

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS
MAY 2023 COMMISSION BOOK
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COMMISSION AGENDA

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

May 4-5, 2023

Event Barn | Custer State Park

Call meeting to order at 1:00 pm MT / 2:00 pm CST

Division of Administration

Action Items

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approve Minutes of the April 2023 Meeting available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
4. License Holder List Request

Information Items

5. South Dakota Go Outdoors Update
6. Second Century Habitat Fund: Gala Update
7. New Staff Introductions

Public Hearing – starting at 2 pm MT / 3 pm CST

The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment on finalizations.

Open Forum – immediately following the above agenda items.

The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment on other items of interest.

Petitions

8. Petition #188: Blowgun Fishing
9. Petition #189: Beaver Trapping / Hunting
10. Petition #190: Beaver Trapping / Hunting

Proposals

11. Furbearer Seasons

Finalizations

12. Waterfowl Hunting Season
13. Deer Hunting Seasons
14. Deer Hunting Seasons License Allocations
 - Presentation: Winter Mortality Update

Division of Parks & Recreation

Information Items

15. Lake Oahe Update
16. Fort Sisseton Smithsonian Exhibit and Festival Update
17. CSP Sylvan Lake Lodge and Store Construction Update
18. CSP Resource Management Update
19. Spring Operations in Parks, Upcoming Events, and Park Reservations

Division of Wildlife

Action Items

20. Grouse Management Plan

Information Items

21. Land Acquisition
 - Davis Property (Day County)
 - Pheasants Forever Donation Property (Stanley County)
22. Use of Prescribed Burns on Public Lands
23. Rapid Creek Habitat Update
24. Riparian Habitat Update
25. Fish Winter Survival Update
26. Walleye Spawning Efforts
27. Avian Influenza Update
28. License Sales Update

Solicitation of Agenda Items for Commissioners

Adjourn

Next meeting information June 8-9, 2023, at Good Earth State Park in Sioux Falls, SD.



COMMISSION MINUTES

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

April 13-14, 2023

McCrary Garden | Brookings, SD

CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 1:00 PM CST / 12:00 PM MT

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm CST at McCrorys Gardens located in Brookings, South Dakota on April 12, 2023. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Julie Bartling, Jim White, Robert Whitmyre, Travis Bies, Jon Locken, and Charles Spring were present. The public and staff can listen via SDPD Livestream, and participate via conference, or in person, with approximately 78 total participants attending via Zoom or in person.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Chair Rissler called for a conflict of interest to be disclosed. *None were present.*

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

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

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Whitmyre to APPROVE THE MARCH 2023 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER SALARY DAYS

Chair Rissler called for any additional salary day from the commissioners.

Rissler submitted six additional salary days. APPROVAL FOR RISSLER'S SIX ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS. The motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Jon Kotilnek, Senior Attorney, opened the floor at 2:03 pm CST for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that may not be on the agenda.

1. Rich Widman of Brookings, SD testified in opposition to the waterfowl hunting seasons proposal.
2. Zachery Hunke of Watertown, SD representing the South Dakota Wildlife Federation testified in opposition to the waterfowl hunting seasons proposal.
3. Cody Warner or Webster, SD representing South Dakota Waterfowl Association testified in opposition to the waterfowl hunting seasons proposal.
4. Chuck Dieter of Brookings, SD testified in opposition to the waterfowl hunting seasons proposal.
5. Chuck Berry of Brookings, SD with the Lake Campbell Sportsmen Club thanked GFP for collaboration.
6. Ryan Roehr of Aberdeen, SD testified virtually in opposition to the waterfowl hunting seasons proposal.
7. Tim Gootormson testified about the Black Hills Elk Seasons.

Mr. Kotilnek closed the open forum at 2:31 pm CST.

Jake Hanson, representative for Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, presented Director Tom Kirschenmann with the 2023 Conservation Award during the April 2023 Commission Meeting held in Brookings, SD. Mr. Hanson cited Director Kirschenmann's extensive outreach with South Dakota landowners to develop and expand habitat programs as the reason he was selected for this award.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

4. LICENSE HOLDER LIST REQUEST

Deputy Director Scott Simpson presented the Commission with a License Holder List Request from Leavitt Recreation and Hospitality Insurance of Sturgis, SD.

Motioned by Locken, seconded by Bies to APPROVE THE LICENSE HOLDER LIST REQUEST. The motion carried unanimously.

5. SOUTH DAKOTA GO OUTDOORS UPDATE

Keith Fisk, Licensing Program Administrator, gave a brief update on the fish/hunt side of GoOutdoors South Dakota system. He highlighted a few of the upcoming draws and application periods. Jodi Bechard, Parks Business Manager, reported that Go Outdoors South Dakota on the park side is going smoothly. She reported the 90-day window is now open through mid-July, three of the four holiday weekends are open, and most parks are full for reservations.

6. NEW STAFF INTRODUCTION

Jeff VanMeeteren, Parks & Recreation Director, and Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Director, introduced new staff to the Commissioners.

PETITIONS

7. ELK PREFERENCE POINTS

Bob Brandt of Rapid City, South Dakota, submitted Petition #187 requested a rule change to the elk preference point system.

Director Kirschenmann presented the petition to the commission, explained the complexity of the current drawing structure and use of preference points, and how the petitioners recommended changes would make the system even more complex.

Department Position: The department recommended denying the petition, due to the complexity and a structure that is currently working.

Motioned by Spring, seconded by White to DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE ELK PERFORMANCE POINTS SYSTEM. The motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Whitmyre, seconded by Spring to ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-13 TO DENY THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE ELK PERFORMANCE POINTS SYSTEM. The motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSALS

8. WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON

WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS – CHAPTER 41:06:16

Director Kirschenmann provided background on the nonresident waterfowl recommendation to increase licenses by a total of 300. Kirschenmann discussed the emphasis on access for all hunters, new access areas on GPAs, and the effort to recruit more waterfowl hunters with the 2-tier system and youth waterfowl hunts. Multiple aspects of the proposed increase of 300 licenses were discussed.

Department Recommendations:

1. Increase the 2,000 3-day temporary nonresident licenses to 2,100.
2. Increase the 3,750 two 5-day nonresident licenses to 3,950.

Draft Administrative Rule Changes:

41:06:16:11. Maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses -- Open units -- Dates -- License restrictions. The maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses to be issued by lottery is ~~4,000~~ 4,200 special nonresident waterfowl licenses, 2,000 early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident licenses, ~~2,000~~ 2,100 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses, 100 nonresident youth waterfowl licenses, and 10,000 spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses divided for administrative purposes as follows:

- (1) Unit NRW-00A: the counties of Union, Clay, Yankton, Bon Homme, and Charles Mix. No more than 250 special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;
- (2) Unit NRW-00B: all open counties not in Units NRW-00A or NRW-11A. No more than ~~3,725~~ 3,925 special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;
- (3) Unit NRW-00C: those counties as described in § 41:06:50:02. No more than 2,000 early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;
- (4) Unit NRW-11A: Bennett County. No more than 25 special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The season in this unit is open for 65 consecutive days beginning on the third Saturday of October and during any period that Bennett County is open in January as described in subdivision 41:06:16:07(3);
- (5) Unit NRW-00X: the counties of Potter, Stanley, Sully, Hughes, and Lyman. No more than 750 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;
- (6) Unit NRW-OOV: the counties of Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, and Walworth. No more than ~~500~~ 550 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;
- (7) Unit NRW-00Y: the counties of Spink, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Grant, Clark, Codington, Deuel, and Hamlin. No more than 500 three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;
- (8) Unit NRW-OOZ: statewide except the counties in Units NRW-OOA, NRW-11A, NRW-OOV, NRWOOX and NRW-OOY. No more than ~~250~~ 300 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;
- (9) Unit NRW-ST1: statewide. No more than 10,000 spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only during a Conservation Order;
- (10) Unit NYW-YW1: statewide. No more than 100 nonresident youth waterfowl licenses may be issued for the youth waterfowl season established in Chapter 41:06:49. A nonresident youth may also hunt during the youth waterfowl season with a valid waterfowl hunting license as provided for in this section.

Licenses issued under this section are valid only in the unit for which they are issued. Licenses for Unit NRW-11A include two tags for Canada geese. Each tag is valid for taking one Canada goose consistent with the provisions of § 41:06:16:09. Each goose shall be tagged immediately upon retrieval.

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Locken to APPROVE THE PROPOSAL. The motion carried unanimously.

9. DEER HUNTING SEASONS**Apprentice Hunter Deer Seasons – Chapter 41:06:44**Department Recommendations:

Remove closed area specifications to Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management property.

Draft Administrative Rule Changes

41:06:44:04.01. Closed areas. The youth deer season is closed, and licenses are not valid in the following areas:

- (1) Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (2) Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in Bennett County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (3) Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge in Charles Mix County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (4) Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and Waubay State Game Bird Refuge in Day County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge; and
- ~~(5) Fort Mead Bureau of Land Management south unit and the signed portion of the north unit in Meade County.~~

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

Youth Deer Hunting Season – Chapter 41:06:63Department Recommendations:

Remove closed area specifications to Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management property.

Draft Administrative Rule Changes

41:06:63:04. Closed areas. The youth deer season is closed, and licenses are not valid in the

Following areas:

- (1) Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (2) Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in Bennett County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (3) Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge in Charles Mix County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (4) Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and Waubay State Game Bird Refuge in Day County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge; and
- ~~(5) Fort Mead Bureau of Land Management south unit and the signed portion of the north unit in Meade County.~~

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

Custer State Park Deer Hunting Season – Chapter 41:06:41Department Recommendations:

Remove the archery only equipment restrictions from November 1-November 15.

Draft Administrative Rule Changes

41:06:41:01. Custer State Park deer hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses. The Custer State Park deer hunting season is open from November 1 through December 15. No more than 100 one-tag deer licenses may be issued for the Custer State Park deer hunting season. ~~Hunting is limited to archery equipment from November 1 through November 15.~~

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

National Wildlife Refuge Deer Hunting Season – Chapter 41:06:36

Department Recommendations

1. Restrict RFD-SL4 to muzzleloading rifles without telescopic sights with the intention of switching antlerless licenses to any deer licenses for this season.
2. Edit the open unit description of Lacreek Refuge to specify the refuge unit area is specified by the refuge.

Draft Administrative Rule Changes

1. 41:06:36:02. Sand Lake open units. The following is a description of the units open to deer hunting on the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge:
 - (1) Unit RFD-SL1 is open for five consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday of November. The licenses are restricted to muzzleloading rifles without telescopic sights as provided in § 41:06:04:14;
 - (2) Unit RFD-SL2 is open for five consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL1 season;
 - (3) Unit RFD-SL3 is open for six consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL2 season;
 - (4) Unit RFD-SL4 is open for seven consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL3 season. The licenses are restricted to muzzleloading rifles without telescopic sights as provided in § 41:06:04:14; and
 - (5) Unit RFD-SL5 is open for seven consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL4 season.
 - (6) A hunter possessing an unfilled "antlerless deer" license for any Sand Lake deer hunting unit may hunt the refuge for nine consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of Unit RFD-SL5 season.
2. 41:06:36:02.01. Lacreek open units. The following is a description of the units open to deer hunting on the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge:
 - (1) Unit RFD-LC1 is open for seven consecutive days beginning on the third Wednesday of October; and

- (2) Unit RFD-LC2 is open for seven consecutive days beginning on the fourth Wednesday of November.
- (3) The deer hunting units within the refuge are set by Lacreek Refuge. Information is available at Lacreek Refuge headquarters and will be mailed to successful applicants.
- (4) All Lacreek open units are restricted to muzzleloading rifles without scopes.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

West River Prairie Deer Hunting Season – Chapter 41:06:20

Department Recommendations

1. Edit “Custer County Road 319” error to “Custer County Road 317” in Unit WRD-27A description.
2. Remove Fort Meade exception in Unit WRD-49A description.

Draft Administrative Rule Changes

1. 41:06:20:

(12) Unit WRD-27A: those portions of Custer and Fall River Counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 18, then easterly along U.S. Highway 18 to its junction with the Cheyenne River, then easterly along the Cheyenne River to its junction with U.S. Highway 18 and 385, then northerly along U.S. Highway 18 and 385 to its junction with State Highway 79 and continuing along State Highway 79 to its junction with the section line between section 19 and section 18, township 6 south, range 7 east, then westerly along this section line to its junction with section 13 and section 24, township 6 south, range 7 east, then southerly along the section line between section 19 and section 24, township 6 south, range 7 east to its junction with Custer County Road 101, then westerly along Custer County Road 101 to its junction with U.S. Highway 385, then southerly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with Fall River County Road 18 (Argyle Road), then northwesterly along Fall River County Road 18 and Custer County Road 333 to its junction with State Highway 89, then southerly along State Highway 89 to its junction with Fall River County Road 12, then westerly along Fall River County Road 12 to its junction with Custer County Road 319, then westerly along Custer County Road ~~319~~ 317 to its junction with Custer County Road 715, then westerly along Custer County Road 715 to its junction with Custer County Road 769, then westerly along Custer County Road 769 through Dewey to its junction with the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then southerly along the South Dakota-Wyoming border to its junction with U.S. Highway 18, the point of beginning, except the portion included in WRD-27L;

2. 41:06:20:

(28) Unit WRD-49A: the portion of Meade County east of Interstate 90, ~~except the Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management South Unit and the signed portion of the North Unit~~, south of U.S. Highway 212, and west of a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 212 and Meade County Road 23, then southerly along Meade County Road 23 to its junction with Meade County Road 28, then easterly along Meade County Roads 23-28, then southerly along Meade County Road 23 to its junction with State Highway 34, then southerly along Meade

County Road 21 (New Underwood Road) to its junction with the Pennington County line and that portion of Pennington County west of Pennington County 160th Avenue (New Underwood Road) and north of Interstate 90;

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

10. DEER HUNTING SEASONS LICENSE ALLOCATIONS

Andrew Norton, Wildlife Program Administrator, presented the Commission with the proposed Deer Hunting Season License Allocations.

Motioned by Whitmyre, seconded by Bartling to APPROVE THE PROPOSAL. The motion carried unanimously

DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

11. LEWIS AND CLARK MARINA FEE PROPOSAL

Sean Blanchette, Environmental and Cultural Resource Specialist, provided a brief background on the Concession Agreement and past commission approval on a project to replace the marina docks at the concessionaire's expense in exchange for a twenty-year extension of the lease term, which includes a requirement starting in 2023 for all marina slip fee increases in excess of 3% to be approved by the Commission. Blanchette and Concessionaire Donlin discussed causes of project delays and the impacts they had to the costs of the project. Donlin stated that the project costs are significantly higher than the original estimates, which is a reason that increases to slip fees are now higher than originally anticipated. Blanchette stated that all increases approved this year will establish a new baseline price for those particular slips with no foreseeable increases, but that he does anticipate that the Marina will request increases next year on the remaining docks to be replaced.

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Whitmyre to APPROVE THE PROPOSED LEWIS & CLARK MARINA FEES. The motion carried unanimously.

12. ADVANCED TECHNICAL TRAINING AT SPRING CREEK

Pat Buscher, Northcentral Regional Park Supervisor, discussed the Advanced Technical Training held at Spring Creek on March 6-9, 2023. This training was established to develop a skilled technical workforce that allows GFP to keep costs low and provide better customer service; developing a greater skillset for all park locations and encourage creativity and broad information sharing through cross-District relationships; and create in-house opportunities to keep capital development projects moving forward and attainable.

13. 2022-23 SNOWMOBILE SEASON RECAP

Ryan Raynor, District Park Supervisor, reported that 2022-2023 was a great year for snowmobilers across the state. Deep snow conditions provided many challenges for groomers in eastern SD which saw a record number of grooming rotations performed by local snowmobile clubs. The Black Hills program saw great snow conditions from the beginning to the end of the snowmobile season with a trailside business setting a record for the number of snowmobile rentals.

14. HIGHWAY 44 PLATTE-WINNER BRIDGE UPDATE

Adam Kulesa, Planning and Development Administrator provided a brief presentation was provided outlining where the department is at with coordination with SDDOT.

15. NEWEL AND ALVIN DAM REPAIR UPDATES

Adam Kulesa, Planning and Development Administrator provided a brief presentation was provided updating both spillway replacement projects. Newell is expected to be completed in June, and the department is working with FEMA for final approvals to move forward with bid letting the Lake Alvin project this summer.

16. CAMPING, VISITATION AND REVENUE REPORT

Al Nedved, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation, provided a report on the year-to-date camping, visitation and revenue totals for Parks and Recreation.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

17. R3 ANGLING SURVEY RESULTS

Bob Holsman of DJ Case provided a presentation to the Commission on the recent R3 Angling Survey results.

18. AIS: INVASIVE CARP AND ZEBRA MUSSEL UPDATE

Benjamin Schall, Fisheries Biologist, discussed that South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks has been receiving federal grant funding since 2020 to conduct invasive carp (Silver, Bighead, Grass, and Black carp) research and management in South Dakota and throughout the Missouri River basin. Working with thirteen partner agencies, universities, and laboratories, research conducted by SDGFP staff and graduate students, a post-doctorate researcher, and faculty at USD and SDSU is currently evaluating invasive carp movements, distribution, natal origins, and risk associated with the live bait trade, movements across watershed boundaries, and habitat suitability in uninvaded areas.

19. NEST PREDATOR BOUNTY PROGRAM UPDATE

Jacque Ermer, Regional Wildlife Supervisor in the Northeast, provided an update on the 2023 Nest Predator Bounty Program and shared the webpage for the Live Tail Tracker (<https://gfp.sd.gov/bounty-program/>). The program began for youth only during the month of March and then opened for all age groups starting April 1. As of April 13, 207 youth submitted 1,905 eligible tails. Overall, there have been 290 total participants submitting 3,830 tails with majority of those from raccoons. Four participating youth have been randomly drawn so far to receive the Benton Howe weekly youth trap giveaway package. One free live trap has also been given to each participating youth.

20. LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Law Enforcement Section Chief, Sam Schelhaas gave a brief presentation highlighting the work that Conservation Officers do. Schelhaas also gave a status update on the current vacancies in South Dakota.

21. LICENSE SALES UPDATE

Wildlife Director Tom Kirschenmann presented the latest license sales update. He informed the commission that license sales have not change much since the March update. In general, license sales are a little behind last year and looking forward to better weather to hopefully get more people out fishing and hunting. The commission had several questions pertaining to the mountain lion season and impact to big game numbers.

ADJOURN

Motioned by Bies, seconded by Bartling to ADJOURN THE MEETING. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting ADJOURNED ON APRIL 14, 2023, AT 10:45 AM CST.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

523 East Capital
Pierre, SD 57501
(605)773-3396
Fax (605)773-6425

Chris.Petersen@state.sd.us

REQUEST FOR LISTS OF LICENSE HOLDERS

Application

Number of licenses in list As many as possible

Name of Person, Entity, or Organization requesting list:
Second Century Habitat Fund Inc.

Address of Person, Entity, or Organization:
2512 S. Moss Stone Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57110

How would you like your list sent to you: (email or disk) Email

Email Address: Brian@sdhabitatfund.com

Phone Number
402-499-4936

Purpose for which list will be used:

Marketing purposes to promote the Second Century Habitat Funds programs and events such as our Gala on June 3rd, Working Lands program and our fundraising opportunities. All of these efforts are to provide funding for quality habitat and new public access acres across South Dakota. With a record number of landowners looking to enroll in our Working Lands program this year, it's critical to raise the necessary funds in order to maintain the success and longevity of our programs by being able to offer landowners a competitive rate to enroll their land into a Habitat program.

This list is Names and Mailing Addresses ONLY

The sale of lists by the Department of Game, Fish & Parks is authorized by SDCL 1-27-1 and ARSD 41:06:02:04, 05 and 06. The fee for a Game, Fish & Parks Commission approved exception is \$100, otherwise the fee is \$100 per thousand names or a minimum of \$100 whichever is greater.

Unless requested and approved as part of this request, the license list will not include anyone under eighteen years of age. Names are for one-time use only and are to be used only by the person, entity or organization approved per this request.

Brian Bashore

5/1/2023

Authorized Signature of Purchaser

Date

From: info@gfp.sd.us
To: thediggerchuck@gmail.com
Cc: [Kierl, Liz](#); [Harrington, Nick](#)
Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 1:58:38 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: 188
Petitioner Name: Charles Ward
Address: 928 Polaris Ct.
Rapid City, SD 57701
Email: thediggerchuck@gmail.com
Phone: 605-415-5070
Rule Identification: Blowgun Fishing
Describe Change: Legalization of blowgun fishing
Reason for Change: 1) Blowgun fishing is an untapped sporting activity that many local folks I've spoken to would like to participate in. 2) It's currently legalized in some other states, i.e. New Jersey, and Texas. 3) It would be economically beneficial to the state of South Dakota via a. Sales of equipment, b. Sales tax licensing fees, c. Fishing charters. d. It may also indirectly lead to increased profit via sporting classes, e.g. if offered at the outdoor campuses. e. Increased from out-of-state tourism and hospitality. For example, a paddlefish blowgunner could easily spend \$600+ in hotel fees, dining, and licensing fees, even if travelling the relatively short distance from Rapid City to Chamberlain. f. Creation of blowgun fishing tournaments which bring permit fees and sponsor fees, and creation of special events. 4) It's an ethical way of collecting fish, it leads to rapid dispatching and guarantees low risk of a wounded escapee. 5) For many fishermen it feels more sportsmanlike than rod-and-reel fishing, and may attract an active-lifestyle community who would otherwise avoid fishing. 6) As spearfishing and archery fishing are legal, blowgun fishing could be legalized adopting the same rules and regulations. For example, the blowgun hunting dart has a barb and a line to retrieve the fish. 7) To the best of my knowledge, there are no negatives that I'm aware of to legalizing blowgun fishing. And as the Director of Wildlife Tom Kirschenmann said when Danny Putnam suggested this change in 2021, "We don't see any harm in it."

From: info@gfp.sd.us
To: nhilshat@rapidnet.com
Cc: [Kierl, Liz](#); [Harrington, Nick](#)
Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 5:06:18 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: 189
Petitioner Name: Nancy Hilding
Address: 6300 West Elm,
Black Hawk, , SD 57718
Email: nhilshat@rapidnet.com
Phone: 605-787-6466
Rule Identification: 41:08:01:07
Decribe Change: This form does not allow for attached documents. We suggest you change this web page to allow attached documents. The first petition for rule change on the beaver hunting/trapping rule was sent to GFP's attorney - Jon Kotilnek on Friday afternoon 4/28/23 via e-mail. It is 6 pages long in Times New Roman type font size 12, however the last page is blank.
Reason for Change: The Statement of Reasons can be found in the Petition sent to Jon Kotilnek on Friday afternoon 4/28/23 via e-mail.

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
nhilshat@rapidnet.com
605-787-6466

Nancy Hilding
6300 West Elm
Black Hawk, SD 57718,
nhilding@rapidnet.com
April 28th, 2023

Game, Fish and Parks Commission
Joe Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
C/o Jon Kotilnek - Jon.Kotilnek@state.sd.us

Dear Commissioners,

SHORT PETITION FOR RULEMAKING Submitted pursuant to SDCL 1-26-13.

Nancy Hilding and Prairie Hills Audubon Society of Western SD submit this petition. Nancy Hilding is a resident of Meade County, SD. Prairie Hills Audubon Society is a non-profit corporation registered in SD and as such is a person by SD law and Supreme Court decisions.

RULE TO BE AMENDED - SD beaver trapping-hunting rule(s)

[41:08:01:07](#).

Beaver trapping and hunting season established. The season to catch, trap, or hunt beaver is open statewide and year-round, except as provided in this section. The season is open from sunrise on November 1 through sunset on April 30 to catch, trap, or hunt beaver within the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west of State Highway 79, except U. S. Forest Service lands where the beaver season is open from January 1 through March 31.

We suggest these changes:

Beaver trapping and hunting season established. The season to catch, trap, or hunt beaver is open statewide and year-round, except as provided in this section. The season is open from sunrise on November 1 through sunset on April 30 to catch, trap, or hunt beaver within the Black Hills Fire Protection District ~~south of Interstate 90 and west of State Highway 79, except as defined in SDCL 34-35-15, except on U. S. Forest Service lands where the beaver season is open from January 1 through March 31.~~ However during the period of time from January 1, 2024 till January 1, 2027 there will be a no trapping and hunting permitted pursuant to this rule, for beaver on Black Hills National Forest lands.

STATEMENT OF REASONS

Moratorium on Beaver hunting/trapping in the Black Hills National Forest

Beaver are a keystone species.

They provide many benefits to the ecosystem, other wildlife, fish and to humans;

- `Beavers are a critical and useful part of our ecosystems.
- `Beavers increase groundwater storage and raise water tables,
- `Beavers decrease flooding
- `Beavers keep ephemeral and intermittent creeks flowing year-round,
- `Beavers filter sediments and pollutants from streams,
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GFP did not have the money for this in December 2021 (GFP a few months later approved \$500,000 for the Nest Predator Bounty Program).

It is two years later and we believe that GFP and the BHNF have agreed to inventory beaver winter food caches by helicopter in the fall of 2023. Beaver are designated as a “management indicator species” on the BHNF so the Forest Service is actually required by the 1982 Forest Planning Rule to do beaver inventories, but the last BHNF inventory was in 2012. We believe that GFP and BHNF are working to or planning to work to identify good existing beaver habitat, relocate “conflict beaver” to the Black Hills and do beaver habitat improvements. We thank both agencies for their work and their plans to benefit beaver.

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We have listed some of the benefits of beaver above. We now refer you to an 8-page letter that conservation organizations sent to President Biden asking for an emergency closure of federal public land to beaver trapping/hunting – This letter indicates the benefits of beaver in much greater depth than this petition. Letter to President Biden from environmental groups on 2/27/23 –<https://www.westernwatersheds.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Biden-Beaver-Letter.pdf>

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<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/585509489>

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Link:

https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/2057672https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/2057672

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Thus, the description in the existing rule excludes a small part of the Black Hills Fire Protection District, just north of the Cheyenne River and south & west of Maverik Junction. It would be better just to cite the legal description of it at SDCL 34-35-15. If you don't thus amend the rule, that small part the Black Hills Fire Protection District will have a 12-month beaver trapping season and your statements that non-Forest Service land on the Black Hills Fire Protection District has a 6-month trapping season is incorrect. Below see a link to such an on-line GFP statement and a screenshot of the statement.

<https://gfp.sd.gov/events/keydates/>

Beaver Season - Black Hills - Non-U.S. Forest Service land within the BH Fire Protection District | 2023

Season Dates
Start: Nov 1, 2022
End: Apr 30, 2023

Please note that trapping/hunting are not allowed on the 3 National Park Service units that are non-Forest Service lands within the Fire Protection District.

Deadlines in Rule Making

We support Travis Bies's request for a 3-year moratorium on beaver trapping/hunting in the BHNF and we believe the Forest Service has endorsed the moratorium. However GFP's staff is not planning to propose a beaver rule change this May.

We believe that if a rule change is proposed in June or July 2023 rather than May 2023, that GFP Commission has to finalize that rule on Thursday Sept 7th, 2023. No adopted rule can move from the hearing to the Interim Rules Review (IRRC) without a 5-day break. The IRRC meets on Tuesday 9/12/23 and doesn't meet in October

Jon Kotilnek then has to get the minutes of the Commission's September meeting to the Interim Rules Review Committee (IRRC) in 4 days, if you want the rule change effective November 1st, 2023. This turn-around is possible to achieve, but likely creates a big rush for staff.

Interim Rules Review Committee allows changes to proposals at finalization.

Maybe members of the Commission will like a part of this proposed rule but might object to another part of this proposed rule and are thus afraid to move it forward to finalization. The Interim Rules Review Committee allows you to make significant changes to a proposed rule, if the changes are a result of testimony at the public hearing. So, you could modify the petitioned rule proposal after the public hearing in July, if folks object to parts of it.

[1-26-4.7](#). *Reversion to step in adoption procedure.*

The Interim Rules Review Committee may require an agency to revert to any step in the adoption procedure provided in § [1-26-4](#) if, in the judgment of the committee:

(1) The substance of the proposed rule has been significantly rewritten from the originally proposed rule which was not the result of testimony received from the public hearing;

See this link to the law about The Interim Rules Review Committee process
https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/2031417

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hilding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end.

Nancy Hilding

President Prairie Hills Audubon Society

For the Society and myself as an individual

From: info@gfp.sd.us
To: nhilshat@rapidnet.com
Cc: [Kierl, Liz](#); [Harrington, Nick](#)
Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 5:20:51 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: 190

Petitioner Name: Nancy Hilding

Address: 6300 West Elm,
Black Hawk, , SD 57718

Email: nhilshat@rapidnet.com

Phone: 605-787-6466

Rule Identification: 41:08:01:07

Describe Change: This is my second petition for rule change submission on 4/28/23. This form does not allow for attached documents. We suggest you change this web page to allow attached documents. The second petition for rule change is also on the beaver hunting/trapping rule & was also sent to GFP's attorney - Jon Kotilnek on Friday afternoon 4/28/23 via e-mail. It is 7 pages long in Times New Roman type font size 12, the last page is not blank . Thus Jon has received 2 petitions from me in two separate e-mails from me, one sent at 3:35 MT and one at 3:46 MT . I am sending two petitions on the same rule, one petition asks for less change and one asks for more change - to give the Commission more options during their review of petitions.

Reason for Change: The Statement of Reasons can be found in the Petition sent to Jon Kotilnek on Friday afternoon 4/28/23 via e-mail.

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
nhilshat@rapidnet.com
605-787-6466

Nancy Hilding
6300 West Elm
Black Hawk, SD 57718,
nhilding@rapidnet.com
April 28th, 2023

Game, Fish and Parks Commission
Joe Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
C/o Jon Kotilnek - Jon.Kotilnek@state.sd.us

Dear Commissioners,

LONG PETITION FOR RULEMAKING Submitted pursuant to SDCL 1-26-13.

Nancy Hilding and Prairie Hills Audubon Society of Western SD submit this petition. Nancy Hilding is a resident of Meade County, SD. Prairie Hills Audubon Society is a non-profit corporation registered in SD and as such is a person by SD law and Supreme Court decisions.

RULE TO BE AMENDED - SD beaver trapping-hunting rule(s)

[41:08:01:07.](#)

Beaver trapping and hunting season established. The season to catch, trap, or hunt beaver is open statewide and year-round, except as provided in this section. The season is open from sunrise on November 1 through sunset on April 30 to catch, trap, or hunt beaver within the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west of State Highway 79, except U. S. Forest Service lands where the beaver season is open from January 1 through March 31.

We suggest these changes:

Beaver trapping and hunting season established. The season to catch, trap, or hunt beaver is open statewide ~~and year-round,~~ and from sunrise on November 1 through sunset on March 31st, except as provided in this section. The season is open from sunrise on November 1 through sunset on ~~April 30th~~ March 31st to catch, trap, or hunt beaver

within the Black Hills Fire Protection District ~~south of Interstate 90 and west of State Highway 79, except as defined in SDCL 34-35-15, except on U. S. Forest Service lands where the beaver season is open from January 1 through March 31.~~

During the period of time from January 1, 2024 till January 1, 2027 there will be a no trapping and hunting permitted pursuant to this rule, for beaver on Black Hills National Forest lands.

Managers of other lands owned by the public, may opt for a moratorium on the beaver trapping and hunting season or opt for shorter or longer beaver trapping and hunting seasons on their lands, if at least 45 days before the season would normally start that year, they send a letter to SD Game, Fish and Parks Secretary & the Commission announcing such, and after acknowledgement from GFP of the receipt of the entity's letter and at least 30 days before the season would normally start, the entity will publish a public notice of their season changes, that will be published in both a local paper and on-line, if they have an on-line presence.

STATEMENT OF REASONS

Statewide beaver trapping/hunting Season for 5 months not 12 months

Previous to summer of 2021, the beaver trapping/hunting season was 12-months west river and six-months east river. In the summer of 2021, Keith Fisk promoted the 12-month state wide beaver trapping/hunting season, so as to make it easier for landowners to kill conflict beaver. 365-days of the year, SD codified law allows landowners to kill conflict beaver with a request to SDGFP and approval of the Secretary of GFP. It allows SDGFP to create special beaver killing rules for public lands, at any time.

41-8-23. Killing of mink, muskrats, and beavers causing damage.

*Mink may be killed at any time if doing damage around buildings but all such mink killed are the property of the state, if taken during the closed season. If muskrat or beaver are injuring irrigation ditches, dams, embankments, or public highways, or causing any other damage to property, the secretary of game, fish and parks may issue a permit to trap or kill such animals at any time. The Game, Fish and Parks Commission may authorize the killing or trapping of beaver upon public lands and game preserves at any time the commission deems necessary. **(Emphasis added)***

We believe that the July 2021 extension of the beaver season to 12 months was unnecessary due to SDCL 41-8-23 and it deprives SDGFP staff of the chance to offer to relocate conflict beaver or teach land owners about non-lethal control or help them with non-lethal control.

The 12-month trapping/hunting rule is especially egregious on public land, where the people who are trapping are likely recreationists or commercial enterprise seeking fur revenue, or hunters using beavers for target practice and not the actual land managers, wanting a resource conflict eliminated. Thus, Keith Fisk’s justification is wrongly applied to public land. We hope if the Commission and staff educate themselves on all the wonderful benefits that beaver provide to the ecosystem, other wildlife, fish and humans, they will want to re-evaluate a 12-month statewide trapping-hunting season on both public and private land, that they created two years ago.

River otters have a commensal relationship with beavers, as beaver dams provide year-round open water and beaver bank dens and lodges are used by river otters as rest and as natal sites. River otters are killed as non-target species in beaver traps and year-round beaver trapping will result in more otters being incidentally killed. Between 1979 and 2019, when otter was still a listed species, 216 otters were “incidentally captured” in SD. Of the 216 otters, 53.7% of the otters were taken in beaver traps, 32.4% were in unknown trap, raccoon was 8.8%, fish were 2.3%, mink was 1.4 % and “other” was 1.4%.

In South Dakota, female otters give birth on approximately April 1st. Any lactating female otter that is trapped and killed in April will result in the loss of her offspring. To reduce the possibility of trapping female otters with dependent young, beaver trapping seasons should not extend beyond 31 March. SD’s historic 6th month long Nov-April season thus resulted in otters being killed during the time they give birth and raise their young. Our change from a 12-months or 6-month to a 5-month beaver season removes the April killing of mother otters with dependent young.

SD Game, Fish and Park’s River Otter Management Plan does not plan for otters in west River SD (link: https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/docs/otter_plan_2020-08-28.pdf). Most of our members live west River and we want west River otters. Having a 5-month beaver hunting/trapping season west River, will move forward the date when otters recolonize west river without a GFP sponsored re-introduction program.

Rule making power delegated to public land agencies by GFP

In 2021 SDGFP Commission established a precedent of allowing public land managers to modify hunting seasons on their lands, within the 2021 changes to the mountain lion season rule. The 2021 version of the rule allows managing entities of public land to prohibit mountain lion hunting by dogs, without consulting GFP.

41:06:61:06. Application requirements -- License and season restrictions – Special conditions -- Carcass check-in procedures. The following requirements, restrictions, special conditions, and procedures apply to all applications for license and to all licenses issued under this chapter:

(5) The use of dogs to hunt mountain lions is allowed only during those specified hunting intervals in Custer State Park that allow the use of dogs; and year-round outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District when on private land, with permission of the landowner or lessee. However, a pursuit of a mountain lion by dogs that originates on

private land may cross over or culminate on private land, with permission from the landowner or lessee, or on public land, unless expressly prohibited by the managing entity; (emphasis added)

See this link for cougar hunting rule:

<https://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/Administrative/29319>

Our proposed rule also allows the public land management entities to place new conditions on a season on their lands, but goes further and establishes a process for notice to GFP and to the public, by the agencies'/entities' adopting the new season conditions.

Moratorium in the Black Hills National Forest

Beaver are a keystone species.

They provide many benefits to the ecosystem, other wildlife, fish and to humans;

- `Beavers are a critical and useful part of our ecosystems.
- `Beavers increase groundwater storage and raise water tables,
- `Beavers decrease flooding
- `Beavers keep ephemeral and intermittent creeks flowing year-round,
- `Beavers filter sediments and pollutants from streams,
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hilding" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nancy Hilding

President Prairie Hills Audubon Society

For the Society and myself as an individual

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Beaver Trapping and Hunting Season

Chapter 41:08:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 4-5, 2023	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 20, 2023	Chamberlain
	Finalization	July 20-21, 2023	Chamberlain

SEASON INFORMATION

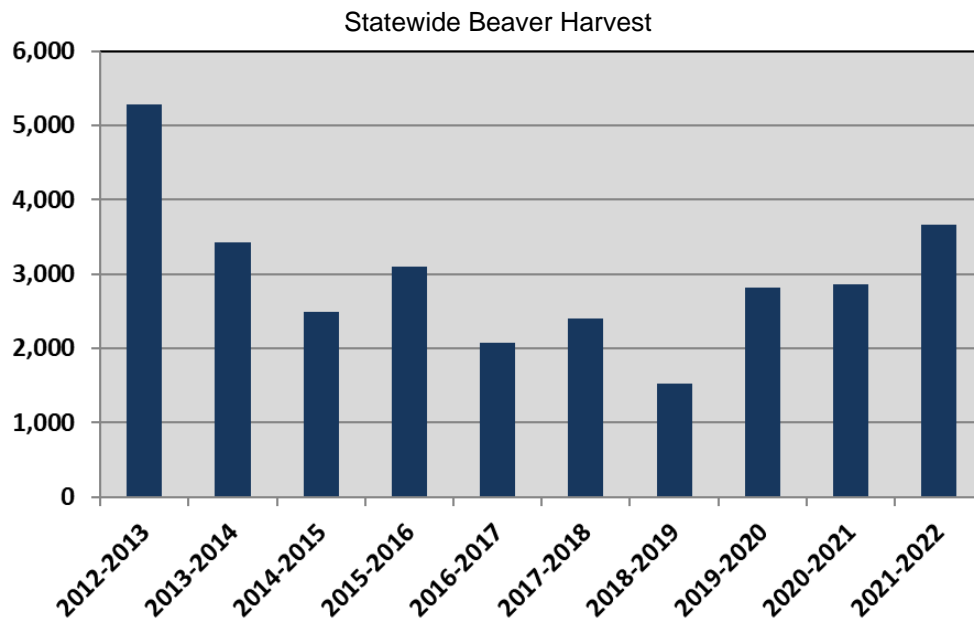
Duration of Recommendation: 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 hunting/trapping seasons

Season Dates:	Area:
Year-round	Statewide.
November 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024 and November 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025	Portions of the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west of SD Highway 79 that are not owned by the US Forest Service.
January 1 – March 31, 2024 and January 1 – March 31, 2025	US Forest Service land in the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west of SD Highway 79.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from last year: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION



RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA

5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

APPROVE _____

MODIFY _____

REJECT _____

NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Skunk, Opossum, Jackrabbit, Fox, Raccoon and Badger Season Chapter 41:08:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 4-5, 2023	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 20, 2023	Chamberlain
	Finalization	July 20-21, 2023	Chamberlain

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2024 and 2025 hunting/trapping seasons

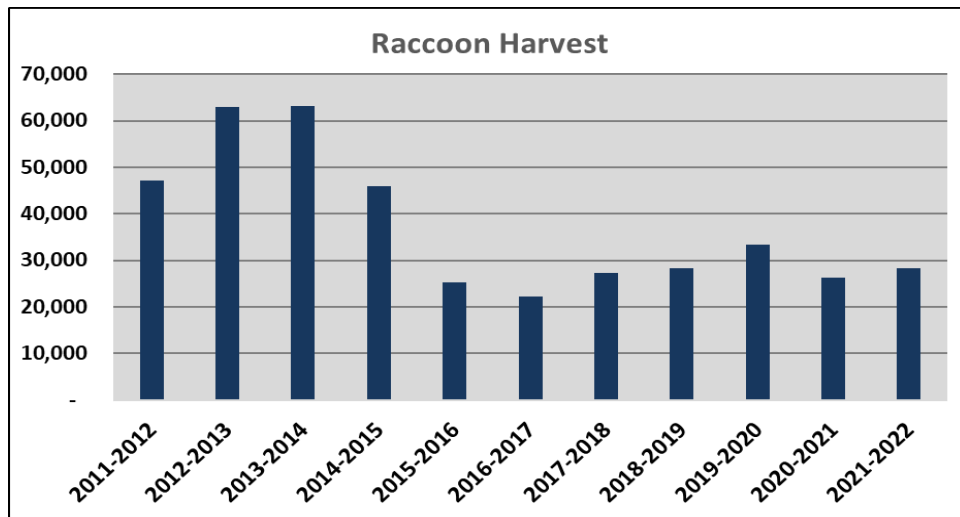
Season Dates: Year-round

Open Area: Statewide

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from last year: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION



Harvest Year	Red Fox	Badger	Skunk	Opossum
2011-2012	1,776	1,634	17,085	3,349
2012-2013	2,695	3,149	24,752	4,313
2013-2014	2,245	2,139	15,168	5,065
2014-2015	1,753	1,516	10,731	2,588
2015-2016	1,530	1,531	8,321	2,236
2016-2017	954	1,183	6,778	4,293
2017-2018	1,861	1,865	7,718	4,814
2018-2019	1,184	1,570	7,437	5,252
2019-2020	859	1,426	8,234	3,980
2020-2021	1,615	1,641	9,459	3,690
2021-2022	952	1,343	11,908	4,853

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

APPROVE _____

MODIFY _____

REJECT _____

NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Mink, Weasel and Muskrat Hunting and Trapping Season Chapter 41:08:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 4-5, 2023	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 20, 2023	Chamberlain
	Finalization	July 20-21, 2023	Chamberlain

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 hunting/trapping seasons

Mink and Weasel

Season Dates: November 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024 and November 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025

Open Area: Statewide

Muskrat

Season Dates:

Area:

Year-round

All areas of the state, west of the Missouri River, except that portion of the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west SD Highway 79.

November 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024 and November 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025

All areas of the state, east of the Missouri River and portions of the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west of SD Highway 79.

Requirements and Restrictions:

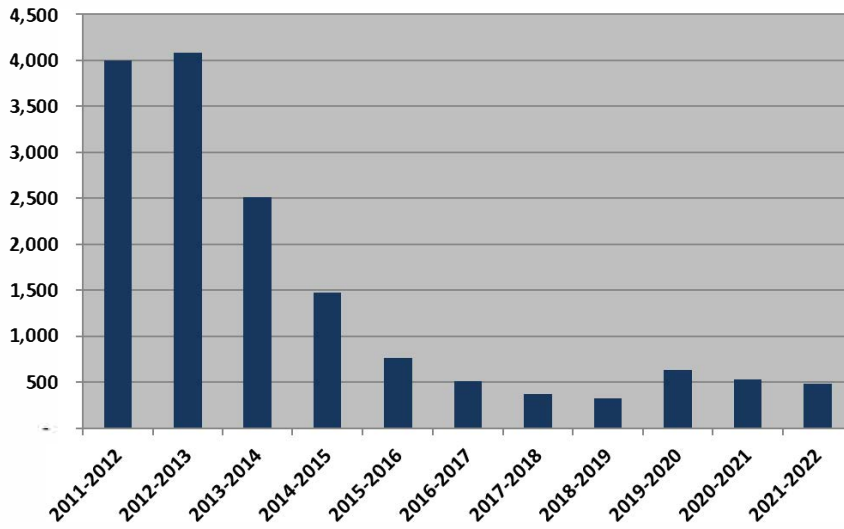
1. Trapping on or in muskrat houses is prohibited from March 16 to the end of the season (April 30).

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

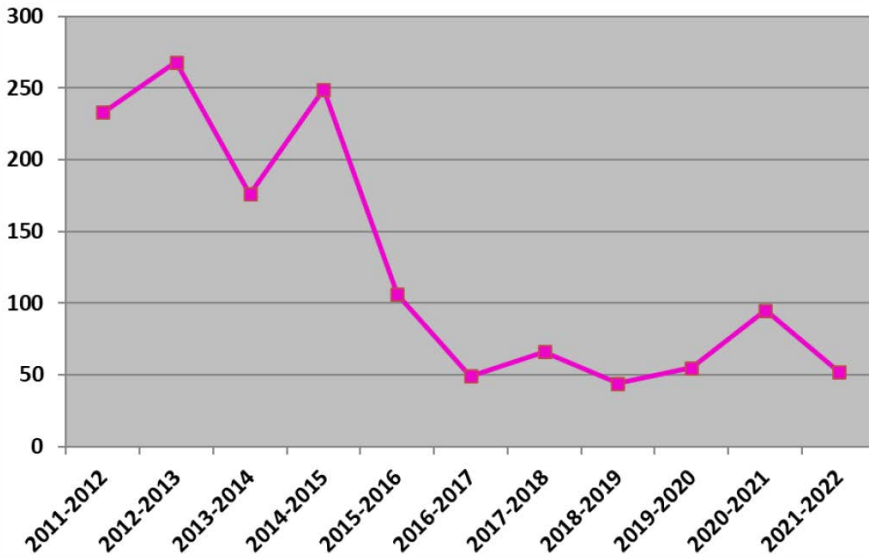
Recommended changes from last year: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

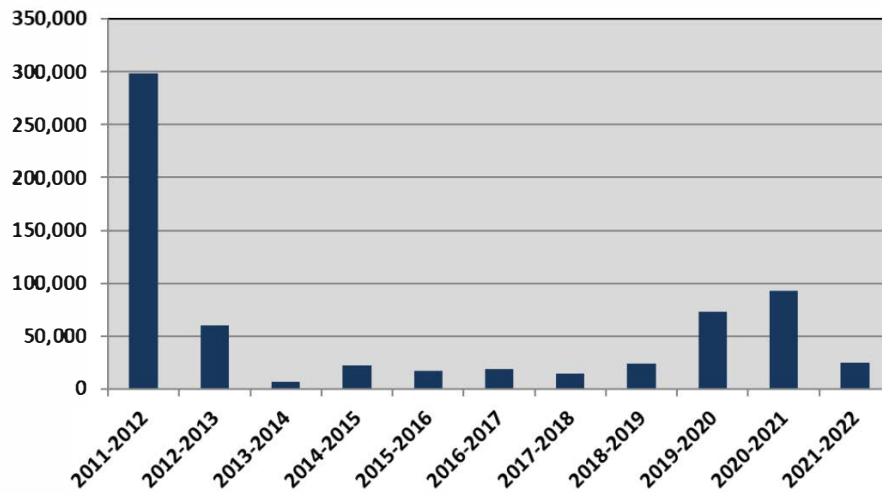
Mink Harvest



Weasel Harvest



Muskrat Harvest



RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

APPROVE _____

MODIFY _____

REJECT _____

NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Muskrat Hunting Season

Chapter 41:08:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 4-5, 2023	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 20, 2023	Chamberlain
	Finalization	July 20-21, 2023	Chamberlain

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2024 and 2025 shooting seasons

Season Dates: April 1 – August 31, 2024 and April 1 – August 31, 2025

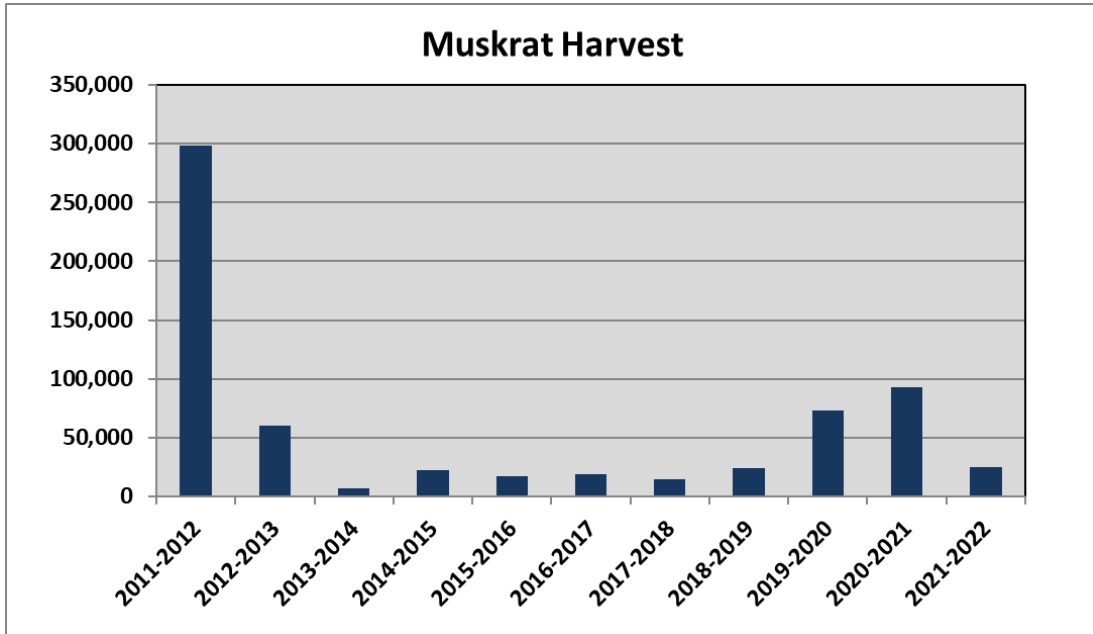
Area: Statewide

Restrictions: Open to landowners and lessees, including School and Public Lands surface lease holders, on land they own or operate. State, county, or township highway officials are allowed to take muskrats from within public road rights-of-way during the season. Non-toxic shot is required for shotguns.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from last year: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION



RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

APPROVE _____

MODIFY _____

REJECT _____

NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

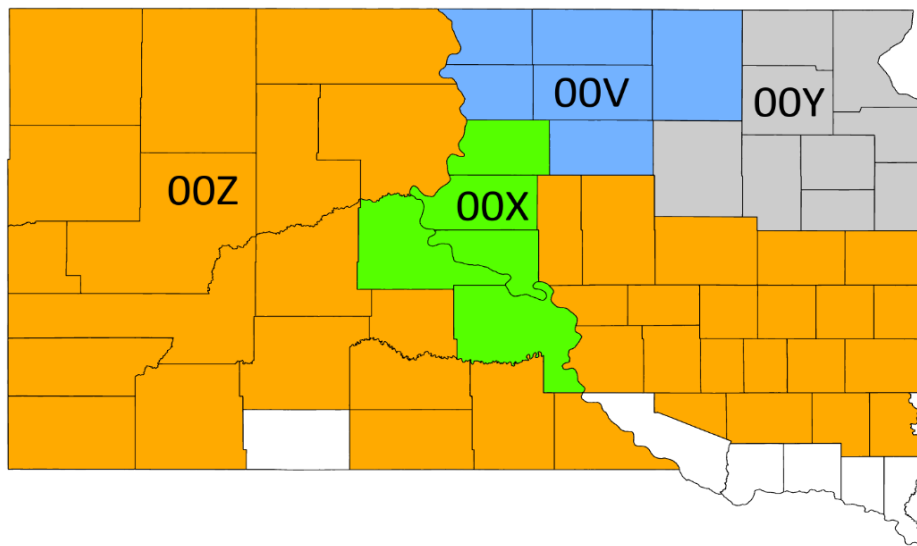
Waterfowl Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:16

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 9-10, 2023	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 4, 2023	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 4-5, 2023	Custer State Park

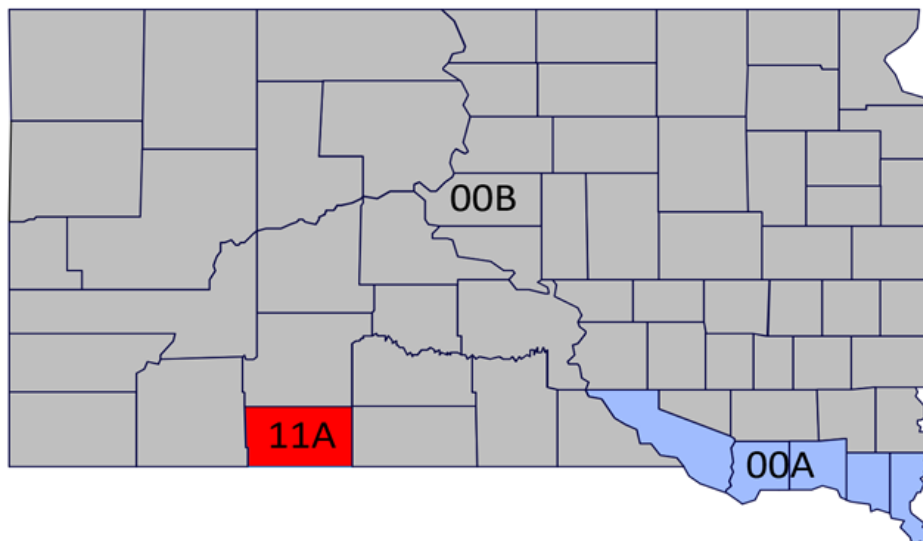
COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: 2023/2024 waterfowl hunting seasons

Licenses: Nonresidents: Limited in all units and seasons (recommended 6,300)



Current 10-day and Season-long Nonresident Waterfowl Units



Changes from last year:

1. Increase the 2,000 3-day temporary nonresident licenses to 2,100.
2. Increase the 3,750 two 5-day nonresident licenses to 3,950.

Nonresident Waterfowl System

Season/Unit	Private/Public	Length	Description	2022 Licenses	Recommended 2023 Licenses
NRW-00A	Public and Private	Season long	Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay and Union counties	250	250
NRW-00B	Public and Private	Two 5-day periods	Statewide except 00A and 11A	3,725	3,925
NRW-11A	Public and Private	Two 5-day periods	Bennett County	25	25
NRW-00V	Private	3 day	Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson and Walworth counties	500	550
NRW-00X	Private	3 day	Hughes, Lyman, Potter, Stanley and Sully counties	750	750
NRW-00Y	Public and Private	3 day	Clark, Codington, Day, Duel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts and Spink counties	500	500
NRW-00Z	Private	3 day	Statewide except Unit 00A, 00X, 00V, 00Y and 11A	250	300
Total				6,000	6,300

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended changes from proposal: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

In the past 17 years, resident migratory bird certificate sales dropped 29% from 33,950 in 2005 to 24,166 in 2022. A 5% license increase to nonresident waterfowl type 86 licenses would result in 300 additional licenses compared to the 9,784 fewer resident migratory bird certificates since 2005. The Nonresident Waterfowl System table above details proposed 5% nonresident license increase across current units.

The recommendations will provide more opportunity in areas where it is difficult to draw licenses while still limiting licenses in the highest hunter density areas.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:16:11. Maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses -- Open units -- Dates -- License restrictions. The maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses to be issued by lottery is ~~4,000~~ 4,200 special nonresident waterfowl licenses, 2,000 early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident licenses, ~~2,000~~ 2,100 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses, 100 nonresident youth waterfowl licenses, and 10,000 spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses divided for administrative purposes as follows:

(1) Unit NRW-00A: the counties of Union, Clay, Yankton, Bon Homme, and Charles Mix. No more than 250 special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(2) Unit NRW-00B: all open counties not in Units NRW-00A or NRW-11A. No more than ~~3,725~~ 3,925 special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(3) Unit NRW-00C: those counties as described in § 41:06:50:02. No more than 2,000 early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(4) Unit NRW-11A: Bennett County. No more than 25 special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The season in this unit is open for 65 consecutive days beginning on the third Saturday of October and during any period that Bennett County is open in January as described in subdivision 41:06:16:07(3);

(5) Unit NRW-00X: the counties of Potter, Stanley, Sully, Hughes, and Lyman. No more than 750 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;

(6) Unit NRW-OOV: the counties of Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, and Walworth. No more than ~~500~~ 550 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;

(7) Unit NRW-00Y: the counties of Spink, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Grant, Clark, Codington, Deuel, and Hamlin. No more than 500 three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(8) Unit NRW-OOZ: statewide except the counties in Units NRW-OOA, NRW-11A, NRW-OOV, NRW-OOX and NRW-OOY. No more than ~~250~~ 300 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;

(9) Unit NRW-ST1: statewide. No more than 10,000 spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only during a Conservation Order;

(10) Unit NYW-YW1: statewide. No more than 100 nonresident youth waterfowl licenses may be issued for the youth waterfowl season established in Chapter 41:06:49. A nonresident youth may also hunt during the youth waterfowl season with a valid waterfowl hunting license as provided for in this section.

Licenses issued under this section are valid only in the unit for which they are issued. Licenses for Unit NRW-11A include two tags for Canada geese. Each tag is valid for taking one Canada goose consistent with the provisions of § 41:06:16:09. Each goose shall be tagged immediately upon retrieval.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue

- Why make the change, what are the change alternatives, how will public/stakeholder input be solicited, and how will the change be evaluated if implemented? With the current number of resident hunters participating, increased opportunity for nonresident waterfowl

hunting exists without undue impact to hunters or the resource. Standard public input through the commission process will be solicited regarding these proposed changes. Changes can be evaluated through harvest surveys to gauge participation and satisfaction levels of both resident and nonresident hunters.

2. Historical Considerations NA

3. Biological Considerations

- What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations? Waterfowl populations are generally strong in South Dakota and the Central Flyway. While breeding conditions across the prairie pothole region are constantly changing, current wetland habitat conditions in South Dakota are expected to be good to excellent. Duck harvest increases from the proposed changes to nonresident waterfowl will be minimal. Resident giant Canada goose populations are currently above management objective with increases likely for the foreseeable future. Increased harvest rates will be needed to manage the population at desired levels across the Central Flyway.

4. Social Considerations

- The nonresident waterfowl issue is and will continue to be contentious issue, but given the large decrease in resident waterfowl hunter participation in the past 17 years, there is opportunity for nonresidents while still remaining well below hunter numbers in the early 2000s.

5. Financial considerations As with most hunting activities, declining participation threatens funding for conservation, monitoring and management. While increases in financial return will be nominal, increased revenue through license sales is expected. Financial returns of the sporting goods and hospitality industry may also increase through these proposed changes.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, it slightly increases the number of licenses available for the season.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? This regulation would provide a slight increase in opportunity for current and new waterfowl hunters.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION

West River Prairie Deer Hunting Season
Chapter 41:06:20

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 9-10, 2023	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 4, 2023	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 4-5, 2023	Custer State Park

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: 2023 and 2024 hunting seasons

Season Dates: All units excluding Gregory County: November 11-26, 2023
 Gregory County (Unit 30A): November 4-7 and November 20-26, 2023
 Gregory County (Unit 30B): November 11-26, 2023
 Antlerless deer tags only: December 9-17, 2023

All units excluding Gregory County: November 16-December 1, 2024
 Gregory County (Unit 30A): November 9-12 and November 25-December 1, 2024
 Gregory County (Unit 30B): November 16-December 1, 2024
 Antlerless deer tags only: December 14-22, 2024

Open Area: See the attached map

Licenses: Specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation for resident and nonresidents will be recommended by the Department to the GFP Commission at the April Commission meeting.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. 500 resident and 500 nonresident “any deer” licenses AND 500 resident and 500 nonresident “any whitetail deer” licenses are available through the “Special Buck” application.
2. No more than 20,000 one-tag deer licenses, 15,000 two-tag deer licenses and 10,000 three-tag licenses.
3. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference applicants.
4. 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.
5. Only persons using a wheelchair may apply for the licenses in Stanley County (Unit 58D) designated as a special “Hunters with Disabilities Unit.”

Changes from last year:

1. Edit “Custer Count Road 319” error to “Custer County Road 317” in Unit WRD-27A description.
2. Remove Fort Meade exception in Unit WRD-49A description.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The unit description for WRD-27A incorrectly referenced Custer County Road 319 and should reference Custer County Road 317.

Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management property in West River deer hunting unit 49A is already limited to archery only equipment and additional hunting opportunity can be provided for hunters because of the limited success based on the weapon restriction.

The recommended maximum number of one-tag, two-tag and three-tag deer licenses will be established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission via administrative rule will determine specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation amongst residents and nonresidents.

Preliminary harvest data for the 2022 deer hunting seasons just became available. Department staff will review all harvest and other biological data, population modeling outputs, determine population objectives for whitetail and mule deer, and then bring recommendations for unit-specific license numbers and types to the GFP Commission at the April Commission meeting.

Year	Licenses Sold	WT Bucks Harvested	WT Does Harvested	MD Bucks Harvested	MD Does Harvested	All Deer Harvested	Tag Success
2016	21,237	7,600	3,557	2,869	257	14,283	53%
2017	20,142	6,896	2,799	3,373	213	13,280	56%
2018	20,163	6,696	2,916	3,320	250	13,182	56%
2019	19,349	6,618	3,340	2,874	256	10,089	59%
2020	19,382	7,285	4,028	3,077	219	14,610	63%
2021	21,072	6,710	4,941	3,026	336	15,013	58%
2022	21,944	6,364	4,941	3,020	398	14,724	56%

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

1. 41:06:20:02

(12) Unit WRD-27A: those portions of Custer and Fall River Counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 18, then easterly along U.S. Highway 18 to its junction with the Cheyenne River, then easterly along the Cheyenne River to its junction with U.S. Highway 18 and 385, then northerly along U.S. Highway 18 and 385 to its junction with State Highway 79 and continuing along State Highway 79 to its junction with the section line between section 19 and section 18, township 6 south, range 7 east, then westerly along this section line to its junction with section 13 and section 24, township 6 south, range 7 east, then southerly along the section line between section 19 and section 24, township 6 south, range 7 east to its junction with Custer County Road 101, then westerly along Custer County Road 101 to its junction with U.S. Highway 385, then southerly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with Fall River County Road 18 (Argyle Road), then northwesterly along Fall River County Road 18 and Custer County Road 333 to its junction with State Highway 89, then southerly along State Highway 89 to its junction with Fall River County Road 12, then westerly along Fall River County Road 12 to its junction with Custer County Road 319, then westerly along Custer County Road 319 to its junction with Custer County Road 715, then westerly along Custer County Road 715 to its junction with Custer County Road 769, then westerly along Custer County Road 769 through Dewey to its junction with the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then southerly along the South Dakota-Wyoming border to its junction with U.S. Highway 18, the point of beginning, except the portion included in WRD-27L;

2. 41:06:20:02

(28) Unit WRD-49A: the portion of Meade County east of Interstate 90, ~~except the Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management South Unit and the signed portion of the North Unit,~~ south of U.S. Highway 212, and west of a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 212 and Meade County Road 23, then southerly along Meade County Road 23 to its junction with Meade County Road 28, then easterly along Meade County Roads 23-28, then southerly along Meade County Road 23 to its junction with State Highway 34,

then southerly along Meade County Road 21 (New Underwood Road) to its junction with the Pennington County line and that portion of Pennington County west of Pennington County 160th Avenue (New Underwood Road) and north of Interstate 90;

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

- 1. The Issue – NA
- 2. Historical Considerations – NA
- 3. Biological Considerations – NA
- 4. Social Considerations – NA
- 5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

- 1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate? No.
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, West River firearm deer hunters in unit 49A would be able to hunt additional areas with archery equipment.
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Yes, see response to #2.
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes, see response to #2.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Apprentice Hunter Deer Season Chapter 41:06:44

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 9-10, 2023	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 4, 2023	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 4-5, 2023	Custer State Park

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: 2023 and 2024 hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 9, 2023 – January 1, 2024
September 14, 2024 – January 1, 2025

Open Areas: Unit APD-03: West River Units 02A, 15A, 15B, 31A, 35A, 35C, 35L, 49A, 49B, 53A, 53C and 64A (See map for open area)
Unit APD-13: That portion of the state not included in Unit APD-03 (See map for open area)

Licenses: Unit APD-03: Single tag “any antlerless deer” license
Unit APD-13: Single tag “antlerless whitetail deer” license

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Any resident hunter who has not held a license to hunt deer during the previous 10 years may purchase an Apprentice Hunter Deer License. Receipt of an Apprentice Hunter Deer License does not affect eligibility for a license in any other season.
2. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
3. Hunters may purchase one (1) Apprentice Hunter Deer License valid for either Unit APD-03 or Unit APD-13.
4. Custer State Park is closed to those with Apprentice Hunter Deer License and National Wildlife Refuges are closed unless specified by the refuge.

Changes from last year: Remove closed area specifications to Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management property.

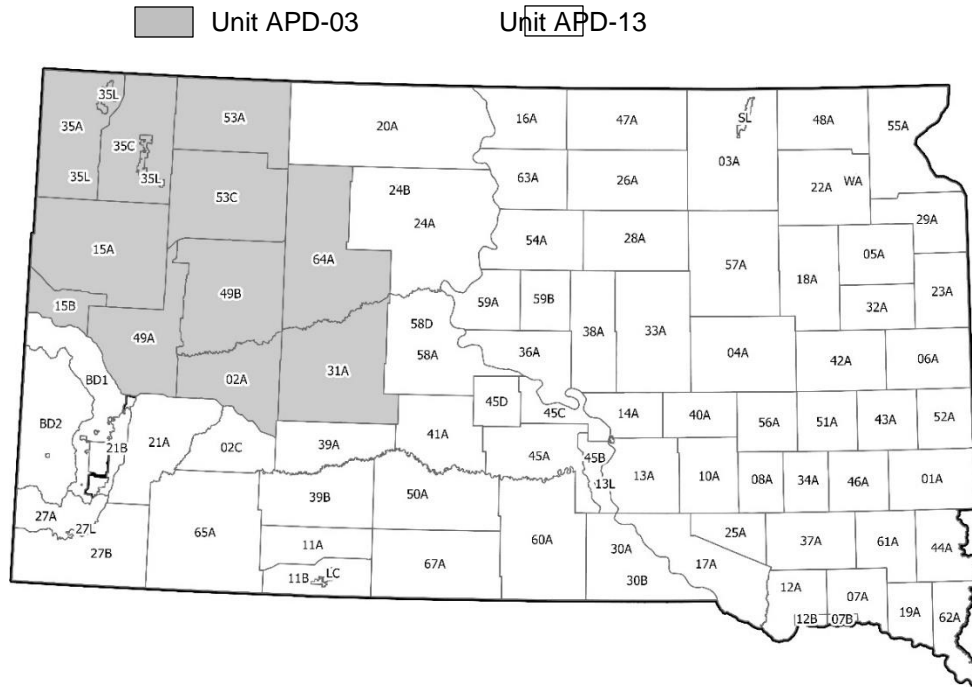
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management property in West River deer hunting unit 49A is already limited to archery only equipment and additional hunting opportunity can be provided for hunters because of the limited success based on the weapon restriction.

Year	Licenses Sold	WT Bucks Harvested	WT Does Harvested	MD Bucks Harvested	MD Does Harvested	All Deer Harvested	Tag Success
2021	641	21	323	0	18	362	57%
2022	527	27	212	4	22	263	50%



DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:44:02.01. Closed areas. The youth deer season is closed and licenses are not valid in the following areas:

- (1) Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (2) Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in Bennett County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (3) Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge in Charles Mix County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (4) Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and Waubay State Game Bird Refuge in Day County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge; and
- ~~(5) Fort Mead Bureau of Land Management south unit and the signed portion of the north unit in Meade County.~~

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

- 1. The Issue – NA
- 2. Historical Considerations – NA
- 3. Biological Considerations – NA
- 4. Social Considerations – NA
- 5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

- 1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No.
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, apprentice hunters would be able to hunt additional areas with archery equipment.
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Yes, see response to #2.

4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes, see response to #2.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Youth Deer Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:63

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 9-10, 2023	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 4, 2023	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 4-5, 2023	Custer State Park

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2023 and 2024 hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 9, 2023 – January 1, 2024
September 14, 2024 – January 1, 2025

Open Areas: Unit YOD-03: West River Units 02A, 15A, 15B, 31A, 35A, 35C, 35L, 49A, 49B, 53A, 53C and 64A (See map for open area)
Unit YOD-13: That portion of the state not included in Unit YOD-03 (See map for open area)

Licenses: Unit YOD-03: Single tag “any antlerless deer” license
Unit YOD-13: Single tag “antlerless whitetail deer” license

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Both residents and nonresidents that have reached the age of 12 years during the period September through December 31 and have not reached the age of 18 years old by June 30; and any person who has not received a Mentored Deer License may purchase a Youth Deer License. Successful applicants for the Youth Deer License are not eligible for the Mentored Deer License.
2. Each hunter under 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
3. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
4. Hunters may purchase one (1) Youth Deer Hunting License valid for either Unit YOD-03 or Unit YOD-13.
5. Custer State Park is closed to those with Youth Deer Hunting License and National Wildlife Refuges are closed unless specified by the refuge.

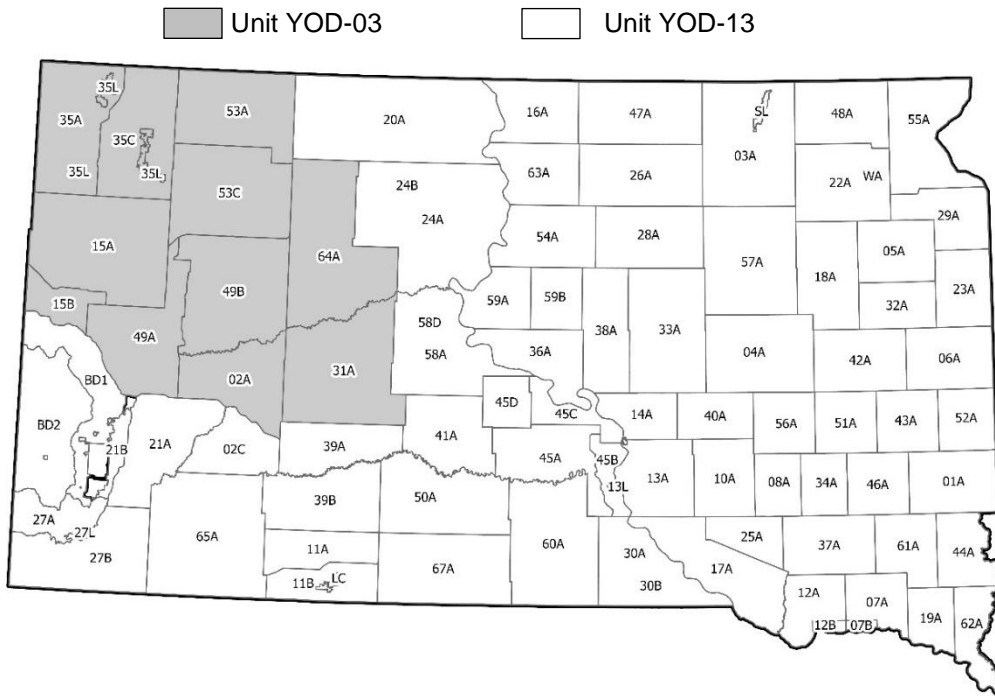
Changes from last year: Remove closed area specifications to Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management property.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management property in West River deer hunting unit 49A is already limited to archery only equipment and additional hunting opportunity can be provided for hunters because of the limited success based on the weapon restriction.



Youth Deer

Year	Licenses Sold	WT Bucks Harvested	WT Does Harvested	MD Bucks Harvested	MD Does Harvested	All Deer Harvested	Tag Success
2016	4,861	322	1,896	29	324	2,571	53%
2017	5,325	292	2,072	35	426	2,825	53%
2018	Modified into Apprentice Deer season						
2019							
2020							
2021	3,812	175	1,522	8	156	1,861	49%
2022	3,448	155	1,275	4	240	1,674	49%

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:63:04. Closed areas. The youth deer season is closed and licenses are not valid in the following areas:

- (1) Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (2) Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in Bennett County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (3) Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge in Charles Mix County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge;
- (4) Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and Waubay State Game Bird Refuge in Day County, unless otherwise allowed by the refuge; and
- ~~(5) Fort Mead Bureau of Land Management south unit and the signed portion of the north unit in Meade County.~~

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

- 1. The Issue – NA
- 2. Historical Considerations – NA

- 3. Biological Considerations – NA
- 4. Social Considerations – NA
- 5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

- 1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate? No.
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, youth would be able to hunt additional areas with archery equipment.
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Yes, see response to #2.
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes, see response to #2.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Custer State Park Deer Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:41

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 9-10, 2023	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 4, 2023	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 4-5, 2023	Custer State Park

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: 2023 and 2024 hunting seasons

Unit Dates: CUD-CU1-11: Any whitetail November 1-30
CUD-CU1-13: Antlerless whitetail December 1-15

Licenses: Specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation will be recommended by the Department to the GFP Commission at the April Commission meeting.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Applicants successful in drawing an “any” tag type are ineligible for the license again for 10 years.
2. “Any Deer” and “Any Whitetail Deer” licenses are valid November 1-30.

Changes from last year: Remove the archery only equipment restriction from November 1-15.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: Include an additional sentence in 41:06:41:01 to specify any deer and any whitetail licenses are valid from November 1 through November 30 and antlerless whitetail licenses valid from December 1 through December 15.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Very little archery only hunting occurs between November 1-15 in Custer State Park. Expanding the use of firearms through the entire month of November for the Custer State Park any deer and any whitetail seasons will increase hunting opportunity and is not expected to result in a substantial biological difference in harvest. In addition, harvest can be managed using the total number of any whitetail and antlerless whitetail licenses in Custer State Park.

The recommended maximum number of one-tag deer licenses will be established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission via administrative rule will determine specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation.

Preliminary harvest data for the 2022 deer hunting seasons just became available. Department staff will review all harvest and other biological data, population modeling outputs, determine population objectives for whitetail and mule deer, and then bring recommendations for unit-specific license numbers and types to the GFP Commission at the April Commission meeting.

Year	Licenses Sold	WT Bucks Harvested	WT Does Harvested	MD Bucks Harvested	MD Does Harvested	All Deer Harvested	Tag Success
2016	40	10	19	0	0	29	72%

2017	64	30	11	1	0	42	66%
2018	64	26	9	0	0	36	56%
2019	87	26	24	3	0	53	61%
2020	88	28	25	3	0	56	63%
2021	73	20	22	0	0	41	57%
2022	75	14	27	0	0	42	56%

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:41:01. Custer State Park deer hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses. The Custer State Park deer hunting season is open from November 1 through December 15. Any deer and any whitetail licenses are valid from November 1 through November 30 and antlerless whitetail licenses are valid from December 1 through December 15. No more than 100 one-tag deer licenses may be issued for the Custer State Park deer hunting season. ~~Hunting is limited to archery equipment from November 1 through November 15.~~

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Deer hunters with a Custer State Park any whitetail deer firearm license will be able to hunt more days in November.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Hunting opportunity will be increased without compromising the resource.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? The regulation will encourage outdoor recreation by enhancing hunting opportunity.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

National Wildlife Refuge Deer Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:36

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 9-10, 2023	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 4, 2023	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 4-5, 2023	Custer State Park

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: 2023 and 2024 hunting seasons

2023 Season Dates: Sand Lake NWR November 11-15, November 16-20, November 21-26, November 27 – December 3, December 4-10
Lacreek NWR October 18-24 and November 22-28
Waubay NWR* November 11-19 and November 25 – December 3
* includes Waubay State Game Bird Refuge

2024 Season Dates: Sand Lake NWR November 9-13, November 14-18, November 19-24, November 25 – December 1, December 2-8
Lacreek NWR October 16-22 and November 27-December 3
Waubay NWR* November 9-17 and November 23 – December 1
* includes Waubay State Game Bird Refuge

Licenses: Specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation for resident and nonresidents will be recommended by the Department to the GFP Commission at the April Commission meeting.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. The first season on Sand Lake NWR, all seasons on Lacreek NWR and Waubay NWR are restricted to muzzleloaders.
2. Applicants may apply for only one refuge unit (season) in the first application period.
3. Licenses remaining after the first application period may be purchased by any resident or nonresident on a first-come, first serve basis.

Changes from last year:

1. Restrict RFD-SL4 to muzzleloading rifles without telescopic sights with the intention of switching antlerless licenses to any deer licenses for this season.
2. Edit the open unit description of Lacreek Refuge to specify the refuge unit area is specified by the refuge.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge staff would like to expand the unique any deer hunting opportunity in the refuge. Success rates for the any deer Sand Lake Refuge seasons are primarily driven by weather conditions, specifically water levels, and not as closely related to buck population levels as other areas. When water levels are high, success decreases because many areas become inaccessible or difficult to hunt. Switching the fourth season from antlerless only to any deer and restricting to muzzleloader will create an additional unique opportunity to hunt a different time when water levels may provide different accessibility.

Lacreek Refuge staff designate hunting areas within the refuge which vary annually. The recommended rule change is designed to allow Lacreek Refuge staff to specify hunting unit boundaries.

The recommended maximum number of one-tag deer licenses will be established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission via administrative rule will determine specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation amongst residents and nonresidents.

Preliminary harvest data for the 2022 deer hunting seasons just became available. Department staff will review all harvest and other biological data, population modeling outputs, determine population objectives for whitetail and mule deer, and then bring recommendations for unit-specific license numbers and types to the GFP Commission at the April Commission meeting.

Refuge Deer

Year	Licenses Sold	Bucks Harvested	Does Harvested	Total Harvest	Tag Success
2019	158	42	13	55	35%
2020	159	53	5	58	36%
2021	152	56	6	62	41%
2022	158	53	17	70	44%

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

1. 41:06:36:02. Sand Lake open units. The following is a description of the units open to deer hunting on the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge:

(1) Unit RFD-SL1 is open for five consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday of November. The licenses are restricted to muzzleloading rifles without telescopic sights as provided in § 41:06:04:14;

(2) Unit RFD-SL2 is open for five consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL1 season;

(3) Unit RFD-SL3 is open for six consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL2 season;

(4) Unit RFD-SL4 is open for seven consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL3 season. The licenses are restricted to muzzleloading rifles without telescopic sights as provided in § 41:06:04:14; and

(5) Unit RFD-SL5 is open for seven consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL4 season.

A hunter possessing an unfilled "antlerless deer" license for any Sand Lake deer hunting unit may hunt the refuge for nine consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of Unit RFD-SL5 season.

2. 41:06:36:02.01. Lacreek open units. The following is a description of the units open to deer hunting on the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge:

(1) Unit RFD-LC1 is open for seven consecutive days beginning on the third Wednesday of October; and

(2) Unit RFD-LC2 is open for seven consecutive days beginning on the fourth Wednesday of November.

The deer hunting units within the refuge are set by Lacreek Refuge. Information is available at Lacreek Refuge headquarters and will be mailed to successful applicants.

All Lacreek open units are restricted to muzzleloading rifles without scopes.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

- 1. The Issue – NA
- 2. Historical Considerations – NA
- 3. Biological Considerations – NA
- 4. Social Considerations – NA
- 5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

- 1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No.
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Limiting the weapon to muzzleloaders during the 4th Sand Lake Refuge deer season will allow additional hunting opportunity with a lesser weapon than a firearm.
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Hunting opportunity will be increased without compromising the resource.
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? The regulation will encourage outdoor recreation by enhancing hunting opportunity.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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2023-2024 ARCHERY ACCESS PERMITS

Designated Area	Number of Access Permits		
	Any Deer	Antlerless Whitetail Deer	Total
Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve	10	60	70
Good Earth State Park	5	0	5
WRD-27L (Residents)	20	0	20
WRD-27L (Nonresidents)	5	0	5
WRD-35L (Residents)	400	0	400
WRD-35L (Nonresidents)	100	0	100

2021-2022 vs. 2023-2024 Comparison

Designated Area	Number of Access Permits		
	Any Deer	Antlerless Whitetail Deer	Total
2021-2022 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve	10	60	70
2023-2024 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve	10	60	70
2021-2022 Good Earth State Park	5	0	5
2023-2024 Good Earth State Park	5	0	5
2021-2022 WRD-27L (Residents)	20	0	20
2023-2024 WRD-27L (Residents)	20	0	20
2021-2022 WRD-27L (Nonresidents)	5	0	5
2023-2024 WRD-27L (Nonresidents)	5	0	5
2021-2022 WRD-35L (Residents)	500	0	500
2023-2024 WRD-35L (Residents)	400	0	400
2021-2022 WRD-35L (Nonresidents)	125	0	125
2023-2024 WRD-35L (Nonresidents)	100	0	100

2023-2024 MUZZLELOADER DEER

	Resident	
	Any Deer Licenses	Any Deer Tags
Statewide	1,000	1,000
Total	1,000	1,000

2021-2022 VS. 2023-2024 Comparison

	Resident	
	Any Deer Licenses	Any Deer Tags
2021-2022 Statewide	1,000	1,000
2023-2024 Statewide	1,000	1,000

2023-2024 BLACK HILLS DEER

Unit	Resident Licenses			Nonresident Licenses			License Totals							
	Any Deer	Any WT	Antless WT	Any Deer	Any WT	Antless WT	RES	RES	RES	RES	NR	NR	NR	NR
	01	11	13	01	11	13	1-tag	2-tag	Lic	Tags	1-tag	2-tag	Lic	Tags
BD1				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BD2				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BH1	200	2,750		16	220	0	2,950	0	0	2,950	2,950	236	0	236
TOTAL	200	2,750	0	16	220	0	2,950	0	0	2,950	2,950	236	0	236
Unit	Any Deer	Any WT	Antless WT	Any Deer	Any WT	Antless WT	RES	RES	RES	RES	NR	NR	NR	NR
	01	11	13	01	11	13	1-tag	2-tag	Lic	Tags	1-tag	2-tag	Lic	Tags
							3,186	0	3,186	3,186				
RES and NR:							6	0	3,186	3,186				

2021-2022 vs. 2023-2024 Comparison

Unit	Resident Licenses											
	Any Deer				Any Whitetail				Antlerless Whitetail			
	Year		Change		Year		Change		Year		Change	
	2021-22	2023-24	#	%	2021-22	2023-24	#	%	2021-22	2023-24	#	%
BD1									300	0	-300	-100%
BD2									0	0	0	NA
BH1	200	200	0	0%	3,000	2,750	-250	-8%				
TOTAL	200	200	0	0%	3,000	2,750	-250	-8%	300	0	-300	-100%

Note: An additional 8% of the number of licenses will be available to nonresidents.

2023-2024 CUSTER STATE PARK DEER

Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Deer Type 01	Any Whitetail Type 11	Antlerless Whitetail Type 13
CUD-1	0	20	0
CUD-2	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	20	0

2021-2022 vs. 2023-2024 Comparison

Unit	2021- 2022 Resident Licenses	2023- 2024 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2021-2022 Resident Tags	2023-2024 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
CUD-1	25	20	-5	-20%	25	20	-5	-20%
CUD-2	50	0	-50	-100%	50	0	-50	-100%
TOTAL	75	20	-55	-73%	75	20	-55	-73%

2023-2024 REFUGE DEER

Unit	Resident Licenses		Nonresident Licenses		License Totals					
	Any D 01	AtIW 13	Any D 01	AtIW 13	RES 1-tag	RES Lic	RES Tags	NR 1-tag	NR Lic	NR Tags
Lacreek Refuge										
RFD-LC1	10		1		10	10	10	1	1	1
RFD-LC2	10		1		10	10	10	1	1	1
Sand Lake Refuge										
RFD-SL1	20		2		20	20	20	2	2	2
RFD-SL2	20		2		20	20	20	2	2	2
RFD-SL3	20		2		20	20	20	2	2	2
RFD-SL4	20		2		20	20	20	2	2	2
RFD-SL5	20		2		20	20	20	2	2	2
Waubay Refuge										
RFD-WA1	10		1		10	10	10	1	1	1
RFD-WA2					0	0	0	0	0	0
RFD-WA3	10		1		10	10	10	1	1	1
TOTAL	140	0	14	0	140	140	140	14	14	14
Unit	Any D 01	AtIW 13	Any D 01	AtIW 13	RES 1-tag	RES Lic	RES Tags	NR 1-tag	NR Lic	NR Tags
RES and NR:					154	154	154			

2021-2022 vs. 2023-2024

Unit	Resident Licenses							
	Any Deer				Antlerless Deer			
	Year		Change		Year		Change	
	2021-22	2023-24	#	%	2021-22	2023-24	#	%
Lacreek Refuge								
RFD-LC1	10	10	0	0%	0	0	0	NA
RFD-LC2	10	10	0	0%	0	0	0	NA
Sand Lake Refuge								
RFD-SL1	20	20	0	0%	0	0	0	NA
RFD-SL2	20	20	0	0%	0	0	0	NA
RFD-SL3	20	20	0	0%	0	0	0	NA
RFD-SL4	0	20	20	NA	25	0	-25	-100%
RFD-SL5	20	20	0	0%	0	0	0	NA
Waubay Refuge								
RFD-WA1	10	10	0	0%	0	0	0	NA
RFD-WA2	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0	NA
RFD-WA3	10	10	0	0%	0	0	0	NA
TOTAL	120	140	20	17%	25	0	-25	-100%

Note: An additional 8% of the number of licenses will be available to nonresidents.

2023-2024 WEST RIVER DEER

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident Licenses											Nonresident Licenses												
		AnyD 01	AtID 03	AtID 03P	AD+AtID 08	2 AtID 09P	AnyW 11	AtIW 13	AtIW 13P	3 AtIW 17P	AW+AtIW 18	2 AtIW 19	2 AtIW 19P	AnyD 01	AtID 03	AtID 03P	AD+AtID 08	2 AtID 09P	AnyW 11	AtIW 13	AtIW 13P	3 AtIW 17P	AW+AtIW 18	2 AtIW 19	2 AtIW 19P
02A	Pennington	400								200			32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0
02C	Pennington	100					50						8	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11A	Bennett	125					50						10	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11B	Bennett	50					75						4	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15A	Butte	200								600		400	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	32
15B	Butte	150								400		200	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	16
20A	Corson	150	50							400	100		12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	8	0
21A	Custer	100					200		50				8	0	0	0	0	16	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
21B	Custer	50					50						4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24A	Dewey	100					250	100					8	0	0	0	0	20	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
24B	Little Moreau						10	10					0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
27A	Fall River	125					50		25				10	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
27B	Fall River	200					125	50	50				16	0	0	0	0	10	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
27L	Fall River	5					10						1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30A	Gregory	25								600	200	100	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	16	8
30B	Gregory	25								600	200	100	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	16	8
31A	Haakon	600			50		100					100	48	0	0	4	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
35A	Harding	300					100			50		75	24	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	4	0	6	6
35C	Harding	200		50			100			50		75	16	0	4	0	0	8	0	0	0	4	0	6	6
35L	Harding	100											8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
39A	Jackson	175					100	50					14	0	0	0	0	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
39B	Jackson	275					50	50					22	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
41A	Jones	200					300						16	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45A	Lyman	100					350		150	200			8	0	0	0	0	28	0	12	0	16	0	0	0
45B	Lyman	50							75	175			4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	14	0	0	0
45C	Lyman	30									20		3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
45D	Lyman	30					50						3	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
49A	Meade	500						75		250			40	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	20	0	0	0
49B	Meade	600					100						48	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50A	Mellette	200					500						16	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
53A	Perkins	400				75				250		100	32	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	20	0	8	8
53C	Perkins	500				75				250		100	40	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	20	0	8	8
58A	Stanley	150						50		150			12	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	12	0	0	0
58D	Stanley	5						3					1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
60A	Tripp	100						250		1,000			8	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	80	0	0	0
64A	Ziebach	250					100					50	20	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
65A	Oglala Lakota	75											6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
67A	Todd	100					100	100					8	0	0	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	6,745	50	50	50	150	2,820	738	350	0	5,175	620	1,200	542	4	4	4	12	226	60	28	0	414	50	96
Unit #	Unit Name	AnyD 01	AtID 03	AtID 03P	AD+AtID 08	2 AtID 09P	AnyW 11	AtIW 13	AtIW 13P	3 AtIW 17P	AW+AtIW 18	2 AtIW 19	2 AtIW 19P	AnyD 01	AtID 03	AtID 03P	AD+AtID 08	2 AtID 09P	AnyW 11	AtIW 13	AtIW 13P	3 AtIW 17P	AW+AtIW 18	2 AtIW 19	2 AtIW 19P

2023-2024 WEST RIVER DEER

Unit #	Unit Name	License Totals									
		RES 1-tag	RES 2-tag	RES 3-tag	RES Licenses	RES Tags	NR 1-tag	NR 2-tag	NR 3-tag	NR Licenses	NR Tags
02A	Pennington	400	200	0	600	800	32	16	0	48	64
02C	Pennington	150	0	0	150	150	12	0	0	12	12
11A	Bennett	175	0	0	175	175	14	0	0	14	14
11B	Bennett	125	0	0	125	125	10	0	0	10	10
15A	Butte	200	1,000	0	1,200	2,200	16	80	0	96	176
15B	Butte	150	600	0	750	1,350	12	48	0	60	108
20A	Corson	200	500	0	700	1,200	16	40	0	56	96
21A	Custer	350	0	0	350	350	28	0	0	28	28
21B	Custer	100	0	0	100	100	8	0	0	8	8
24A	Dewey	450	0	0	450	450	36	0	0	36	36
24B	Little Moreau	20	0	0	20	20	2	0	0	2	2
27A	Fall River	200	0	0	200	200	16	0	0	16	16
27B	Fall River	425	0	0	425	425	34	0	0	34	34
27L	Fall River	15	0	0	15	15	2	0	0	2	2
30A	Gregory	25	900	0	925	1,825	2	72	0	74	146
30B	Gregory	25	900	0	925	1,825	2	72	0	74	146
31A	Haakon	700	150	0	850	1,000	56	12	0	68	80
35A	Harding	400	125	0	525	650	32	10	0	42	52
35C	Harding	350	125	0	475	600	28	10	0	38	48
35L	Harding	100	0	0	100	100	8	0	0	8	8
39A	Jackson	325	0	0	325	325	26	0	0	26	26
39B	Jackson	375	0	0	375	375	30	0	0	30	30
41A	Jones	500	0	0	500	500	40	0	0	40	40
45A	Lyman	600	200	0	800	1,000	48	16	0	64	80
45B	Lyman	125	175	0	300	475	10	14	0	24	38
45C	Lyman	30	20	0	50	70	3	2	0	5	7
45D	Lyman	80	0	0	80	80	7	0	0	7	7
49A	Meade	575	250	0	825	1,075	46	20	0	66	86
49B	Meade	700	0	0	700	700	56	0	0	56	56
50A	Mellette	700	0	0	700	700	56	0	0	56	56
53A	Perkins	400	425	0	825	1,250	32	34	0	66	100
53C	Perkins	500	425	0	925	1,350	40	34	0	74	108
58A	Stanley	200	150	0	350	500	16	12	0	28	40
58D	Stanley	8	0	0	8	8	2	0	0	2	2
60A	Tripp	350	1,000	0	1,350	2,350	28	80	0	108	188
64A	Ziebach	350	50	0	400	450	28	4	0	32	36
65A	Oglala Lakota	75	0	0	75	75	6	0	0	6	6
67A	Todd	300	0	0	300	300	24	0	0	24	24
	TOTAL	10,753	7,195	0	17,948	25,143	864	576	0	1,440	2,016
Unit #	Unit Name	RES 1-tag	RES 2-tag	RES 3-tag	RES Licenses	RES Tags	NR 1-tag	NR 2-tag	NR 3-tag	NR Lic	NR Tags
	RES & NR:	11,617	7,771	0	19,388	27,159					

WEST RIVER DEER 2021-22 vs. 2023-24 Comparison

Unit #	Unit Name	2021-2022 Resident Licenses	2023-2024 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2021-2022 Resident Tags	2023-2024 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
02A	Pennington	600	600	0	0%	800	800	0	0%
02C	Pennington	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
11A	Bennett	250	175	-75	-30%	250	175	-75	-30%
11B	Bennett	250	125	-125	-50%	250	125	-125	-50%
15A	Butte	1,400	1,200	-200	-14%	3,050	2,200	-850	-28%
15B	Butte	950	750	-200	-21%	1,950	1,350	-600	-31%
20A	Corson	550	700	150	27%	950	1,200	250	26%
21A	Custer	475	350	-125	-26%	475	350	-125	-26%
21B	Custer	250	100	-150	-60%	250	100	-150	-60%
24A	Dewey	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
24B	Little Moreau	20	20	0	0%	20	20	0	0%
27A	Fall River	225	200	-25	-11%	325	200	-125	-38%
27B	Fall River	800	425	-375	-47%	1,200	425	-775	-65%
27L	Fall River	15	15	0	0%	15	15	0	0%
30A	Gregory	925	925	0	0%	1,825	1,825	0	0%
30B	Gregory	925	925	0	0%	1,825	1,825	0	0%
31A	Haakon	850	850	0	0%	1,000	1,000	0	0%
35A	Harding	900	525	-375	-42%	1,400	650	-750	-54%
35C	Harding	800	475	-325	-41%	1,300	600	-700	-54%
35L	Harding	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
39A	Jackson	325	325	0	0%	325	325	0	0%
39B	Jackson	375	375	0	0%	375	375	0	0%
41A	Jones	500	500	0	0%	500	500	0	0%
45A	Lyman	750	800	50	7%	950	1,000	50	5%
45B	Lyman	250	300	50	20%	400	475	75	19%
45C	Lyman	50	50	0	0%	70	70	0	0%
45D	Lyman	80	80	0	0%	80	80	0	0%
49A	Meade	1,350	825	-525	-39%	2,000	1,075	-925	-46%
49B	Meade	1,300	700	-600	-46%	1,900	700	-1,200	-63%
50A	Mellette	700	700	0	0%	700	700	0	0%
53A	Perkins	800	825	25	3%	1,275	1,250	-25	-2%
53C	Perkins	1,025	925	-100	-10%	1,550	1,350	-200	-13%
58A	Stanley	450	350	-100	-22%	600	500	-100	-17%
58D	Stanley	8	8	0	0%	8	8	0	0%
60A	Tripp	1,350	1,350	0	0%	2,350	2,350	0	0%
64A	Ziebach	650	400	-250	-38%	750	450	-300	-40%
65A	Oglala Lakota	75	75	0	0%	75	75	0	0%
67A	Todd	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
TOTAL		21,223	17,948	-3,275	-15%	31,793	25,143	-6,650	-21%

Note: An additional 8% of the number of licenses will be available to nonresidents.

2023-2024 EAST RIVER DEER

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident Licenses												License Totals				
		AnyD 01	AtID 03	AtID 03P	AD+AtID 08	2 AtID 09P	AnyW 11	AtIW 13	AtIW 13P	3 AtIW 17P	AW+AtIW 18	2 AtIW 19	2 AtIW 19P	RES 1-tag	RES 2-tag	RES 3-tag	RES Licenses	RES Tags
01A	Minnehaha	400						200						600	0	0	600	600
03A	Brown	800						600						1400	0	0	1400	1400
04A	Beadle					500		150						650	0	0	650	650
05A	Codington	400						200						600	0	0	600	600
06A	Brookings	450						150						600	0	0	600	600
07A	Yankton	350												350	0	0	350	350
07B	Yankton											75		0	75	0	75	150
08A	Davison					250								250	0	0	250	250
10A	Aurora					250	150							400	0	0	400	400
12A	Bon Homme	300												300	0	0	300	300
12B	Bon Homme											50		0	50	0	50	100
13A	Brule	100				800			150					1050	0	0	1,050	1,050
13L	Brule	20												20	0	0	20	20
14A	Buffalo	100							50	250				150	250	0	400	650
16A	Campbell	30				400								430	0	0	430	430
17A	Charles Mix	25				250								275	0	0	275	275
18A	Clark	600										200		600	200	0	800	1,000
19A	Clay	200						50						250	0	0	250	250
22A	Day	600						300						900	0	0	900	900
23A	Deuel	500						200						700	0	0	700	700
25A	Douglas					250	100							350	0	0	350	350
26A	Edmunds	600						300						900	0	0	900	900
28A	Faulk	600						500						1100	0	0	1,100	1,100
29A	Grant	400						100						500	0	0	500	500
32A	Hamlin	600						200						800	0	0	800	800
33A	Hand	10				350								360	0	0	360	360
34A	Hanson					250	50							300	0	0	300	300
36A	Hughes	150				250								400	0	0	400	400
37A	Hutchinson					250								250	0	0	250	250
38A	Hyde	10				300								310	0	0	310	310
40A	Jerauld					250	150							400	0	0	400	400
42A	Kingsbury	500						200						700	0	0	700	700
43A	Lake	300						150						450	0	0	450	450
44A	Lincoln	200						100						300	0	0	300	300
46A	McCook	350						300						650	0	0	650	650
47A	McPherson	500						500						1000	0	0	1,000	1,000
48A	Marshall	500						150						650	0	0	650	650
51A	Miner	400						350						750	0	0	750	750
52A	Moody	300						250						550	0	0	550	550
54A	Potter	50				400								450	0	0	450	450
55A	Roberts	500						200						700	0	0	700	700
56A	Sanborn					350	300							650	0	0	650	650
57A	Spink	900						300						1200	0	0	1,200	1,200
59A	Sully	100				200								300	0	0	300	300
59B	Sully	20				200								220	0	0	220	220
61A	Turner	200												200	0	0	200	200
62A	Union	350						100						450	0	0	450	450
63A	Walworth	50				400	100							550	0	0	550	550
	TOTAL	12,465	0	0	0	0	5,900	6,400	200	0	250	325	0	24,965	575	0	25,540	26,115
Unit #	Unit Name	AnyD 01	AtID 03	AtID 03P	AD+AtID 08	2 AtID 09P	AnyW 11	AtIW 13	AtIW 13P	3 AtIW 17P	AW+AtIW 18	2 AtIW 19	2 AtIW 19P	RES 1-tag	RES 2-tag	RES 3-tag	RES Licenses	RES Tags

EAST RIVER DEER 2021-22 vs. 2023-24 Comparison

Unit #	Unit Name	2021-22 Resident Licenses	2023-24 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2021-22 Resident Tags	2023-24 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
01A	Minnehaha	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
03A	Brown	2,000	1,400	-600	-30%	2,000	1,400	-600	-30%
04A	Beadle	800	650	-150	-19%	800	650	-150	-19%
05A	Codington	550	600	50	9%	750	600	-150	-20%
06A	Brookings	550	600	50	9%	550	600	50	9%
07A	Yankton	350	350	0	0%	350	350	0	0%
07B	Yankton	75	75	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
08A	Davison	200	250	50	25%	200	250	50	25%
10A	Aurora	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
12A	Bon Homme	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
12B	Bon Homme	75	50	-25	-33%	100	100	0	0%
13A	Brule	1,000	1,050	50	5%	1,000	1,050	50	5%
13L	Brule	20	20	0	0%	20	20	0	0%
14A	Buffalo	350	400	50	14%	350	650	300	86%
16A	Campbell	530	430	-100	-19%	530	430	-100	-19%
17A	Charles Mix	400	275	-125	-31%	400	275	-125	-31%
18A	Clark	800	800	0	0%	1,000	1,000	0	0%
19A	Clay	350	250	-100	-29%	350	250	-100	-29%
22A	Day	1,000	900	-100	-10%	1,000	900	-100	-10%
23A	Deuel	700	700	0	0%	900	700	-200	-22%
25A	Douglas	350	350	0	0%	350	350	0	0%
26A	Edmunds	1,100	900	-200	-18%	1,100	900	-200	-18%
28A	Faulk	1,000	1,100	100	10%	1,000	1,100	100	10%
29A	Grant	500	500	0	0%	600	500	-100	-17%
32A	Hamlin	800	800	0	0%	1,000	800	-200	-20%
33A	Hand	310	360	50	16%	310	360	50	16%
34A	Hanson	200	300	100	50%	200	300	100	50%
36A	Hughes	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
37A	Hutchinson	200	250	50	25%	200	250	50	25%
38A	Hyde	310	310	0	0%	310	310	0	0%
40A	Jerauld	350	400	50	14%	350	400	50	14%
42A	Kingsbury	600	700	100	17%	600	700	100	17%
43A	Lake	400	450	50	13%	400	450	50	13%
44A	Lincoln	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
46A	McCook	650	650	0	0%	650	650	0	0%
47A	McPherson	1,000	1,000	0	0%	1,000	1,000	0	0%
48A	Marshall	800	650	-150	-19%	800	650	-150	-19%
51A	Miner	750	750	0	0%	750	750	0	0%
52A	Moody	450	550	100	22%	450	550	100	22%
54A	Potter	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
55A	Roberts	700	700	0	0%	900	700	-200	-22%
56A	Sanborn	650	650	0	0%	650	650	0	0%
57A	Spink	1,100	1,200	100	9%	1,100	1,200	100	9%
59A	Sully	350	300	-50	-14%	350	300	-50	-14%
59B	Sully	320	220	-100	-31%	320	220	-100	-31%
61A	Turner	150	200	50	33%	150	200	50	33%
62A	Union	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
63A	Walworth	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
TOTAL		26,240	25,540	-700	-3%	27,440	26,115	-1,325	-5%

Changes from Recommended April Tables for East River Deer

County	Unit	Type	Apr_Rec	May_Rec	License_Change
McPherson	47A	1	500	500	0
McPherson	47A	13	500	500	0
Edmunds	26A	1	700	600	-100
Edmunds	26A	13	400	300	-100
Faulk	28A	1	600	600	0
Faulk	28A	13	500	500	0
Brown	03A	1	1000	800	-200
Brown	03A	13	1300	600	-700
Spink	57A	1	900	900	0
Spink	57A	13	300	300	0
Marshall	48A	1	500	500	0
Marshall	48A	13	300	150	-150
Day	22A	1	600	600	0
Day	22A	13	400	300	-100
Clark	18A	1	600	600	0
Clark	18A	13	300	200	-100
Roberts	55A	1	500	500	0
Roberts	55A	13	0	200	200
Roberts	55A	19	200	0	-200
Grant	29A	1	400	400	0
Grant	29A	13	0	100	100
Grant	29A	19	100	0	-100
Codington	05A	1	400	400	0
Codington	05A	13	0	200	200
Codington	05A	19	200	0	-200
Hamlin	32A	1	600	600	0
Hamlin	32A	13	0	200	200
Hamlin	32A	19	200	0	-200
Deuel	23A	1	500	500	0
Deuel	23A	13	0	200	200
Deuel	23A	19	200	0	-200

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____



South Dakota Parks Upcoming Events (May – Early June 2023)

May

- 6 -----Crossroads Exhibit on display May 6 to June 25 at Fort Sisseton Historic State Park
- 14-----Mother's Day Free Fishing
- 14-----Good Earth Summer Concert Series at Good Earth State Park
- 19-21 --Open House and Free Fishing Weekend
- 20-----National Kids to Parks Day
- 20 -----Donkey Dash 5k at Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve
- 20 -----Crossroads Photography Contest Closes at Fort Sisseton Historic State Park
- 21 -----Good Earth Summer Concert Series at Good Earth State Park
- 27-----Kids Fishing Tournaments
- 27-----ARP Hike at Good Earth State Park
- 28-----Good Earth Summer Concert Series at Good Earth State Park

June

- 2-4-----Fort Sisseton Historic Festival at Fort Sisseton Historic State Park
- 3 -----National Trails Day
- 4 -----Indigenous Artists on the Prairie at Good Earth State Park
- 10-----National Get Outdoors Day
- 10-----Luce Pioneer Days at Lake Herman State Park
- 11-----Good Earth Summer Concert Series at Good Earth State Park

The Trails Are Calling Activity is happening all year! Hike and seek sasquatch signs to earn prizes.
Learn more at gfp.sd.gov/hike2023

And there are many more local programs by Park Naturalists! Visit gfp.sd.gov/events

Division of Parks and Recreation
April YTD 2023 Camping by District

LOCATION	2022	2023	%	LOCATION	2022	2023	%
Pickereel Lake	56	13	-77%	North Point	109	71	-35%
Fort Sisseton	19	9	-53%	North Wheeler	1	-	-100%
Roy Lake	255	130	-49%	Pease Creek	15	33	120%
Sica Hollow	9	-		Randall Creek	47	116	147%
DISTRICT 1	339	152	-55%	South Shore	4	5	25%
Richmond Lake	34	12	-65%	South Scalp	9	18	100%
Mina Lake	24	18	-25%	Whetstone	2	-	-100%
Fisher Grove		9		White Swan	-	-	
Amsden	1	1	0%	DISTRICT 10	187	243	30%
Lake Louise	16	9	-44%	Farm Island	54	75	39%
DISTRICT 2	75	49	-35%	West Bend	349	142	-59%
Pelican Lake	30	62	107%	DISTRICT 11	403	217	-46%
Sandy Shore	12	9	-25%	Oahe Downstream	304	256	-16%
Lake Cochrane	2	1	-50%	Cow Creek	47	55	17%
Hartford Beach	57	56	-2%	Okobojo	8	12	50%
DISTRICT 3	101	128	27%	Spring Creek	5	20	300%
Oakwood Lakes	117	53	-55%	DISTRICT 12	364	343	-6%
Lake Poinsett	57	29	-49%	West Whitlock	34	32	-6%
Lake Thompson	82	87	6%	East Whitlock	3	-	-100%
DISTRICT 4	256	169	-34%	Swan Creek	2	14	600%
Lake Herman	81	121	49%	Indian Creek	104	75	-28%
Walker's Point	16	20	25%	Lake Hiddenwood	-	-	
Lake Carthage	-	-		Walth Bay	-	-	
DISTRICT 5	97	141	45%	West Pollock	8	10	25%
Snake Creek	110	111	1%	DISTRICT 13	151	131	-13%
Platte Creek	37	3	-92%	Bear Butte	18	107	494%
Buryanek	61	68	11%	DISTRICT 14	18	107	494%
Burke Lake	15	-	-100%	Shadehill	63	61	-3%
Dude Ranch	-	10		Llewellyn Johns	1	3	200%
Elm Creek	129	-	-100%	Rocky Point	114	77	-32%
DISTRICT 6	223	182	-18%	DISTRICT 15	178	141	-21%
Palisades	417	361	-13%	Custer	959	951	-1%
Big Sioux	409	480	17%	DISTRICT 16	959	951	-1%
Lake Vermillion	255	230	-10%	Angostura	624	518	-17%
DISTRICT 7	1,081	1,071	-1%	Sheps Canyon	56	15	-73%
Newton Hills	361	244	-32%	DISTRICT 17	680	533	-22%
Good Earth	-	-		TOTAL YTD	6,583	5,542	-16%
Union Grove	29	45	55%	TOTAL for Month	5,152	4,337	-16%
DISTRICT 8	390	289	-26%				
Lewis & Clark	579	436	-25%				
Chief White Crane	337	176	-48%				
Clay County	-	21					
Pierson Ranch	103	46	-55%				
Springfield	45	16	-64%				
Sand Creek	2	-	-100%				
Tabor	15	-	-100%				
DISTRICT 9	1,081	695	-36%				

Division of Parks and Recreation					
April Revenue by Item					
	2022		2023		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	Change
Annual	2,495	\$ 89,802	2,968	\$ 106,830	19%
2nd Annual	276	\$ 4,968	360	\$ 6,480	30%
Combo	2,405	\$ 129,888	2,831	\$ 152,856	18%
Transferable	205	\$ 16,400	245	\$ 19,600	20%
Daily License	1,651	\$ 13,208	1,941	\$ 15,528	18%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	15	\$ 225	7	\$ 105	-53%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	208	\$ 3,120	220	\$ 3,300	6%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	59	\$ 236	45	\$ 180	-24%
Motorcoach Permit	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
CSP 7 Day Pass	3,791	\$ 75,820	3,457	\$ 69,140	-9%
CSP 7 Day Bike Pass	1	\$ 20	4	\$ 80	300%
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -		\$ -	
One-Day Special Event		\$ -	0	\$ 100	
PERMITS	11,106	\$ 333,687	12,077	\$ 374,199	12%
Camping Services		\$ 1,772,361		\$ 1,651,256	-7%
Picnic Reservations		\$ 1,180		\$ 1,220	3%
Firewood	164	\$ 984	367	\$ 2,202	124%
Gift Card		\$ 1,915		\$ 570	-70%
Boat Slips		\$ -		\$ 190,031	
LODGING	164	\$ 1,776,440	367	\$ 1,845,279	4%
TOTAL	11,270	\$ 2,110,127	12,444	\$ 2,219,478	5%

Division of Parks and Recreation					
April YTD 2023 Revenue by Item					
	2022		2023		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	Change
Annual	7,214	\$ 259,708	6,708	\$ 241,488	-7%
2nd Annual	667	\$ 12,006	639	\$ 11,502	-4%
Double	7,351	\$ 396,936	7,754	\$ 418,698	5%
Transferable	585	\$ 46,800	658	\$ 52,640	12%
Daily License	3,780	\$ 30,240	3,829	\$ 30,632	1%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	58	\$ 870	48	\$ 720	-17%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	667	\$ 10,005	626	\$ 9,390	-6%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	293	\$ 1,172	262	\$ 1,048	-11%
Motorcoach Permit	85	\$ 255	-	\$ -	
CSP 7 Day Pass	6,970	\$ 139,400	5,662	\$ 113,240	-19%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	1	\$ 20	4	\$ 80	
Rally Bike Band	3	\$ 50	-	\$ -	
One-Day Special Event		\$ -		\$ 500	
PERMITS	27,673	\$ 897,462	26,190	\$ 879,938	-2%
Camping Services		\$ 5,281,931		\$ 4,953,831	-6%
Picnic Reservations		\$ 2,160		\$ 2,840	31%
Firewood	235	\$ 1,410	465	\$ 2,790	98%
Gift Card		\$ 5,923		\$ 5,144	-13%
Boat Slips		\$ 186,237		\$ 190,031	2%
LODGING	235	\$ 5,477,661	465	\$ 5,154,636	-6%
TOTAL	27,908	\$ 6,375,123	26,655	\$ 6,034,574	-5%

Prairie Grouse Action Plan, 2023-2027



GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN



SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

WILDLIFE DIVISION REPORT 2023-XX

May 2023



This action plan will be used by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks staff on an annual basis and will be formally evaluated at least every five years. Plan updates and changes, however, may occur more frequently as needed.

A supportive document to this action plan, the “Management of Prairie Grouse in South Dakota,” provides a historical background, general ecology, management surveys and monitoring, research, hunting season structure and authority, harvest and habitat trends, priority habitat areas, and issues, challenges, and opportunities. This supportive document can be found at https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/docs/management_of_prairie_grouse.pdf.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Action Plan Team—Nathan Baker, Paul Coughlin, Ryan Wendinger, Mark Norton, Josh Delger, Jacquie Ermer, Rachel Gardner, Trenton Haffley, Casey Heimerl, Travis Runia, Alex Solem, Eric Magedanz, Hilary Morey, and Chad Switzer of South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

All text and data contained within this document are subject to revision for corrections, updates, and data analyses.

Recommended citation:

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Division of Wildlife. 2023. Prairie Grouse Action Plan, 2023-2027. Wildlife Division Report Number **DRAFT**. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A draft South Dakota prairie grouse management plan was available for public comment March 16 – May 3, 2023

INTRODUCTION

South Dakota (SD) is home to two species of true prairie grouse, the sharp-tailed grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*) and greater prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*, hereafter prairie-chicken). Prairie grouse are medium sized (16–18 in [41–46 cm] long, 1.3–2.2 pounds [0.6–1.0 kg]) round-bodied and short-legged game birds native to grasslands, steppe, and mixed-shrub habitats of North America. Their cryptic coloration functions as camouflage and allows the birds to blend into the grassland habitat, reducing detection from predators. The unique feathering of the legs and nostrils make them especially adapted to cold and snowy climates found in SD. The feathering of the legs and feet is more pronounced in sharp-tailed grouse, whereas the feet of prairie-chickens appear nearly featherless. Although most prominent in sharp-tailed grouse, an additional adaptation to winter weather in both species is the lateral pectinate scales on their feet which perform like snowshoes.

The primary differentiating feature between the two species of prairie grouse is the shape of the tail. Sharp-tailed grouse, like the name suggests, have tail feathers which come to a sharp point while tail feathers of prairie-chickens are gently rounded. The distinct dark barring over much of the body of a prairie-chicken also differs from the generally non-banded dark colored dorsal and light-colored ventral coloration of sharp-tailed grouse. The long pinnae, or ear feathers which are erected during male courtship displays, are absent on sharp-tailed grouse. Both species of male prairie grouse have colored external air sacs located on each side of the neck which are inflated during courtship. These air sacs are purple for sharp-tailed grouse and orange for prairie-chickens.

As their name suggests, prairie grouse are found primarily within landscapes dominated by grassland habitat. Prairie grouse are an indicator of a functioning prairie ecosystem which suggests landscape-level habitat exists for other prairie obligate species. Prairie grouse are considered “flagship” species for conservation of prairie habitat throughout their range and in SD. The unique behavior and habitat use of prairie grouse make them an exciting game bird and valued watchable wildlife species. Most prairie grouse hunting occurs on open grasslands with the aid of dogs, often pointing breeds. The explosive flush of prairie grouse attracts thousands of hunters to SD each year. South Dakota is one of the few states where both species of prairie grouse can be harvested under liberal hunting regulations. Hunting is authorized from the third Saturday of September through the first Sunday in January with a combined daily bag limit of three prairie grouse.

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) manage wildlife and their associated habitats for their sustained and equitable use, and for the benefit, welfare, and enjoyment of the people of SD and its visitors. This action plan is intended to guide wildlife managers and biologists and aid decision-making process of the GFP Commission to ensure prairie grouse and their habitats are managed appropriately, addressing both biological and social considerations. It also serves to inform sportsmen and women, Landowners, and all others interested in prairie grouse management in South Dakota.

SURVEYS AND MONITORING

Traditional Lek Surveys

Lek counts are the most widely used method to survey prairie grouse throughout their range. Male attendance on leks is relatively stable throughout the breeding season while female attendance is highly variable and exhibits distinct peaks. Starting in the early 1950s, department staff annually searched established survey areas which were approximately 40 mi² (104 km²) for prairie grouse leks and counted all males attending each lek. The number of males/area was tracked from year to year and was considered an index to the spring population (Figure 1). The survey was largely discontinued after 2019 with future population monitoring likely to come from sample-based surveys.

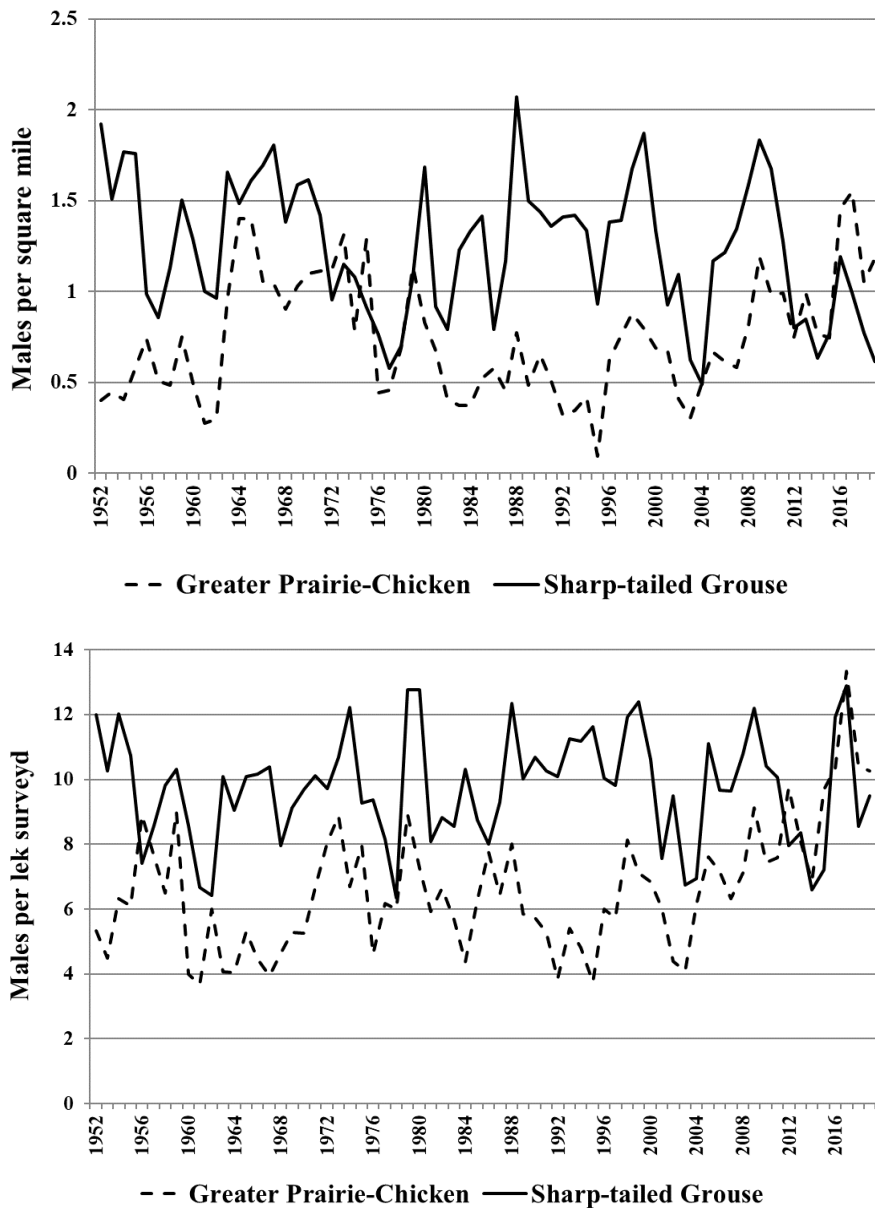


Figure 1. Results of prairie grouse traditional lek surveys 1952–2019.

Sample Based Surveys for Population Monitoring and Occurrence/Density Modeling

GFP collaborated with North Dakota Department of Game and Fish to develop a spatially explicit habitat-based occurrence/density model for the Dakotas. Data were collected by determining presence or absence of prairie grouse leks on 1 mi² (2.56 km²) sample units. Samples were spatially balanced and occurred along a gradient of landscape-level grassland availability. Each section was searched 2–3 times per year and if a lek(s) was present, the number of males was also counted. Models were developed to predict occurrence and density of prairie grouse based on landscape level habitat characteristics and climate variables (Runia et al. 2021).

Spatially-explicit habitat-based occurrence and density maps were developed from the models (Figure 2). These models are valuable tools for identifying and prioritizing areas for conservation treatments such as protection, restoration, or enhancement of habitat. Model-based estimates of the distribution and abundance of prairie grouse can also serve as a baseline for population monitoring. GFP intends to repeat this methodology periodically in the future, ideally in collaboration with adjacent states to conduct population monitoring across large portions of the species' range with similar methods.

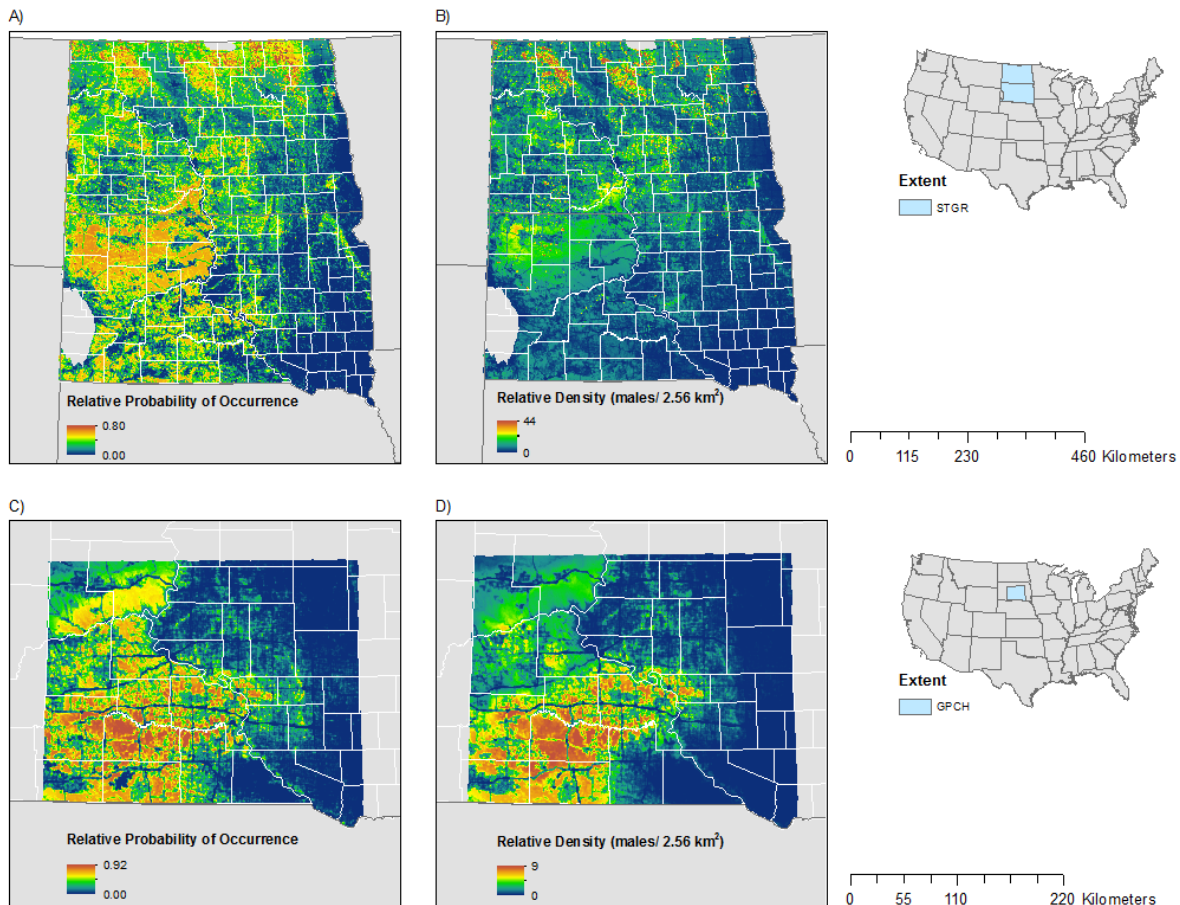


Figure 2. Maps of predicted probability of occurrence and relative density of sharp-tailed grouse (A and B) and greater prairie-chicken (C and D) in North and South Dakota, USA, 2010–2016 (Runia et al. 2021). Gray indicates areas outside the region of analysis.

Age Ratio Surveys

Wings from hunter-harvested prairie grouse are also collected during the first two weeks of the season at wing collection boxes located west of the Missouri River (<https://gfp.sd.gov/prairie-grouse/>). Hunters are encouraged to place one wing from each harvested grouse in collection boxes. Each wing is identified to species (sharp-tailed grouse or greater prairie-chicken) and aged (adult or hatch year) to determine species harvest distribution and age ratios. The ratio of hatch year to adult grouse can be used to gauge production during that specific year (Figure 3). Biologists use these data to relate grouse production to weather variables to predict grouse production in future years. Prior to the hunting season the predictions are posted as prairie grouse hunting outlook document.

Statewide Prairie Grouse Age Ratio

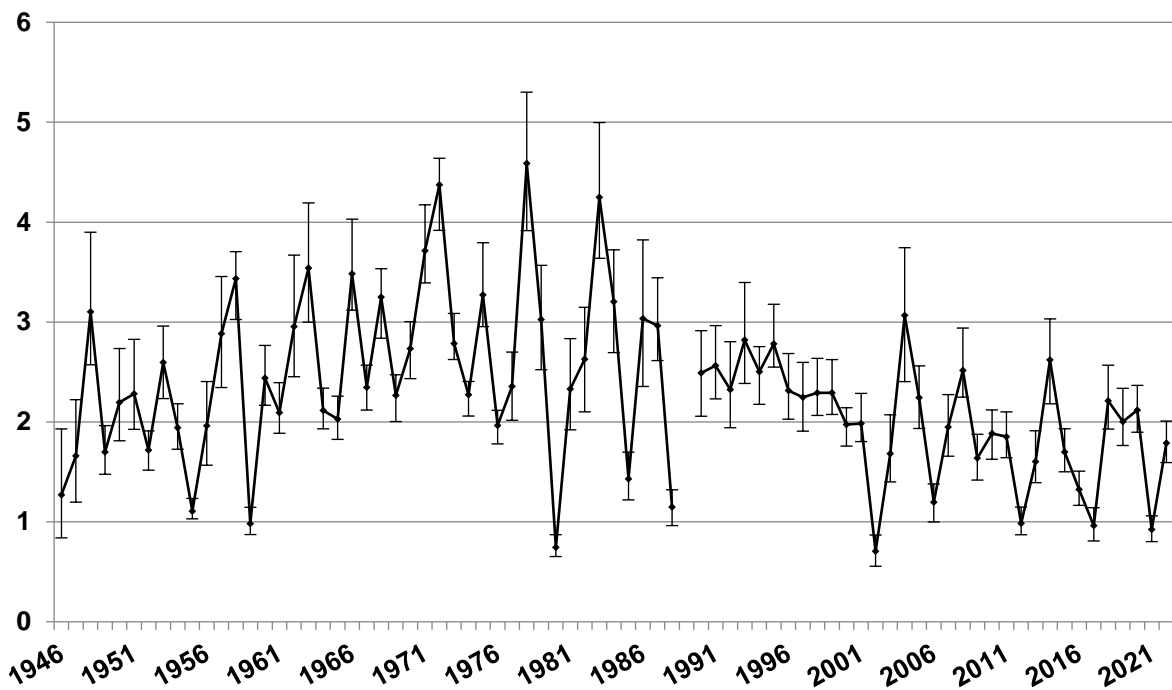


Figure 3. Statewide prairie grouse age ratio (\pm 95% confidence interval) from fall hunter-harvested sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie-chickens 1946–2022.

PRIORITY HABITAT AREAS

A system of tiered Priority Habitat Areas has been developed to delineate landscape level habitat for sharp-tailed grouse (Figure 4) and greater prairie-chickens (Figure 5) in SD. The system is based on the spatially explicit, habitat-based models published by Runia et al. (2021). As previously described in the *Surveys and monitoring* section, prairie grouse density models and associated maps/GIS layers were developed based on landscape-level habitat characteristics. We post-processed the species-specific continuous density layers into a system of categorical tiers. We selected predicted prairie grouse density thresholds to categorize habitat as Tier 1 (highest quality), Tier 2, Tier 3, and Low-Quality habitat. These Priority Habitat Areas will serve as an

important tool for many aspects of prairie grouse habitat management, including landscape and local habitat treatments, targeted conservation measures, and habitat suitability during environmental review processes and assessments.

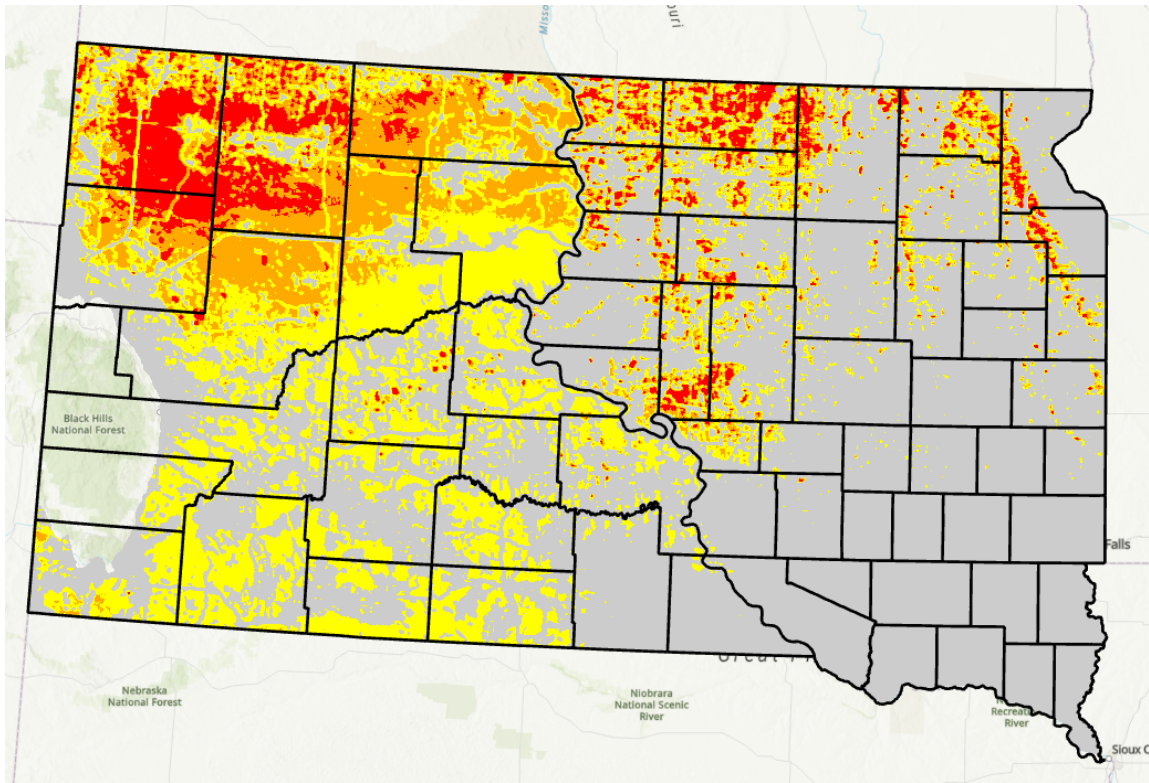


Figure 4. Sharp-tailed grouse priority habitat threshold table and associated map derived from Runia et al. (2021). Areas not categorized as Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 are considered Low-Quality habitat. Gray areas indicate the analysis area. Note, not all Priority Areas may be visible at the displayed scale.

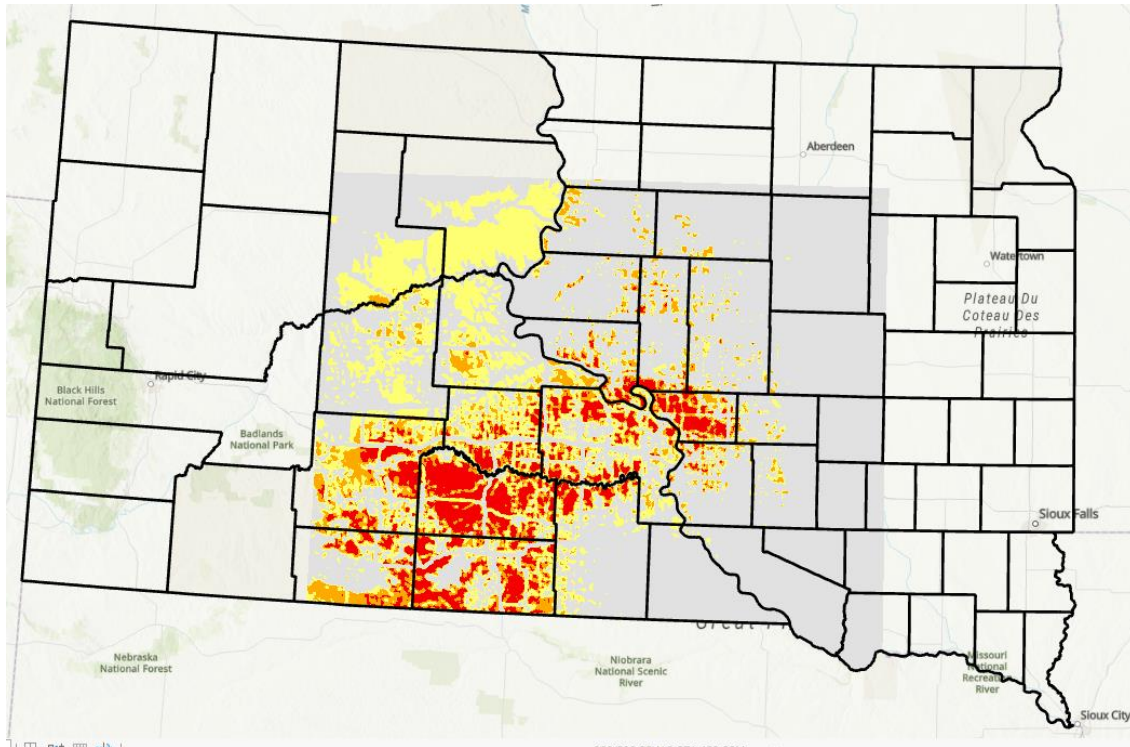


Figure 5. Greater prairie-chicken priority habitat threshold table and associated map derived from Runia et al. (2021). Areas not categorized as Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 are considered Low-Quality habitat. Gray areas indicate the analysis area. Note, not all Priority Areas may be visible at the displayed scale.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Objective 1: Promote and implement responsible stewardship of prairie grouse habitat on public and private lands.

Strategies:

- 1.1 Use identified Priority Habitat Areas (Priority Habitat Areas of this document; Runia et al. 2021) to guide the strategic use of habitat management and conservation practices (page 26 of the Management of Prairie Grouse in South Dakota document) that provide or enhance quality prairie grouse habitat.

- 1.1.1 Provide shapefile of Priority Habitat Areas to GFP Private Lands biologists and interested conservation partners for implementation of habitat management and conservation practices.

- 1.1.2 Provide financial and technical support to interested landowners through department private lands cost-share programs, and partner programs to create or improve existing grouse habitat through range management projects and grazing stewardship practices.

1.1.3 Continue to support partnership positions to improve habitat across South Dakota and increase the number of supported positions when financially possible. Encourage partnership positions to implement grassland management and conservation in Priority Habitat Areas while delivering other habitat management programs to interested landowners.

1.2 Where prairie grouse are the primary habitat management species, best management practices for prairie grouse habitat management (page 33 of the Management of Prairie Grouse in South Dakota document) should be considered with discretion to guide development and updates of Game Production Area management plans and the department's private lands cost-share program within fiscal, biological, and land use constraints in and around identified Priority Habitat Areas.

1.2.1 Create a best management practices document outlining habitat management and conservation practice guidelines that benefit prairie grouse for distribution to GFP staff and interested private landowners.

Objective 2: Monitor prairie grouse abundance, harvest, hunter numbers, and hunter satisfaction.

Strategies

2.1 Annually conduct traditional lek and wing collection surveys (outlines in Monitoring and Surveys section of this document) in western SD to evaluate population status, and the age ratio and species composition of harvested grouse.

2.1.1 Collaborate with Forest Service biologists to relate weather variables to prairie grouse production on federal lands and other areas using wing data.

2.2 Annually conduct and summarize results of hunter harvest surveys to project prairie grouse harvest, number of prairie grouse hunters, and hunter satisfaction.

2.3 Annually prepare a prairie grouse hunting forecast based on spring lek counts and an existing production model based on weather variables.

Objective 3: Address future concerns with energy development and prairie grouse while evaluating future research needs on this topic.

Strategies

3.1 Support research projects investigating potential impacts of energy infrastructure on prairie grouse while evaluating needs for additional research on the subject.

3.1.1 Assist research cooperators by completing prairie grouse lek surveys, captures, and other necessary biological data collection for current energy research projects.

3.1.2 Assist research cooperators with data analysis, reporting results, and publications for current energy projects.

3.2 Provide energy developers pre-construction survey protocol (page 34 of the Management of Prairie Grouse document) during the planning/permitting phase of the planned development.

3.3 Provide energy developers with mitigation framework (Page 36 of the Management of Prairie Grouse document) for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation efforts.

LITERATURE CITED

Runia, T. J., A. J. Solem, N. D. Niemuth, and K. W. Barnes. 2021. Spatially explicit habitat models for prairie grouse: implications for improved population monitoring and targeted conservation. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 45:36–54.

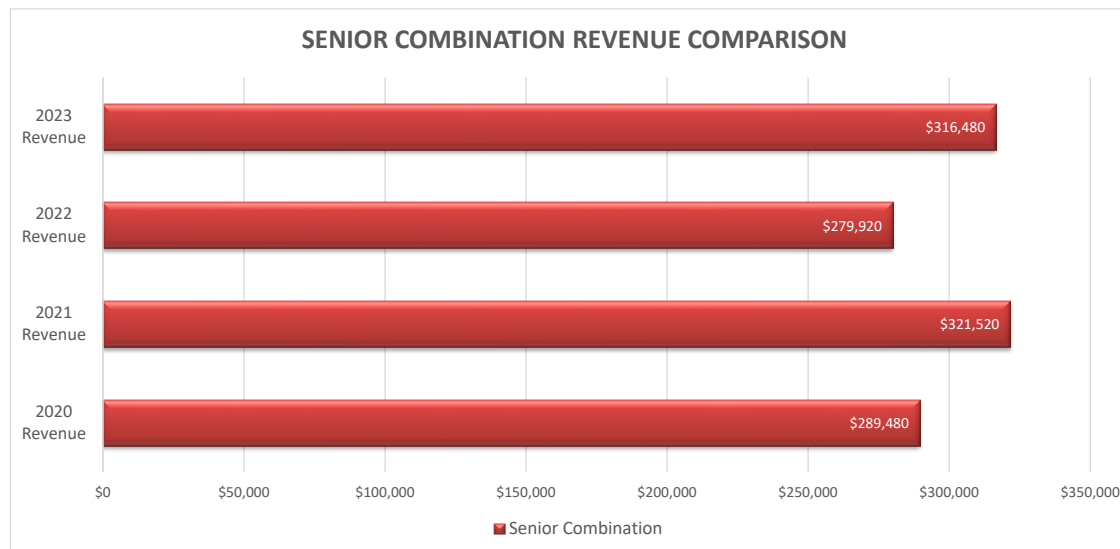
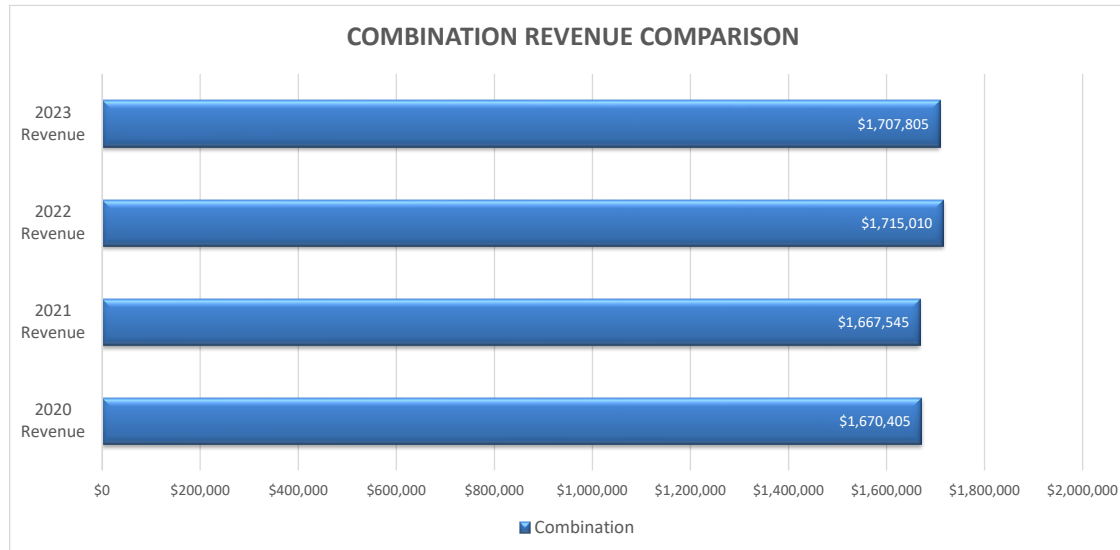
DRAFT

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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COMBINATION LICENSES

December 15 - April 30

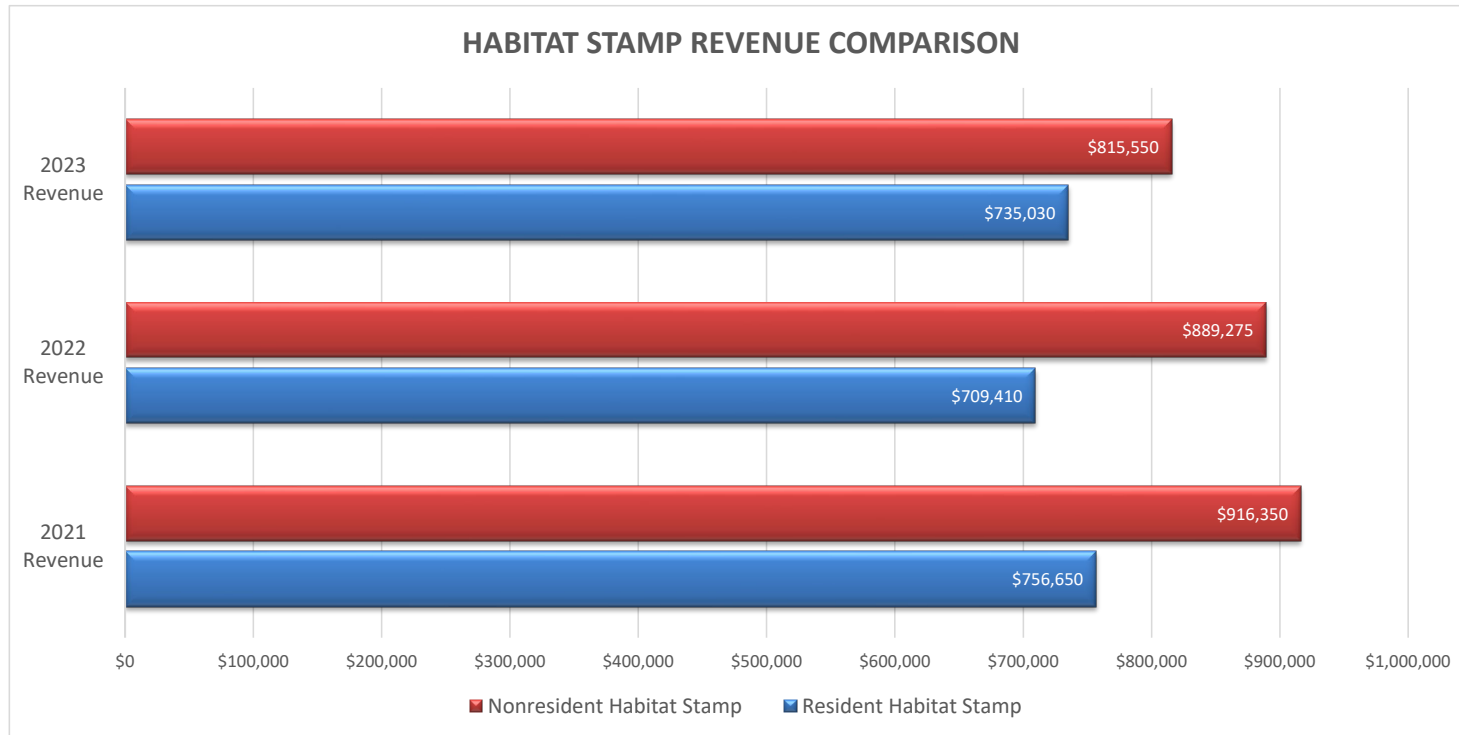
License Type						+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from	
	2020	2021	2022	3-yr Avg	2023	2023 Revenue	2022 vs 2023	3 Yr. Avg vs 2023	2022 vs 2023	3 Yr. Avg vs 2023	3 Yr. Avg
Combination	30,371	30,319	31,182	30,624	31,051	\$1,707,805	(131)	427	(\$7,205)	\$23,485	1%
Senior Combination	7,237	8,038	6,998	7,424	7,912	\$316,480	914	488	\$36,560	\$19,507	7%
Combination License Totals	37,608	38,357	38,180	38,048	38,963	\$2,024,285	783	915	\$29,355	\$42,992	7.96%



HABITAT STAMP

December 15 - April 30

License Type	2020	2021	2022	3-yr Avg	2023	+/- Licenses			+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
						2023 Revenue	2022 vs 2023	3 Yr. Avg vs 2023	2022 vs 2023	3 Yr. Avg vs 2023	
Resident Habitat Stamp		75,665	70,941	n/a	73,503	\$735,030	2,562	n/a	\$25,620	n/a	n/a
Nonresident Habitat Stamp		36,654	35,571	n/a	32,622	\$815,550	(2,949)	n/a	(\$73,725)	n/a	n/a
Habitat Stamp Totals		112,319	106,512	n/a	106,125	\$1,550,580	(387)	n/a	(\$48,105)	n/a	n/a



SMALL GAME LICENSES

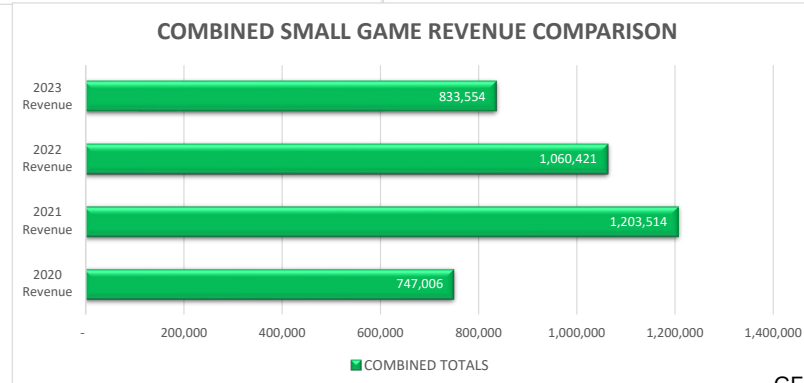
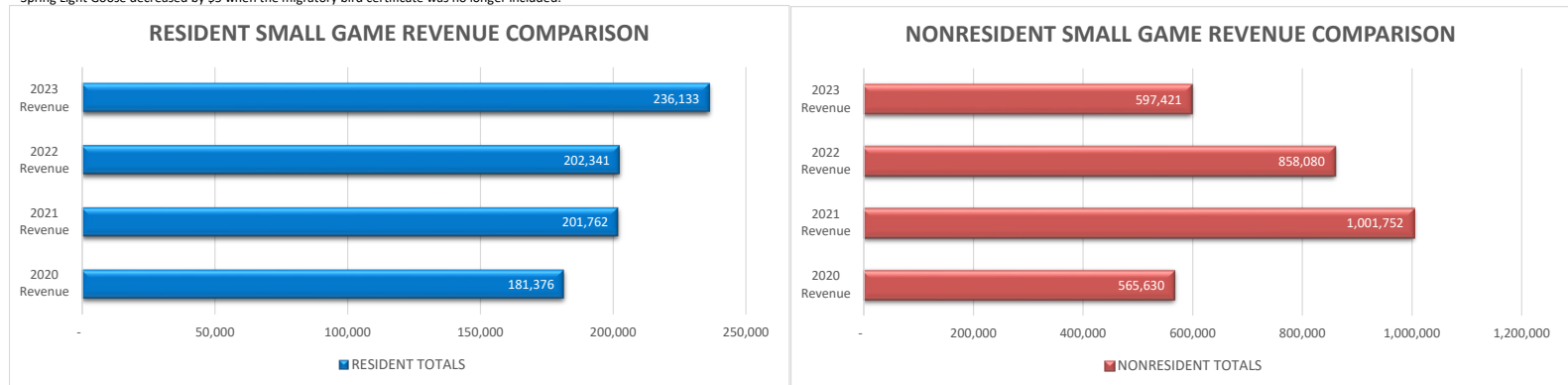
December 15 - April 30

License Type	2020	2021	2022	3-yr Avg	2023	2023 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr Avg
							2022 vs 2023	3 Yr Avg vs 2023	2022 vs 2023	3 Yr Avg vs 2023	
Small Game	1,157	1,349	2,298	1,601	4,055	\$133,815	1,757	2,454	\$57,981	\$80,971	153%
1-Day Small Game	215	365	151	244	94	\$1,128	(57)	(150)	(\$684)	(\$1,796)	-61%
Youth Small Game	694	696	1,037	809	970	\$4,850	(67)	161	(\$335)	\$1,932	20%
Furbearer	2,555	3,006	2,733	2,765	2,637	\$79,110	(96)	(128)	(\$2,880)	(\$3,830)	-5%
Predator/Varmint	864	778	1,363	1,002	1,237	\$6,185	(126)	235	(\$630)	\$1,177	23%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck			178	n/a	195	\$975	17	n/a	\$85	n/a	n/a
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	11,235	11,063	5,963	9,420	2,014	\$10,070	(3,949)	(7,406)	(\$19,745)	(\$37,032)	-79%
RESIDENT TOTALS	16,720	17,257	13,723	15,841	11,202	\$236,133	(2,521)	(4,834)	\$33,792	\$41,422	-30.51%
Small Game	2,570	5,289	4,231	4,030	2,466	\$298,386	(1,765)	(1,564)	(\$213,565)	(\$189,244)	-39%
Youth Small Game	119	234	293	215	157	\$1,570	(136)	(58)	(\$1,360)	(\$583)	-27%
Shooting Preserve 1-Day Nonresident	174	181	200	185	102	\$4,692	(98)	(83)	(\$4,508)	(\$3,818)	-45%
Shooting Preserve 5-Day Nonresident	759	1,001	1,179	980	799	\$60,724	(380)	(181)	(\$28,880)	(\$13,731)	-18%
Shooting Preserve Annual Nonresident	45	70	91	69	56	\$6,776	(35)	(13)	(\$4,235)	(\$1,533)	-18%
Furbearer	6	4	3	4	0	\$0	(3)	(4)	(\$825)	(\$1,192)	-100%
Predator/Varmint	714	873	841	809	960	\$38,400	119	151	\$4,760	\$6,027	19%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck			3	n/a	28	\$140	25	n/a	\$125	n/a	n/a
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	201	393	215	270	3,359	\$16,795	3,144	3,089	\$15,720	\$15,447	1146%
Spring Light Goose	2,959	4,488	4,245	3,897	3,628	\$163,260	(617)	(269)	(\$27,765)	(\$12,120)	-7%
Youth Spring Light Goose	122	161	324	202	318	\$6,678	(6)	116	(\$126)	\$2,429	57%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	7,669	12,694	11,625	10,662	11,873	\$597,421	248	1,183	(\$260,659)	(\$198,318)	11.10%
COMBINED TOTALS	24,389	29,951	25,348	26,502	23,075	\$833,554	(2,273)	(3,427)	(\$226,867)	(\$156,896)	-12.93%

*The license year for Migratory Bird Certificates changed in 2021 so license sales are not comparable between years.

*Migratory Bird Certificates changed from 1 option to 2 in 2022

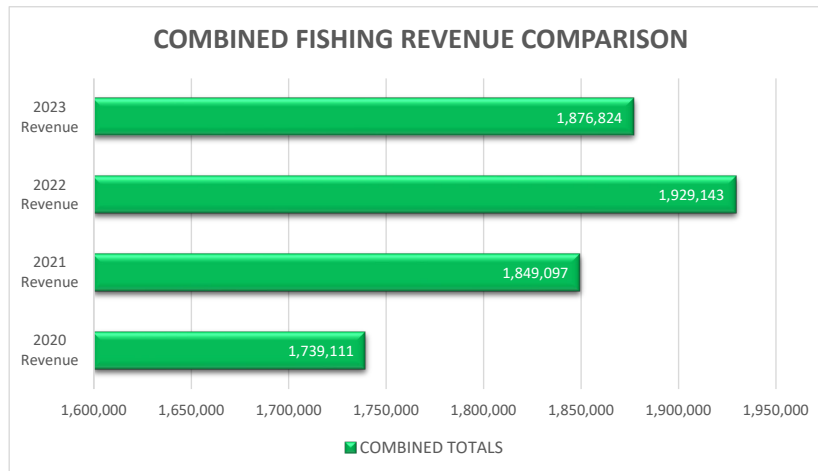
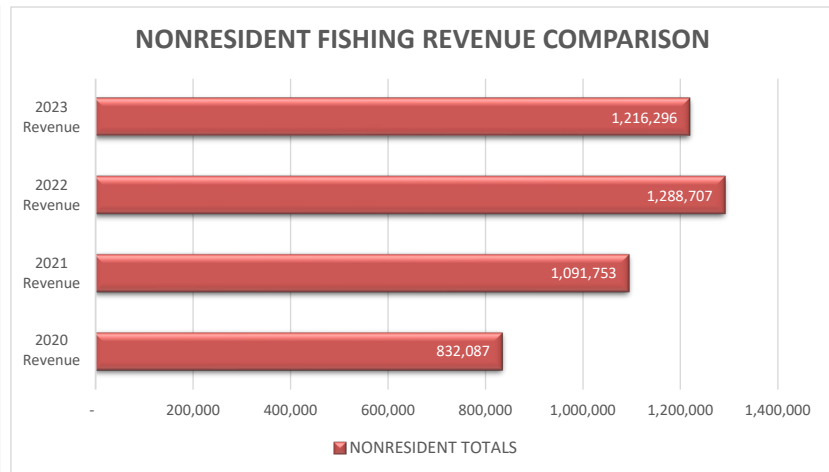
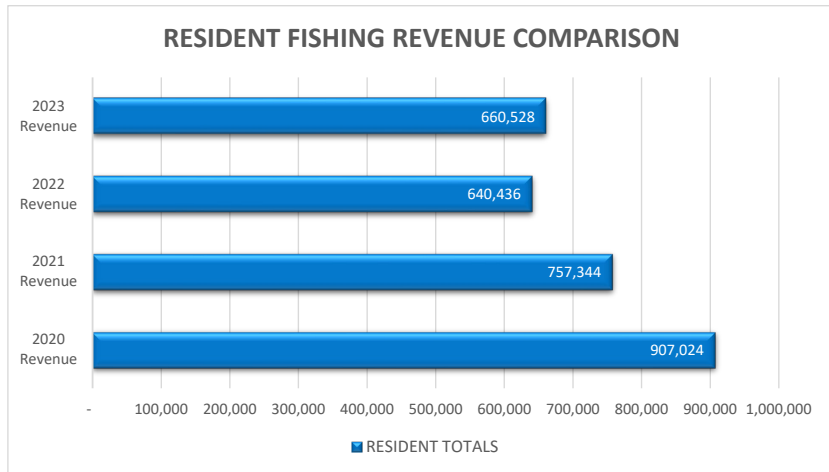
*Spring Light Goose decreased by \$5 when the migratory bird certificate was no longer included.



FISHING LICENSES

December 15 - April 30

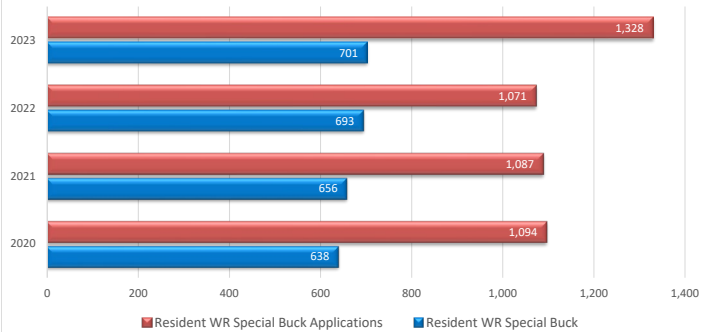
License Type	2020	2021	2022	3-yr Avg	2023	2023 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr Avg
							2022 vs 2023	3 Yr Avg vs 2023	2022 vs 2023	3 Yr Avg vs 2023	
1-Day Fishing	1,246	973	720	980	878	\$7,024	158	(102)	\$1,264	(\$813)	-10%
Annual Fishing	29,045	23,809	20,132	24,329	20,864	\$584,192	732	(3,465)	\$20,496	(\$97,011)	-14%
Senior Fishing	6,983	6,909	5,915	6,602	5,776	\$69,312	(139)	(826)	(\$1,668)	(\$9,916)	-13%
RESIDENT TOTALS	37,274	31,691	26,767	31,911	27,518	\$660,528	751	(4,393)	\$20,092	(\$107,740)	-13.77%
1-Day Fishing	2,835	6,274	5,618	4,909	4,765	\$76,240	(853)	(144)	(\$13,648)	(\$2,304)	-3%
3-Day Fishing	3,727	3,954	4,074	3,918	4,092	\$151,404	18	174	\$666	\$6,426	4%
Annual Fishing	9,684	12,613	15,643	12,647	14,756	\$988,652	(887)	2,109	(\$59,429)	\$141,325	17%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	16,246	22,841	25,335	21,474	23,613	\$1,216,296	(1,722)	2,139	(\$72,411)	\$145,447	9.96%
COMBINED TOTALS	53,520	54,532	52,102	53,385	51,131	\$1,876,824	(971)	(2,254)	(\$52,319)	\$37,707	-4.22%



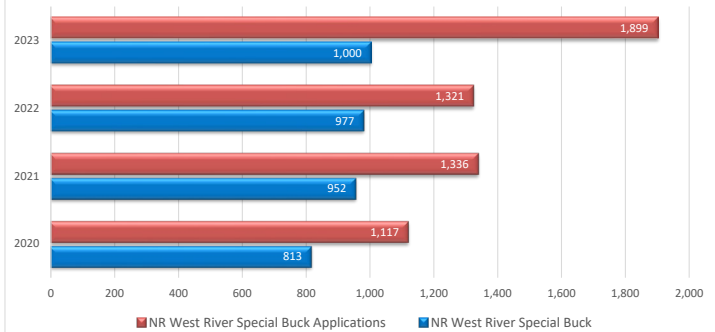
2023 BIG GAME LICENSES

License Type	2020	2021	2022	3-yr Avg	2023	2023 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr Avg
							2022 vs 2023	3 Yr Avg vs 2023	2022 vs 2023	3 Yr Avg vs 2023	
Mountain Lion Licenses	2,907	3,208	2,831	2,982	2,613	\$73,164	(218)	(369)	(\$6,104)	(\$10,332)	-12%
Resident Mentored Spring Turkey Licenses	1,284	1,358	1,498	1,380	1,575	\$7,875	77	195	\$385	\$975	14%
NR Mentored Spring Turkey Licenses	n/a	n/a	63	n/a	65	\$650	2	n/a	\$20	n/a	n/a
Resident Archery Spring Turkey Licenses	3,977	4,223	4,098	4,099	4,181	\$104,525	83	82	\$2,075	\$2,042	2%
NR Archery Spring Turkey Licenses	370	552	546	489	620	\$62,000	74	131	\$7,400	\$13,067	27%
Resident Black Hills Spring Turkey Licenses	3,205	3,458	2,672	3,112	2,559	\$63,975	(113)	(553)	(\$2,825)	(\$13,817)	-18%
NR Black Hills Spring Turkey Licenses	1,164	2,497	2,154	1,938	2,280	\$228,000	126	342	\$12,600	\$34,167	18%
East River Special Buck	497	490	498	495	500	\$87,500	2	5	\$350	\$875	1%
Resident WR Special Buck	638	656	693	662	701	\$122,675	8	39	\$1,400	\$6,767	6%
NR West River Special Buck	813	952	977	914	1,000	\$560,000	23	86	\$12,880	\$48,160	9%
Resident Special Antelope	n/a	n/a	48	n/a	50	\$8,750	2	n/a	\$350	n/a	n/a
NR Special Antelope	n/a	n/a	47	n/a	50	\$28,000	3	n/a	\$1,680	n/a	n/a
Resident Archery Paddlefish	253	254	254	254	255	\$6,375	1	1	\$25	\$33	1%
NR Archery Paddlefish	20	20	21	20	20	\$500	(1)	(0)	(\$25)	(\$8)	-2%
1st Draw Applications Submitted											
East River Special Buck Applications	1,329	1,296	1,250	1,292	1,175		(75)	(117)			-9%
Resident WR Special Buck Applications	1,094	1,087	1,071	1,084	1,328		257	244			23%
NR West River Special Buck Applications	1,117	1,336	1,321	1,258	1,899		578	641			51%
Resident Archery Paddlefish Applications	443	493	446	461	702		256	241			52%
NR Archery Paddlefish Applications	89	104	119	104	172		53	68			65%
Resident Special Antelope Applications	n/a	n/a	240	n/a	255		15	n/a			
NR Special Antelope Applications	n/a	n/a	92	n/a	139		47	n/a			

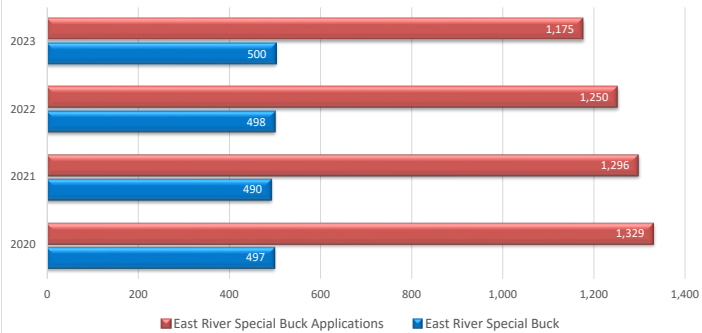
RESIDENT WEST RIVER SPECIAL BUCK LICENSES ISSUED VS APPLICATIONS RECEIVED



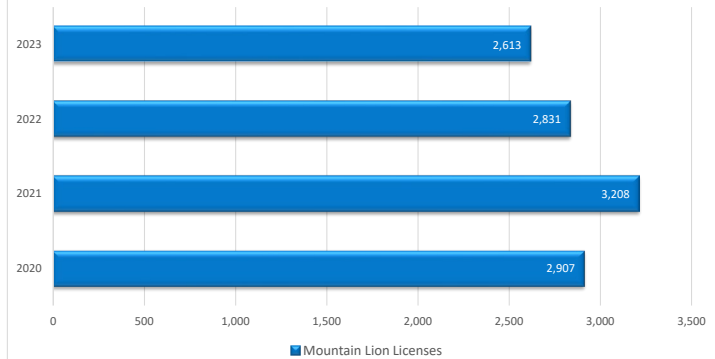
NONRESIDENT WEST RIVER SPECIAL BUCK LICENSES ISSUED VS APPLICATIONS RECEIVED



EAST RIVER SPECIAL BUCK LICENSES ISSUED VS APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

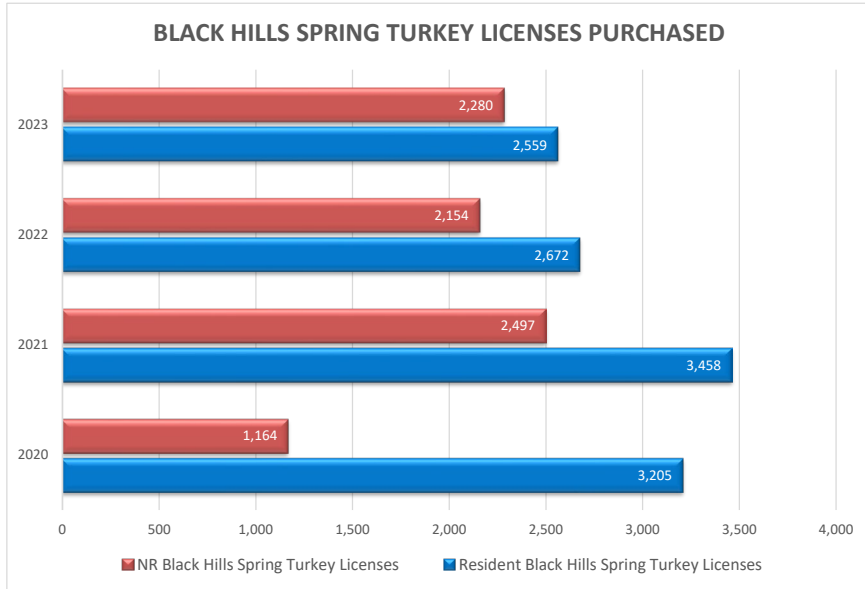


MOUNTAIN LION LICENSES PURCHASED

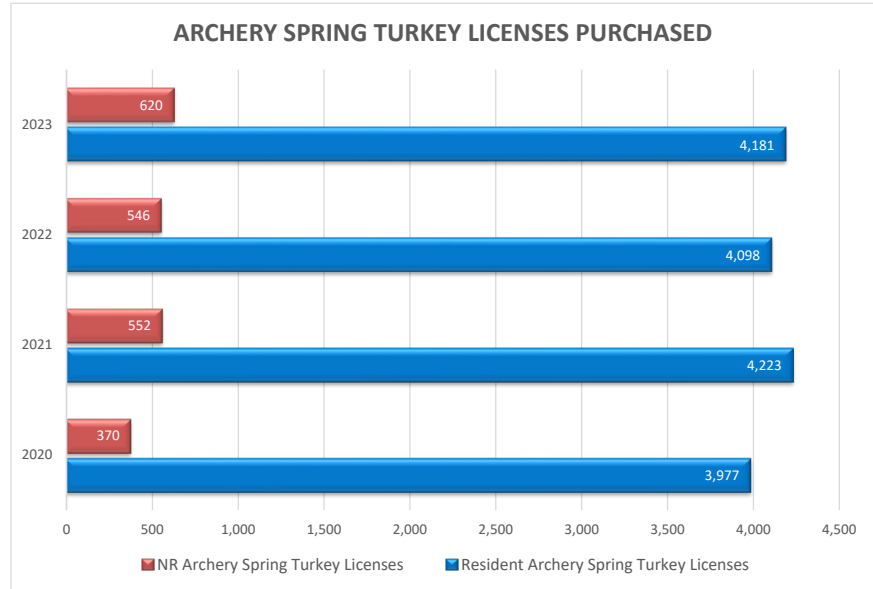


*MTL tags purchased do not necessarily follow the standard license year and are displayed as when they go on sale to date.

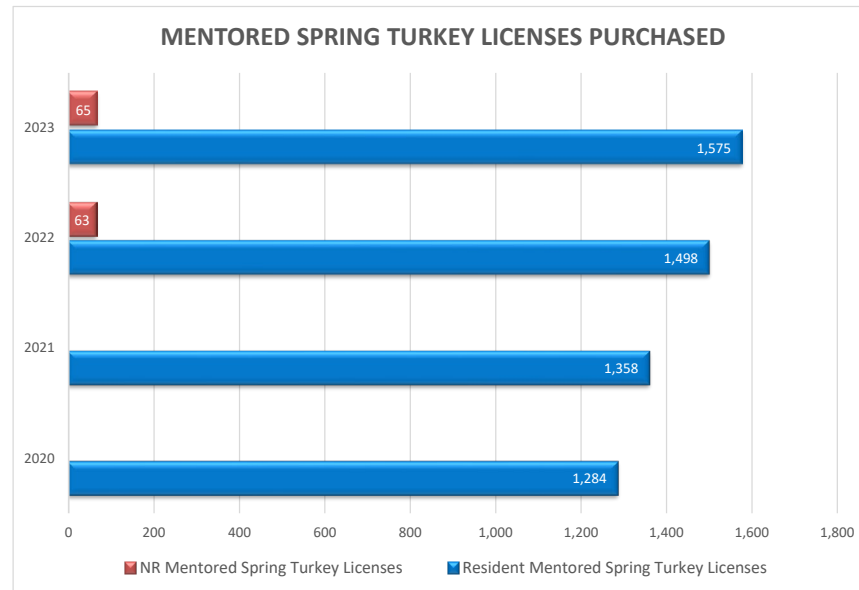
2023 BIG GAME LICENSES



* Black Hills Spring Turkey Season opened 2 weeks later in 2023 compared to previous years.



* Archery Spring Turkey Season opened 1 week later in 2023 compared to previous years.



Issue **BLOWGUN FISHING**

Position **SUPPORT**

Name NATHAN PURDY City, State RAPID CITY SD Create Date 04/11/2023 6:05:03 PM

Comment Attachment:

This comment is in support of the Blowgun fishing initiative. Fishing with blowguns is effective and safe, as well as being supported in other states. Implementing this form of fishing would require little change to current procedures, and would bring in more tourists who wish to use this form for fishing. Blowguns are also very quiet and precise, contributing to the enjoyment of nature. As a side note, it is very difficult to get a barb caught in a tree or bush, unlike fishing using a cast hook.

Name ADAM NEWMAN City, State RAPID CITY SD Create Date 04/11/2023 9:39:48 PM

Comment Attachment:

Blowgun Fishing

Name KYLE WILSON City, State RAPID CITY SD Create Date 04/11/2023 10:27:12 PM

Comment Attachment:

I believe a blowgun fishing season would be just another perk for sportsmen around the state. Bow fishing is popular and blowguns are definitely a test of accuracy and lung capacity. It's a win for all parties.

Issue **CUSTER STATE PARK DEER**

Position **OPPOSE**

Name PHILIP LENTZ City, State SF SD Create Date 04/14/2023 5:09:13 PM

Comment Attachment:

I oppose the removal of archery only dates of anytime. As a bow hunter i have found when seasons cross the pressures increase and risks also arise to the hunter. This is a terrible suggestion.

Issue **DEER HUNTING SEASONS LICENSE ALLOCATIONS**

Position **OPPOSE**

Name JOHN KELLEY City, State SPEARFISH SD Create Date 04/23/2023 1:10:28 PM

Comment Attachment:

Commissioners, staff: While I generally support the staff recommendation reducing deer tags in the Black Hills -- I strongly oppose reducing the antlerless tags to ZERO in the wildland-urban interface in the Black Hills. I live between Spearfish and the BBNF. Deer remain very plentiful, too many so, in town, in my HOA, in my yard. Plentiful deer attract mountain lions. Please find a better biological answer than ZERO antlerless tags in the foothills/buffer areas. Thank you.

Issue **NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL**

Position **SUPPORT**

Name JASON DEBOER City, State SIOUX FALLS SD Create Date 04/15/2023 9:59:32 PM

Comment Attachment:

I oppose this as more non resident hunters decreases the amount of areas for residents to hunt! It also would increase the potential of out of staters buying up South Dakota land. It was would increase the amount of out of state hunters that don't always care about the natural resources of the state!

Name JOSHUA HOKE City, State CHARLESTON SC Create Date 04/17/2023 8:11:17 AM

Comment Attachment:

Issue **NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL**

Position **SUPPORT**

Name PATRICK MCKAY City, State PALMER AK Create Date 04/21/2023 2:24:47 PM

Comment Attachment: SDNonresWaterfowlComments_1b4a004a0.docx

Comment #10324

Name BEN FUJAN City, State SIOUX FALLS SD Create Date 04/30/2023 9:45:30 PM

Comment Attachment:

Name NICK SIME City, State WACONIA MN Create Date 04/30/2023 9:54:04 PM

Comment Attachment:

Position **OTHER**

Name DOUGLAS FARRAND City, State ABERDEEN SD Create Date 04/20/2023 8:03:19 AM

Comment Attachment:

I feel the numbers should only be raised by the average annual amount of decline of resident hunters since the last increase. Land in our area is being tied up by guides with deep pockets just to keep hunters away to improve the experience for their non-resident hunters. I realize some of our non-resident friends want to enjoy our waterfowl hunting, but, I feel it is good because of limited non-resident licenses.

Position **OPPOSE**

Name CHARLES ROKUSEK City, State SIOUX FALLS SD Create Date 04/12/2023 10:02:48 AM

Comment Attachment:

I strongly believe we must first try to improve the number of resident waterfowl hunters by re-activating those who have left the ranks and recruiting new resident hunters. The first and foremost problem is to provide access, so hunters have an opportunity to harvest ducks or geese. With the landscape changing due to agriculture changes there are fewer places which offer quality waterfowl hunting opportunities. Second, making it easier for older hunters or hunters with disabilities to access places to waterfowl hunt. I also believe there should be an attempt to recruit more women into the sport of waterfowl hunting. By making a few changes I believe it is possible to increase the number of resident waterfowl hunters. Now is the time to make the necessary changes to ensure that we maintain our resident outdoor heritage.

Charles Rokusek

Name MARK PETERSON City, State ABERDEEN SD Create Date 04/14/2023 9:32:00 AM

Comment Attachment:

This will only further increase the amount of commercial hunting, which in turn will further reduce resident opportunities.

Name BILLY VOLEK City, State SIOUX FALLS SD Create Date 04/15/2023 4:43:25 PM

Comment Attachment:

Name SEAN ROGERS City, State HARTFORD SD Create Date 04/15/2023 4:44:24 PM

Comment Attachment:

Please do not increase non resident waterfowl licenses

Issue **NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL**

Position **OPPOSE**

Name	AARON	OLSON	City, State	SIOUX FALLS	SD	Create Date	04/15/2023 4:46:40 PM
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Comment Attachment:

Crowding on public and private lands is already an issue in the state along with declining habitat and limited private opportunities. Guides/outfitters are also leasing up private land for out of state hunters, limiting resident opportunities.

Name	RILEY	HAAG	City, State	SIOUX FALLS	SD	Create Date	04/15/2023 4:50:43 PM
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Comment Attachment:

Name	JUERGEN	SCHROEDER	City, State	HARTFORD	SD	Create Date	04/15/2023 4:53:45 PM
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Comment Attachment:

Name	JOHN	ESTEP	City, State	SIOUX FALLS	SD	Create Date	04/15/2023 9:49:33 PM
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Comment Attachment:

More nonresident hunters means more crowding at boat ramps, unsuccessful hunts due to crowding on the water, and fewer birds that will decoy. This conversation/decision can not be made by simply discussing it within the staff of the commission. Hunters need to be heard as well, as they are the ones dealing with the issues at hand.

Name	RICHARD	PEARSON	City, State	WEBSTER	SD	Create Date	04/18/2023 4:34:29 PM
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Comment Attachment:

We have enough now. Keep the opportunity for residents

Name	BRANDON	RUFF	City, State	ROSLYN	SD	Create Date	04/18/2023 4:45:49 PM
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Comment Attachment:

Name	JUSTIN	ALLEN	City, State	PIERRE	SD	Create Date	04/19/2023 10:36:44 AM
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Comment Attachment:

I oppose any additional licenses and opportunities being created for NR waterfowl hunters in SD. Leasing of land by NR/residents/guides/outfitters in SD has created less quality opportunities for waterfowl hunters in SD over the last two decades. Increasing NR licenses in SD will only continue the degradation of waterfowl hunting in SD for the average SD sportsman. The ones we should be managing the resource for but increasingly have forgotten about in the name of monetary profit. If we are concerned about less residents hunting lets combat that issue instead of pouring gas on the fire and open the doors to more NR hunters. Please protect the resources in SD first and foremost and do not increase NR waterfowl licenses.

Thank you for your time
Justin Allen
Pierre, SD

Issue **NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL**

Position **OPPOSE**

Name	ANDREW	JORGENSON	City, State	WAUBAY	SD	Create Date	04/19/2023 6:01:56 PM
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Comment Attachment:

GFP data shows a large portion of nonresident waterfowlers concentrate on Day County; 22% of the 10 day holders and 30% of the 3 day northeast holders. The split of the 10 day licenses to two 5 day dramatically increases that usage as numerous parties now come for the opener which used to be mostly residents, then return when the migration is in full swing, effectively doubling the actual pressure. The most pressure is at the two most productive times.

With the high probability of getting a license (especially groups who apply individually)leasing which is already escalating will increase even more. Several landowners have gone that route or are considering it. It's "off the books" revenue and younger farmers are more about the money than their parents or grandparents.

Day County had way more duck hunting opportunity pre-1997. Bitter lake, Goose lake, Rush lakes and Waubay lake were expansive marsh and wetland complexes, with a LOT of public land. Now they are walleye lakes up to 30 feet deep with limited waterfowl opportunity. This moves hunters to private land.

In past surveys non-resident waterfowlers "liked" the restrictive number of licenses as they felt it kept the quality of the hunt high. Places for a quality duck hunt in Day County are very competitive which is one reason (of many) we are losing resident hunters.

GFP is looking into controlling non-resident archery hunters because resident hunters feel they are getting crowded out and the quality of the hunt is suffering. A bit of irony here don't you think?

Guess it's all about the money and not your resident users.

Name	RENEE	ALLEN	City, State	PIERRE	SD	Create Date	04/27/2023 8:14:41 AM
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Comment Attachment:

As a life long resident in SD I oppose any increase in opportunities for Non-resident waterfowl hunting in SD. Increasing licenses does just that. I have watched hunting opportunities for residents dwindle over the last 30+ years due to the increase in NRs, leasing of land, guides, outfitters..... GFP needs to put more effort into keeping resident hunters in the outdoors not continuing to opening our borders door open further and commercialize hunting. Many residents stay in SD for the vast spaces and great resident outdoor opportunities, not to compete with NRs every day like pheasant hunting, bow hunting and fishing. Please look out for the majority of the waterfowl hunters and vote against any increase in NR waterfowl hunting licenses.

Thanks
Renee Allen
Pierre, SD

Name	RENEE	ALLEN	City, State	PIERRE	SD	Create Date	04/27/2023 8:15:08 AM
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Comment Attachment:

As a life long resident in SD I oppose any increase in opportunities for Non-resident waterfowl hunting in SD. Increasing licenses does just that. I have watched hunting opportunities for residents dwindle over the last 30+ years due to the increase in NRs, leasing of land, guides, outfitters..... GFP needs to put more effort into keeping resident hunters in the outdoors not continuing to opening our borders door open further and commercialize hunting. Many residents stay in SD for the vast spaces and great resident outdoor opportunities, not to compete with NRs every day like pheasant hunting, bow hunting and fishing. Please look out for the majority of the waterfowl hunters and vote against any increase in NR waterfowl hunting licenses.

Thanks
Renee Allen
Pierre, SD

Name	PAUL	LEPISTO	City, State	PIERRE	SD	Create Date	04/27/2023 9:21:49 AM
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Comment Attachment: SD_IWLA_Comments_on_NR_WF_License_Proposal_4-27-23_43837b807.pdf

Comment #10329

Issue **NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL**

Position **OPPOSE**

Name JASON JEFFERSON City, State ABERDEEN SD Create Date 04/28/2023 8:04:58 AM

Comment Attachment:

I strongly oppose the proposal to increase NR waterfowl hunting licenses. Literally the only reason my family moved to and now continues to stay in South Dakota is for the hunting and fishing. As a chemical engineer I could make double the money in the state I grew up in. However, I choose to raise my family in SD. Over last 10 years there has been a tremendous down grade of resident outdoor opportunities in NE SD. Lakes are literally completely over run with fisherman and leasing of land for hunting is out of control. Increasing NR hunting licenses only compounds the issues. If GFP need more revenue increase NR license fees. Don't increase NR licenses at the expense of the residents that live here year around, raise their families in SD, support local and pay taxes. Thank you your time.

Name ANDY VANDEL City, State PIERRE SD Create Date 04/29/2023 8:11:28 AM

Comment Attachment:

I strongly oppose this proposal. I think GFP needs to take a step back and involve groups like the. SD Waterfowl Assoc. and the SD Wildlife Federation to address the stated reason for the proposal which is because of the drop in resident waterfowl hunters. From what I understand the only non-gfp individual to be involved in the formulation of this proposal was an outfitter from Brown County. This concerns me that the same 5% increase will be approved again and again over the next number of years. Let's work together to increase the numbers of those of us that live, work, and pay taxes here year round!

Name NATHAN FOSSELL City, State SIOUX FALLS SD Create Date 04/29/2023 8:16:35 AM

Comment Attachment:

It's the one thing we have as residents in the state. I'm fine with pheasants and archery deer/antelope for NR opportunities, but do not increase the NR waterfowl opportunities. It's the one thing you should let us have to enjoy.

Name CHUCK DIETER City, State BROOKINGS SD Create Date 04/29/2023 11:35:08 AM

Comment Attachment: Commission_letter_2023_2621e33af.docx

Comment #10334

Name JOHN FUGLSANG City, State PIERRE SD Create Date 04/29/2023 3:13:27 PM

Comment Attachment:

I am strongly opposed to increasing the number of non resident waterfowl licenses. There are a limited number of places to hunt waterfowl, especially on public ground.

Adding more non residents will only increase that pressure which will lead to further decreases in resident waterfowl hunter numbers. Many people live in SD and move to SD for the quality hunting and fishing. If you put in measures that decrease the quality of the outdoor experience our state is going to lose this unique calling card. This is selling out for short term gains at the expense of future SD residents.

Name ANDY VIET City, State SIOUX FALLS SD Create Date 04/30/2023 12:34:18 PM

Comment Attachment:

With the increase pressure already noticed in South Dakota I don't believe now is a good time to increase tag numbers. I very much oppose this measure.

Name QUINTIN BIERMANN City, State GROTON SD Create Date 04/30/2023 9:45:42 PM

Comment Attachment:

I strongly oppose the NR increase in waterfowl licenses. If the only option we have for hunter recruitment is to allow more NR all we are doing is further pushing resident hunters out of the equation. The agenda of pay to play and increasing leasing and guiding will only decrease opportunities for resident hunters. I ask that you thoughtfully consider protecting South Dakotas resources for its residents and not selling them to big money and non residents.

Name NICHOLAS CONNOR City, State WINFRED SD Create Date 04/30/2023 9:46:19 PM

Comment Attachment:

Issue **NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL**

Position **OPPOSE**

Name	CONNOR	FRANSEN	City, State	WATERTOWN	SD	Create Date	04/30/2023 9:51:39 PM
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Comment Attachment:

Name	TIM	BROWN	City, State	WATERTOWN	SD	Create Date	04/30/2023 9:53:55 PM
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Comment Attachment:

There is enough pressure on these birds as is. It's hard for freelance hunters to obtain permission to hunt waterfowl in this state with the amount of guide services operating and lobbying for non resident hunters. Let's keep South Dakota waterfowl heritage something that us residents can enjoy for generations. Thanks for your consideration.

Name	WADE	HARKEMA	City, State	VOLGA	SD	Create Date	04/30/2023 9:55:02 PM
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Comment Attachment:

Please don't increase non-resident waterfowl licenses. It's just more commercialized hunting creep in this state that will discourage year round tax paying residents from hunting.

Name	CODY	WARNER	City, State	WEBSTER	SD	Create Date	04/30/2023 9:58:46 PM
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Comment Attachment:

Currently, I believe we have a very good balance of resident and nonresident waterfowl hunters in SD. Increasing nonresident licenses will only lead to decreased opportunities for residents. As a Commission, I hope that the members vote in favor of at least maintaining current levels of access and success for the resident hunter. Thanks!

Name	GFP	ISWORTHLESS	City, State	RESIDENT	SD	Create Date	04/30/2023 10:03:14 PM
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Comment Attachment:

Every time I think "gfp can't be more against local hunters" you guys give me another red sign, another money grab (habitat stamp), or more licenses to out of staters. This last fall I saw the most out of state waterfowl hunters I've ever seen and they have zero respect for other hunters. I have yet to receive a reply on any email I've ever sent to gfp, probably because they're probably too busy giving handies to anyone that'll flash a \$20 at them. Out of staters are great for this cause they'll pay \$300 to shoot a duck, so who knows what they'll pay for that kind of treatment. Out of state waterfowl license numbers should be decreased and the charge should be increased. They'll always sell out no matter the price so why not make them more scarce and increase the price? Gfp wouldn't do that because it makes too much sense, but increasing the price by 30% and decreasing the number of licenses by 15% would make MORE money for the state with LESS licenses. Then they could get rid of the habitat stamp and I can stop hearing "well ya they're making us pay \$10 more every season and we're getting less land" from every single other hunter I run into. If gfp would get their head out of their asses and start listening to the people that pay their checks (me and every other person that pays taxes), then maybe people wouldn't have such an unfavorable opinion on them. You can't make everyone happy, so you might as well just make the people who live in the state happy.

Name	CHAD	LADE	City, State	MADISON	SD	Create Date	04/30/2023 10:05:27 PM
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Comment Attachment:

In my opinion waterfowl hunting in this state is the last non manipulated pastime we have. Please keep it that way. We can't stock waterfowl into our flyway. Thank you for listening.

Name	EASTON	GILLETTE	City, State	SIOUX FALLS	SD	Create Date	04/30/2023 10:09:44 PM
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Comment Attachment:

Please ask yourselves, "if this were to go to a vote amongst every resident waterfowl hunter, would they be in favor or against?" I can guarantee the answer would be against, and you guys are supposed to be on the side of the resident hunter. If anything just increase the price of the non resident waterfowl tags. All the state wants from this is more money anyways, so stop punishing the resident hunters and start charging nonresidents more.

Name	TERRY	WENDLER	City, State	ABERDEEN	SD	Create Date	04/30/2023 10:19:30 PM
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Comment Attachment:

Already tough enough to get my son into the sport because we can't get permission from landowners like we used because I hear the "well, I got guys from Wisconsin coming in a month so I better not let ya go."

Issue **NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL**

Position **OPPOSE**

Name ANDY WARNER City, State WABASSO MN Create Date 04/30/2023 10:20:00 PM

Comment Attachment:

I oppose the increase in non-resident licenses

Name DANIEL SEURER City, State WATERTOWN SD Create Date 04/30/2023 10:22:13 PM

Comment Attachment:

Name DEVIN REUER City, State HENRY SD Create Date 04/30/2023 10:27:51 PM

Comment Attachment:

As a avid waterfowl Hunter in South Dakota I oppose any additional tag be giving out. We need to preserve our waterfowl hunting opportunities for future generations.

Name ROCKY BURKETT City, State ABERDEEN SD Create Date 04/30/2023 11:01:08 PM

Comment Attachment:

Would like to keep it the way it is. Seems like more and more we just want other people here to get their money at the expense of residents and creating competition. It is harder for residents who utilize public land to get out and hunt when it is being used by more nonresidents. You may eventually lose revenue from the next generation of resident hunters because there will be too much competition.

Issue **OTHER**

Position **SUPPORT**

Name AARON GILCHRIST City, State MITCHELL SD Create Date 04/27/2023 9:10:25 PM

Comment Attachment:

Need a permit to have a fishing tournament

Position **OTHER**

Name KEVIN KUHL City, State YANKTON SD Create Date 04/11/2023 4:10:48 PM

Comment Attachment: Lewis_and_Clark_Marina_Fee_Proposal_3c0f8b4f9.docx

Comment #10302

Name RICHARD HEWITT City, State BRANDON SD Create Date 04/18/2023 2:54:59 PM

Comment Attachment:

I have this comment about the Motorcycle state park bands.. they are way to long!!! putting them on in the stated way leaves to big a loop that can rub against the tank, and it flops around in the wind while riding. the handle bars are only 1 1/4 Dia. I have to wrap this around 3 times to make it tight, which only leaves the sticky end to be seen... I have had mine cut off before at the rally as several others complained about the same thing, being to long.. if you could shorten these up a lot, that would be great!!! thanks

Position **OPPOSE**

Name MARK SCHARN City, State RAPID CITY SD Create Date 04/14/2023 5:23:29 PM

Comment Attachment:

Very unhappy with your decision to go to same day camping reservations at Center Lake in Custer State Park. We will no longer camp there without being able to make reservations in advance. How do you expect people to make plans. This is an idiotic policy!

Issue OTHER

Position OPPOSE

Name LANCE EBERHART City, State BOX ELDER SD Create Date 04/22/2023 2:01:01 PM

Comment Attachment:

Why can't this state have a user friendly web site to apply for licenses? You charge more than enough money for hunting and fishing in South Dakota and yet we have to navigate this stupid maze to apply for licensure. When are the people responsible for setting up a web site going to do their job?

Issue TRAPPING

Position SUPPORT

Name JULIE ANDERSON City, State RAPID CITY SD Create Date 04/30/2023 8:59:18 PM

Comment Attachment:

I support a moratorium on beaver trapping and hunting in the Black Hills National Forest and a reduction in beaver trapping season statewide. People want to see beavers on public land and beavers create wetland habitat that benefit biodiversity.

Name JULIE ANDERSON City, State RAPID CITY SD Create Date 04/30/2023 9:06:54 PM

Comment Attachment:

I support a moratorium on beaver trapping and hunting in the Black Hills National Forest and a reduction of beaver trapping statewide. People want to see beavers on public land. Beavers create wetlands, which benefits biodiversity.

Position OTHER

Name DEAN PARKER City, State SIOUX FALLS SD Create Date 04/30/2023 6:32:16 PM

Comment Attachment:

I'm writing to ask for an end to beaver trapping & hunting in the Black Hills National Forest and a reduction in the beaver trapping season statewide outside the Black Hills.

We want to see beavers on public lands when you visit. Beavers create riparian, aquatic and wetland habitat that benefits biodiversity and water retention.

Name SARA PARKER City, State SIOUX FALLS SD Create Date 04/30/2023 6:35:55 PM

Comment Attachment:

I'm writing to urge you to stop the trapping & hunting of beavers in the Black Hills National Forest and to shorten the beaver trapping season outside the Black Hills (which is currently year-round).

Both residents and tourists alike want to enjoy the presence of beavers on public lands when we visit. Beavers create habitats that support diverse life forms and store water in riparian, aquatic & wetland areas.

Issue WATERFOWL SEASONS

Position OPPOSE

Name JEREMY YEADON City, State GROTON SD Create Date 04/30/2023 10:11:10 PM

Comment Attachment:

I moved because of protected waterfowl hunting. I lived in a state that let non-resident hunt and lease all the ground for hunting. Please don't SD become one of those states.

Issue WATERFOWL SEASONS**Position OPPOSE**

Name	JOSHUA	CARDA	City, State	RAPID CITY	SD	Create Date	04/30/2023 10:12:37 PM
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Comment Attachment:

Having grown up my entire life in South Dakota I've been lucky enough to experience the rich culture and opportunities presented through waterfowl hunting both in Western and Eastern South Dakota. A vast majority of my season is spent chasing snow geese and mallards in the North East part of the state before hunting within a few hours of home. I can not express enough how strongly I oppose the current proposed changes to the licensing structure. While the idea that expanding non resident licenses won't affect current resident hunters or those non residents who have been coming here for years upon years, sounds wonderful on paper, in reality it's just that. An idea. Licenses numbers may be down but anyone who chases waterfowl knows at the end of the day pressure is not. The majority of the remaining license holders are seasoned hunters who do not waiver in their pursuit regardless of any conditions presented to them. Both resident and non resident guiding has exploded over the past 3 to 5 years and the southern mentality of day leasing coupled with season long leasing has begun to poison one of the last true destinations for waterfowl hunting in the United States. As a life long resident of South Dakota I see our opportunities being chipped away at more and more every season. This current expansion/restructuring might be small, however, it greatly favors those who are trying to destroy the free lance culture in this state in pursuit of what is not a passion, a hobby or simply a way to get outdoors. It favors those who want to line their pockets by utilizing our waterfowl opportunities. Ultimately, I as well as many others fear our fall seasons will slowly slip into the abyss of what spring snow goose hunting has become in this state. A gigantic mess filled with close to a hundred out of state guides. Thank you for taking public comments.

Issue TRAPPING**Position OTHER**

Name	NANCY	HILDING	City, State	BLACKHAWK	SD	Create Date	05/01/2023 12:27:29 PM
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Comment Attachment:

Nancy Hilding 6300 West Elm Black Hawk, SD 4/30/23 Dear Commissioners, RE: Otters I do not see any river otter hunting/trapping proposal in your furbearer set for May 4-5, 2023. Scrolling back through time, I could find a river otter season finalization on July 8-9, 2021 that said the duration of the proposal was 2021. The rule 41:08:01:08.05 on the SD LRC web site shows the effective date for the rule of August 22, 2021. I searched the Commission's agendas for spring/summer 2022 & did not see a new otter hunting rule proposal, which there should have been as the duration of the rule adopted in 2021 was alleged to be for just 1 year. Recent reports I heard on river otters at Commission meets were summaries of harvest result, not summaries of otter population monitoring. The otter management plan indicated you would develop otter population monitoring efforts & I think I remember one report on intended or ongoing monitoring. Did I miss a recent report on otter population monitoring? Have statistics been prepared on incidental take of otter in beaver & other traps. I think the number of days it takes hunters to reach the otter harvest limit is steadily getting longer in time, perhaps indicating smaller populations. When will you present a report on otter population monitoring, which is different than a report on harvest statistics. SDGFP seems to have furbearer seasons on a 2 year cycle. Why don't we see an otter proposal this May?

Lewis and Clark Marina Fee Proposal - Comment

Dear Commissioners,

The docks at Lewis & Clark Marina needed to be replaced. The concern that many slip holders, including myself, have is the loosely managed approach being used to accomplish the project and the financial consequences. The cost increases to the slip holders are shocking and out of line with what was originally proposed.

The cost of the 10 x 24 shared slip, which we have had since 2018 has nearly doubled. In just two years, from 2021 the slip cost of \$1550.00 (without fees and taxes) has increased to \$2700 in 2023.

It appears the current approach is put the new docks in at any cost and pass the costs onto the slip holders.

Please consider alternatives to what has occurred to have a properly managed project that is financially feasible. Freeze the previously approved rates until a more complete evaluation of the project is accomplished.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kevin Kuhl

SUPPORT FOR INCREASED

NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL LICENSES

My name is Patrick McKay and I reside in Palmer, Alaska. I am part owner of a family farm in central South Dakota and for decades have been annually gathering with family and friends in late November/December. We are conservation minded in our farming practices to encourage game production. Waterfowl hunting is a large part of our tradition. I have been privileged to hunt birds in South Dakota for approximately 4 decades (5 dogs). Most of those years, whenever allowed, I have hunted waterfowl.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the continuing increase in available nonresident waterfowl licenses. I urge the Commission members to follow the guidance of SDGF&P staff and base your decision in science- not the individual preferences of resident hunting groups and individuals.

I believe the legislated 5% increase in license availability is a good start to resolving a festering problem in nonresident access to waterfowl hunting in South Dakota.

With all due respect, the nonresident waterfowl lottery system in South Dakota is antiquated. If your intent is to keep nonresident (i.e., *Minnesota*) early season duck hunters from competing with resident hunters for the resident birds (waterfowl bred in South Dakota with substantial financial support from “nonresident” groups such as USFWS, Ducks Unlimited and others) then you should target that problem. But by mid-November at the latest, the waterfowl shot in South Dakota are migratory, bred outside South Dakota, and should be open to a reasonable scientifically sustainable harvest to both residents and nonresidents. We rarely see competitive groups of waterfowl hunters in Central South Dakota after mid-November, even when deer season is closed.

In these days of diminishing numbers and respect for hunters, your lottery system is yet another and unnecessary hurdle to hunters. I have great respect for SDGF&P. I have significantly less respect for the narrow-minded individuals, groups and lobbyists who continue to attempt to convince you to enact xenophobic restrictions to harvesting migratory waterfowl. I also ask you to consider the adverse economic impact of continuing to restrict nonresident waterfowl hunters.

I look forward to the day when all those signs say “Welcome Hunters”, not just “Welcome *Pheasant* Hunters”.

Patrick McKay

Palmer, AK



The Izaak Walton League of America

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters, and Wildlife

April 27, 2023

Re: Nonresident Waterfowl License Proposal

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America (Division) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the proposal to increase nonresident waterfowl licenses.

This proposal comes from the GFP staff. Sadly, it was introduced without any input from the state's waterfowl and outdoor organizations, or from resident waterfowl hunters.

For that reason, and those listed below, the Division respectfully asks you to reject this proposal.

Instead, we ask you to think outside of the box and adopt a new effort to turn the decline of resident waterfowl hunters around.

We believe the following factors contributed to the decline in resident waterfowl hunters:

- An aging population—hunters got too old to participate
- The perception that there is no place to hunt
- Little knowledge of how to hunt waterfowl
- Lack of equipment the gear needed

South Dakota offers outstanding waterfowl hunting opportunities. This winter's snow should bring excellent wetland and nesting conditions that are expected to produce a lot of ducks and geese.

The Division urges your support of a new, innovative statewide effort under the Recruit, Retain, and Reactivate (R3) Initiative to get residents hunting waterfowl again.

We suggest establishing free classes at the Outdoor Campuses and all the GFP regional offices. The classes would include, but not be limited to:

- Waterfowl identification
- Waterfowl hunting methods
 - Over water on small wetlands and large lakes
 - Field hunting strategies
- Decoy tips
- Scouting tactics
- Equipment and clothing needed
- How to clean waterfowl
- Waterfowl recipes

The Division believes the decline in resident waterfowl hunters can be turned around. The proposed R3 effort will get people, of all ages, back in the fields and wetlands. Residents enjoying waterfowl hunting will ring cash registers across the state as they contribute to South Dakota's economy 365 days a year.

The Division believes the proposed increase in nonresident waterfowl licenses will reinforce the perception that there's no place for the average person to hunt waterfowl in the state, and those potential hunters will stay on the couch.

Please reject this proposal. Let's find new ways to work together to reinvigorate South Dakotans' passion for waterfowl hunting.

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America thanks you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. We appreciate your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Lepisto
Regional Conservation Coordinator
Izaak Walton League of America
1115 South Cleveland Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-4456
plepisto@iwla.org
605-220-1219

Dear Commissioners,

I am a retired waterfowl biologist and I have hunted ducks and geese in South Dakota since 1984. During that time, I served as President of the South Dakota Waterfowl Association. I have worked with previous commissions and the department on waterfowl issues for 15 years. In 2008, I was involved in a survey by GFP trying to understand the loss of resident waterfowl hunters. Two of the top reasons are that it is too crowded or too hard to find a good place to hunt.

As wetlands continue to be lost to drainage and commercial outfitters continue to lease land, the number of places to hunt continues to decline. For those reasons, we are still losing waterfowl hunters. Many of my farmer friends in the northeast tell me they are tired of all the phone calls they get in October and November. A survey showed that over half of the Nonresidents hunt in Day, Marshall, Brown, and Hamlin counties. These areas are swarmed with hunters, both resident and nonresident, during late October and most of November. It is very crowded in the northeast part of the state.

In 2014, I was on a task force to look at the issue. The GFP asked for public comments and they were inundated with letters. About 95% of the respondents, both resident and nonresident did not want more licenses to be added. Last month in Brookings, there were leaders representing the 3,000 members of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation and the 500 members of the SD Waterfowl Association. There were also some private citizens who opposed the increase. There were exactly zero proponents of the proposal. Yet the Commission chose to go against the wishes of their constituents.

The only people who want more licenses are the several commercial outfitters and a few members of the GFP staff. One owner of a commercial outfit even met with GFP staff and told them where to put the new licenses! Yet GFP never even met with the SDWF or SDWA.

This proposal does absolutely nothing good for SD residents. Rather, it will further decrease the number of residents as the NE part of the state gets more crowded. Our friends in western Minnesota have terrible waterfowl hunting due to overcrowding. They pile into our state because we still have good hunting. If the number of NR licenses continues to increase, then no one will have good hunting. Only those who go to commercial outfitters will find uncrowded conditions

I have friends in the Aberdeen area who have given up hunting near Sand Lake Refuge. Every field and pothole within 20 miles of the Refuge is leased by a commercial outfitter. These guys can't even hunt in their own backyard due to commercialism now and several have given up the sport because of it.

I am not sure where you like to hunt but what if suddenly there were 300 more hunters moving in? What if we opened farming operations to NR farmers and 300 moved into your area. You need to think of the wishes of resident hunters rather than commercial interests. Please vote no on this proposal and support the hunters of South Dakota. Thank you.

Chuck Dieter
Brookings, SD

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission

RE: Non-resident waterfowl licenses

How many waterfowl licenses should South Dakota provide to non-residents? This is by far the most discussed issue all time for the commission. Every time the commercial industry asks for more tags, a lively discussion ensues. There are work groups and public meetings. Compromises are suggested. Lots and lots of testimony to the commission. For some reason, the department has skipped the “work with the stakeholders” part this time before they present to the commission

I know you get a lot of reading before commissions meeting but if you could please take the time to read the attached documents. The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Waterfowl Hunting Access Plan was drafted by the department and the South Dakota Wildlife Federation with help from the South Dakota Waterfowl Association. It is dated Oct 13, 2020. It appears it remained as a draft and never adopted. I am not sure why. Why has the department choose to not address the need for more access for resident hunters, and thus the reported decline in resident hunter numbers. This document shows what can be done in detail to provide more hunting opportunities for all hunters.

The message we are receiving from the department is we can not do anything to help the resident decline so lets just offer more to the non-resident who have access thru commercial guides.

I do not have a big problem with an increase for non-residents and as long as it includes completing the on the ground projects listed in the attached document. Please consider the resident hunter in these decisions. Compromise is what it is all about. We cannot continue to support one user group and not the other.

I am a west river waterfowl hunter. It sure would be nice to consider access and habitat projects out west also. We have some pretty darn good duck spots. I also question the data on the decline of local duck hunters. I certainly do not see that in the areas I hunt. I do not believe adequate research has been completed.

If the department does not offer up anything for the resident hunter, then I can not support the 5% increase for non-residents.

Jeff Olson

Rapid City

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. MT 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, May 4, 2023, at 1 pm MT, and Friday, May 5, 2023, at 8 am MT.

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 MT 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 27th day of April 2023.

s/b Stephanie Rissler

Stephanie Rissler, GFP Commission Chair