that biopsy of elk ears resulted in 85.7% sensitivity rate and 76.2% specificity rate and detection was best around the edges of the elk ears. Next steps are to examine new statistical methods for assessing diagnostics and potentially use Nano-QulC or MN-QulC to increase specificity rates and remote test, respectively. South Dakota GFP will be live-capturing elk (100-150) in January 2024 and place GPS transmitters on cows to estimate survival and CWD prevalence in the population. Additionally, soil samples will be collected starting in spring/summer of 2024 to test for CWD prevalence in the environment in the Black Hills.

18. Bighorn Sheep Auction Plan

[\[Info Item\]](#)

Chad Lehman, Senior Wildlife Biologist, presented to the commission that the "South Dakota Bighorn Sheep Action Plan 2023-2027" outlines management priorities and strategies for bighorn sheep in South Dakota. Bighorn sheep, known for their ability to thrive in challenging environments, were reintroduced in the early 1920s after their extinction in the late 1890s. The plan offers historical context, survey methods, and objectives for sustainable bighorn sheep management. It addresses the ongoing issue of respiratory disease in these populations, highlighting the importance of disease research and management. The plan's objectives encompass monitoring diseases, assessing population status, habitat protection and augmentation, scientific research, and public education. It is considered a flexible working document that will evolve with new data. This plan will guide decision-making and collaboration with various stakeholders to ensure the successful management of bighorn sheep in South Dakota.

19. Elk Fall Classifications Survey Results

[\[Info Item\]](#)

Byron Buckley, Senior Wildlife Biologist, provided the commissioners with South Dakota GFP objective for elk populations (6-8,000 Black Hills; 5-600 Custer State Park; the majority (60%) of the bulls to be 4+ years old; minimum firearm harvest at 75%). Fall herd composition surveys were conducted in August 2023, pre-hunting season random ground counts, where observers counted calf, cow, and bull elk to estimate sex and age ratio. A total of 2,005 individuals were observed with 1,113 cows, 568 calves, and 324 bulls across the entire Black Hills. Most elk were observed in H3 and H2 hunting units. Age ratio, recruitment, was above the 10-year average for the Black Hills (53 calves:100 cows) indicating good recruitment. We anticipate our late winter elk surveys in January 2024 will be higher than the population projection from our statistical models. We will combine all of our collected data (harvest, recruitment, survey numbers, and survival) to estimate the 2024 population and provide a projected trend for the next 4 years.

20. AIS Program Update

[\[Info Item\]](#)

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Administrator, provided the Commission with an update on the Departments Aquatic Invasive Species program. Thus far, 18,159 watercraft inspections have occurred statewide, compared to 18,049 at the same time last year. The Sand Lake Wildlife Refuge, Roy Lake and the James and Big Sioux Rivers are now considered infested with zebra mussels, as well.

21. Lake Chub Status

[\[Info Item\]](#)

Chelsey Pasbrig, Aquatic Biologist, provided a brief update on the status of Lake Chub in the Black Hills. Lake Chub are a peripheral species, native to the Black Hills and Little Missouri River but have never

GFP Commission Meeting Minutes

Cadillac Jack's Resort | Deadwood, SD | October 5-6, 2023

had a large distribution in South Dakota. Recent surveys found that Lake Chub were found in Boxelder Creek and its tributary, Bogus Jim. Lake Chub favored habitats with slow water velocities, spring-fed influence and low trout abundances. The genetic structure does not support enough genetic divergence to manage Lake Chub in the Black Hills as more than one population. Moving forward SDGFP and its partners plan to continue monitoring, conservation planning, and translocation efforts.

22. GFP Habitat and Public Use Assessment

[Info Item]

Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, reported that GFP conducted a recent internal Game Production Area assessment was completed to rank all 723 GPAs/WAA on a scale of 1-10 for habitat and public use opportunities. The presentation compared the 2018 assessment with the one just completed. Rankings went up to an average of 6.4 for habitat and 6.8 for public use opportunities, an increase in both since 2018. A list of total accomplishments was also shared showing what has been done between 2018 and 2022. Challenges and successes were shared and a thanks to staff and various partners who help complete a lot of projects on GPAs.

23. Western South Dakota Shooting Complex Update

[Info Item]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, reported GFP is setting out to construct a world class shooting sports complex located in Meade County. The mass grading/dirt work for the SD Shooting Sports Complex was advertised for bid on August 3rd. Bids were accepted through August 30th and a bid opening was held on August 31st. Groundbreaking is expected to occur in early 2024 or sooner. The next phase of the project for the finish work and structures is scheduled to go out for bid on November 9th and the bid opening will be December 7th. GFP advertised a request for proposals in late August for an individual or organization to assist with fundraising efforts for the shooting sports complex. GFP received four bids and Tammy Bohn from Sturgis, SD was selected to fill the position. The SD Shooting Sports Complex web page has been updated and there are new 3D renderings of the facility there. GFP is actively looking for sponsors and funding to support this project.

24. Fall Fishing and Hunting Forecast & License Sales Update

[Info Item]

Director Kirschenmann provided a brief update on license sales to date. Primary discussion point was the department will be watching closely how NR license sales progress over the next few weeks, in particular the opening weekend of the pheasant season. Kirschenmann also talked about results of license sales so far for both archery deer and archery antelope in light of the changes implemented to reduce the number of hunters on public land while still retaining unlimited options on private land. Results indicate fewer licenses have been sold for both seasons. He also talked about current seasons in progress and the success heard from across the state for seasons such as dove, grouse, archery deer and antelope, as well as elk hunting. A high level of optimism exists for the upcoming pheasant season as we continue to hear positive comments from all corners of the state.


Adjourn

[Action Item]

Next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2023, at the Prairie Shores Resort near Madison, South Dakota.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary



COMMISSION MEETINGS 2024

JAN **PIERRE**
11 - 12 MATTHEWS TRAINING CENTER
 SCHF MIXER

JUL **ST. LOUIS**
11 - 12 GOOD EARTH STATE PARK

FEB **NO MEETING**

AUG **STATEWIDE TOURS**

MAR **PIERRE**
7 - 8 MISSOURI AVENUE EVENTS CENTER

SEPT **HURON**
5 - 6 CROSSROADS HOTEL-HURON
 EVENT CENTER

APR **PIERRE**
4 - 5 MATTHEWS TRAINING CENTER

OCT **RAPID CITY**
3 - 4 OUTDOOR CAMPUS WEST

MAY **CUSTER STATE PARK**
2 - 3 EVENT BARN

NOV **PIERRE**
7 - 8 CAPITOL BUILDING - ROOM 414

JUN **PIERRE**
6 - 7 MATTHEWS TRAINING CENTER

DEC **PIERRE**
5 - 6 CAPITOL BUILDING - ROOM 414

For more details or previous meeting archives,
visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/>

**All dates and locations subject to change with 30 days prior notice.*

From: info@gfp.sd.us
To: jburleson13@gmail.com
Cc: [Kierl, Liz](#); [Harrington, Nick](#)
Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form
Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 9:42:13 PM

South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

Petition for Rule Change

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:

ID: 205
Petitioner Name: Jarred Burleson
Address: 507 Bleeker St
Lead, SD 57754
Email: jburleson13@gmail.com
Phone: 605-580-7887
Rule Identification: Non-Resident Archery Deer Whitetail only
Describe Change: Would like the Non-resident archery licences to be changed from any deer to any whitetail deer.
Reason for Change: I have hunted the black hills for over 20 years and we have always wanted to see the Mule Deer population grow. On multiple occasions my family and I have seen multiple mule deer taken by non-residents do to the fact Mule Deer are easier to get closer to for an archery shot. We would like to see the Mule Deer population in the Black Hills thrive and we believe this would help>

Agenda Item #8

South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks - Wildlife Division
Land Acquisition and Disposal Report
November 2023
Final Action Items

Kurkowski Property (Day County)

Location: Approximately ½ mile southeast of Grenville in Day County.

Size: 61 acres (46 acres water, 15 acres peninsula).

Management Objective: Lakeside Use Area –Connected to 11.5-acre Water Access Area owned by GFP.

Easements: None

Previous Use: Recreational

Appraised Value: \$61,000 (\$1,000/acre) (Jim Lake and James Kurkowski agree on \$25,000)

Acquisition Cost: N/A - Trade

Property Being Traded: .21 Acres at Lake Byron in Beadle County

Reason For Trade: Lake Byron property is encroached on by storage shed, Kurkowski Property is of interest to GFP, Kurkowski wants his property to go to GFP and named after the Kurkowski family. Jim Lake is interested in the Lake Byron property and adjoining private lot with remainder of the storage shed.

Appraised Value of Lake Byron Property: \$11,500.

Commission Acquisition Priorities: Round-out parcels that consolidate or connect existing public lands open to hunting, fishing, and other recreational related activities; parcels necessary to address public access needs to newly developed fisheries and popular water-based recreation resources; and parcels containing significant wetland habitat complexes.

Expected Closing: November/December 2023

Requested Commission Action: To adopt RESOLUTION 23–31 authorizing and confirming the exchange of the Lake Byron Property in Beadle County for the Kurkowski Property in Day County.

Property Map

Kurkowski Property



Lake Byron Property



RESOLUTION 23 - 31

WHEREAS, the State of South Dakota (held by and for the use and benefit of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP)) owns an interest in real estate described as:

G.F. & P. OUTLOT 3 in the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section Twenty-Seven (27), all in Township One Hundred Thirteen (113), North of Range Sixty-One (61), West of the 5th P.M., Beadle County, South Dakota; containing .21 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as GFP PROPERTY, which is valued at \$11,500.00; and

WHEREAS, James P. Kurkowski, 1110 E. 5th Street, Webster, SD (KURKOWSKI), owns an interest in real estate described as:

Lot Two (2) in Section twenty-four (24); and Lot Four (4) and Lot Three (3), except the North 58 feet of said Lot 3, Section Thirteen (13), all in Township One Hundred Twenty-Three (123), North of Range Fifty-five (55), West of the 5th P.M., Day County SD, containing 61 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as KURKOWSKI PROPERTY, which is valued at \$61,000.00; and

WHEREAS, James Lake, 4 Penmarch, Sioux Falls, SD 57108 (LAKE) who is interested in acquiring the above described KURKOWSKI PROPERTY for \$25,000 and trading it for the above described GFP PROPERTY; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota law (SDCL 41-2-29.2) provides that GFP has the power, authority, and duty to trade or exchange real property owned by the State and held by GFP if the GFP Commission shall first determine that real property more suitable to GFP purposes may be obtained by an exchange, provided the parcels of real property to be exchanged are of equal value; and

WHEREAS, GFP, KURKOWSKI, and LAKE agree to the following terms, LAKE will pay KURKOWSKI \$25,000 to acquire the KURKOWSKI PROPERTY; and GFP and LAKE will then exchange the KURKOWSKI PROPERTY and GFP PROPERTY; GFP will name the KURKOWSKI PROPERTY after the Kurkowski Family; and the GFP Commission having determined that KURKOWSKI PROPERTY is more suitable to GFP for GFP purposes than the GFP PROPERTY, and that the KURKOWSKI PROPERTY is valued at an equal or greater value to the GFP PROPERTY as determined by a qualified appraiser; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota law requires that the conveyance of GFP PROPERTY be approved and executed in the manner provided by SDCL 5-2-11.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the GFP Commission hereby takes final action on and approves the above referenced exchanges of the above-described parcels of real property and hereby directs GFP to take all steps necessary to effectuate the exchange of GFP PROPERTY for KURKOWSKI PROPERTY under procedures mandated by statute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GFP Commission does hereby ratify and confirm the Department's designation of the KURKOWSKI PROPERTY being acquired pursuant to the exchange authorized by this Resolution for utilization by the Division of Parks for the purpose of lakeside use area and, further, does hereby expressly designate and classify the KURKOWSKI PROPERTY being acquired pursuant to the exchange authorized by this Resolution for use as a lakeside use area.



Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

These funds come from royalties paid on offshore oil leases in the Gulf of Mexico.

The National Park Service (NPS) is the Federal agency that administers these funds.

Grants have 50/50 match requirement and come in the form of a reimbursement to project sponsor.

1. **City of Aberdeen** – Install fitness equipment at the intersection of trails in the north end of Kunhert Arboretum with a rubberized safety surfacing.
 - \$91,000 grant \$182,000 total project cost
2. **City of Britton** – Replace the lights at the Britton Baseball Field located in the south end of town.
 - \$144,000 grant \$288,000 total project cost
3. **City of Dell Rapids** – Replace the existing picnic shelter and restrooms in the city park.
 - \$250,000 grant \$500,000 total project cost
4. **City of Kadoka** – Replace the existing asphalt basketball court located in the city park.
 - \$57,911 grant \$115,822 total project cost
5. **Town of Lesterville** – Replace the lights at the town baseball field.
 - \$31,500 grant \$63,000 total project cost
6. **City of Mitchell** – Construct 6 pickleball courts in the southern part of Hitchcock Park.
 - \$195,000 grant \$390,000 total project cost
7. **City of Yankton** – Convert 2 tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts in Westside Park.
 - \$34,000 grant \$68,000 total project cost

2023 Total LWCF grants award to city projects \$803,411 with a total project cost of \$1,606,822.



Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

These funds come from the gas tax for motorized trail use.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the federal agency that administers these funds. Grants have 80/20 match requirement and come in the form of a reimbursement to project sponsor.

1. **City of Belle Fourche** – Install 22 solar lights along the Riverwalk Trail, west of HWY 85.
 - \$100,000 grant \$125,000 total project cost
2. **City of Box Elder** – Install 34 solar lights along the Fox Borough Trail System and in Veterans Park.
 - \$78,807 grant \$98,509 total project cost
3. **City of Deadwood** – Construct an OHV Trailhead Parking Area along HWY 85, east of the Lodge, on the south side of the highway.
 - \$246,527 grant \$308,159 total project cost
4. **City of Elk Point** – Pave the existing aggregate trail in Lions Park, located in the southeast part of town.
 - \$38,000 grant \$47,500 total project cost
5. **City of Spearfish** – Install 28 solar lights along the existing recreational trail in City Park, the Log Cabin Area, Rotary Park, and Salem Park.
 - \$157,758 grant \$197,198 total project cost
6. **City of Watertown** – Resurface approximately 10,100'x10' section of existing asphalt trail on the northeast side of Lake Kampeska.
 - \$198,000 grant \$247,500 total project cost

2023 Total RTP grant award to city projects \$819,092 with a total project cost of \$1,023,866.

Public Comments

Custer State Park Airport Decommissioning

Phil Berggren

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am a South Dakota native. While my permanent address is now Colorado, I own and rent (long term) a cabin in Hill City. I usually spend one to three weeks in the area twice a year. I have flown into and camped at the CSP airstrip, but have not been able to for a few years. I drove in yesterday and saw the hangar roof is gone. I understand there are expensive maintenance issues there, but to my (untrained) eye the runway looks to be in good shape. I strongly support keeping the airstrip in service, and hope you may extend the public comment period. This is my second comment . Thank you.

Dan T

San Diego CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Oppose closing the airport. With some maintenance/updates, the airport could be a destination location for many pilots. Our country needs to maintain the fragile national airspace system of airports as they tend to be pleasure and cash generators. Thank you.

Nonresident One-Day Fishing License

John Blomfield

Corpus Christi TX

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Alexander Weigart

Fort Worth TX

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Weston Bich

Fort Thompson SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The fishing industry in this state which is a large boost to our economy relies on one day fishing. Most people come fishing for a day. Killing the one day fishing license would be a mistake. I'm a fishing guide and I rely on the 1 day fishing license for my clients.

Dan Stier

Mina SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ryan Harman

Erie CO

Position: oppose

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to express my strong disagreement with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department's proposal to eliminate the one-day fishing license in favor of offering only a three-day license. I believe that this change would be detrimental to local businesses and the economy, as well as counterintuitive to the interests of promoting the sport of fishing in our state.

The one-day fishing license serves as a crucial entry point for those who may be new to fishing or who only have the time for a brief outing. By eliminating this option, we discourage casual or first-time anglers from participating, thereby reducing foot traffic to businesses that rely on fishing tourism, such as bait and tackle shops, boat rentals, and other related services.

Moreover, it's worth considering that not everyone who fishes is a seasoned angler looking to spend multiple days on the water. Day-trippers, tourists, and families often opt for the convenience of a one-day license. Cutting this option limits their engagement with the sport and with the businesses that facilitate it.

I strongly urge the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department to reconsider this proposal, keeping in mind the broader economic implications and the interests of the entire fishing community in our state.

Sincerely

Ace Weigart

Fort Worth SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Marlies Warren

Corpus Christi TX

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Duane Cunningham

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I only need to fish for one weekend a year. You will loose money on out of state fishermen

Ashley Weigart

Fort Worth TX

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Richard Weigart

Fort Worth TX

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please keep the one day fishing license option available for non-residents.

Joshua Kirschner

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is going to hurt our economy, less people are going to be purchasing them because of cost barriers and start fishing illegally.

Vaun Weigart

Fort Worth TX

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Kalen Marra

Blaine MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

There have been many days I bought a one day out of state license and hired a guide for a day near Pierre. I almost never fish 2-3 days in a row. Making us pay for something we don't need will make some of us just stop fishing.

Jon Sailer

Belle Fourche SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I fully oppose elimination of the 1 day non-resident fishing license. I think its a terrible idea. Keep the available options for non residents to choose from. People visiting SD that may only want to fish a few hours, half the day. Why make them purchase a 3 day license. If its just about trying to make more money, you will find out having more options will make you more money.

Carmen Schramm

Utica SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

From personal experience with friends who come in from out of state - they are here for a short time and wish to fish for only one day. Plus, with our location on the Missouri River my fear is that those license would end up being purchased for Nebraska one day. Thank you and submitted respectfully, Carmen

Kasi Haberman

Yankton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As the Executive Director of the Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association, I wish to bring forth a pressing concern that has the potential to profoundly affect our region's tourism industry. The proposal to discontinue the availability of 1-day fishing licenses warrants serious attention due to the significant adverse effects it could generate.

A specific focal point of concern is centered around Lewis and Clark Lake and the Missouri River in the Yankton area, both of which constitute pivotal tourist destinations in our region. The suggested removal of 1-day fishing licenses poses a substantial threat to the tourism sector in this area. It is highly probable that numerous visitors with an interest in fishing activities will opt to obtain 1-day permits from neighboring Nebraska instead, effectively bypassing our local offerings.

In addition to this, we must also take into account the substantial contributions made by our local fishing guides operating on Lewis and Clark Lake and the Missouri National Recreational River. These dedicated guides consistently facilitate the purchase of more than 200 1-day permits each year for their customers. The potential removal of this option not only jeopardizes the livelihoods of these guides but also places local businesses that sell fishing permits and tackle in a precarious position. This, in turn, threatens our ongoing efforts to stimulate growth within the tourism industry and bolster visitation to South Dakota.

I urge you to exercise careful deliberation in assessing the ramifications associated with the discontinuation of 1-day fishing licenses, particularly in light of its repercussions on local businesses that rely on the sale of permits and tackle.

Preserving and enhancing our tourism offerings is imperative to sustain our competitive position within the industry and to maintain our productive partnerships with fellow tourism entities in our region. It is only through such collaborative and considerate actions that we can safeguard the vitality of our tourism sector.

Brian Bashore

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose this proposal to remove the 1-day Non-res fishing license. As a fishing guide that supports tourism in SD, this would be very harmful not only to all the fishing guides but also to the communities along the rivers and lakes. I alone contribute to over 150, 1 day non-resident fishing licenses a year which in turn truly equals 1 night of lodging, food, and other expenses per night in Southeast South Dakota. As most of my business takes place on Lewis and Clark Lake which is boundary water whereas a Nebraska fishing license is acceptable (\$14.50, 1-day non-res permit) Those 150+ non-resident will now be referred to NGPC to purchase their license vs the SDGFP site. These individuals do NOT convert to a 3-day license where they are also required to purchase the \$25 habitat stamp. South Dakota is already the highest-priced fishing license in surrounding states. This change will ensure anglers will travel to different destinations such as ND, MN, and WI where the fishing is as good if not better depending on the target species. It also makes no sense to have a 2-day possession limit if non-residents are required to buy a 3-day permit. It doesn't appear that there has been much thought or research put into an avenue to find additional funding to make up for some shortfalls. I can assure you there are plenty of other avenues to increase revenue other than this thoughtless attempt to keep non-residents out of South Dakota. Commissioners please hold GFP accountable for this recommendation to ensure all other options have been brought to the table prior to moving forward on this recommendation. There is always an answer and this is not the one.

Nickie Adams

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

My parents are retired and from out of state. Don't take away the one day licenses it is easier for them depending on how weather is etc while they are here visiting. You took away the spouses annual license which they used to get. Now they get the one day. You should also have a senior rate for non residents like you do for residents.

Public Comments

Nonresident One-Day Fishing License

Francis Drab Iv

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

As someone who is able to sell license through my work place, I see both residents and non residents "working around" the 1 day license. If you vote to do away the the 1 day license, than it should be for both residents and non residents.

Mark Smedsrud

Hartford SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support eliminating the 1 day NR fishing license option for non-residents. They should have to purchase the Habitat Stamp and help fund projects just like everyone else. I also support a fee increase for the 3 day and season long non-resident fishing license. The price of an annual nonresident fishing license should be on par with the price of a NR hunting license (\$100). South Dakota has a lot of fishing pressure from nonresidents. It adds to crowding at boat ramps. If I want to fish at Chamberlain in April or May, I better be at the boat ramp by 7am or I wont get a parking spot on a lot of days. Well over half of the vehicles there are nonresidents. They need to pay their fair share so we can continue to fund expansion of access facilities.

Eric Emery

Rosebud SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The state of South Dakota boasts an abundance of natural resources, including its pristine lakes and rivers, which have long been a destination for residents and nonresidents seeking recreational fishing opportunities. However, there is a proposal to remove the 1-Day Nonresident Fishing License option, which would significantly impact the state's tourism industry and harm the revenue generated from nonresident anglers. My position argues against removing the 1-Day Nonresident Fishing License option and emphasizes its importance for South Dakota's economy and conservation efforts. Preserving the 1-Day Nonresident Fishing License option in South Dakota is essential for the state's economic vitality, conservation efforts, and inclusivity. By maintaining this option, South Dakota can continue attracting nonresident anglers, generating revenue, and promoting responsible fishing practices while showcasing the state's natural beauty to a diverse group of visitors. Removing this option would harm the state's economy, natural resources, and overall tourism experience, making it crucial to retain this valuable fishing license option.

Eric E. Emery - Representative
State House of Representatives, District 26A

John Stahl

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have 3 college age grandchildren that I enjoy taking fishing when they come to visit. By eliminating one day fishing license would add considerable cost to me as they do not have money to purchase license. I AM OPPOSED, please keep one day nonresident fishing licenses as is.

Public Comments

Other

Warren Schatz

Ipswich SD

Position: other

Comment:

when are you going to control deer populations? they cause millions of dollars damage to vehicles crops etc. they are not even native to this part of the state. Maybe the citizens should take legal action to recover loses.

Public Comments

Other

Trevor Schmidt

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

Keep open

Tyler Weaver

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please keep this amazing airport open!!!

Jay Schmitz

Herrick SD

Position: other

Comment:

I understand that the comment period and decision making have passed on Mountain Lion Hunting changes although as a life long owner/operator rancher in Gregory County and life long hunter and and wildlife advocate I feel the current rules and regulations are appropriate and don't need to be changed. As wise people understand with changes in rules and regulations come unwanted unintended consequences. I believe in simplicity and the moto: If it's not broke don't fix it. Thank you, your consideration and time are appreciated.

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: other

Comment:

Nancy Hilding
6300 West Elm
Black Hawk, SD 57718
605-787-6466

Dear Commission,

I have visited the SDGFP Commission's "Current Meeting" web site again today, Sunday, Oct 29th, at 5:39 pm MT. There is still no agenda published.

By statute we must submit written comments 72 hours before the day the meeting will be held on, which is Midnight CT today. But no agenda.

If the State of SD requires us the public to submit comments 72 hours before the day of the meeting, the Agency should at least have a draft agenda published 48 hours before the comment deadline. You could always revise the agenda 24 hours before the meeting, which I think statute allows, but some draft should be available before the comment deadline.

I am not even sure if this meeting has another finalization hearing on the "one-day" fishing permit revocation as I think the hearing was continued from October meeting. That should be clear on the "Current Meeting" web site, if this is the second finalization hearing on "one-day" fishing for all those who did not go to the October meeting ..

[EXT] One day Fishing Livense

Mike Allen <sdwalleyeguide@gmail.com>

Thu 10/12/2023 2:44 PM

To: Rissler, Stephanie <Stephanie.Rissler@state.sd.us>; Bies, Travis <Travis.Bies@state.sd.us>; Locken, Jon <Jon.Locken@state.sd.us>; Whitmyre, Robert <Robert.Whitmyre@state.sd.us>; Spring, Charles <Charles.Spring@state.sd.us>; Bartling, Julie A (GFP) <JulieA.Bartling@state.sd.us>; White, Jim <Jim.White@state.sd.us>; Cull, Bruce <Bruce.Cull@state.sd.us>

Cc: Robling, Kevin (GFP) <Kevin.Robling@state.sd.us>; Kierl, Liz <Liz.Kierl@state.sd.us>

Sending this edit to a email I sent earlier. (My browser did not save the email for whatever reason)

Edit is change to one day license is to be \$16 to \$20 and then add a \$5.00 habitat for \$25. Just to clarify what I said at the commission meeting. Thanks again for reading the email. And considering our proposal.

First I would like to thank the commission for allowing me to speak at the meeting. Appreciate the opportunity to state our views.

Couple views that I noticed at the meeting. #1 thing is Agency should of made more people aware of a change that could have such a big impact on businesses. Yes the change was buried in the list of agenda. And most people are so busy this time of year with their business, fishing-hunting-or getting ready for hunting season that they or we missed it. #2 thing is Tom was very uneasy and maybe irritated once he seen that his proposal was going to get tabled (which all of us appreciated). Facial expressions made me feel his was trying to sneak this proposal in. It may not be true, but it very much looked like it.

So on the financial side which I stated on an earlier email.

So a family of 4, all over 18 want to come out fishing. On their own, during Thanksgiving while they are home with family. Costs \$184 extra for a license to fish a few hours. So they decide to go do something else instead. Loss of license revenue of \$80. Only 1 family. Same scenario with Family driving in to fish one day. Loss of License \$80. Loss of gas revenue \$60, Loss of bait and tackle sales \$50, loss of dining \$50. 9% sales would be \$15.00. Now they are hiring a guide \$575. Sales tax is \$51.75. So now in sales tax revenue and license revenue alone Just under \$150. That is not counting loss of business to all these businesses and more.

Scenario above is only 1 group. So Allen's Missouri River Guide Service does 1300 to 1500 trips per year. 30% of our groups are 1 day trips. So let's say 420 trips are 1 day trips. Just loss in tax revenue. In our guide service alone you are risking losing \$63000 in tax revenue. This also affects our fishing guides, some motel business, food business, convenience store, and many other businesses. With 30% less business people in the fishing business will have less money to spend. There will be a big ripple effect. Is this worth the risk? I feel it isn't.

I feel groups would have no problem spending an extra \$4 to \$5 per person (create a 1 day habitat stamp). Not \$46 per person. This would more than justify the 1 day fishing license.

The Commission has a tough job and all of us understand it.

Thanks again for your time.

Mike Allen-6056801054

Allen's Missouri River Guide Service and Hillside Motel

FW: [EXT] Custer state park airport

Eagle, Antoinette <Antoinette.Eagle@state.sd.us>

Mon 10/16/2023 8:17 AM

To: VanMeeteren, Jeff <Jeff.VanMeeteren@state.sd.us>; Nedved, Al <Al.Nedved@state.sd.us>; Kierl, Liz <Liz.Kierl@state.sd.us>

From: Otto Knottnerus <oknottnerus@harvardcorp.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 5:18 PM

To: GFP Park Info <ParkInfo@state.sd.us>

Subject: [EXT] Custer state park airport

I have been made aware that there is a move to close the Custer state park airport. I would request that the airport remain open as it has been a way for some of my out of town friends to meet at the lodge close by. We like to fly into airports for the weekend, and this one is a frequent favorite. There are several things like hiking that we can do along with nice rooms, good meals, and gift shop.

It seems that the runway is still very usable and the parking area is good. Although, there seems to a building that needs repair, I would ask that the airport not be closed down just do to that. This airport is very useful to small planes that many of us use, and would like to add my voice to those of us that leave money at your park, and support the economy.

If this is not the correct person to contact, please forward this to the appropriate person.

Thanks for your attention to this matter,

Otto G. Knottnerus
605-891 5960 personal cell
608-449-8664 cell

**DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS
PUBLIC NOTICE**

This NOTICE is provided pursuant to SDCL 41-4-1.1. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is proposing acquisition of approximately 62 acres of property in Day County, South Dakota described as:

Lot Two (2) in Section twenty-four (24); and Lot Four (4) and Lot Three (3), except the North 58 feet of said Lot 3, Section Thirteen (13), all in Township One Hundred Twenty-Three (123), North of Range Fifty-five (55), West of the 5th P.M., Day County, South Dakota.

Through an exchange of 0.21 acres in Beadle County, South Dakota described as:

G.F. & P. OUTLOT 3 in the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section Twenty-Seven (27), all in Township One Hundred Thirteen (113), North of Range Sixty-One (61), West of the 5th P.M., Beadle County, South Dakota.

The property to be acquired by GFP is located approximately a ½ mile southeast of Grenville, South Dakota and the property being disposed of by GFP in the exchange is located on the northwest side of Lake Byron in Beadle County, South Dakota.

The GFP Commission will be conducting a commission meeting on November 2 and 3, 2023, commencing at 1:00 PM CST on November 2 and continuing to adjournment at the Prairie Shores Resort at 45156 235th Street in Madison, South Dakota, 57042.

Sometime during the Commission meeting, the Commission is expected to act on the proposed property exchange. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity during the open forum beginning at 2:00 PM CST on November 2 to provide oral comment in person or virtually prior to action by the Commission on the intended exchange. Any person unable to participate in the meeting may mail or email their comments to: Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, Department of Game, Fish and Parks, 4500 South Oxbow Ave, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106 or Ryan.Wendinger@state.sd.us with comments to be received prior to 12:00 AM CST on November 2, 2023.

Date this 29 day of September 2023.



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

This meeting will be held in person, via zoom/conference call, and Livestream. Listen to the meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. CST via Livestream at <https://www.sd.net/remote1/> or join via zoom by clicking on the link below. Depending on your application, you may be required to enter the meeting ID and password. Remember to **enter your display name and mute your microphone**. To help keep background noise and distractions to a minimum, make sure you **mute your microphone and turn off your video** when you are not speaking.

Thursday, November 2, 2023 starting at 1 pm CST,

Zoom Meeting Link <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/93912915359?pwd=K2FVZzdQSXJTY0NwWG5mSWpSazUwdz09>
or join via conference call Dial 1 669 444 9171 Meeting ID: 939 1291 5359 Passcode: 0565645

Public Input: To provide comments, join the meeting in person, via zoom, or via conference call per the info above. To conduct the public hearing and/or open forum as efficiently as possible, we ask those wishing to testify to **register by 1:00 pm CST the day of the meeting by email to Liz.Kierl@state.sd.us**. **Testifiers should provide their full names, whom they represent, their city of residence, and which proposed topic they will address.**

Written comments can be submitted at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record, comments must include the complete name and city of residence and meet the **submission deadline of seventy-two hours before the meeting (not including the day of the meeting)**.

Dated this 26th day of October 2023.

Stephanie Rissler

Stephanie Rissler, GFP Commission Chair