

Public Comments

Custer State Park Airport Decommissioning

Joel De Groot

Chester SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The Custer Park airport is in a perfect position to capitalize on the back-country flying craze that has been going on aviation the past decade. AOPA's proposal to partner with the Recreational Aircraft Foundation (RAF) for grants and upkeep of a turf runway with camping spots is a great way to expand the use of Custer State to back-country aviators.

Steven Wright

Odessa FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

My family visited the Custer State Park, the Badlands, Mount Rushmore, the Crazy Horse Monument and other areas decades ago. I recently retired and have returned to GA flying. It is a dera to return to the area flying my airplane. I dearly hope the airport remains in operation.

Joe Baker

Sturgis SD

Position: support

Comment:

The Custer state park airport is a great airport. It's really the only good airplane for pilots to camp at. A closure of the airport would be detrimental to the aviation community. With help from volunteers like the RAF (Recreational Aviation Foundation) we could greatly improve the airport for future generations. Little things like adding some trees, picnic tables, and maybe a horseshoe pit. Would be inviting to many people.

Lawrence Schufeldt

North Platte NE

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not close your airport. My wife and I have flown into it several times and have thoroughly loved the experience and park. We fly to Rapid City often for recreational and business purposes and that is an airport that I plan on alternative emergency strip. It is so unique that I would believe it would never be duplicated. We have used it to eat at the park and camp. It's a great recreational spot for aviation. Thank you , Lawrence and Jeannie Schufeldt

Noah Pruzek

Hudson WI

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a pilot and past user of the Custer State Park airport (multiple times) for a camping trip to your great state park, I would challenge leadership to re-think your plan to decommission and instead lean into the airport in a different way. Convert the runway to grass, remove the old buildings, and engage with pro-Recreational Aviation organizations like theRAF.org, AOPA, and local EAA chapters. I can personally say that the experience of camping next to roaming buffalo is a uniquely American experience and one that I feel very blessed to have experienced. The future of this airport can be very bright given the opportunity. It could very easily turn into a flagship destination just like these: <https://theraf.org/ryan-field/>, <https://theraf.org/featured-airstrip-trigger-gap-ar/>.

Ryan Kerce

Revere MA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not close Custer Airport and consider turning it into a turf field! It could become a backcountry flying magnet given its proximity to the parks nearby, and offer great aerial views of the surrounding area. Please save the airport!

Free Park Entrance and Fishing

Brenda Pusakrich

Hot Springs SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: other

Comment:

I suggest that the Commission add Native American Day as a free day at Parks (with fishing) for all. That the State of SD and Game, Fish & Parks exists is because of the wars against tribes & associated genocide, ethnic cleansing & broken treaties. One of the treaties secured hunting rights for tribes in western SD.

SDFGP Parks should have at least one day to celebrate Native American culture & their knowledge of SD's biodiversity & geography. This day(s) should offer free admission to all & various Parks could sponsor programs on Native American culture, history & knowledge of nature..

Hunt for Habitat

Kim Tysdal

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose the use of dogs in hunting raccoons, or any other wildlife.

Nonresident One-Day Fishing License

Dave Spaid

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose getting rid of the one day fishing license. Both residents, family living out of state and non-residents will suffer the new cost for just 1 day of fishing for \$74.

Brandon Brake

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the proposal to restrict out of state fishing licenses to a minimum of three days. Learning and working on R3, would defeat part of the mission of South Dakota Game Fish and Parks. You would create a barrier due to cost for many customers, who come to fish in South Dakota for one and two days. It would also turn off many customers who do come to South Dakota by raising fees and reduce business opportunities and tax revenue as a whole in South Dakota.

Zachery Warren

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We have a lot of people from out-of-state, who only come and want to Fish for one day. This would really hurt our tourism business at The Outpost Lodge. Please do not take this away. You will turn a lot of people out of South Dakota.

Scott Van Liere

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Strongly oppose doing away with 1 day fishing licenses. The Gfp in my opinion would lose more revenue doing away with 1 day licenses, you are making it more expensive for people to come fishing and would lose more tourism dollars for the state. Also makes no sense to sell 3 day licenses with a 2 day possession limit.

Kathy Kocer

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Victor Wood

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

A lot of people have been here for work a few days and a one day license gives them a chance to get to know what a wonderful fishery we have in SD.

Lewis Valentz

Gettysburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am 100% against doing away with one day fishing license. I also think that if you want to change things or people will buy an extended number of days for Fishing. Then give him a three day possession limit to take home. That would make more sense to me then taking away options for people who only want to fish a couple days. Give them an incentive to buy a three day so they can take their three days limit home.

Brad Taylor

Ft. Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jeremey Frost

Onida SD

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

Jeremey Frost

Mark Ammann

Wilmot Sd SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am a fishing guide and some of my clients just come to fish for one day. Living near the border in the northeast corner this is a big deal. Since my livelihood depends on this proposal being denied I am strongly opposed to this idea.

Thank you

Andrew Sladky

Gretna NE

Position: oppose

Comment:

I come up fairly often (and now more that I have a new Lund) and my friends usually get one day licenses if we go up quick for the weekend.

Kent Hutcheson

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Oppose changes also think if you are going to change for a 3 day license and only allow for two day possession limits you need to consider how you can allow a limit for each of the days paid for Many of my customers opp for 2 day trips the next year because of this limit restriction Resulting in a loss of tourism dollars for all of us
Hutch Hutch's Guide

Chad Schilling

Akaska SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Leave it the way it is. A person visiting for one day shouldn't have to buy a 3 day license or pay for a habitat stamp that doesn't help 2/3 of the state.

Buch Anderson

Gettysburg SD

Position: other

Comment:

I understand why you want to eliminate the one day license and agree with the reason (buying to avoid the habitat stamp fee) but why not leave the license as is but add the requirement to buy the stamp?

Gerald Berg

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

This should be done away with or if keeping the single day must still purchase habitat stamp

Sean Finley

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Why would the State want to limit 1 day licenses? People visiting SD often only have 1 or 2 days to fish. By not having the option to buy a 1 day license you create a situation where individuals will cheat the system and fish without a license risking the consequences, getting away with them most of the time, and the State collects No revenue or useable Marketing information on that individual. Just another "bone head" idea by government to limit use of a public resource in the name of preservation without knowing who your customers are.

Other

Julie Mendelson

Piedmont SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose petition 203, which would allow nonresidents to hunt raccoons with the aid of hounds

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk, SD

Position: other

Comment:

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

The October 5-6th meeting will be held in Deadwood, which is in the mountain time zone. This is to advise SD GFP staff that when the meeting is held on Thursday, in a location on Mountain Time, the legal deadline for submitting comments is 11:59 MT on Sunday night, not 11:59 CT on Sunday night. If your IT team has the Public Comments on-line portal automatically set to allocate public comments received after 11:59 CT to the next meeting, when meeting is in MT, you are breaking the law.

If you are a person who sent them at 11:59 MT on Oct 1st and they are not included in the Oct 5th-6th meeting's Public comments, you have been deprived of your rights. We suggest all folks sending comments on Sunday nights before a MT meeting, check the public comments, which are printed/uploaded before the meeting to verify your comments were included.

Brenda Pusakrich

Hot Springs SD

Position: other

Comment:

writing in opposition to petition #203 that would allow nonresidents to hunt raccoons with the aid of hounds

Julie Anderson

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose petition #203 to allow nonresidents to hunt raccoons with the aid of hounds.

Dean Parker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm writing in opposition of petition #203, which would allow nonresidents to hunt raccoons with dogs. South Dakotans do not want more hound hunting in our state.

Gelynn Passmore

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing in opposition to petition #203 that would allow nonresidents to hunt raccoons with the aid of hounds.

Sara Parker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm writing in opposition of petition #203, which would expand opportunities for hunting raccoons with dogs.

Since 2013, when South Dakota Houndsmen petitioned and were granted permission to hunt mountain lions with dogs, they have continued to petition the Commission and been granted access to hound hunt lions on the prairie, in Custer State Park, pursuing from private land onto public land, and soon will likely be given access to hound hunt in the Black Hills. Please don't let the agenda of a special interest group dictate the policy of our wildlife. South Dakota wildlife and public lands belong to all South Dakotans.

At least 188,900 raccoons have been killed since the Nest Predator Bounty Program began (note this is submitted tails only – it doesn't include young left to start when their mothers were trapped in the spring and summer). This is very likely damaging our ecosystem and South Dakota certainly does not need to encourage the killing of more raccoons.

Christopher Blindert

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I opposed letting non-residents hunt raccoons with hounds. I object to the nest predator bounty program. Letting non-residents hunt will just increase raccoon slaughter. I worry about raccoons & their kit being chewed up by dogs. I worry about orphaned kits in spring, if mom is killed during times of the nest predator bounty program. I don't think hound hunting should be a community recreation event, with non-hunters/non-dog handlers following the hounds.