

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
January 16-17, 2020

Chairman Gary Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CT at the Capitol Lake Visitors Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Russell Olson, Charles Spring, Robert Whitmyre and approximately 60 public, staff, and media were present.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

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

Approval of Minutes

Jensen called for any additions or corrections to the December 12-13 meeting minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Body with second by Locken TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12-13 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Jensen requested 1 day for other meetings and 4 days each for he and Bies for attendance at WAFWA. Olson requested 1 day for Boyd for all the correspondence she responds to on behalf of the Commission.

Motion by Olson, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS AS REQUESTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

Jensen opened the floor for nominations.

Motion by Olson with second by Whitmyre TO NOMINATE JENSEN AS CHAIR. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Boyd with second by Locken TO NOMINATE OLSON AS VICE CHAIR. Motion carried unanimously.

License List Request

Chris Petersen, Administration Division Director, presented a license list request from Rounds for Senate to be used for fund raising efforts focusing on outdoor recreators. Petersen noted this is a one-time use only full fee license list request.

Motion by Olson with second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST. Motion carried.

Cathy Peterson Memorial

Kent Peterson spoke on behalf of the Peterson family in regard to the memorial set up in his mother's honor as a former GFP Commissioner. Donations can be made through the Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

Second Century Initiatives and Fund Board Update

Kevin Robling, deputy secretary, and Tom Kirschenmann, deputy wildlife directory, provided an update on the status of Second Century initiatives.

Lisa Weyer, executive director, provided an update on the Second Century Habitat Fund Board.

Nest Predator Bounty Public Survey Result

Mark Duda, Responsive Management, explained the study was conducted for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) to determine the opinions and attitudes of South Dakota residents toward the Nest Predator Bounty Program, as well as participants' opinions and attitudes toward the Program. The study entailed scientific multi-modal surveys: a probability-based survey of residents of South Dakota, and a second survey of participants of the Program wherein an attempt was made in the survey effort to contact every participant. This project entailed two separate scientific surveys: a probability-based survey of the adult general population of the state, and a second survey of participants in the Program. This second survey was actually a census (wherein all people are contacted) rather than a sample survey (wherein a sample of the total population is contacted), as the multi-modal approach allowed for an attempt to be made to contact every participant. The overwhelming majority of South Dakota residents (83%) approve of the Program, while 11% disapprove.

Nest Predator Bounty Program Overview

Kevin Robling, deputy secretary, and Keith Fisk, program administrator, provided an overview of the nest predator bounty program and presented Resolution 20-06 which recognizes the Department of Game, Fish and Parks' desire to conduct the Nest Predator Bounty Program for 2020 and proposes for public consideration the following: an expenditure for five dollars per tail not to exceed \$250,000 for the bounty of nest predators for the Commissions approval.

Motion by Olson, second by Locken TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-06 (APPENDIX C)

Department Sponsored Legislation for 2020

Kevin Robling and Jon Kotilnek, staff attorney, provide a legislative update on bills introduced pertaining to GFP.

Waterfowl – Missouri River Refuge Follow-up

Kevin Robling informed the Commission that a meeting will be held on February 19th to continue discussions on Missouri River Waterfowl Refuges.

R3 Workgroup Updates

Taniya Bethke, education division staff specialist, provide an update on R3 efforts with focus on small game and fishing which show declining license sales and the status and next steps on the R3 plan.

PETITIONS

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division director, provided information on the petition process and options available for commission action.

Nonresident East River Special Deer License

Cody Weyer, Landowner and Outfitter Alliance said his fellow board members are all on the same page in support of this. Gov says SD is open for business and this year has been hard on farmers and ranchers. Nonresident west river tags are not an option east river and should be an option to provide farmers and ranchers the revenue option. We all have family members and friends who have moved away. We should use this as a means of recruiting these individuals the opportunity to hunt in what was their home state. This is not in competition with public hunting. If these people pay taxes, they should be able to maximize the revenue on their property. Not sure of any negative biological impact.

Petitioner Doug Abraham explained this petition would establish new license with fee of \$500. 250,000 generated would go toward department expenses for resident hunters. This petition is about landowner rights. Those people who are providing for and feeding wildlife throughout the year.

Motioned by Locken, second by Olson TO APPROVE THE PETITION ON WEST RIVER LANDOWNER DEER TAGS. Roll call vote: Boyd-no; Locken – yes; Olson- yes; Whitmyre - yes; Spring- yes; Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote. Motion passes.

Retirement Deer Tag

Kirschenmann presented the petition submitted by Michael Hill of Aberdeen, SD to 1. Establish a Resident only 'Retirement Tag' for those individuals aged 65 and above. 2. 500 'Retirement Tags' would be available for 'Any Deer' state wide at the cost of \$100 per tag allocated annually. 3. Applicant will be allowed to hunt both private and public property. 4. No purchase of preference point option.

Motioned by Locken, second by Olson TO DENY THE PETITION ON RETIREMENT DEER TAGS. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Whitmyre, second by Boyd TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-07 (APPENDIX D) DENYING THE PETITION. Motion withdrawn to add additional language.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 2:00 p.m. and concluded at 2:57 p.m. The minutes follow these Commission meeting minutes.

OPEN FORUM

Jensen opened the floor for discussion from those in attendance on matters of importance to them that may not be on the agenda.

Bill Paulton, Edgemont, SD spoke regarding elk problems on his land. Conservation practices have been drawing in the elk of approximately 1,000 head and are there through the whole rutting season causing a tremendous loss of forage. Bless to have the wildlife and next generation on the ranch and this is threatening the way of life due to financial loss which is well over 100,000 a year. Obvious solutions would be to reduce numbers. Very happy with GFP personnel and everyone has been responsive with the tool they have need other solutions. Participated in a great meeting with GFP last week in Rapid City to discuss options.

Tim Goodwin, Hill City, SD as an avid lion hunter appreciates extension of hunting season. Explains it's a lot easier to hunt stealthy animals when there is snow on the ground. Sons started a cougar association to share stories and everyone is welcome.

Nancy Hilding, Black Hawk, SD, Prairie Hills Audubon Society, spoke about 39 vulnerable species in South Dakota. Asked that the commission allow public comment be allowed remotely be video conferencing help protect the environment. Also requested the meeting start earlier to allow for all the comment on controversial topics. Opposed to nest predator bounty program.

Tom Pischke, Dell Rapids, SD would like to see some stocking at Lake Andes Lakes. Recently received an email from GFP regarding duck hunting limits. Likes the ability to shoot 5-6 hunts.

Senator VJ Smith, Brookings, SD spoke about senate bill 179 to require a habitat stamp where residents would pay \$10 each and nonresidents \$20 each. We are excluding a population of people who are simple just putting their guns away. It's time to fully enroll the James River Watershed. We all understand the need for improved habitat. Seen small towns in South Dakota fade away, but it is the first 3 weeks of pheasant season that makes a lot of their income. This is another way to help make these places attractive and projected revenue would be a little over 3 million and 2.7 million for aquatics.

PROPOSALS

Public Waters

Mike Klosowski, wildlife regional supervisor, presented the recommended changes to remove the current water safety zone at Mina Lake on the southwest side of the dam and remove the current water safety zone at Lake Norden. Klosowski explained the request to remove these safety zones as the areas are not active swimming beaches in these locations and no public desire for buoyed safety zones in these locations.

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Olson TO REMOVE THE WATER SAFETY ZONES AT MINA LAKE AND LAKE NORDEN AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, presented the recommended changes to the Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season. He explained that due to the presence of pneumonia, low recruitment and low ram numbers, the Department recommends retaining the hunting closure for Unit 1. The establishment and availability of licenses for Unit 4 (Hell Canyon) is a result of a successful transplant and availability of quality rams. The establishment and availability of a license for Custer State Park is the result of management implemented from research findings and will not negatively affect the viewability of bighorn sheep for park visitors.

1. No more than 8 bighorn sheep licenses may be issued.
2. Modify Unit 2 to include that portion of Custer and Fall River counties within a line beginning at the junction of SD Hwy 16 and the WY state line, east on SD Hwy 16 to the intersection of SD Hwy 16 and Mann Rd (USFS Rd 270) then south along the Mann Rd to Pass Creek Rd (USFS Rd 272) then south on Pass Creek to Richardson Cutoff (USFS Rd 276) then east on Richardson Cutoff to Pleasant Valley Rd (USFS Rd 715) then south on Pleasant Valley Rd to Pilger Mountain Rd (USFS

317) then south on Pilger Mountain Rd to County Rd 15 then south on County Rd 15 to SD Hwy 18 then west on SD Hwy 18 to County Rd 16 then north on County Rd 16 to Dewey Rd (USFS Rd 769) then north and west on Dewey Rd to the Custer County line then west on the Custer county line to the WY state line then north on the WY state line to the point of origin.

3. Establish Unit 4 which includes those portions of Custer and Pennington counties beginning at the junction of the WY state line and Summit Ridge Rd (USFS Rd 265) then north on Summit Ridge Rd to Boles Canyon Rd (USFS 117) then north on Boles Canyon Rd to Six-Mile Rd (USFS 301) the east on Six-Mile Rd to Ditch Creek Rd (USFS Rd 291) then south on Ditch Creek Rd to the Custer/Pennington county line then east on the Custer/Pennington county line to SD Hwy 79 then south on SD Hwy 79 to the Custer/Fall River county line then west on the Custer/Fall River county line to Pilger Mountain Rd (USFS Rd 317) then north on Pilger Mountain Rd to Pleasant Valley Rd (USFS Rd 715) then north and east on Pleasant Valley Rd to Richardson Cutoff (USFS Rd 276) then north on Richardson Cutoff to Pass Creek Rd (USFS Rd 272) then west and north on Pass Creek Rd to Mann Rd (USFS Rd 270) then north on Mann Rd to SD Hwy 16 then west on SD Hwy 16 to the WY state line then north on the WY state line to the point of origin, excluding Jewel Cave National Monument (SEE UNIT MAP).

4. Establish Custer State Park unit which includes the fenced portion of Custer State Park (SEE UNIT MAP)

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Olson TO APPROVED THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Elk - Chronic Wasting Disease

Switzer presented the recommended changes to chronic wasting disease endemic areas defined as listed.

1. Modify 41:06:03:15 (listed above) by adding the following deer hunting units: WRD-11B, WRD-15B, WRD-35A, WRD-35L within WRD-35A, WRD-31A, WRD-39B, WRD-49A, WRD-49B, WRD-60A, RFD-LC1 and RFD-LC2.
2. Modify 41:06:03:15 (listed above) by adding the following elk hunting units: BHE-H1, PRE-09A, PRE-11A, PRE-11B, PRE-11C, PRE-11D, PRE-35A and PRE-WRA.

He explained a CWD endemic area is defined as a hunting unit where CWD has been confirmed in wild cervids. Managing the transportation and disposal of carcasses or carcass parts outside of a known CWD endemic is critical in reducing the artificial spread of CWD. Hunting units identified as a CWD endemic area will automatically trigger intrastate transportation and carcass disposal requirements as outlined in 41:06:03:17, 41:06:03:18 and 41:06:03:19. Information regarding these new endemic areas and CWD regulations will be incorporated into all deer and elk applications so applicants are aware of these regulations for applicable hunting units.

Motioned by Boyd, second by Olson TO MODIFY THE LISTED CWD ENDEMIC AREAS. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to repeal the mandatory submission of samples for chronic wasting disease testing. He explained the goal of surveillance strategies in South Dakota is to determine the likely spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) to new units where the disease has not been detected in wild, free-ranging cervids. Assuming natural movement of CWD by wild cervids will provide the most predictable disease spread across the landscape, high surveillance sampling goals will be established for units with no known CWD positive wild cervids that are within the expected dispersal distance of a known, wild CWD positive cervid. Without pre-determined research design and management objectives, prevalence rates will not be quantified. If research objectives require prevalence rates or a management strategy will be implemented based on prevalence rate thresholds (i.e., implement management

strategy X if prevalence exceeds Y%), prevalence will be estimated by collecting a representative sample with desired levels of precision.

Motioned by Olson, second by Whitmyre TO REPEAL THE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE THAT REQUIRES THE MANDATORY SUBMISSION OF SAMPLES FOR CWD TESTING. Motion carried unanimously.

Elk – BH, Archery, CSP and Prairie

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Black Hills Elk Hunting Season to adjust the total number of available licenses from 425 “any elk” and 700 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 1,125 licenses) to 430 “any elk” and 715 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 1,145 licenses).

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Archery Elk Hunting Season to adjust the number of licenses available from 142 “any elk” and 80 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 222 licenses) to 142 “any elk” and 85 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 227 licenses).

Switzer presented the no recommended changes to the Custer State Park Special Antlerless Elk Hunting Season.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Custer State Park Archery Antlerless Elk Hunting Season to reduce the number of “any elk” licenses from 3 to 2.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Custer State Park Any Elk Hunting Season to reduce the number of “any elk” licenses from 8 to 7.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Prairie Elk Hunting Season to

3. Adjust the number of licenses available from 68 “any elk” and 73 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 141 licenses) to 78 “any elk” and 75 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 151 licenses).
4. Establish a new unit (PRE-WRA) for those portions of South Dakota west of the Missouri River not associated with another prairie elk unit, excluding Corson, Dewey, Oglala Lakota, Todd and Ziebach counties with season dates of September 1 to December 1-31 (see attached map).
5. Modify those portions of Unit 9 in Butte and Lawrence counties to include that area within a line beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highways 85 and 212, then east on Highway 212 to Whitewood Valley Road, then south on Whitewood Valley Road to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to U.S. Highway 85, then north on U.S. Highway 85 to point of origin. That portion of Unit 9 in Meade County would remain unchanged.
6. Modify Unit 15A to include those portions of Butte and Lawrence counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border, east on Sourdough Road to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then north to the point of origin.
7. Modify Unit 27A to include all of Fall River County not included in BHE-H3.
8. Eliminate Unit 30A (portions of Gregory County) and include this geographic area into the West River prairie unit.

Switzer presented the administrative action for elk license allocation by unit. (see appendix E)

He explained the intent of the changes being recommended are to allow an opportunity for adjustments to be made at finalization during the Commission meeting in March and in administrative rule to maximize hunter opportunity based on the results of

the upcoming aerial survey and to meet population objectives identified in the elk management plan.

Motioned by Locken, second by Olson TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ELK HUNTING SEASONS AND LICENSE ALLOCATIONS BY UNIT. Motion carried unanimously.

CSP Bison

Matt Snyder, parks and recreation regional supervisor, presented information on the Custer State Park Bison. He said fifteen non-trophy bull bison licenses are issued with seven allocated to South Dakota residents in a first draw. License holders are restricted to one day for the harvest, must arrange the hunt date with the Custer State Park office and shall be accompanied by an authorized park official when hunting. Eight trophy bull bison licenses are issued with two allocated to South Dakota residents in the first draw. Custer State Park's trophy bison harvest is the tool used to remove over mature bison bulls (10+ year-old) but is a sought after trophy opportunity. These bulls are eligible for Boone and Crockett awards and most qualify above the 115" minimum score. License holders are restricted to three days for the harvest and must arrange their hunting dates with the Custer State Park Office and be accompanied by an authorized park official when hunting. No changes to these are rules are recommended at this time.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Land Donation – Brown County

Paul Coughlin, program administrator, provided a request to accept 80 acres of property located eleven miles northeast of Aberdeen in Brown County. The property is a donation from the Frank L. Sieh Trust which contains significant habitat and hunting opportunities for pheasants and will be managed as a GPA.

Motion by Olson, second by Boyd TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-01 (APPENDIX A) AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF LAND IN BROWN COUNTY. Motion carried unanimously.

Pheasant Hunting Marketing Efforts

Jona Ohm, Strategic Communications Director for GFP, was joined by Kirk Hulstein, Industry Outreach & Development Director and Mike Gussiaas, Global Marketing & Brand Strategy Director from South Dakota Tourism. The presentation outlined Tourism's efforts to bring pheasant hunters to South Dakota, where these visitors spend approximately \$287 million each year. The number of visitors arriving in our state for the opening weekend of pheasant season rivals Memorial Day weekend, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and Labor Day weekend. Tourism spends approximately \$307,000 annually advertising in a number of ways including television, digital/internet ads, magazine spreads, podcasts and out-of-home opportunities like working with the MN Vikings to place ads around US Bank Stadium. Though Tourism and GFP work in tandem to bolster hunting and angling in South Dakota, messages from GFP differ based on the agency's mission and role. GFP messages to pheasant hunters and potential pheasant hunters includes licensing information, rules and regulations, and biological information.

In Governor Noem's State of the State address, she directed GFP and Tourism to join forces and secure South Dakota's legacy as the number one place to hunt pheasants in North America, and those efforts are getting underway.

Fish and Wildlife Service R3 Efforts – not presented due to meeting time limitations.

HuntSAFE and Bowhunter Education Update

Taniya Bethke, education division staff specialist, provide an update on HuntSAFE and bowhunter education noting regulation changes and efforts to produce engagement in activities and partnerships.

Captive Cervid Herds and CWD – not presented due to meeting time limitations.

CWD Update Chad Switzer – verbal

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, provided a brief update on chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance efforts. CWD was recently confirmed in Haakon and Butte counties. Since September of 2019, CWD has been detected in Bennett, Butte, Haakon, Harding, Jackson, Meade and Tripp counties. A detailed update on CWD surveillance efforts from the 2019 hunting season will be provided to the commission at the March meeting.

Aquatic Habitat Projects and Approach

Jason Jungwirth, senior fisheries biologist, stated declining aquatic habitat is a growing issue in South Dakota. This update will provide you with what aquatic habitat issues are affecting South Dakota waters. We will also discuss what the Department of Game, Fish and Parks is doing currently to address these issues and what we would like to be able to do moving forward. Our neighbor, Nebraska, has developed an extremely successful long-standing program addressing these same issues and what it will take for South Dakota to reach their success. You will also get to see some of the tools that can be used to address the issues through a case study of Lake Alvin, Lincoln County. Not one agency or group can tackle these issues on their own due to the magnitude and cost, but through partnerships, stakeholders and working together, successes can be achieved to improve water quality and aquatic habitat to enhance the quality of life for all South Dakotans.

Black Hills Fisheries Plan Update

Jake Davis, senior fisheries biologist, informed the Commission that the draft South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks 2020-2024 Black Hills Fisheries Management Area Plan was available for public comment. A brief overview was given on the structure of the plan and how it differed from the previous version. Additionally, examples of issues and objectives were provided for Black Hills streams and reservoirs. Finally, the Commission was notified that a public meeting would be held in Rapid City to discuss the draft plan.

License Sales Update and Year End Summary

Heather Villa, wildlife administration chief, presented license sales for 2019 were down \$1.4 million which equates to an 8% drop in license sales. We have seen a consistent drop since 2017. We are focusing on inclusive programming as well a joint marketing plan with Tourism to try to help combat this issue. We are not alone in this decline, as many other states are seeing a decline in hunter and angler participation. The national R3 (recruitment, retention, and reactivation) movement is focused on trying to increase outdoor recreation.

Distinguished Achievement Award

Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Division Director, provided background and selection process of determining the 2019 Distinguished Achievement award. The recipient was Nikolai O'Hara within the GIS section. Mr. O'Hara has produced several databases and GIS products which have made several agency programs and efforts more efficient and effective. He has assisted staff from every section within the department and he and his products have been a great asset to GFP. In recognition of his efforts and productivity, he was nominated by three different agency staff.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Custer State Park Private Cabin Transfer – not presented due to meeting time limitations

Roy Lake Concession Extension

Al Nedved, Deputy Director for the Division of Parks and Recreation, provided the Commission with a background on the numerous attempts to facilitate the sale of Roy Lake Resort located in Roy Lake State Park in Marshall County. Due to the inability for the resort to find a viable buyer, and the desire of the concessionaire to discontinue providing services, the Department entered into a purchase agreement with the concessionaire under the provisions of the concession rules. The current concession agreement expired on December 31, 2019. A condition of the purchase agreement was to allow the concessionaire to operate two additional months in 2020 to honor commitments made to host two fishing tournaments. At such time of closing on the property, the concessionaire will surrender concession rights. Department staff recommended resolution 20-05 that will extend the concession agreement for a period of one year.

Motion by Boyd, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-05 (APPENDIX B) EXTENDING THE CONCESSION AGREEMENT PERIOD FOR ONE YEAR. Motion carried unanimously.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Awards

Randy Kittle, grant and loan specialist, provided an overview of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program. The federal assistance program comes from the National Park Service and is administered in South Dakota by GFP. The program provides up to 50 percent reimbursement for outdoor recreation projects. He explained the open project selection process and use of SCORP to identify the priorities. He noted it is a competitive program informed the Commission of the awarded projects.

Capital Development Project Update

Al Nedved and Adam Kulesa, program administrator, presented a brief presentation highlighting current and FY 2021 proposed projects. Current year highlights included flood repair damage at Mina Lake Spillway, bridge replacement at Randall Creek, and the campground expansion at Lake Vermillion. Proposed FY2021 project highlights included Custer State Park Wildlife Loop asphalt overlay, Pelican Lake dump station, Farm Island trail repairs, Oahe Downstream shoreline repairs, and Phase I of the Palisades State Park expansion. The proposed FY2021 budget request of 11.8 million dollars includes 8 million dollars in preventative maintenance projects including 4.8 million dollars covering 27 different road repair projects.

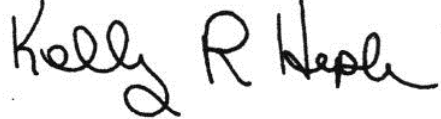
Revenue, Camping and Visitation Report

Al Nedved, parks and recreation deputy director, provide the year to date revenue, camping and visitation reports for all parks and districts.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kelly R Hepler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Kelly" is written with a large, looped 'K'. The middle initial "R" is smaller and more compact. The last name "Hepler" is written with a large 'H' and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission
January 16, 2020

The Commission Vice chair Scott Phillips began the public hearing at 2:00 p.m. CT at Capitol Lake Visitors Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Charles Spring, and Robert Whitmyre were present. Olson indicated written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes. Olson then invited the public to come forward with oral testimony.

Waterfowl

Dr. Jeffery Liudahl, Pierre, SD would like to see the opening date moved to September 6th because years with early frost the bluewing teal and wood ducks migrate. This early opening would enhance opportunity for hunting.

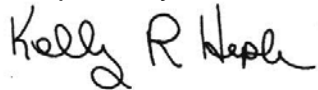
West River Spring Turkey – Use of Rifles

John Moisan, Ft. Pierre, SD nearly shot in 1977 turkey hunting and other incidents when riffles were used because they didn't see other hunters or shot across land. This also destroys the meat. Riffles are absolutely not necessary and is not safe in turkey hunting. The technology has changed over the years with sophisticated decoys.

John Cooper, Pierre, SD recently attended the NWTF state convention. Regulations need to be simple to follow. The department has gone through review processes to make regulations simple but each time you make an exception rules are no longer simple.

See attached written public comments submitted prior to the public hearing
The public Hearing concluded at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Appendix A
Resolution 20-01

WHEREAS, the Frank L. Sieh Revocable Trust, dated March 6, 2008, 2715 Old Pond Cove, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46819, owns real property (Property) described as:

West Half of the Northwest Quarter (W½NW¼) of Section Twenty-five (25), Township One Hundred Twenty-four (124) North, Range Sixty-two (62) West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota, subject to all other easements, restrictions, and reservations shown of record in the office of the Register of Deeds of Brown County, South Dakota, containing 80 acres, more or less; and

Whereas, pursuant to its wishes, the Frank L. Sieh Revocable Trust desires to gift and transfer title to the Property to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (Department) for use as a Game Production Area; and

Whereas, the Department has evaluated and determined that the Property would serve very well as a Game Production Area, offering wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife related outdoor recreational opportunities; and

Whereas, the Department is authorized to accept gifts of property for Game Production Area as per SDCL 41-2-19 and desires to accept the gift of the Property upon confirmation of the gift by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission; and

Whereas, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission desires to acknowledge the Department's acceptance of this gift of the Property from Frank L. Sieh Revocable Trust for use as a Game Production Area, and further acknowledge the extreme generosity of Frank L. Sieh Revocable Trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission does hereby confirm the decision by the Department to accept the transfer and gift of the Property from Frank L. Sieh Revocable Trust to be used as a Game Production Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission, on behalf of the citizens and sportspersons of South Dakota, does hereby acknowledge and express its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Frank L. Sieh Revocable Trust for its generosity, and further acknowledge the outdoor recreation opportunities this gift will provide to South Dakotans for many years to come.

Appendix B
Resolution 20-05

WHEREAS, the current Concession Lease Agreement at Roy Lake Resort located in Roy Lake Recreation Area dated January 1, 2004 expires on December 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, as required by the regulations promulgated by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission, the Department issued prospectuses to solicit a successor concessionaire for a new ten-year concession lease agreement; and

WHEREAS, the prospectus issuances expired and did not yielded an acceptable proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Department signed a settlement agreement on January 9, 2020 to purchase the Concessionaire Facilities and Personal Property from the Concessionaire with a closing date of March 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Concessionaire had previously scheduled an ice fishing tournament for late January and early February; and

WHEREAS, as further provided in the regulations promulgated by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission, the Commission may extend the Concession Lease Agreement for one year at a time; and

WHEREAS, the current Concessionaire, Janice Thames (Concessionaire) is agreeable to a one-year extension of the Concession Lease Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the GFP Commission does hereby approve an extension of the current Concession Agreement for one year resulting in an expiration date of December 31, 2020.

Appendix C
RESOLUTION 20-06
NEST PREDATOR BOUNTY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, pursuant to SDCL 40-36-9, SDCL 41-2-16, and SDCL 41-2-34, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks may conduct programs to control wild animals. The removal of nest predators from the landscape can enhance the nest success of pheasants, ducks and other ground nesting birds in South Dakota. Furthermore, such programs have proven to expose people to the trapping tradition and the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, Eighty-three percent of the general public supported the operation of the Nest Predator Bounty Program as demonstrated by a professional scientific survey; and

WHEREAS, Predator removal efforts on properties with habitat to increase nest success of pheasants and ducks has been used as a management technique in South Dakota for decades; and

WHEREAS, intensive predator removal efforts can enhance nest success of pheasants and ducks at localized levels when implemented at high intensities during the nesting season; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks has previously operated this program and paid all expenditures for this program from the fund established in SDCL 41-2-34 (license dollars) and plans to utilize these funds for 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission recognizes the Department of Game, Fish and Parks' desire to conduct the Nest Predator Bounty Program for 2020 and proposes for public consideration the following: an expenditure for five dollars per tail not to exceed \$250,000 for the bounty of nest predators. Participants under the age of 18 and landowners harvesting nest predators from their own land are not required to have a license. All other participants must have a hunting, fishing, or trapping license.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nest Predator Bounty Program shall be operated from April 1 to July 1, 2020, to coincide with the primary nesting season of pheasants, ducks, and other ground nesting birds. The method of take is expanded to include shooting of nest predators in addition to trapping.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commission, after considering comments, will determine if there will be a 2020 Bounty Program and if so, lay out the final parameters at the March 5th, 2020 Commission meeting, to include a method to identify and monitor goals of the program. Some of these goals include but are not limited to: removal of 50,000 nest predators, increase furbearer license sales by 5%, double participation in ETHICS SD, and have 20% of bounty participants under the age of 18.

Appendix D

Resolution 20-07

WHEREAS, Michael Hill of Aberdeen, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated January 13, 2020, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:06 (Hunting Seasons and Methods) – to create a special retirement tag for “any deer” for the reasons more fully set out in the petition (hereinafter referred to as “the Petition”); and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed and carefully considered the requirements and procedures set out in SDCL §1-26-13 and the contents of the Petition, including the reasons advanced by Petitioner in support of creating a retirement tag for an any deer; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the high demand for limited-draw deer and other big game lottery licenses; and

WHEREAS, for the 2019 deer hunting season there were 9,580 deer applicants that were 65 years of age or older for all deer season applicants; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has recently implemented changes such as the cubing of preference points and modified the deer drawing structure to enhance an applicant’s success in drawing their preferred deer license; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has received prior requests from the public and organizations for unique license types and season structures and has not proceeded due to current options available and the difficulty in establishing new licenses from an equitable standpoint ; and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department are taking on efforts to update the education plan with a strong emphasis on R3; this process would be an appropriate place to further discuss this and other types of license options.

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

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

Appendix E 2020-2021 Elk Hunting Seasons

2019

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

2020-2021

Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	60		
H1B		30	
H2A	255		
H2B		75	
H2C		75	
H2D		25	
H2E		75	
H2F		75	
H2G		75	
H2H		15	
H2I		15	
H2J		15	
H3A	80		
H3B		15	
H3C		15	
H3D		15	
H3E		50	
H3F		50	
H3G		50	
H4A	10		
H4B		15	
H5A	5		
H7A	10		
H7B		10	
H9A	10		
H9B		20	
TOTAL	430	715	1,145
Contingency	NA	143	143

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

Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	20	15	
H2A	95	50	
H3A	25	20	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	5		
H9A			
30A			
TOTAL	147	85	232

Prairie Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
9A	10	10	
11A		18	
11B	16		
11C	16		
11D		30	
15A	8	5	
27A	10	10	
30A			
35A	8		
West River	Not Applicable		
TOTAL	68	73	141

Custer State Park			
Season	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
CEE-CU1	3		
CUE-CU1	9		
TOTAL	12		12

Prairie Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
9A	10	10	
11A		20	
11B	16		
11C	16		
11D		30	
15A	8	5	
27A	10	10	
30A			
35A	8		
West River	10		
TOTAL	78	75	153

Custer State Park			
Season	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
CEE-CU1	2		
CUE-CU1	8		
TOTAL	10		10

Public Comments

Other

Rodney Lindner

Watertown SD

Position: support

Comment:

I could not Email anyone from your sites... Your site is really POOR and not effective. and my QUESTIONS IS Hi ...I still have the ANY DEER licence for this year,, I did not get a deer, Can I use this if I only want to try for the Antlerless Deer .. During the special antlerless deer season.. Season.. and NOT shoot a Buck. ??thanks MUCH, ROD LINDNER IN WATERTOWN SD you can email me sallyann@iw.net

David Longville

Eau Claire WI

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have been purchasing out of state fishing licenses, turkey tags and archery deer licenses for over 25 years. This past year the SDGFP has made serious changes for the purchasing of licenses for out of state residents. I can only conclude that by doing this you are trying to eliminate non-resident hunting and fishing Obviously that makes no sense for the department. But neither does forcing me to purchase my archery tag 8 months in advance.

This is ridiculous. What if something happens to me or my family?

What if something changes with my work schedule and vacation time?

I am certain you have your reasons for these changes.

But none of those benefits your non-resident licensees.

My brother lives in the hills.

And another brother lives in Colorado.

Perhaps we will start purchasing are licenses in Montana, Wyoming or Colorado instead.

This is becoming too much of a hassle.

I mean I could see planning a hunting trip to Alaska 8 months in advance. But not a trip to SD where I stay with my brother.

Very disappointed

Waterfowl Hunting Season-Duck

Dan Stengle

Raymond SD

Position: other

Comment:

With waterfowl license sales plummeting, it would seem to be time to open up nonresident waterfowl hunting to beyond what is now a 3-day lottery, the application for which is due in mid-July to hunt a migratory bird that is weather-dependent.

These are the same waterfowl that are hunted in North Dakota. There, a nonresident can walk into a convenience store and buy a 14-day statewide waterfowl license.

My wife and I are nonresidents who grew up in South Dakota. We hope to retire there, but for business reasons I must maintain my out-of-state residency for now. My wife and I own a quarter section in Clark County. There seems to be no resource-based reason that I cannot go to our farm and shoot some ducks without having to decide in July what three days I may get a chance to hunt on my own farm.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Dan R. Stengle

Jim Gruber

Estelline SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

just leave well enough alone... by opening the season earlier does nothing .. over the last 10 years the ducks have been arriving later every year.. usually after opening weekend it pretty much grinds to a halt til the migration starts... and by lowering the scaup to one per day pretty much wipes out diver hunting all together... so the only birds left after opener are mallards arriving from the migration which doesnt really start til november.

Waterfowl Hunting Season-Goose

Maury Mcalister

Waubay SD

Position: other

Comment:

Why not add 5 days to the donation period for the early canada goose hunt---the late start only covers 12 days and only 2 week ends. We donate most of our birds and the extra week end would help us plus a bonus for the people that are in need. Was the same situation this year (2019). thank you

West River Spring Turkey-Use of Rifles

Martin Hunt

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hunting of any animal should be about ethics and fair chase. How is shooting a bird with a long distance rifle ether ? I feel only shotguns or bows should be allowed.

Charles Anderson

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I have been hunting turkeys for 40 years and have never had a problem with rifles on the plains. This allows senior citizens to continue to hunt with our family, especially if we have mobility issues. Please allow rifles to be allowed.

Christian Frank

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

SD GF&P Commissioners:

Hunting turkeys with rifles during spring hunts is simply DANGEROUS! I applaud the SD Game Fish and Parks for addressing this issue throughout the state, and recommend the maintaining of ONE STANDARD. Although private landowners can limit access - which MAY reduce risk - the fact is these safety issues will still be present along property borders and/or roadways.

I oppose any use of rifles for turkey hunting during spring hunts.

The fact that rifle hunting only effectively allows for long range "spot" hunting and/or "road" hunting only further degrades any validity in this proposal. Hunting seasons need to maintain the proper and respectful traditions of past skilled hunters, if we are to have any chance of successfully promoting hunting as a future sport for our youth.

Thank you,

Christian Frank
Custer, SD

Jason Kral

Yankton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

With today's turkey decoys looking so real allowing rifles is just asking for someone to get shot or shot at. It's not worth it! Plus using rifles takes ALL the fun out of Spring turkey hunting!!!

John Mondloch

Hudson WI

Position: support

Comment:

I have hunted on ranches South of Winner for many years. The landowners all agree that the use of rifles is fine with them. We only use them in open country and not around the buildings. I hope you will allow that to continue. Please don't stop the use of rifles because of only a possibility that something might happen or bad behavior by a few.

Public Comments

Other

Mark Smedsrud

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose the petition for adding 500 nonresident special buck tags to the east river season. I feel this is a way of steering our traditions toward the selling of landowner tags. East river as a whole is over hunted and the deer populations would see further decline. The petition claims it wouldn't be impacted, but in fact the addition of 55 tags is more than some counties are allotted. I urge the commission to keep our traditions and continue with the new drawing system. Non residents have plenty of opportunity in the far less populated areas of western SD along with unlimited archery tags. Thanks for your consideration

Dan Waldman

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the petition to add 500 Non-Resident Special buck tags for East River. It will continue to push for further commercialization of hunting, and further affect the resident hunters that choose to live and raise families here. Thanks

Thad Nafziger

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As to a special pool of special buck non-resident east river tags..I strongly oppose,figure out a management system as far as wildlife (ie don't lease ground that is basically a parking lot for years on end..hello crop rotation schedule)that is sustainable for wildlife population,& you won't have to look elsewhere to replace lost license dollars, because the numbers won't drop, should only increase with good opportunities. You are not doing the bidding of your state residents, I know in my heart of hearts it's a means to an end for our birthright & heritage as South Dakotans,& that is exactly what you folks desire. Your commission needs to either be abolished or be a strictly elected position..so they have a constituency to answer to. I know you folks will not stop until you have pushed the little guy, resident hunter out,& are collecting high dollar license & special permit fees from out of staters who are only here a few days & never question your policies or procedures.Maybe if there is not enough license dollars to sustain your budget (if you are truly funded by license dollars & not other sources..ie special interest groups ect.)then you should look at cutting staff to conform to budget constraints, like the rest of the fiscally responsible works does, vs. taking opportunities away from residents to fund your Dept.,...& you folks know as well as we do, no matter the number of licenses you keep for residents, allowing more people (ie out of staters) definitely does take away an opportunity for a resident (simple math folks) . More animals harvested, less animals in the population to be taken. I can write a thousand e-mails & it will not stop your quest to open up ALL big game (to include our elk population)to our if state hunters who pay more & never question your policy & procedure. The Dept of game fish & parks continues to do a disservice to it's residents.

Bob Messerli

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

NR east river tags! NO

Spencer Neuharth

Bozeman MT

Position: support

Comment:

I'm writing to strongly support the addition of 500 non-resident special buck tags.

I'm a former South Dakota resident who recently moved to Montana. I have family with land in eastern South Dakota that I can't rifle hunt (even though those with family land in western South Dakota can rifle hunt), and these tags would allow that. The state already makes it difficult on out-of-staters, not allowing any public land hunting for the entire first month of September. It seems incredibly harsh that I can't come home and hunt public land for all of September, and I can't come home to hunt family land with a gun.

I would gladly hand over \$500 every year for a chance to come back home for what would be my favorite hunt of the season.

Chad Taecker

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Between the non-meandered waters and the tag allocation you guys just seem to want to mess everything up. No wonder why the sportsmen's and woman are leaving the water and the fields. South Dakota doesn't need any additional influence from the "The Big coalition" nor out of state influence. Take care of our state and it's sportsman!

No Non-resident special buck!

Chris Larson

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am strongly opposed to offering more big game licenses to out of state hunters. Do not take away opportunities for residents to get a license.

R. Craig Oberle

Mellette SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am against any proposal to allow special bucks tags to non residents for east river deer. This is just selling out again to the non residents. Then you wonder why resident hunting numbers are down? Time to stop further commercialization of our hunting

Bill Sorensen

Beresford SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

East River nonresident special buck. I am totally against this.

Jason Lee

Cresbard SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose the proposal for 500 NR tags for east river. It will be devastating to the local hunting opportunities available and change our great state to pay to hunt. Unacceptable. Thanks, Jason

Travis Engle

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Proposal 500
take care of your resident hunters first or hunter numbers will continue to decline

Jamie Mertins

Willow Lake SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please withdraw from the non resident east river special buck license. There is hardly enough opportunity for licenses for our SD residents

Joe Henderson

Colton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing regarding the petition for the 500 NR East River special buck tags.

Vote this down with a NO. Vote it down with authority! no compromises, no restructure, the simple answer of this is no! The fact that this petition has even made the table is very sad.

Why should this be voted no? Many reasons. It will all be a chain effect.

- 1) This is already a high demand tag. We don't need to give tags to NR. Let's take care of our residents first.
- 2) These 98% of these hunters will only hunt pay for private ground. This will only expand out fitters in south Dakota, is that what we really want? Pay to play? This will encourage more and more farmers not to enroll their land into public WIA, or Creps etc.
 - a. Do we really want hunting to become only commercialized in south Dakota? That is the route it is going. Great example is pheasant hunting. Right now licenses are down, why? Because people don't want to come to South Dakota and pay big bucks to shoot a bird. However, the rich will, they always have they always will. Don't let hunting south Dakota become a rich man's sport.
 - b. This will completely ruin the hunting sport in south Dakota. More and more youth will not be able to hunt because frankly, a lot of family will not be able to afford it.

PLEASE! Think past the money on this one. Please get Kristi Noem out of the commissionions ear and listen to the people of South Dakota! If this passes, this is the GFP just trying to make a play to make money. The only thing worse, is a politician who thinks she is a biologist.

The only argument to this is "if someone has a son who lives out of state and they want to be able to hunt their fathers land." If that is the argument, then the landowner rules may need to change or have different wording.

Randall Maddox

Redfield SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the petition to allow Out of State White Tail Deer Any deer license.

Pat Malcomb

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I understand there is a petition to allow out of state hunters East River deer tags. This is a BAD idea, East River public land is already hunted to hard, plus it takes a lot of preference to get a good tag, and all this will do is turn the East River farms into pay hunting. It took us many years to find good property to hunt and even that land is over crowded. We already messed up the deer tag lottery lets not compound the problem by making it harder on in state deer hunters, we can't afford to keep losing hunters due to lack of land to hunt.

Andrew Stainbrook

Parkston SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I heard there is a proposal to put 500 nonresident tags east river. I am strongly against it. Especially with it being a any county east river tag. All land is gonna be eaten up by outfitters! No more asking for permission cause the farmers are gonna see extra dollars for leases. With only 150 resident tags in my county and even less in past 4 years there is still 9 guys within half mile of my house hunting every opening day rifle. I know they are not getting a county wide tag every year and I'm pretty positive they are getting landowner tags and not hunting their land. I don't think we need more hunters on the small population of our deer in this county. The only thing I could accept would be a percent of county specific tags like west river deer. But until you get a handle on the illegal landowner tags in my area I strongly oppose any more tags

Doug Boer

Madison SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Folks, I can't even believe the additional 500 NR deer tags was brought up, any such tags that the state feels there are need to go to Residents. this kind of thing will open up to a lot of things that we just don't need in our state, we need to be making sure that we increase opportunities to old and young alike, this will take away from those groups.

Strongly opposed to this idea!

Jesse Kurtenbach

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose 500 NR special buck tags.

Before adding these tags we should consider a come home to hunt program for nonresidents born in SD or 8% to NR in the draw. Adding 500 special buck tags will be the end of the SDGFP being able to lease WIA east river. Outfitters will join forces with pheasant lodges and lease up anything with habitat for more than \$2/acre. Outfitted rifle hunts being sold by the petitioner are \$3500. The only reason for this petition is money. The common SD hunter will be pushed to the back of the line.

Dana Rogers

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Non-Resident East River Special Buck Petition

Commissioners,

The petition to add 500 Non-Resident firearm permits to the east river rifle season is yet another example of commercializing our public trust resources. I respect private property and landowners rights. It's entirely up to them who is granted access to their property, when and the decision to charge for the privilege if they so choose.

We SD sportsmen continue to see our opportunities decrease through privatization and commercialization of the public's resources. Look at the reduction in license sales and the funding sources that fuel the department. The correlation is directly tied to access and opportunity.

Though private landowners and outfitters have every right to do as they wish within the law, the wildlife is not theirs to sell. By continuing to increase non-resident licenses to tip the scales in favor of commercial interests, it reduces opportunity and access for residents.

Firearm licenses are difficult enough for a resident to obtain in many East River units already, now with this petition it pushes that opportunity further from reach.

The west river special buck permits and the 8% west river allocation was originated to placate the outfitter industry, now that commercialization movement continues. We continue to surge toward the model used in Europe that was the basis for the creation of our North American wildlife model. The peoples wildlife, not the "King's".

I ask that you vote against this petition and consider the severe future ramifications of commercializing our public trust resources.

Thank you for your time.

Patricia Braun

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

please educate the governor to help her know the bounty for tails of predators is not a good program, is too costly, does not get kids outdoors. Encourage her to use our tax money to improve game fish&parks pay! thank you for all you do with the little staff you have!

Dave Hagen

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm not in favor of the Nest Predator Bounty Program. Please be better stewards of our tax dollars.

Lorri May

Madison SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program. Why do we kill animals so that we may kill other animals? Instead of spending the proposed \$1M on this, let's spend it on education. Or food for seniors. Or sheltering the homeless. Please do something rather than letting Kristi Noem do whatever she wants, which usually hurts South Dakotans.

Gregory Palmer

Nemo SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Stop the Nesting Predator Bounty Program! I am a SPORTSMAN! There is no SPORT in killing animals in there nests! It is inhumane and goes against all the ethics involved in the hunting and killing of wild animals! Don't you think man has screwed the environment enough! Nature is the GREAT EQUALIZER! Let her do her work!! Stop It!!

Julie Anderson

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am vehemently opposed to using GF&P funds and/or state funds to give away free traps to encourage children to kill, dismember, then throw away the carcass of an animal and possibly its young (if is female) for "fun and recreation". The Nest Predator Bounty program is morally reprehensible and should never be considered for renewal. End this program permanently.

Wendy Luedke

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program for the following OBVIOUS reasons:

1. It is not an ecologically sound plan. Killing the predators of pheasants does not solve the dwindling population, it just causes more ecological issues such as an overrun of other animals the predators eat. Providing more marshlands is how to solve this.
2. Our wildlife is not here for sacrifice to the few, seasonal businesses that thrive on the killing of animals. Our State needs a more solid economy and employment plan.
3. IT IS CRUEL AND INHUMANE and SENSELESS!
4. I am not a supporter of providing graft for our governor.

Kris Stapelberg

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I cannot believe you are seriously considering having a Nest Predator Bounty again this year. It did nothing the help our Game Bird numbers and did everything to hinder the rest of our wildlife. It also cost the state a whole lot of money that could be better spent elsewhere. With all the negative media we got throughout the country last year (despite you trying so hard to show how wonderful it is for kids to kill animals on your Facebook page), you can bet a lot of people will be crossing South Dakota off the list to visit this year. And I don't blame them. I love this state, but I am thoroughly embarrassed by it right now.

Dean Parker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing in opposition of renewing the "Nest Predator Bounty Program" for 2020.

Not only is trapping an ineffective method of wildlife conflict management, but it is a cruel way for any animal to die – including pets and other non-targeted animals that will get caught in these traps.

Wildlife management professionals across the U.S. have long acknowledged the ineffectiveness of bounties and predator control, including South Dakota's own Habitat Work Group in its 2014 report to Governor Daugaard. To my knowledge, no science-based evidence has been presented to suggest that the species targeted by this "Nest Predator Bounty Program" (opossums, raccoons, skunks, badgers or red fox) are negatively impacting pheasant populations.

Furthermore, each native species plays an important role in our ecosystem. In particular, opossums are a great benefit to any area they inhabit. Their diet includes snails, mice, rats, and insects such as cockroaches, crickets, beetles and disease-carrying ticks.

This program is simply not backed by science-based wildlife management principles. If GFP wants more game birds for hunters, please focus on improving their habitat - not killing indigenous species that play an important role in that habitat.

West River Spring Turkey-Use of Rifles

Pat Malcomb

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I think as long as this is used on private land it should be fine, I support this.

Brandon Mickelson

Rochester MN

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

I am writing regarding the petition for the 500 NR East River special buck tags.

Vote this down with a NO. Vote it down with authority! no compromises, no restructure, the simple answer of this is no! The fact that this petition has even made the table is very sad.

Why should this be voted no? Many reasons. It will all be a chain effect.

- 1) This is already a high demand tag. We don't need to give tags to NR. Let's take care of our residents first.
- 2) These 98% of these hunters will only hunt pay for private ground. This will only expand out fitters in south Dakota, is that what we really want? Pay to play? This will encourage more and more farmers not to enroll their land into public WIA, or Creps etc.
 - a. Do we really want hunting to become only commercialized in south Dakota? That is the route it is going. Great example is pheasant hunting. Right now licenses are down, why? Because people don't want to come to South Dakota and pay big bucks to shoot a bird. However, the rich will, they always have they always will. Don't let hunting south Dakota become a rich man's sport.
 - b. This will completely ruin the hunting sport in south Dakota. More and more youth will not be able to hunt because frankly, a lot of family will not be able to afford it.

PLEASE! Think past the money on this one. Please get Kristi Noem out of the commissionions ear and listen to the people of South Dakota! If this passes, this is the GFP just trying to make a play to make money. The only thing worse, is a politician who thinks she is a biologist.

The only argument to this is "if someone has a son who lives out of state and they want to be able to hunt their fathers land." If that is the argument, then the landowner rules may need to change or have different wording.

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
nhilshat@rapidnet.com
605-787-6466
January 12th, 2020

Opposition to Nest Predator Bounty Program and to giving away free traps,

Dear SD Game, Fish and Parks Commissioners,

We have heard that Kristi Noem wants to spend another million on a nest predator bounty program this year; we are not sure if she wants to give away traps as well as offer bounties. Under current law (SDCL 40-36-9) the staff of Game, Fish and Parks has the authority to approve a nest predator bounty program and fund it, without the consent or permission of the Commission or even the Governor.

http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=40-36-9

If the staff wants another bounty program, please don't do this "behind closed doors". If you wish to repeat the program, we hope you will put this matter before the Commission for a decision by them, with a public comment period first. We believe this is a very controversial issue and thus, if you continue this issue to March and are taking public comment in March, that you should have remote hubs at Outdoor Campuses West and East to take remote public comments by teleconference or video-conference.

We object to this expenditure of SDGFP funds. We think last year's plan (about 1.4-1.5 million) was supposed to consume about 2.5% of your budget. By statute, funds must come from GFP funds or animal damage control funds and lots of GFP and ADC revenues are derived from hunter's fees/licenses. We believe many hunters and biologists believe this won't work and is a waste of money; money that would be much better spent on habitat protection or development.

We don't believe that statewide bounty programs on predators work to increase pheasant or duck populations. In order for predator removal to work, it needs to be more intense and in smaller areas. We refer you to Pheasants Forever & Ducks Unlimited web pages:

<https://www.pheasantsforever.org/Habitat/Pheasant-Facts/Effects-of-Predators.aspx>

https://www.ducks.org/media/Conservation/Conservation_Documents/_documents/Ducks%20and%20Predators%20low%20res.pdf

Also see page 11 of SDGFP Pheasant Management Plan, the section on predators:

"Where predator control may be considered as a management option, managers should be aware that cost, logistics, and lack of effectiveness often limit success when compared to habitat management."

<https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/pheasant-mngmnt-planpdf.pdf>

We hope that SDGFP will instead focus programs to increase habitat, not kill predators.

We object to a statewide bounty also, as the pheasants are not evenly distributed across the state, with parts of western SD lacking pheasants. The ponds and wetlands needed to support ducks much less common in western SD. So predators may be killed in areas where their deaths could do nothing for pheasants or ducks.

Predators also provide important functions such as killing small mammals, which can carry "pests". There is plague in western SD. Plague is spread by fleas often carried on rodents, which these small predators might eat. Lyme disease is in eastern SD. It is spread by ticks, which can be carried by mice. SD's bounty program will be removing some of the rodent's predators.

Some trappers will be trapping with leg-hold traps or snares, or body crushing traps. Some will use the live traps. People should also realize that in SD's west river the trap check time is "3 and a partial-day" and east river the trap check time is "2 and a partial-day". Trapping can be cruel. In high heat, an animal in a box can die in half a day. Animals in boxes or leg-hold traps can freak out and damage their bodies and/or teeth & thus not survive even if released. Animals in boxes or traps can't feed their dependent children.

Even via a "live trap" non-target species adults and their dependent young can die, in addition to target species. This may include endangered and threatened species. The swift fox is listed under SD threatened & endangered species law and could be trapped and killed inadvertently: <https://gfp.sd.gov/natural-heritage-program/>
There is a petition before the USFWS to list the plains spotted skunk and the prairie grey fox under the Endangered Species Act. These could be trapped and killed inadvertently: <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/mammals.php>

Increasing pheasants harms SD's greater prairie chicken. The greater prairie chicken is

a "vulnerable species" losing about half its' population every decade. Male pheasants (an exotic species) fight with and drive off male prairie chickens and female pheasants lay eggs in their nests, and pheasants hatch first causing abandonment of chicken eggs. You can read in the IUCN Red List about greater prairie chicken:

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22679514/92817099>

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22679514/92817099 - assessment-information>

GFP claims part of the reason for the trap give-away and bounty is to involve kids in trapping. We believe there is an ethical issue here. We assume you are teaching kids the killing of predators (and indirectly their dependent young) is justified by saving ducks and pheasants. What happens to children's trust in adults & the GFP when they learn that bounties don't work to protect pheasants/ducks and they were misled to kill that opossum and her babies for unjust cause? What happens to their enjoyment of hunting/trapping or their trust of trapping advocates, especially those kids with empathy and a conscience?

The State gave away 1 million in money for kids to engage with wildlife in a lethal way. Why not introduce children to nature by giving them binoculars, bird feeders, cameras and/or wildlife ID books? Why not have parity -- in 2019 you gave to involvement in lethal recreation. In 2020 why not spend 1 million on non-lethal involvement of children with wildlife. Organize things like photography contests with prizes for children who take the best wildlife photos or prizes for completing wildlife check lists? Why must we engage with and teach about wildlife by killing them? Why doesn't GFP look at new ways to raise money...such as photo contests with entry fees or fund raise for walk-in "wildlife watching" areas, not just selling wildlife death.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Hilding", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

February 21, 2019

TO: Kristi Noem South Dakota Governor

From: Danny Hubregtse

1515 E ST patrick Street

#293

Rapid City, SD 57703

Cell phone: (605) 431-9699

E-mail: dghubregtse@gmail.com

RE: 2019 Spring Wild Turkey Regulation
under the heading LEGAL FIREARMS

In response to South Dakota Game,
Fish and Parks 2019 Spring Wild Turkey
Regulation not including a rimfire,
centerfire or muzzle loading rifle,
please remember that we should not
disregard the experience of age and
the multitude of years I have been
hunting turkey - my entire life.

yearly I eagerly wait with enthusiasm
+ look forward to Spring Turkey Hunting.
From an early age I have always taken
my child, now my grandchildren and

other youngsters.

I have always been accommodating + helpful in bringing about a harmonious adaption to nature in a turkey hunting environment with youngsters.

Its springtime the budding + blooming of the plants. The children smell them + search for a variety of colored blooms, learning from each other, asking a lot of questions pertaining to nature. They run + play + entertain each other at their own pace. They want to see whats over the next hills go down by the water/streams where wildlife + birds drink and look at there tracks and identify them. There hearts desire is to see more. In doing so they are also looking for hiding places for the next turkey hunting outing. Now its like the game hide and seek, see if you can find/see me. They have realized they need to hide behind rocks, dirt and grass mounds, larger trees standing and also fallen trees, bushes, various vegetation etc, so as not to be seen by the turkeys.

They then realize on the next hunting outing along with a good hiding location it needs to be comfortable so they can endure not moving.

The youngsters have observed that turkeys have very good eyesight and are very good at detecting movement. When the youngsters move they have learned the turkeys response is to run or fly away.

please keep in mind that it is very, very difficult for a child to sit motionless for any length of time.

I do have some suggestions.

1. A shotgun is heavy and very short range gun for turkeys. A child is inexperienced, they are small, some not very strong. They lack physical coordination, skill, grace. They are awkward in bringing the shotgun to their shoulder to shoot and by now the turkey is fleeing and out of range.

They put in a lot of time and effort to find a hiding place and sit motionless.

They put out great effort again, & again and again to bag a turkey but their hope, desire & expectation slowly erode.

In my opinion to meet the demand of a child using a shotgun is not in their best interest.

please give the children a better chance of bagging a turkey.

2. I would also suggest the LEGAL FIREARMS Regulation be changed for a child up to the age of 18 years of age.

A .22 caliber Long Rifle rimfire rifle should be allowed for them.

They grew up and practiced many hours with a rifle shooting .22 caliber long rifle ammunition. Its lighter than a shotgun, its shorter no recoil, it has more range and they are comfortable with that rifle.

It goes back to the saying "beware of the person with 1 gun, they know how to use it." When one is comfortable with a gun they enjoy practice and everyone is much safer. They know their own capabilities and comfort zone more than anyone else.

As they age they will decide in their own mind and then ask if they can have a more entergetic gun. That makes my heart sing! They graduated at their own pace.

Everyone who has ever hunted has wounded a creature that has escaped. It is an unpleasant & distasteful feeling. Because that youngster enjoys what they are doing we are born with desire & attitude to practice, practice, practice so that does not happen again. I'm there practicing with them and we all enjoy the time spent practicing and improving.

Creatures as do people die for

Various reasons daily without the use of firearms.

At this time I explain to them the life cycle of creatures, vegetation etc as well as nature's food chain cycles and the life cycles of nature. From then on the youngsters will remind each other.

After making a mistake children learn the do's + don't's. They are eager to correct the mistake.

3. As a senior citizen and Grandpa I would like to use a centerfire rifle for turkey hunting for a few reasons.

With age one lacks physical capability, stealth, gracefulness, agility, strength, stamina etc.

Using a centerfire rifle as an adult senior citizen this will still make turkey hunting possible, fun and enjoying the great outdoors of South Dakota.

Above all spending quality time

with children of various ages makes my heart sing!

When Dad's + Mom's + Grandparents bag a turkey that's what they also want to do even when they are not of age yet. They want to be like their parents and Grandparents.

Children learn more by what they see you do than by what they hear you say.

please don't be so difficult with the children.

please reconsider your decision + allow the use of rimfire + centerfire fire arms.

These children trust the people that love them and they try their best to please + love those people in return. These children's hearts and minds are so very tender and need tender loving care by the people they look up to and that spend quality time with them.

It is so very healthy for them mentally and the physical exercise.

There are a lot of us that still hunt the primitive way. We don't have the camouflage blinds and the comforts in them. We use what nature has to offer. Like I stated earlier it's difficult for a child to sit motionless. Because their desire is to bag a turkey they discipline and train themselves to be motionless. It's awesome when no words need to be spoken as they are their own best trainers/teachers.

We don't have the camouflage equipment, netting, outfits etc. We wear everyday clothes, jackets, overshoes etc. We have no decoys only a rifle and a turkey call.

The youngsters have already observed that turkeys have very good eye sight and are very good at detecting movement.

As previously stated there are many

reasons why the distance between us and the wild turkeys is significantly greater. I am again asking that you please reconsider your decision and give us a better opportunity for the children to bag a turkey & keep them interested in hunting and the great outdoors in South Dakota!

Its really, really fun when the adults say very very little and they themselves figure things out to be successful in how to bag a turkey. When they get legal hunting age they are safety minded, already trained and field ready!

please allow them to use a .22 caliber rimfire gun using long rifle ammunition that they have practiced with, are comfortable with & know how to use and operate. That in itself is a major safety issue.

please allow a centerfire rifle also

for the reasons I stated as a senior citizen and Grandpa.

Above all spending quality time together in the great outdoors. This is very important to us and others as well.

I thank you kindly in reconsidering your decision.

Sincerely,

Danny Hulbregtse

A response will be greatly appreciated either by my above mailing address or by the above e-mail address which ever works best for you.

Thank you

Danny Hulbregtse