

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission October 3-4, 2019

Chairman Gary Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CT at the AmericInn Conference Center in Chamberlain, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Travis Bies, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Scott Phillips, Douglas Sharp, Robert Whitmyre and approximately 45 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 September 5-6, 2019 meeting minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Phillips with second by Bies TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2019 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

No additional commissioner salary days were presented.

Second Century Initiatives Update

Habitat Programs: Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Division Deputy Director, provided a status report of the current working lands habitat program. Kirschenmann shared that there are now 19 agreements in place for a total of 1,064 acres. These agreements are found primarily in east-central South Dakota and a few in the western part of the state. Total financial obligations for these acres enrolled are about \$212,800 between agreements and associated seed. Staff are currently visiting with landowners to determine if fall seed plantings are still a viable option.

Crowdsourcing: Deputy Secretary Kevin Robling explained to the Commission that about 10 different ideas have been generated from the crowdsourcing exercise and have been shared with the Governor's office. GFP will continue discussions with the Governor to narrow down the list to a likely 3-4 final ideas to be enacted.

Bounty Program Review and Live Trap Giveaway: Deputy Secretary Robling shared that the bounty program is currently going through an assessment process. An outside entity (Responsive Management) has been contracted to conduct a public opinion survey to gather input on the program. Results are to be available by early December and will be shared with the Commission.

Bighorn Sheep Auction License: Deputy Director Kirschenmann verified the online auction for the 2020 bighorn sheep tag closed on September 23 with a successful bid of \$312,000. Kirschenmann explained, through previous action taken by the Commission, that the first \$85,000 would go towards bighorn sheep management in SD and the remaining proceeds to be split between Game Production Area habitat enhancements and the Habitat Fund to support the working lands program. The

Midwest Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation is in their final stages of processing the successful bid and will be sending the entire \$312,000 to GFP.

Second Century Habitat Fund Board Update

Deputy Secretary Kevin Robling and Wildlife Division Deputy Director Tom Kirschenmann provide an update on the Second Century Habitat Fund Board.

WMI Program Review Update

Keith Fisk, wildlife program manager, provided an update on the external review of the Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) /Animal Damage Control (ADC) Programs. Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) was awarded the project by the Governor's Office in April. WMI has done similar reviews for other state wildlife management agencies and some commissioners may recall that WMI completed a similar review of GFP's Big Game Management Program in 2012. WMI will review/evaluate the past 10 years of programs and services including policies and procedures, operations and services, structure, budget, communication, transparency and accountability and strengths and weaknesses. WMI will present their final report and findings to the Governor's Office and GFP Commission, likely at the December 2019 meeting.

Non-Meandered Waters Update

Deputy Secretary Kevin Robling provided an update on non-meandered waters.

Tribal Relations Update

Arden Petersen, special assistant to the Secretary, provided an update on tribal relations.

Meeting Format and Board Management Software

Secretary Hepler discussed ways to more efficiently organize the Commission meetings by adjusting the agenda and better aligning season dates. This will allow staff to get materials to the Commission, public and IRRC earlier.

PETITIONS

Preference Point System

Tony Leif, wildlife division director presented the petition received from Scott Johnson, Fort Pierre, SD. The submitted petition requests a change to the current preference point system for all big game season to be a true bonus point system because he feels the system is complicated and not a true preference point system.

Leif noted this is contrary from what we generally hear from our hunters who like the weighted lottery.

Motion by Phillips, second by Boyd TO REJECT THE PETITION BY RESOLUTION 19-27 (appendix B). Motion passes unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 1:58 p.m. and concluded at 3:10 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.

Nancy Hilding, Prairie Hills Audubon Society, Black Hawk, SD said she only got a final version of the mountain lion plan yesterday. There is breeding on the prairie and these are stepping stones. Want you to draw circles around breeding in the prairie unit to protect the population. GFP says local folks do not want this but maybe they will. Lots of people in the state who wildlife watch and hike and they are constituents too.

FINALIZATIONS

Chronic Wasting Disease Regulations

Switzer presented the recommendation to establish new rules related to transportation and disposal of deer and elk carcasses from other states and hunting units within South Dakota's known endemic areas where Chronic Wasting Disease had been confirmed. One change from proposal would be to add BHR-H1 to the list of elk hunting units within the known CWD endemic area.

Motion by Boyd, second by Whitmyre TO AMEND THE RULE TO INCLUDE UNIT BHR-H1 TO THE LIST OF ELK HUNTING UNITS. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Locken, second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE REGULATIONS AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Trapping Regulations

Keith Fisk, animal damage control program administrator, presented the finalization on trap check times that resulted from a petition that was approved by the Commission. Fisk explained changes to the current rule as follows:

1. Modify existing administrative rule to require that all traps and snares in South Dakota be checked within 24-hours from the time the trap or snare was set.
2. Create a new administrative rule that would allow Game, Fish and Parks personnel to grant extensions to the 24-hour check time due to unanticipated complications or emergencies.
3. Create a new administrative rule that before setting traps and snares, it shall be the duty of the person setting a trap or snare to study the weather reports for the next 48-hours and make a record of that data. It is expected that such person will not set traps and snares when a reasonable person would conclude that the weather-related complications would likely preclude checking traps and snares within 24-hours.
4. Create a new administrative rule which would allow Game, Fish and Parks personnel to release or euthanize an animal held in a trap or snare longer than 24-hours.
5. Create a new administrative rule which would allow any person, after receiving permission from a Game, Fish and Parks personnel, to release or euthanize an animal in a trap or snare longer than 24-hours.
6. Create a new administrative rule that requires any animals euthanized by an authorized person of Game, Fish and Parks, which a profit is generated, to be reverted back to Game, Fish and Parks.

7. Create a new administrative rule in which Game, Fish and Parks shall keep records on trap check time extensions and shall give an annual summary report to the Game, Fish and Parks

Motion by Phillips, second by Locken TO REJECT THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE. Motion carried unanimously.

Fisk presented the proposed rule change to modify existing administrative rule to require all traps and snares in South Dakota be checked prior to 12 o'clock midnight of the third full calendar day following a previous check or when the trap was initially set, and for any trap or snare entirely submerged in water that remains set beneath the ice to be checked prior to 12 o'clock midnight of the fifth full calendar day statewide, following a previous check or when the trap was initially set.

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO REJECT THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES. Motion carried unanimously.

Muzzleloader Scopes

Kirschenmann presented the recommended changes to the muzzleloading restrictions to make an allowance for 1-4x or 1-6x power scopes for seasons to muzzleloading firearms. He explained a petition was received by the Commission indicating that the non-telescopic sights are no longer available and have been discontinued by manufacturers. The department recommended the rule be repealed that limits telescopic scopes and allow the hunters to determine whether to use telescopic sights or not.

Motion by Sharp, second by Bies TO AMEND THE RULE AND REPEAL THE REQUIREMENT THAT LIMITS TELESCOPE SCOPES. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sharp, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO ALLOW THE USE OF MUZZLELOADER SCOPES AS AMENDED. Roll call vote: Boyd-no; Locken – yes; Bies - yes; Whitmyre - no; Phillips – no; Sharp- yes; Jensen-yes. Motion fails with 4 yes votes and 3 no vote.

Dog Training on Public Land

Kirschenmann presented the proposed changes to adjust the day sin which dogs can be trained using horses from Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays to Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The Department recommends keeping the rule as is.

Motion by Sharp, second by Bies TO REJECT THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES. Motion carried unanimously.

CSP Coyote Hunting Season

Switzer presented the recommended changes change to the CSP Coyote Hunting Season dates from December 26 – March 31 to December 26 – April 30 and remove the requirement of a free access permit.

Motioned by Boyd second by Locken TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE CSP COYOTE HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

Mountain Lion Hunting Season

Kirschenmann and Switzer presented the recommended changes to the mountain lion hunting season.

1. Change the season dates from December 26 – March 31 to December 26 – April 30.

Motion to approve by Phillips second by Boyd to APPROVE the RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE. Motion Carried unanimously.

2. Increase the number of access permits in Custer State Park from 57 to 65.

Motion by Phillips second by Bies to APPROVE PROPOSAL FROM 57 TO 75. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Allow nonresident hunting opportunity and provide 250 nonresident lottery licenses.

Motion to amend by Phillips second by Whitmyre to AMEND PROPOSAL TO EXCLUDE CUSTER STATE PARK FROM NONRESIDENT HUNTING. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Locken second by Sharp to APPROVE AS AMENDED. Roll call vote: Boyd-no; Locken – yes; Bies - yes; Whitmyre - no; Phillips – no; Sharp-yes; Jensen-yes. Motion fails with 4 yes votes and 3 no vote.

4. Establish a nonresident license fee of \$280.

No action taken

5. Outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District, expand the allowance for the use of dogs that originates on private land to cross over or culminate on any public lands where unleashed dogs are permitted. The current restriction for the Fort Meade Recreation Area would remain.

Motion by Phillips second by Locken to REJECT PROPOSED CHANGE. Motion Carried. Roll call vote: Boyd-yes; Locken – yes; Bies - no; Whitmyre - no; Phillips – yes; Sharp- yes; Jensen-yes. Motion is passes to reject with 5 yes votes and 2 no vote.

6. Authorize the Commission to extend the hunting season beyond April 30.

Motioned by Phillips second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE THE SEASON DATES TO GO TO APRIL 30. Motion carried unanimously.

Hoop Nets and Set Lines

Will Saylor, fisheries program administrator, presented the recommended changes as follows:

1. Add a definition of setline in rule.
2. Add traps to hoop net and setline regulation title.
3. Allow the use of wire fish traps.
4. Change hoop net, trap and setline rules to require them to be emptied by midnight the day following when they were set instead of 72 hours. This will improve the chance of live release of the few game fish caught on setlines and turtles in all gears.
5. Change hoop net, trap and setline gear restrictions on border waters to match those for inland waters.
6. Allow use of hoop nets, traps, and setlines in the James, Vermillion, and Big Sioux River mainstems.
7. Allow use of hoop nets and traps in western Missouri River tributaries to increase angler opportunity.

Motioned by Sharp second by Whitmyre TO REJECT THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO CREATE NEW RULES TO ALLOW THE USE OF HOOP NETS, TRAPS AND SETLINES IN THE JAMES, VERMILLION, AND BIG SIOUX RIVER AND REJECT THE USE OF HOOP NETS AND TRAPS IN WESTERN MISSOURI RIVER TRIBUTARIES. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Boyd, second by Phillips TO REJECT THE REMAINDER OF THE PROPOSAL^[A1]. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Waters – Aeration

Sayler presented the recommendation to create a new rule in 41:04 Public Waters to identify the department as the designated agent of the Commission for permitting use of aeration systems in meandered waters or other waters to which the state has acquired a right, title, or interest.

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Phillips TO APPROVE REJECT THE CREATION OF THE NEW RULE. Motion carried unanimously.

Fish Importation

Sayler presented the recommended changes to fish importation as follows:

1. Allow for a single importation permit from an out-of-state source to cover an entire year from their last fish health inspection to reduce paper work and staff time.
2. Specify in rule which fish species need to be tested for which pathogens of regulatory concern. This will reduce the costs for private industry and GFP to have fish health testing conducted.

Motion by Boyd, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO FISH IMPORTATION RULES. Motion carried unanimously.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Sayler presented the recommended changes to fish importation as follows:

1. Add spiny waterflea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*), round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*), and white perch (*Morone americana*), to the aquatic invasive species (AIS) list in South Dakota.
2. Add Lakes Sharpe and Francis Case to the list of designated containment waters for AIS management in South Dakota.

Motion by Phillips, second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO FISH IMPORTATION RULES. Motion carried unanimously.

Rules Review Process Chapter 41:04 through 41:05 – Style and Form

Kotilnek presented the recommended changes to administrative rules pertaining to GFP as part of the review process. The Department recommends the following rule changes for the following administrative rules in an effort to reduce redundancy, increase transparency and improve consistency:

Chapter 41:04:01

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 41:04:01:01 | Applicability of chapter - Repeal |
| 41:04:01:02 | Special purpose buoy specifications - Update authority. |
| 41:04:01:03 | Restricted area buoy markings - Update authority. |
| 41:04:01:04 | Reduced speed area buoy markings - Update authority. |
| 41:04:01:05 | Information buoy markings. Update authority. |
| 41:04:01:06 | Safety zones defined – Adjust language and update authority |
| 41:04:01:07 | Buoy placement requirements - Adjust language and update authority. |
| 41:04:01:08 | Diver-down flag requirements - Update authority. |
| 41:04:01:10 | Presence of persons in water near boat ramps prohibited-Update authority. |

Motion by Sharp, second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:04:01. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 41:04:02

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 41:04:02:02 | Beadle County public water safety zones – Update language |
| 41:04:02:04 | Bon Homme County public water safety zones – Update language |
| 41:04:02:06 | Brown County public water safety zones. Update language and authority |
| 41:04:02:07 | Brule County public water safety zones – Update language |
| 41:04:02:09 | Butte County public water safety zones – Update language |
| 41:04:02:11 | Charles Mix County public water safety zones – Update language |
| 41:04:02:12 | Clark County public water safety zones – Update language |
| 41:04:02:14 | Codington County public water safety zones – Update language |
| 41:04:02:15 | Corson County public water safety zones – Update language |
| 41:04:02:16 | Custer County public water safety zones – Update language |
| 41:04:02:18 | Day County public water safety zones. Update language and authority |
| 41:04:02:19 | Deuel County public water safety zones – Update language |
| 41:04:02:20 | Dewey County public water safety zones – Update language |
| 41:04:02:22 | Edmunds County public water safety zones – Update language |

- 41:04:02:23 Fall River County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:25 Repealed. Add Grant County public water safety zones (New Rule)
- 41:04:02:26 Gregory County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:29 Hand County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:30 Hanson County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:32 Hughes County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:33 Hutchinson County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:38 Kingsbury County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:39 Lake County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:41 Lincoln County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:42 Lyman County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:43 McCook County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:44 McPherson County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:45 Marshall County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:46 Meade County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:49 Minnehaha County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:51 Pennington County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:52 Perkins County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:53 Potter County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:54 Roberts County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:58 Stanley County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:62 Turner County public water safety zones. – Update language
- 41:04:02:63.01 Union County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:64 Walworth County public water safety zones – Update language
- 41:04:02:66 Yankton County public water safety zones – Update language

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:04:02. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 41:04:03

- 41:04:03:01 Meandered water areas defined – Update language and update authority
- 41:04:03:02 Restriction of access prohibited – Update authority
- 41:04:03:03 Posting of signs prohibited – Language and update authority
- 41:04:03:04 Farming prohibited – Exception – Update language and authority
- 41:04:03:05 Modification prohibited – Exception – Update language and update authority

Motion by Whitmyre, second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:04:03. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 41:04:04

- 41:04:04:01 Definition of terms - Update language
- 41:04:04:05 Requirements for dock and floating dock maintenance – Update language

Motion by Sharp, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:04:04. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 41:04:05

- 41:04:05:01.01 Boat license fees – Update language
- 41:04:05:02 Life preservers required – Update language
- 41:04:05:03 Fire extinguishers required – Exception – Update language and authority
- 41:04:05:04 Flame arresters required – Update authority
- 41:04:05:04.01 Whistle required – Update authority
- 41:04:05:04.02 Bell required – Update authority
- 41:04:05:05 Ventilation required – Update authority
- 41:04:05:06 Navigation rules – Update language and authority
- 41:04:05:08 Restriction on right-of-way – Update authority
- 41:04:05:09 Blockage of docks forbidden – Update authority
- 41:04:05:15 Audible signals – Update language and authority
- 41:04:05:16 Emergency signals -- Boats to stop – Update authority
- 41:04:05:18 Lights required - Exception – Update language and authority
- 41:04:05:19 Overloading prohibited – Update authority

Motion by Phillips, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:04:05. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 41:04:06

- 41:04:06:02 Commission action on petition to restrict recreational use of nonmeandered lake. – Update language and reduce redundancy
- 41:04:06:03 Due process requirements for interested parties from the public - Repeal
- 41:04:06:04 Appeal from commission's final action on petition to restrict recreational use of nonmeandered lake – Repeal.
- 41:04:06:05.01 Placement of department supplied signs – Update language

Motion by Locken, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:04:06. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 41:05:01

- 41:05:01:01 Types of refuges defined – Update language and authority
- 41:05:01:02 Hunting within a waterfowl refuge – Update language
- 41:05:01:03 Hunting and trapping within a state game refuge – Update language and authority
- 41:05:01:04 Hunting within a state game bird refuge –Update language and authority
- 41:05:01:05 Hunting within a federal refuge, park, or monument – Exception - Repeal

Motion by Phillips, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:05:01. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 41:05:02

- 41:05:02:06 Brown County refuges – Update language
- 41:05:02:07 Brule County refuges – Update language and authority
- 41:05:02:08 Buffalo County refuges - Repeal
- 41:05:02:11 Charles Mix County refuges - Repeal
- 41:05:02:12 Clark County refuges – Update language
- 41:05:02:15 Corson County refuges - Repeal
- 41:05:02:18 Day County refuges – Update language
- 41:05:02:20 Dewey County refuges - Repeal
- 41:05:02:22 Edmunds County refuges – Update language and authority
- 41:05:02:24 Faulk County refuges – Update language and authority
- 41:05:02:25 Grant County refuges – Update language and authority
- 41:05:02:26 Gregory County refuges - Repeal
- 41:05:02:29 Hand County refuges – Update language
- 41:05:02:32 Hughes County refuges – Update language and authority
- 41:05:02:33 Hutchinson County refuges – Update language and authority
- 41:05:02:42 Lyman County refuges - Repeal
- 41:05:02:45 Marshall County refuges – Update language and authority
- 41:05:02:52 Perkins County refuges – Update language and authority
- 41:05:02:53 Potter County refuges - Repeal
- 41:05:02:54 Roberts County refuges – Update language and authority
- 41:05:02:57 Spink County refuges – Update language
- 41:05:02:58 Stanley County refuges – Update language
- 41:05:02:59 Sully County refuges - Repeal
- 41:05:02:64 Walworth County refuges - Repeal
- 41:05:02:66 Yankton County refuges – Update language and authority
- 41:05:02:68 Missouri River refuges – Update language

Motion by Phillips, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:05:02. Motion carried unanimously.

Park Entrance and Camping Fees

Scott Simpson and Al Nedved, parks assistant director, presented the recommended changes to park entrance and camping fees as follows:

1. Increase certain Park entrance fees and camping fees:

Park Entrance	License Current Fee	Proposed Increase	New Fee
Annual	\$30	\$6	\$36
Second Vehicle	\$15	\$3	\$18
Transferable	\$65	\$15	\$80
Daily	\$6	\$2	\$8
CSP Motorcycle 7-Day	\$10	\$10	\$20
Camping Fees			
Prime*	\$21	\$5	\$26

Preferred Campgrounds*	\$19	\$4	\$23
Modern Campgrounds*	\$17	\$3	\$20
Basic Equestrian CG except CSP	\$13	\$5	\$18
Semi-modern Equestrian CG except CSP*	\$19	\$7	\$26
CSP Modern Campgrounds*	\$25	\$5	\$30
CSP Equestrian Campground*	\$35	\$5	\$40
CSP Camping Cabins	\$50	\$5	\$55
Camping Cabins except CSP	\$45	\$10	\$55
Firewood	\$5	\$1	\$6
*Fee includes \$4 for sites where electricity is available			

2. Remove group lodge designation for Mina Lake (\$205) and designate as a modern cabin (\$150)
3. Increase the fee from \$10 to \$15 for each day a vehicle is in a park and does not display a valid park entrance license. This amount may be applied to the purchase of an annual park entrance license.
4. Create a new state-wide fee for Designated Tent-Only Campsites with no electricity at \$15.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO PARK ENTRANCE AND CAMPING FEES. Motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
Mountain Lion Plan Adoption

Chad Switzer detailed the recommended changes to the Mountain Lion plan and noted public input received.

Motion by Sharp, second by Bies TO ADOPT THE MOUNTAIN LION PLAN AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Adjustment for GPA Equipment

Paul Coughlin, terrestrials habitat program administrator, presented the request for a budget adjustment of not more than \$1,660,000 per the 2018-2019 GPA assessment that determined the need for habitat and access that should be established or enhanced.

Motion by Locken, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 19-26 (appendix A) ALLOWING THE REQUESTED BUDGET ADJUSTMENT. Motion carried unanimously.

Waterfowl Licenses

Tony Leif provided information and history on waterfowl licenses in South Dakota for residents and non-residents as well as the 3-year license drawing maps.

Education and License Data Dashboard

Taniya Bethke and Kyle Kaskie presented data dashboards developed using the ESRI-Solutions GIS map tools. The GIS, R3 and Licensing teams have worked together in the past few months to create an education dashboard that shows all of the education outreach and programs that have been offered by topic, date and location across the state. The dashboard allows the education and R3 teams to identify gaps in outreach efforts, areas in programming that require further development, and ways that GFP can continue to diversify the audiences receiving programming. The second dashboard presented covers all unlimited licensing opportunities in the state. The dashboard shows license types purchased by county and can be sorted by when the license was purchased, and age and gender of license holder. The dashboard is also capable of demonstrating which counties are experiencing decreasing license sales which influences communication and marketing efforts, education and outreach opportunities, licensing and policy revisions, and overall has an incredible potential impact on the way we and other agencies do business.

Feeding Wildlife

Chad Switzer presented the Commission information on feeding and baiting wildlife in South Dakota. He provided the rules and explained use of bait stations is prohibited for the use of hunting big game in South Dakota. He said severe winters can cause many people to be concerned about the welfare of wildlife and their ability to survive winter months. Currently does not conduct winter feeding and discourages the public from feeding deer and elk. When persistent severe winter conditions concentrate deer or elk onto private property, GFP may utilize short-stop feeding as a strategy to keep deer or elk off private lands and away from stored livestock feeds. Short-stop feed typically consists of corn and/or alfalfa hay. Because of the many issues associated with feeding wildlife, GFP uses short-stop feeding as a last resort to address depredation issues when other management techniques are not successful or practical.

License Sales Update

Heather Villa, wildlife administration chief, explained license numbers are down overall. Angling is down 6% and small game is down 3.5% (both include combination). Total license numbers for angling and small game are down 6.5%. This is due to the extended winter. Heavy snowfall and moisture caused trip cancellations as well as delays for farmers and ranchers which in turn had a negative effect on license sales.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Flooding Update

Parks Regional Supervisors Willy Collignon and Jeff VanMeeteren explained that over the past couple week's parks in eastern South Dakota have been heavily impacted from flooding with the storm events of September 11th and 12th compounding damages to infrastructure and revenue.

Lake Herman State Park, in Madison, experienced several feet of water over the entrance road and the lower campground to the point where a boat was used to inspect the area floating over the top of picnic tables, electrical RV pedestals and drinking fountains. Impacting the parks utility infrastructure, grounds and roads. The manager's family used a boat to get in and out of the park for more than a week. Camping

reservations were cancelled for two weeks. Cleanup has begun although staff is leery with more moisture projected into the fall.

Lake Thompson Recreation Area, near Lake Preston, experienced a rise of a couple additional inches in the lakes level. At these elevations causing a change of water over the park's entrance road to go from just over 300 feet in length to over 1,400 feet in length, where entrance with low clearance vehicles could be difficult. Also new at this lake level is the waves from the lake can reach the road and with recent winds brought in sand across the road like snow drifts over a foot deep in places. The park's biking and walking path is starting to receive damage from wind and wave erosion. The township road which provides access to the recreation area is also experiencing damage and water has now started to top the road in one location. The park remains open due to local staff's diligence in keeping the road safe for guests. Lake Thompson is a slow responding body of water and will take several months to recede which could cause more issues with freezing temperatures as the lake starts to freeze, covering the road with ice.

Lake Vermillion Recreation Area, near Canistota saw significant impact due to the heavy rain events with the Lake Vermillion rising to an all-time high. At this time it appears there was no major damage to the primary spillway, however, the secondary spillway which is designed to run across the main entrance road to the east campground was nearly obliterated leaving 5 campers stranded (but safe) in the park. A local contractor was used to immediately reconstruct a temporary road allowing the stranded campers to leave the park. A county bridge that serves as the main access to the east side was also destroyed, however, the county had planned to replace it next year. A detour will be planned for the remainder of this season and into next year until the county bridge is replaced. The east campground will also remain closed for the rest of this season until the east entrance road can be reconstructed (estimated cost of \$200K to replace approx. 300 ft. of road). All other park facilities are functional and the west camping areas remain open to the public.

Big Sioux Recreation Area, near Brandon was inundated with flood waters from the Big Sioux River once again, this time setting a record level that had not been seen since 1969 (50 years ago). All electrical pedestal breakers were replaced and one camping cabin saw some floor level flooding that required minor repairs. As of Sept. 24th the park was re-opened as flood waters receded and park staff were able to clean up debris and make the necessary infrastructure repairs. Staff will continue to work on replacing hiking trail surface materials, re-building portions of the hiking trail, playground surfacing, and clean-up many of the low areas throughout the park. The parks canoe/kayak access ramps are still unusable due to high river levels. One other significant feature of the park that will remain closed is the hiking trail suspension bridge that crosses the Big Sioux River until it can be re-set and thoroughly inspected for safety purposes.

Palisades State Park, near Garretson saw some impacts due to record levels on Split Rock Creek. Trail surface damage, fencing and a portion of a rock cliff fell over onto an adjacent trail. Portions of the trail will remain closed, but the main part of the park continues to remain open.

Good Earth State Park, near Sioux Falls and Adams Homestead & Nature Preserve, near Dakota Dunes both experienced low-land flooding causing portions of their popular hiking trails to remain closed (Good Earth affected by the Big Sioux River and Adams Nature Area by the Missouri River).

Buryanek Recreation Area, on the west side of Lake Francis Case near Platte is currently closed due to a gravel county road washing out that is used to access the park. Gregory County highway maintenance crews are working on higher priority roads at this time and estimate it will be around Oct. 7th before they can start working on the road. This road has washed out 3 times this year alone.

Platte Creek Recreation Area, on Lake Francis Case had a section of road shift/sluff causing the road to break up. The road is barricaded but people can still go through the overflow boat trailer parking lot to access the boat ramp.

North Point Recreation Area, on Lake Francis Case temporarily flooded again with 3 acres of the park going underwater and 6 campsites. Approximately 600 ft. of paved bike trail also flooded and the edge of this trail is seeing some significant erosion. Water levels have decreased and the majority of the park is useable at this time.

Spillway Lakeside Use Area, below Ft. Randall Dam continues to experience significant road and shoreline erosion due to releases out of Ft. Randall Dam. With the latest rain events, releases are expected to increase significantly (in excess of 70K) as the COE struggles to evacuate water from the reservoir system. As the release go up the erosion factor increases correspondingly. The boat ramp and gravel access road will remain closed until the releases decrease and the damages can be repaired.

These impacts will persist for some time and the Department is exploring resource needs and is planning for possible winter and spring thaw effects that may cause further hardships.

Concessionaire Update

Scott Simpson, parks and recreation division director, and Al Nedved, parks and recreation deputy director, provided an update on concessionaires

Land Water Conservation Fund Grant Cycle

Randy Kittle, grant and loan specialist, provided an update on the LWCF grant cycle and projects

Recreational Trails Program Update

Randy Kittle, grant and loan specialist provided an update on the recreational trails program.

Revenue, Camping and Visitation Reports

Scott Simpson, parks and recreation division director, provided an update on camping, revenue and visitation by district.

SOLICITATION OF AGENDA ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Jensen requested additional discussion on recruiting the next generation at the September meeting.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:24 A.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly R Hepler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "K" and "H".

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Appendix A
RESOLUTION 19-26

REQUEST FOR BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks completed a Game Production Area (GPA) assessment in 2018-19 to determine current status of habitat and access on each GPA across the state; and

WHEREAS, through that assessment it was also determined what resources would be needed to elevate the habitat on each GPA to its desired level; and

WHEREAS, one of the key resources identified to create or enhance habitat and access on GPAs was the necessity to replace existing equipment as well as add new implements.

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Commission hereby authorizes a current year (FY2020) budget adjustment for costs associated with one-time equipment and associated truck purchases to support the implementation of the Game Production Area assessment.

The budget adjustment shall include an increase of not more than one million six hundred-sixty thousand dollars (\$1,660,000) in federal fund expenditure authority for the Division of Wildlife.

Appendix B
RESOLUTION 19-27

WHEREAS, Scott Johnson of Fort Pierre, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated September 13, 2019, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend Chapter ARSD 41:06:01 (Application for license) to add rules that change the current preference point system for all big game seasons to a true bonus point system 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 administrative rules that change the current preference point system for all big game seasons to a true bonus point system; and

WHEREAS, no quantifiable information exists that supports the contention that the current preference point system inhibits new hunters from submitting hunting license applications;

WHEREAS, Implementation of singular bonus point system would shift the proportional distribution of hunting licenses to those applicants with less preference points than under the current preference system; and

WHEREAS, there is general acceptance among hunting license applicants that license drawings should be weighted to favor applicants with higher than average accumulations of preference points; and

WHEREAS, the Department and Commission committed to a three-year implementation and evaluation period for deer license drawings when the commission adopted changes to the license drawing system in 2019.

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, Scott Johnson of Fort Pierre, South Dakota.

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission
October 3, 2019

The Commission Vice chair Scott Phillips began the public hearing at 1:58 p.m. CT at Americinn Conference Center in Chamberlain, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Travis Bies, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Scott Phillips, Douglas Sharp, Robert Whitmyre were present. Phillips indicated written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes. Phillips then invited the public to come forward with oral testimony.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chris Hesla, SDWF, Pierre, SD Support the CWD proposal.

Trapping Regulations

John Hopple, South Dakota Trappers Association president opposed to the trapping regulations but do support trapping educational opportunities and are working with GFP on youth trapping education.

Craig Parkhurst, SDTA, Armour, SD only supports the 3 day trap check on one day trap check as it discourages trapping. Traps have not changed a lot over times and are not inhumane. Kill traps should not be lumped into these regulations. Some will not be happy and want to continue with more regulations until we are like other states and do not have trapping

Vince Logue, Western SD Fur Harvesters Oelrichs, SD opposed to the 24 hour trap check. Support the 3 day trap check and education. Work to support education in trapping and outdoor recreations. Would like to take exception to the comment on caring for animals. Sportsmen have vested interest in these creatures and do not want to cause damage or suffering.

Jamie Al-Haj, Rapid City, SD supports the 24 hour trap check time and recommends it be extended statewide and noted what surrounding states regulations. Here in regards to the humane concerns for the animals. Noted number of comments in opposition of longer trap check times. Respect the SD trappers and understand where they are coming from but are hearing from others that the 24 hours does work for example NE has similar terrain and crops and this is more humane and ethical. If you go back and look at the comments they are from all over the state and the animals belong to all of us and we are concerned for the psychological wellbeing of the animals. Traps can be check with other methods so you do not disturb the trapping. Believe we can do better in this state. Please listen to the people of SD

Cheyne Cumming, Rapid City, SD supports not extending the trap check times. GFP mission statement where does allowing animals to suffer in a trap weight in as responsible. Need to agree to trap check time as the animals belong to all of us.

Nancy Hilding, Prairie Hills Audubon Society, Black Hawk, SD, would like to amend the trapping rule to release the animal and make it daily trap check not necessary 24 hours.

Finn Sacriso, WSDFHA, Bison, SD Western SD Fur harvesters Assoc. Bison, SD. Work a 10 hour day miles from home and trap for cattle producers who depend on me. These people have fewer problems because we manage. The fur costs barely cover

the expenses with little profit. I work hard to take care of landowners and enjoy the relationship I have with them and being in the outdoors with the wildlife. Need to work more on continued education of our youth.

John Hauge, Deadwood, SD as someone who worked for a fortune 500 company you need to set benchmarks. Do not understand why our trappers cannot meet this benchmark that other states can. Expect the commission to set these best practices. Need to be part of modern times

Paul Kuhlman, Avon, SD science teacher disagree with the 24 trap check and the new regulations are not reasonable for the hobby trappers and noted this is not a business. Noted that trappers often times trappers are traveling quite a distance from their home just to get to the area they are trapping.

Muzzleloader Scopes

Wayne Lloyd, Wentworth, SD recommends leaving it up to the hunters if they want to use a scope or not.

Denise Parker, HSUS, Lead, SD, spoke in support of GFP's efforts to update the Mountain Lion Plan but feels the agency's objective to maximize hunting is not an effective strategy for conserving the species population or keeping conflicts low. She recommends GFP remove the unnecessary population objective and establish a cap on hunting quotas of no more than 14 percent of the adult and sub adult population to prevent killing above sustainable levels.

Jeff Krolikowski, Winner, SD rancher, houndsman, and sportsman. Supports the management plan. These are not a big problem, but are for some ranchers in certain locations.

Brad Tisdal, SD Houndsmen Association President, has spoken with all of you on many locations and thinks allowing nonresidents the opportunity is a great idea. This will improve access and opportunity. Houndsman get a bad rap like trappers often do. Ethics is something you do when no one else is watching and nobody is perfect and we do not want to do anything that isn't legal. We just want to peruse our sport like deer and pheasant hunters.

Dog Training on Public Lands

Nancy in favor as it splits up the disturbance on prairie lands and it will help the birds

CSP Coyote

Nancy questions the conflict with tourists and this is a state park and not public land. Need to follow science as it just doesn't work. People like coyotes and want to see them in a state park. Why is one animal more important than another animal in a state park. Why are tourists less important than the hunters?

Nick Falk, Harrold, SD it should be an individual's right and not require a department permit especially on the broad description of water.

Mountain Lion Hunting Season

Chris Hesla, SDWF, Pierre, SD mountain lion do not support nonresident hunting. Understand this is a social and not biologic decision at this time. And there are other

things that could be done such as offering a second tag or adjusting the season date before allowing NR. Think the lions should not be hunted on public lands when chased off private land.

John Hauge, Deadwood, SD The numbers brought forward are bogus data.

Nancy Hilding, Prairie Hills Audubon Society, Black Hawk, SD harvest quota is too high and should be set at 14 percent. Disagrees with the entire proposal and it is a joke. Object to out of state hunters and hunting on public land. This increases the take when the take is already too high and the humane society is right. Need to set up units to be managed differently

Hoop Nets and Set Lines

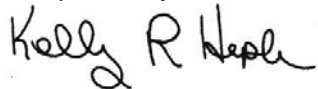
Jason Stansbury, Renner, SD bringing in hoop nets and set lines would be damaging to catfish wiping out a large population of these fish

Ted Ellenbecker, Beaver Creek, MN you want to introduce commercial harvest methods to small bodies of water. This is acceptable in larger bodies of water. If I was a landowner I would have a problem with this. This will cause new regulations. Set lines and hoop nets will block others who want to fish when others use set lines and hoop nets then go to the bar.

Vern Boer, Lyons, SD. Fish congregate in these areas and hoop nets will severely hurt our fishing industry as a commercial method of fishing. The Best thing to do in these areas is to take kids fishing as they are encouraged when they have the opportunity to catch a few fish to encourage them.

See attached written public comments submitted prior to the public hearing
The public Hearing concluded at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Public Comments

Chronic Wasting Disease

Herb Hunter

Siouxfalls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm sure it transfers from one wild LIVING deer to another. But from a carcass that's just plain dumb. since when do deer go digging around in deer carcasses. Stop playing pin the tail on the donkey and come up with a real solution.

Rory Halverson

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Gary Decker

Ceneterville SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Putting more regulations on hunters is not a appropriate fix to this problem. We dont need a regulation book the size of a bible just to hunt deer. live deer dont get cdw from the back of a pickup truck, transporthing game. neither do they get it from carcass on a farm. deer dont eat dead deer. it might be a good idea to find out where cwd came from in the first place, in order to find a proper solution.

Lee Whitcraft

Webster WI

Position: other

Comment:

I hunt in South Dakota and enjoy my experience. If this proposal is approved I would request a list of carcass disposal sites with addresses and hours of operation. I would also expect that there would be no charge since I pay over \$300 for my licences.
Thanks

Kelly Krittenbrink

Buffalo Gap SD

Position: support

Comment:

I'm all for proposal but it still comes down to the good hunter will dispose of properly and the other is going to throw it out in a road ditch somewhere because he or she is not going to pay for a disposal fee. So if GFP really wanted to try and control this problem may should add fee to license or pay for disposal to try and ensure of nlbett et r control of it

Seth Nowak

Keystone SD

Position: support

Comment:

Requiring hunters to dispose of carcasses that originated in the CWD endemic area at an appropriate landfill is a great idea. All steps should be taken to mitigate the spread of this disease.

Douglas Symonds

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Douglas Dexter

Milbank SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am 100% in favor of the current CWD Proposal. However, with the small number of permitted landfills, I am concerned with the disposal of carcasses. I would like to see 'collection containers' strategically placed in areas where they can be accessed by the hunter as well as the collection facility. And not require excessive travel to dispose of the carcasses. For example, work with the meat processors to have a collection container to be used by the public as well. Thank you.

Chris Mayer

Edgemont SD

Position: other

Comment:

Please Note: I have commented on this topic before and the proposed language is not clear and doesn't address my previous concerns. Specifically, the transportation of deer/elk carcasses harvested within "known South Dakota CWD area(s)" and then transported out of state to (Newcastle, Wy) which is my nearest licensed big game processing facility.

The above stated scenario occurs every time I or my wife harvest a deer. Current proposed language of "Interstate" and "Intrastate" does not fully address this issue and is too vague. This must be clarified. We are not passing through the state with a carcass (Interstate) and we are not transporting a carcass solely within the boundaries of a CWD unit (Intrastate).

I'm sure our situation is not unique. I live 3 miles from the SD/WY boarder. Other than Newcastle Wyoming the next closest processing facilities I am aware of are in Piedmont SD and Blackhawk SD well over 2 hours one way.

Please address and clarify current proposed language to include the above scenario.

Chris A Mayer
25595 Moonlight Dr
Edgemont, SD, 57735
605.749.2214

Kevin Burke

Spearfish SD

Position: other

Comment:

Worthwhile endeavor, but GF&P needs to provide for accessible locations for inspections and then clearly identified authorized locations for disposal. Also confused on the antlers/heads. If a hunter does his own european style mount is he in violation? I cannot see that being an issue of transmitting disease. Finally, does this then prohibit boning out of a carcass when doing hunting in remote areas requiring a pack out. Perhaps some other treatment such as lye or similar could be developed.

Bruce Keppen

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Sheri Leland

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

I certainly understand the need to control CWD. Some research suggests that the CWD infection is limited to the cervid population. However, since CWD IS caused by a prion, as is BSE (a fatal neurological disease in bovines), and prions CAN mutate (even though they aren't alive), it is conceivable that the CWD prion could mutate and cause disease in the bovine population. Because there's not a lot known about prions, GFP would be wise to stay ahead of this problem.

Comment and questions- I drew the SD GF&P raffle tag for a Custer buffalo hunt. Buffalo are bovine, so shouldn't have CWD. In hunting terms, is this buffalo considered a wild game animal (like an elk) or is it still treated as a bovine? Are there any diseases we need to worry about in the buffalo from Custer?

I live in Mitchell. The meat locker we've used for years to process game- 4 elk and 3 buffalo- hasn't agreed to butcher my buffalo this year. (When I asked this past week, he told me to come back in a few weeks and he'd have an answer, but he didn't sound positive.)

Please clarify how buffalo are to be treated.

Thank you- Sheri Leland

Robert Woerman

Brandon SD

Position: support

Comment:

Like what I see. There CWD regulations, not a quarantine but CWD AREA. Having worked with animal diseases and regulations, boundaries for animal disease are much wider, creating a buffer zone. I would do the same for CWD & deer

They move around, don't know where the lines are. I think all the Blackhills should be covered from the start of this program & more of west river as well. Stop & control CWD

Sam Sommers

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

State wide, especially in areas Close to private Deer & Elk herds a Similar action may be required. Let science and sound management prevail. Keep informing the public and include information when we apply.
Thanks Sam

David Soldato

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

This will add a added cost to the hunter. In my case will just stop hunting in those areas affected. It will just keep on moving. Animals do not stay in one place. This has been around for years. AS for what they eat how are you going to stop that.

Andy Huebert

Marion SD

Position: other

Comment:

While i do support some of the proposal, it sounds alittle bit like the state doesnt want hunters to process there own meat. I a liscenced locker can process the meat and its ok then we should be able to do it ourself aswell. please inform me if i am reading the proposal incorrectly.

Joe Long

Aberdeen SD

Position: support

Comment:

Thanks for taking measure to curb the spread of CWD.

It was my understanding from the presentation at the SDWF convention in Aberdeen that a hunter who has killed an animal in a CWD endemic area could debone the animal and leave the head and skeleton at the kill site. After reading the new administrative rules, I do not see that it allows for that. If someone would clarify that for me, I would appreciate it.

Donna Bares

Sturgis SD

Position: other

Comment:

After looking at the map for authorized landfills I can't imagine very many hunters transporting their carcasses miles to use these landfills (Ex: Meade County has only one in the far northeast corner and Pennington County only two); the carcass will go in their regular garbage or be dumped along a road somewhere. Disposal will need to be close and convenient or hunters aren't going to bother.

Also, I have not seen any recommendations on how these animals should be handled in the field. Should every hunter be using rubber gloves to handle, field dress etc. since there is no way to tell if the animal is infected until all this is done.

Shouldn't areas bordering these areas of contamination be required to submit samples as they won't know if it has spread if you aren't checking the boundaries.

CSP Coyote Hunting Season

Dale Karsky

Custer SD

Position: other

Comment:

I don't see any information on how we get our animals tested. What's the proposal for that?

John Deneui

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I understand there is a proposal to allow nonresidents to hunt Mountain Lions and also allow Mountain Lion hunters using dogs to cross onto public land. I ask you to vote NO on this proposal. It will open the door to more guide services and affect the residents enjoyment of our great wildlife resource...Thank you in advance for the no vote and taking my comment

Dog Training on Public Lands

Glenn Osterbur

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Lee Swenson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Doug Watt

Melbourne IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to the proposed change of dog training on public lands to a Monday, Wednesday, Friday regime. It's my understanding that it's been proposed to put less pressure on young birds. While I think there are best intentions with this request my experience is there is relatively little pressure put on the birds - at least in the Ft. Pierre National Grasslands where I run dogs. I, and other individuals with whom I run are conscientious sportsman. I rarely run in the same pasture less than one week apart and mostly visit a pasture only once in my two weekends I'm there. I also don't see a lot of other trainers in the grasslands so I don't think the birds are being harassed a lot by dog trainers. As an amateur trainer, and one who also has to hold down a full time job, the current system works well for me because I can take off one week of work with two weekends and get in six days of training. Under the proposed system I would have to take off two weeks from work. I really enjoy training the grasslands and hope the current system doesn't change.

Doug Watt
2960 Lafayette Ave
Melbourne, IA 50162

Gerald Cowell

Lancaster MO

Position: oppose

Comment:

Dear Commission Members
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

Thank you for informing me of the upcoming meeting where you will consider changing administrative rules regarding the dates for training dogs from horseback on National Grasslands.

I have been training dogs on National Grasslands for the past 18 years. First starting on the Buffalo Gap Grasslands and later moving to the Ft. Pierre Grasslands. It has been a wonderful experience.

I work dogs with several of the permit holders at various times during the allowed dates. I have never experienced anyone working the same pasture three days in a row. Experienced sportsmen understand birds need a rest after being worked by the dogs. Most times we never work a pasture more than once a week, if that. As I recall there was a study done by your organization several years ago to determine the effect training from horseback had on birds. I understand the findings of that study was there was little, if any, as a result of training from horseback.

There are several individuals who train on the grasslands who work full time. They take a few Fridays of vacation each August to enjoy working their dogs over a three-day weekend. The proposed change would eliminate that opportunity for them. They do make substantial expenditures pursuing their sport while in South Dakota. Most rent housing, buy feed and hay, eat daily at local establishments, go to church, play a little golf and may even be seen at the local casino. Many friends are made during their time in South Dakota.

In closing, I would request the commission not support the petition as most people involved in this endeavor would be adversely affected but the bird population would not suffer a similar fate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Gerald L. "Gary" Cowell

James Douglass

Columbus NE

Position: oppose

Comment:

I support the current rules for training dogs in the grasslands in August from 12 noon on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Thank you for the privilege of training dogs and enjoying your beautiful state.

Edward Myers

Mt Vernon IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have been fortunate to work dogs in the Grasslands for the last twenty years. It has been a great experience and privilege to participate in this sporting adventure. I only hope that the next generation has the same opportunity as the past. There have been changes in the past 10/12 years that have limited the participation level, mainly the quota system, but in recent years the participation levels has slowly dwindled . That being said I feel that the current process is working well for all concerned parties and no changes should be made at this time. Please review thoughts on this matter below;

1)A larger majority of the individuals that come to the Grasslands are still gainfully employed working a 40 work week and it is much easier for them to come on a three day weekend to work dogs and return home on Sunday. The new petition would probably have a person here six days to actually work dogs for three days. Adding additional expenses to there to their trip.

2) The empirical data generated by both the Forest Service and Game Fish and Parks have both indicated that the current schedule has had very little to no effect on the grouse and sharptail populations.The petitioner has provided no data to support his assumptions.

3) A large number of the permittees come from a variety of states across the country and incur travel,lodging,food and other miscellaneous costs while visiting the state and supporting small town economies

*****The individual who filed the petition is a professional dog trainer for the Mayhaw Plantation near Boston Georgia. He received his first permit in 2014 and has had one every year sense. Under the current permit rules he is in eligible to run dogs on any of the Grasslands listed on the permit You may find his bio on Facebook under Trey Mills.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to this issue

Edward Myers
1510 West Summit
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314

Fish Importation

James Kotab

Dante SD

Position: support

Comment:

we THE DANTE LAKE CLUB would like to have some info on the fish we were told to be stocked in DANTE LAKE ,, i talked to jeff martin and he said someone would email me the information on what i asked i was told when i was the president of the club that they were gonna put in some bait fish in like the spring then aug. or sept. like 1200 bass if you can give me a email with the info that would be great oh another question for you we would like to know if you could grant us the power to stock it up with some fish (we will pay for them) we would like to do anything we can afford and do to help get the lake up and going again !!! we had a meeting out there last tuesday and about a third of the 40 guys fished for 3 hours and only thing caught was a mud puppy i did see a small bluegill and either a small bullhead or a catfish come up to surface and swim right back down also you can see alot of real small minnows in there to thank you ,, james kotab ,, will be waiting for your reply in a email and if its info i can print out i can do that also,,, plus we would like to have jeff martin come to our meeting on the 2nd tuesday in november

Hoop Nets and Set Lines

Chris Knight

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

They will destroy our fisheries, those rivers can not take that. There will be dead fish in every one of those trotlines, hoopnets, setlines not to mention the turtles and non targeted species!

Chris Knight

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

They will destroy our fisheries, those rivers can not take that. There will be dead fish in every one of those trotlines, hoopnets, setlines not to mention the turtles and non targeted species!

Jason Stansbury

Renner SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a Avid South Dakota catfisherman and founder of the South Dakota catfish conservation Coalition group I do not support and I'm extremely against the fact of having hoop Nets and setlines in our tributary rivers in South Dakota. The Sioux River, James River, Vermillion River. This is a very bad idea. My group works with Sioux Falls Fisheries biologist to protect our big catfish and flatheads and this would be against everything we are trying to do.

Amy Knight

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I think this is ridiculous!!! This would deplete our fish like crazy. We already have people taking over their limits..... what do you think this will cause??? Our rivers will be taken over by these and leave very limited areas for regular fishing.

Patrick Watkins

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No set lines no hoop nets bad for crp

Ryan Wassink

Sioux Center IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am a dedicated catfisherman having appeared in iowa game and fish, in-fisherman, north American fisherman and i'm appalled that this is even up for debate. we just got the Sioux back to where it is a very top trophy cat fishery, there are hundreds of dedicated catmen like myself that regularly fish and release these cats on these rivers. we know how delicate this fishery is, give one of us traps and trotiles ect and we could single handedly wipe out a large prtion of adult flatheads in short order. we patrol our rivers, no offence but I have not seen dnr in 20 yrs. we know what our rivers need, we are there. keep our rivers a trophy destination!

Mike De Bondt

Sioux Center IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Something like this would ruin the big cat population on the rivers. This guy spend no time out there and don't deserve any of it. Not only that they affect the lives of other animals that get caught in their traps and don't get released. It's stupid

Robert Preston

Jacksonville FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hello. I live in Florida but fish a lot in Georgia for catfish with rod and reel. The problem I see here that you will see if you pass the hoop net/set line law is there is no way you will be able to enforce it. Hoop nets will catch and kill all sorts of fish, not just the ones that are allowed for harvest. Set lines, whether trot lines or limblines are left by people that don't retrieve them. I have lost track of the amount of fish left on a line because the person setting them didn't feel like checking them before they left for home or forgot where they set them. Sometimes these fish look like they have been on there for a week or more if they aren't dead already. Ask bass anglers how they feel about them. They are always losing expensive tackle from set lines that are left in the water and not retrieved. Another thing is when set lines are set in higher water levels when the water drops it leaves dangerous exposed hooks that can catch swimmers or boaters that may be close to the banks fishing in the shade of a tree. I know I do not live in your state but I have respected friends that do and from my experience, you do not want hoop nets and set lines in your waterways.
Thank you.

Philip Shaughnessy

Spencer IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Trotlines and hoopnets on the Vermillion and James River will hurt the Flathead population. I encourage you to look into this species and understand why it will be detrimental. Such a horrible and sad idea.

Michael Gray

Hudson SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We are finally getting a population of flatheads in the Sioux and by putting this into effect is only going to set it backwards, also with the Asian carp problem we have we could use all the larger catfish possible in these waters to try to hold them down as much as possible

Scott Schoenwald

Hudson SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Charles Herrmann

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

i ask that this not be allowed; i see people setting their set lines and nets in areas i frequent just to reserve that particular fishing area for them selves. its already busy on the shores.

Jay Jensen

Lemars IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

The Big Sioux river has become an excellent fishery for catfish. Trotlines and hoop nets will diminish the quality and numbers of fish because the people using them don't practice catch and release. The only favorable way to allow this would be a significant change in daily and possession limits. Thank you.

Danny Solberg

Baltic SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Dedicated catfishermen who target trophy flathead and blues commonly practice catch and release. By letting fishermen use setlines and hoop nets will definitely increase mortality of trophy fish. Even if the fish are released they have been fighting on the line usually for several hours. As a dedicated catfishermen I see setlines and hoop nets are way to fill a freezer full of meat. I personally don't see any sport fishing in setline and hoop nets at all. I most certainly don't want to see setlines and hoop nets legalized as most dedicated catfishermen would.

Danny Solberg

Baltic SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

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Daniel Solberg

Baltic SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Dedicated catfishermen who target trophy flathead and blues commonly practice catch and release. By letting fishermen use setlines and hoop nets will definitely increase mortality of trophy fish. Even if the fish are released they have been fighting on the line usually for several hours. As a dedicated catfishermen I see setlines and hoop nets are way to fill a freezer full of meat. I personally don't see any sport fishing in setline and hoop nets at all. I most certainly don't want to see setlines and hoop nets legalized as most dedicated catfishermen would. It would not be legalized for walleye or any other game fish it would also be considered Unsport men's like.

John Zuhlke

Aurora SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This will hurt more species than it is worth. Grab a bow, grab a pole...good to go. This rule change is for the lazy and environmentally stupid. Our rivers are already heavily polluted, not sure why you would want to fish out of the Sioux River in the first place. How about we concentrate on cleaning our waterways up first and increasing species...instead of harming their numbers more.

Mitchell Gradert

Yankton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

These are a sport fish to a lot of anglers who enjoy CPR. This will hurt the population of these catfish A LOT! Please!!!

Mitchell Gradert

Yankton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

These are a sport fish to a lot of anglers who enjoy CPR. This will hurt the population of these catfish A LOT!
Please!!!

Nicholas Ulven

Beresford SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Catfishing is my main hobby I'm out on the rivers every chance I get. I do not support hoop nets and setlines. I look forward to being on the rivers every weekend I am against setlines and hoopnets for the following reasons. I spend alot of time fishing these rivers I know good structure and spots are limited now I pull up to a spot and it has setlines there now I cant enjoy my experience because a person has gear there who isnt even on the water. And how will these lines and traps be checked summertimes can be pretty bad on the big Sioux already I've counted 18 diddy poles on the big Sioux in one night . The chances of catching big fish are dramatically increased as well as possible over harvest . What about the turtles walleyes and other non target species that are gonna be on the setlines or the asain carp in the hoop nets they cant throw them back most will and or on the bank .

John Orr

Elk Point SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

the idea of trot lines being legal is absurd!

James Carlson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Kory Dikken

Blue Earth MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

Will be detrimental to the flathead population, let alone other non targets. Strongly oppose this!!

Jon Sorensen

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Ya know im just going to say this. Approve this hoop net idea and say good bye to me and about 8 of my friends from buying license for fishing or hunting in this state. We will be happy to go to Iowa and spend the money there to help them out instead. Every year you people destroy more and more habitat in the water and on land and i for one as many have had about enough of people thinking they know whats best for everybody and every thing in this state. You people dont have a clue as to how many outdoor peoples lives you have changed in the past 20 years. You all cater to the out of state hunter's on pheasant's deer, and Walleyes on the Missouri river so much we cant hardly go with out seeing them leave there garbage behind everywhere they go. And now you want to make commercial fishing on rivers that have enough problems already on them with farmland pollution as well as city pollution and you want to take thousands of fish out of them and with no regards of how the destroy all fish population other than there target fish!!! Well it passes and im done with it all. I will not spend another dime in this state for any of this anymore!

Glenn Osterbur

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jason Otto

Glencoe MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

Keep it to rod and reel. Not much sport in netting.

Corrine Peterson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please don't ruin cat-fishing!!!

Don Doescher

Volga SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ted Ellenbecker

Beaver Creek MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I will be at the meeting October 3rd to voice several reasons these regulations should not be passed

Ted Ellenbecker

Beaver Creek MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

There are three areas that will be detrimental to the bodies of water, the anglers that use these waters, and a limited fishery in the state of SD. As well as a complete loss of credibility to the GFP. I will be at the meeting on October 3rd to voice these reasons.

Lance Peterson

Gayville SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the proposition to allow the use of setlines and hoopnets on the James, Vermillion, and Big Sioux rivers. These very small bodies of water cannot support long term fishing of this type. Due in part to the growing Catch, Photo, Release (CPR) movement by anglers on these rivers South Dakota has a legitimate chance at having Trophy catfish fisheries right here at home. The commercial-style fishing methods being proposed target these trophy class fish and due to the small size of the rivers can be fished out of trophies in short order. GFP's management of these systems has been great and a move like the proposal could undo decades of that good work. Bycatch is a big concern for me as well. Hoop nets will catch large numbers of other fish like paddlefish and walleye. Setlining is notorious for catching large trophy walleye during their spring runs. Additionally trot lines and hoop nets are rather dangerous for boaters using these small rivers as well, we have hit illegal nets and done damage to our boat before. It seems that enforcing regulation on these fishing methods could put undo stress on GFP officers already stretched thin. My family has for decades fished our local waters for catfish and have noted great improvements in trophy class fishing, please do not make a move that will undo all that wonderful progress and the opportunities my family has "fishin local".

Larry Schmidt

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

These bodies of water are too small to support commercial harvest of catfish without affecting the population for the angler. They will overharvest the big fish which are producing the bulk of the eggs for our future catfish populations. This will also eliminate the chances to fish key areas that hold good fish due to setlines and hoopnets being placed in those areas while the owners are at home and the fisherman can't fish those areas due to hooking their nets and lines and facing game violations. I also ask do we have the resources to patrol this type of fishing checking the check times of hoop netting or setlining, if not we shouldn't allow it. Also lastly it will ruin the catfishing by hook and line fisherman as we know it today. This state has almost eliminated the hunting opportunities in this state for the common guy due to all the pay hunting, the public land is either overhunted or leased to ranchers, and farmers for grazing and then overgrazed to the point it will not hold game, and now the same thing is starting to happen with fishing if you are an average guy who can't afford a boat and all the bells and whistles, or are a handicapped fisherman there are now plenty of places and bridges that you can still fish catfish at and catch big catfish. These opportunities will be affected for those fisherman and they deserve to be able to have opportunities to catch some big fish too.

Tylet Rus

Hudson SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose any form of set lines, hoop nets, trot lines or of things of that nature. I live just a few miles away from the Big Sioux river, our fishery for flatheads and blues is already weak from the carp invasion, adding any set lines or traps with high mortality rates will only further damage our fishery. Another big concern is the safety of others, hitting traps, and heavy lines is a great way to leave people stranded and injured. These rivers aren't very wide, navigation can be difficult, and with the flash flooding that happens quite often, there is no way all these traps will be properly managed and stay in location. I feel like I speak along side many of the people in neighboring towns which would agree that if we were to make any changes of fishing the big Sioux or the James, make Asian carp legal dead bait- same as shad, add 3rd line like Iowa, and flathead and blues full catch and release. Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments, 695-695-9506. But again I strongly urge to not approve of any addition to set lines, traps, nets or anything of that nature.

Chris Hattendorf

Ashton IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

The big Sioux is a bordering water for me and I fish the James and Missouri frequently. Please don't allow "alternative fishing methods" destroy the trophy cat population like it did on certain parts of the Des Moines River.

Dylan Shook

South Saint Paul MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

This new law would hurt fish populations very much

Zach Hughes

Akron IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hell no

Brady Tilly

Brookings SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Lee Swenson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jordon Rogers

Watertown SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Dylan Herr

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I worked on fishers crew for 2 summers we could catch up to 5 flat heads and 100! Channels in 24 hours would be horrible for the rivers

Nick Hunhoff

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This really takes the sport out of fishing.

Justin Hubert

Bowman ND

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am a non-resident that travels 7 1/2 hours frequently to catfish the rivers of SE South Dakota. I was born and raised in South Dakota and it pains my heart to know that set-lining and hoop nets have been proposed for legalization. It will destroy the waters that I love. I release EVERY fish I catch because I have seen how imperative it is to the fragile trophy catfish population.

Set liners and hoop netters do NOT fish for sport, they fish for MEAT. There is no sport in tying a string to a tree and coming back in three days to kill ANY fish caught on the line.

GF&P does not stock any fish in the James, Sioux, or Vermillion rivers. Trophy catfishing is sustained by catch and release efforts by those of us that are dedicated to the sport. Legalizing setlines and hoop nets will reverse all of the years of effort by traditional anglers to protect the Trophy fish. For me that is 25 years of Catching and releasing catfish on the Big Sioux and Jim River. I have not released every fish I have ever caught so a guy can come catch it in a net and kill it.

I need there to be a trophy catfish population so I can share the sport I love with my kids, just as my dad and grandfather did for me.

Policing these new proposed regulations will be impossible. Conservation officers have a hard enough time checking all of the anglers on the rivers. The Jim River alone is touted as "the longest unnavigable river in the world," it stretches from the state border to the north to the border to the south.

I had intentions in moving back to SE South Dakota primary to be closer to the waters and sport that I love so much. Please. PLEASE.. don't destroy catfishing and walleye fishing on the rivers for me, my family, and friends. Commercial fishing methods do not belong in South Dakota.

Landon Entinger

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Strongly oppose

Justin Sahli

Bryant SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Fishing should be done with rod and reel

Mitchell St.Pierre

Beresford Sd SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This will ruin the catfishing on thies little rivers.. it's hard enuff to catch them rod and reel we dont need to make it harder

Colin Brown

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This will hurt populations of fish in these rivers and that damage will reflect on the current status of catfishing and potentially destroy it. I oppose this because it's not sport like and catfishing is a sport. Catching a fish and reeling it in is much different then leaving nets and trot lines in water for extended periods of time. This is a bad idea to impose. This will wreck the sport for cat fisherman

Justin Severin

Mankato MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

Horrible Idea and will destroy the Flathead Population!

Brian Klawitter

Lakeland MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

SD has a pretty good flathead fishery. As a guide for flathead and sturgeon in MN/WI, I believe it would be more beneficial to the growing population of SD flathead anglers to protect the fish more than to open up more harvest.

I'm not against harvest. Just against over harvest and fair chase.

Kodie Van Voorst

Orange City IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Brad Durick

Grand Forks ND

Position: oppose

Comment:

I OPPOSE THE USE OF trotlines, hoopnets, traps, and other types of settlines on the James, Sioux, and Vermillion rivers in SD.

In this day and age with the rapid growth of hook and line catfishing allowing these methods would damage populations for generations.

Brad Durick

Grand Forks ND

Position: oppose

Comment:

I OPPOSE THE USE OF trotlines, hoopnets, traps, and other types of settlines on the James, Sioux, and Vermillion rivers in SD.

In this day and age with the rapid growth of hook and line catfishing allowing these methods would damage populations for generations.

Spencer Bauer

Boone IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am reaching out in regards to the proposed regulation changes relating to hoopnets and setlines. I am an avid catfisherman located in Central Iowa. I regularly fish in various parts of Iowa and neighboring states. I had a trip planned to fish the James River this June, but high water caused me to not go. I have a trip tentatively planned this coming summer. I have heard wonderful things about the catfishery there, no doubt supplemented in part to the elimination of commercial fishing practices on the Missouri River.

If regulations on hoopnets and setlines are relaxed on the James River, I feel I will be forced to go elsewhere. I have seen instances where heavy pressure from rod and reel/setline anglers have significantly impacted flathead catfish populations on small rivers. If commercial pressure is increased on the James, I do not feel it would be worth the drive as I anticipate the fishery would be negatively impacted to a degree that there would be other waterways more worth the drive.

Thank you for all the work you do!

Dave Seibold

Blue Springs MO

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do many catfish tournaments on the Sioux river diminishing or reducing population for fishing would be a shame in my opinion.

Bob Schuurmans

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

Please make sure the definition of a "hoop net" does not allow an attachment of netting to form a lead to channel more fish into the net. They then could close off the whole channel of the river. Is there a need to add language so a river channel can only be restricted to no more than 25% of width?

Tim Nabity

Alcester SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Matt Stotts

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please don't allow hoop nets and set lines in SD. Thank you for reading my comment.

Katie Van Kley

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jeremy Carlson

Beresford SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This will be bad for the catfish population. Over harvesting will be a guarantee. Lots of those big fish won't handle the stress and die if/when released.

Lee Reed

Sioux City IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

By allowing hoop nets and setlines it will open the door to a bunch more illegal use and deplete the fish for our future generations plus open the door for greed.please consider this hard

Rick Miller

Canistota SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose the use of hoop nets and set lines. We are finally getting some decent size flat head, blue and channel catfish back in our river systems. Set lines and hoop nets interfere with the navigation of our small waterways and does not practice selective harvest properly.

Brady Miller

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Allowing the use of hoop nets and set lines would, in my opinion, be no different then allowing commercial fishing. I STRONGLY oppose the idea! We as Sputh Dakota residents take pride in our waterways and fisheries. Nowhere else in the United States can you find such an array of quality fish. Allowing hoop nets(which have a very high mortality rate) and set lines(which often "gut hook" fish) essentially allowing commercial fishing, would deplete these fragile resources. I can only imagine how that would impact our fishing "tourists".

Mark Matlak

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Matt Jaqua

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Tom Vankley

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We have been fighting to reduce what the South Dakota catfish community already views as very liberal harvest laws. There are multiple reasons I oppose these changes. #1) Our state does NOTHING to protect trophy class catfish. Liberal harvest using non conventional methods could have extremely negative impacts on trophy class fish. #2) Our state does not allow for the use of traps/nets to harvest bait fish in any Missouri River tributary. I dint understand why they would now allow traps/nets to harvest sport fish on its tributaries. #3) One currently may not use any fishing rod on the bank, that is not in direct line of sight. Why would we then allow unattended lines on our rivers from a boat. #4) Fish traps are magnets for spawning catfish. The best breeding fish will be taken from our waterways in large #'s during the 4-6 weeks of spawn. #5) Hoop nets are hazardous to other fisherman. Many ppl hit these with props and during times of high water, many get washed away and become death traps to various species. Hoopnets also drowned a great # of turtles.

In short. Sportsman all across America are fighting to IMPROVE catfish regulations. Allowing commercial harvest methods to be used on our rivers, sets our fisheries back 20 years or more.

Please DO NOT allow these regulations changes to take place on our fantastic fisheries.

Maverick White

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose the legalizing of any means to harvest catfish other than with rod and reel. For a agency that had just a year or two ago had been proposing length restrictions and limits on the various catfish species in our water, it is concerning to see potential regulation changes that would greater impact the fisheries population for the worse.

Adam Twedt

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We don't need these for catching fish that you can catch on rod and reel. Would like to be able to use minnow traps to catch bait fish though.

James Carlson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Destini Miller

Canistota SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Our state has not been hurt to bad by commercial fisherman. I feel hoop nets and Diddy poles/set lines are a gateway to our down fall. The state has finally getting some sport sized flatheads back in our rivers. Let's not get them over fished by hoop nets.

Tami Miller

Canistota SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly believe hoop nets will be bad for our rivers and lakes. Our waterways manly consist of small narrow rivers which can be damaged by over fishing with hoop nets and set lines.

Ryan Rumbolz

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The sport of trophy catfishing is finally becoming a good thing in south dakota. Hoop nets are not a sport. And with take the sport back in the other direction. I put many hours in fishing the banks of the jim and sioux. How is it fair for another guy to throw nets out and go sit at home and drink beer. There's a law about unattended lines how's this any different.

Chris Rumbolz

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is bad idea and I cant believe someone purposed it.

Dan Woodraska

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No sport in it

Tye Thom

Working SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hoop nets are the last thing our fisheries need in south Dakota. Hoop nets were designed for commercial use of fishing. We dont need people throwing out hoop nets and coming back the next day to a net full of fish, even if they're alive! If you get a hoop net crowded enough with fish or dont check it daily it's going to be full of dead fish. Completely oppose and think this is a terrible idea.

Travis Pollreisz

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Corey Gall

Hurley SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Dalton Grassel

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Hollie Karber

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This would be detrimental to cat fish populations!

Aaron Post

Sioux City IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

It needs to be rod and reel only. Large trophy catfish are hard enough to come by. Lets keep the fish in the river. Catch and release. I wish there was a length limit on catfish also so we can preserve South Dakota fishing.

Alan Lantgen

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hurts the gamefish that are not intended to be caught

Peter Bruggeman

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Cade Bruggeman

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Allowing Hoop nets will not only deplete the population of catfish but many other game fish.

Hudson Dirks

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

It kills more fish and will ruin our resources

Blake Kooiman

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jeremy Carlson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jeremy Johnson

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

If hoop nets or set line become legal where is the sport of fishing? Their won't be if you allow them. It will destroy the rough fish population along with the game fish species. This would be one of the most stupid decisions I've heard of. Dont allow them in South Dakota

Preston Maurer

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Wendy Romrell

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Want my kids to enjoy it to

Shawn Rohrich

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Mark Struble

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Mountain Lion Hunting Season

Jason Otto

Glencoe MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

Not necessary. We want these large cats around for future generations to enjoy.

John Malan

Springfield IL

Position: oppose

Comment:

Do not allow hunting of Mountain Lions until they have reached a sustainable population nation-wide.

Bradley Tisdall

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Dear Commissioners & Secretary Hepler

The South Dakota Houndsmen Association would like to express our support to both the Mt.Lion Proposals for the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 seasons. We see no change needed in the Proposal. We also support the allowance of Nonresident . We see this as a chance for nonresident friends & Family the chance to hunt Mt.lions along side resident hunters.

I personally have to smile when i here others make the comment that GFP is only allowing nonresidents for the money. \$70,000 if you sell all 250 licences is a drop in the bucket when you look at the GFP Budget .

We see the Proposals as a great tool in the 2nd Century plan.

Thank You
Brad Tisdall
Rapid City,SD
South Dakota Houndsmen Association (President)

Madonna Goodart

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hunting mountain lions is blood sport. Nothing more. Using dogs is cruel- both for the cats and the dogs. I can't imagine a worse way to die- being chased up a tree by a pack of dogs and then shot. How is this sportsmanship? And the dogs- they will run until they drop. How much lower can we sink in this state? Do not allow this.

Louise McGannon

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing to oppose the lion hunting season. There is a purpose for these predators, if you kill the lions, then you'll wonder why later why there are too many deer, too many elk, too many coyotes and further down the food chain. Nature knows best not man. If you allow the mountain lions to be killed, then you'll open seasons on more elk, more deer. Obviously, killing predators does not work, one doesn't have to look too far back to know this. Ask Kristi Noem how that worked out at the expense of us tax payers.

I hope you reconsider hunting the mountain lions in our state, they are more important.

Heather Nearman

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I feel like all 900,000 people in the state could be opposed and you would still pass laws that are cruel and ridiculous. I not sure who you are the "voice" of, but it is definitely not the MAJORITY. I am born and raised here, conservative...yet I think some of the way things are handled are outrageous. Please really listen to those you represent and really look at what you are considering supporting.

Tammy Jungen

Watertown SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Protect mountain lions from cruel and unnecessary hunting.

Laura Campbell

Black Hawk SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Hannah Schmit

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Tamara Knoll

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Renelle Braaten

Havre MT

Position: oppose

Comment:

PLEASE! You public officials really need to keep up with the times and do some actual research. Killing all the wildlife is NOT the answer to everything! Stop this hunt and stop killing the rest of the animals you have listed. And STOP trapping...it is outdated, barbaric and cruel. All causes more harm than good!!!

Wolfey Buydos

Box Elder SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Wolfey Buydos

Box Elder SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Wolfey Buydos

Box Elder SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Birgit Munz

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Trophy hunting these beautiful cats is depraved & disgusting. It has to stop now!

Melody Dennis

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Seriously, give our wild life a break. No trophy hunting. We look like creeps to the rest of the world.

C M

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I don't feel we need to open mountain Lion hunting to more animals to be taken. We are encroaching on there territory thus one sees them more. but building more and more homes in their territory thus you are pushing them to go places they usually don't.

They don't kill livestock nu purpose but if they are grazing in their area once again only the weak get killed and that is usually wildlife except once again you are taking their territory. We don't need trophy hunters or out of state hunters as they will kill the young animals and eventually have too much inbreeding or no breeding. Stop this right now. you created the problem but hunting doesn't solve it

Roxy Houg

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I understand that the mountain lions are moving out of different areas and need to find a new home. They are not a huge threat to livestock - We need to protect them from hunters.

Autumn Anderson

Belle Fourche SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Heather Philbrook

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Strongly oppose.

Jo Kephart

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending mountain lion hunting season and increasing the opportunities for hunting mountain lions with hounds. Hound hunting is inhumane for the lion and dangerous for the dog. Thank you.

Theresa Giannavola

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Suzy Bailey

Lehi UT

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is disgraceful!

Talia Dustman

Lemmon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending mountain lion season and the use of hounds for hunting the lions. It is dangerous for all animals involved.

Samantha Kratovil

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not extend mountain lion hunting season.

Audrey Prince

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Heather Allmendinger

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not extend the mounting lion-season. Do not increase the opportunities to use hounds. The techniques used in mountain lion hunting are inhumane and also not safe for the hunting dogs. I love in South Dakota because I appreciate wildlife.

Nicole Gronli

Dell Rapids SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing in opposition to extending mountain lion hunting season and increasing the opportunities for hunting mountain lions with hounds. Mountain lions in the United States face many threats—not the least of which are wildlife management policies that don't seem overly concerned about the species' survival. Year after year the hunting quotas for mountain lions go up and agencies are less certain about the number of lions living in their states, while quite sure that the populations are healthy and growing. There is vast uncertainty of the actual numbers of mountain lions left.

Don Andersen

Hill Citu SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose making the season longer and vehemently oppose the use of dogs to run down and tree lions

Peggy Mann

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly OPPOSE extending this. What do you plan to do wipe out all God's creations in barbaric fashion to make it even worst-makes me sick. GFH shame.....

Elvira Sanatullova-Allison

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I respectfully ask you NOT to approve this harmful proposal and to protect mountain lions from cruel and unnecessary trophy hunting.

Kathryn Hess

Summerset SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The limit of the number of mountain lions has not been reached since the first year of this abomination, yet you continue to kill them and increase the number killed each year. This is unconscionable and cruel. To make it worse you may allow hunting with dogs, that is both cruel to both the mountain lions and the dogs. This cruelty must not continue. How many poor cubs die of starvation because you couldn't care less how many cubs die or in what a cruel inhumane way they die. Stop the killing.

Theda J Gallegos

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Stop the killing of the wild animals! enough is enough!

Megan Daniels

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Cristin Holm

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not support this at all.

Brenda Puskarich

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am vehemently opposed to hunting mountain lions with dogs. It is cruel for the mountain lions and dangerous for the dogs. I believe the mountain lion season should NOT be extended, the harvest seems to be adequate with the dates as they are now....I also feel that, like the ill thought out tail bounty, hunting with dogs is not only cruel, but it is not a sport. thank you

Carolyn Larson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending the mountain lion hunting season and allowing hunting mountain lions with dogs. This is dangerous and exceptionally cruel to both the mountain lions and dogs. Lions can be mauled and kittens killed by hounds. Dogs can die of exhaustion or be mauled by a lion. Hound hunting is inhumane for the lion and dangerous for the dog. This is not sport - it is cruelty to animals. We are better than this. Aren't we ???????

Mickie Hortness

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending mountain lion hunting season. I also oppose hunting lions with dogs. It is inhumane for the lion and dangerous for the dogs. What is this state becoming? Kill Kill Kill

Anne Fuehrer

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending mountain lion hunting season and increasing the opportunities for hunting mountain lions with hounds.

Carmen Muessigmann

Clark SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending mountain lion hunting and hunting them with dogs

Randee Huber

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending the mountain lion hunting season and oppose hunting mountain lions with dogs.

Nancy Neumann

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is insane. Not hi t8 g!

Julie Peterson

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Strongly oppose using packs of dogs to hunt mt. lions and you should not increase the hunting season or quotas. Like the ridiculous trapping rewards for tails, this is amazingly cruel and evil. What on earth are you even thinking??

Megan Hart

Canoga Park CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Teresa Hicks

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

To extend the mountain Lion hunting is ridiculous. In the past couple of years the limit was not even reached which tells me there are not nearly as many lions as you say. And to use dogs for cornering one of them is not a fair fight and dangerous for the dogs, but I guess hunters who have to use a dog to find their prey are not really hunters in my opinion.

Trish Demontigny

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Sue Hayes

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I understand the need to license and monitor hunting but promoting trophy hunting just for bigger profits is starting to become what SD game fish and parks is primarily promoting. It should not be about profits for trophies. SDGFP has already wasted over 1.5 million on the predator program which was a total waste of their budget that could have been used for better programs. Now they're trying to recover wasted money by increasing entrance fees and hunting fees. Get some balls and say no to this governor. This is another program that the overall effect will be negative for the state and line the pockets of a few people.

Melissa Dassinger

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

A small cell of animal rights fanatics are against all hunting and fishing and are likely bombarding you to "save the mountain lions."

These people have never feared for their lives when encountering a mountain lion on a trail or in a pasture, they have never had to dispose of killed livestock and they have never had to put down a horse that was so horrifically maimed by a mountain lion that hundreds of stitches were needed in addition to many tireless hours of wound care and prayers to save the horse's life.

Myself and others have experienced these things and we implore you to maintain a healthy and manageable mountain lion population in accordance with standard hunting practices; which includes dogs if needed.

Hunting is an American right to freedom and happiness and must be preserved against the squeaky wheel of animal rights extremists who want to end all hunting, fishing, and eventually animal use and ownership.

S. Samavarchian

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is inhumane for the lion and dangerous for the dog. Please leave our South Dakota wildlife alone. Where are the numbers justifying this assault?

S. Samavarchian

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is inhumane for the lion and dangerous for the dog. Please leave our South Dakota wildlife alone. Where are the numbers justifying this assault?

David Uehling

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose using dogs to hunt mountain lions.

Gwyneth Fastnacht

Wessington Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose extending the mountain lion hunting season and allowing hunting with packs of dogs. This poses a threat of mistreatment to the dogs, is barbaric to the cats, and poses opportunity for mauling of animals involved. Hunting with packs of dogs is a barbaric antiquated practice. Hunting with humane practices endures quick, Nearly painless death.

Paula Pillatzki

Labolt SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Strongly oppose expanding length of season and expansion of hunting area.

Karen Rambat

Scottsdale AZ

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please stop killing all of the big beautiful cats! Predators are critical to the earth. They're not a trophy to stroke someone's ego or a toy to have a good time with.

Kim Tysdal

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose the trophy hunting of mountain lions.

Eva Scott

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Not in support of extending the season, nor with the use of hounds.

Stephanie Farac

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No more killing mountain lions!! Hunters kill enough of them. I want them protected. Hear the voice of the people.

Alfredo Ramirez

Hermosa SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Dawn Wipf

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I DO NOT approve of the expanded trophy hunting proposal!! Very disheartening that the dept is considering this- trophy hunting is disgusting!! To kill a beautiful cat for no reason??? Should only be allowed if it's posing an immediate threat to someone or their property!!

Annie Stenvig

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am not in favor of the expansion as proposed.

Kalie Corrigan

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending mountain lion hunting season and I oppose increasing opportunity of mountain lion hunting with hounds.

Justine Kelly

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Anne Barnhart

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Teresa Bauman

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the proposition of hunting trophy mountain lions with dogs.

Alexandria Hoffman

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Rocky Von Eye

Plankinton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No dogs should be used in hunting. If hunters are too darn lazy to get out and hunt for these animals, they need to stay home. So sad that we feel a need to KILL.

Teri Lockett

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do believe in hunting lions just not at the expense of a dogs life.

Rocky Von Eye

Plankinton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No dogs should be used in hunting. If hunters are too darn lazy to get out and hunt for these animals, they need to stay home. So sad that we feel a need to KILL.

Barbara Papik

Mission Hill SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not allow the wholesale murder of these animals.

Natalie Cota-Garcia

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the extension and manner of what is proposed in the up coming Mountain Lion season. It is a cruel both for Lions their cubs and dogs. And in truth..that's not hunting at all.

Annette Hof

Crooks SD

Position: other

Comment:

Leave the Mountain lions and ALL animals alone. Its not fair for the dogs to go after the mountain lion. That's not right to force other animals to go after another animal. You know, its just not our planet, its also belongs to the animals too.

We need animals on this planet and the more that are killed because of greedy, selfishness and money, we are NOT going to have anymore animals left.

THEIR ALL GOING TO VANISH

All hunters should be a shame of themselves for thinking of themselves, money, being greedy and being selfish.

No respect for the animal's at all

That's a shame,

Remember, it's the animals planet also, NOT JUST OURS

Julie Berry

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose this in the strongest way possible. It is horrifying to think that an animal can run to the point of exhaustion and then just be killed along with it's family. This is not hunting, it is just killing. There is no skill needed to follow GPS to a location and use a rifle to kill something.

Ryan Wermager

Hot Springs SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Danelle McMaster

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not approve the expanded trophy hunting proposal for South Dakota's mountain lions!

Debbie Hardesty

Belle Fourche SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Darci Adams

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Cynthia Minder

Lennox SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending mountain lion hunting season and increasing the opportunities for hunting mountain lions with hounds. The risk outweighs the advantages.

Ann Pitts

Moyock NC

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a frequent visitor to your beautiful state, I am saddened by this hunting proposal. Not only does it jeopardize a fragile population of lions, it will negatively impact the entire ecosystem. Please reconsider.

Chris Hesla

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not allow Non Residents to hunt Mt. Lions. Also do not allow dogs to chase lions from private to public lands. Mt. Lions are not a varmint and deserve some protections and public lands should be from dogs.

Annette Hof

Crooks SD

Position: other

Comment:

This needs to stop!

This is not fair to the dogs or the mountain lion. People needs to stop being GREEDY, SELFISH AND STOP THINKING ABOUT MONEY.

Its just NOT our planet, its also belong to the animals.

Why is this happening, is it because animals are an easy target that they cant defend for themselves. THAT IS NOT RIGHT!

They haven't done anything to us

Leave the animals alone PERIOD.

The animals don't want to die, they want to live, just like us.

If the farmers don't like the Mountain lion cause of farm animals, the farmers should move somewhere else, because the land that their on is NOT theirs, IT BELONGS TO THE WILD. The wild was there first and people think they can just take over.

That's NOT cool at all

Everyone that harm and kills for trophy, sports traps and etc.

SHOULD ALL BE ASHAME OF THEMSELVES FOR NOT HAVING A HEART.

Quit being GREEDY, SELFISH AND MONEY HUNGERY AND LET THE ANIMALS LIVE

Thank you!

Eric Reisenweber

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This statement is in reference to the 250 nonresident mountain lion tags. There are very few South Dakota hunting seasons that nonresidents cannot partake in. As residents, we continue to lose grasp on our hunting opportunities due to nonresident hunting. I have always backed the GFP, and continue to be appreciative of what they do for fish and game. However, as residents, we do deserve some exclusive opportunities. We live in-state year round, we pay taxes year round, we strive to pass on our hunting heritage to our children. Many of us, including myself, have been lifelong residents. We have seen hunting opportunities decline for the average resident. The commercialization of pheasant hunting, has completely pushed me away from hunting our state bird. Getting permission to hunt on private land has become more and more difficult for Waterfowl hunting, and for pheasants and deer, all but impossible in many areas.

For the limited opportunities to harvest animals such as mountain lions, elk, big horn sheep, and mountain goats, I strongly oppose nonresident licenses. Yes, there are animals out there to hunt, and some great quality animals. However, as a dedicated lifelong South Dakota resident, and extremely avid hunter, I ask you to keep those select hunting opportunities exclusively for residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lori Goldade

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not allow non-residents to hunt Mountain Lions in SD.

Kelly Morgan

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending mountain lion hunting season and increasing the opportunities for hunting mountain lions with hounds- an inhumane practice.

Kristine Muko

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is bad for the cats and for the dogs who hunt them. Strongly opposed

Jeffrey Clow

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

- The current mountain lion management plan's goals are being met by resident boot hunters. There is no current need to increase pressure or to increase the number of lions to be harvested based on science and our wildlife biologists.
- There is no need to support more non-resident hunters due to social and economic pressures.
- This will open up more commercial hunting operations, leaving the average SD hunter with fewer opportunities.
- Dog packs on public lands disturb wildlife, livestock and human users.
- Mountain lions are trophy animals and should not be treated as a varmint and pursued everywhere they exist.
- When a mountain lion is pursued off private land, it should be safe from further pursuit by dogs on public land. The Rules of Fair Chase demand the animal hunted has a reasonable chance of escape

Larry Lewis

Hecla SD

Position: other

Comment:

While I am not a Lion Hunter, I am a SD resident and an avid predator caller who enjoys the benefits of SD outdoor recreation.

I have witnessed the growing marketing of our public resources to those who are willing to "pay to play" within our state. While I am proud of our state and our wildlife resources I am concerned that we will continue selling away our resources such a mountain lions until only the wealthy among us are able to take advantage of the great things in our state that made me want to come back and retire here!

I understand there is no biologically sound reason for the proposed expansions proposed and that management of our lion population is occurring by resident hunters as originally planned.

Please keep our current system in place and do not reduce resident opportunities to hunt this magnificent species unless there is a biologically sound reason for doing so!

Your consideration of my comments is appreciated;

Larry E. Lewis

Jeff Trout

Brandon SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Susan Price

Mooringsport LA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Just stop. Use trained wildlife agents to cull the population if necessary, not the public.

Denise Maher

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The number of lions harvested has been on the decline for five straight years. While there may be a number of factors involved, clearly it indicates we may have over harvested the lion in the Black Hills and population has dropped below estimated levels. The number of juvenile lions who resort to domestic prey has increased due as a loss of their parent and opportunity to learn how to effrctky hunt wildlife.

We need to seriously assess how we are managing our big cats. There must be a balance between levels harvested and a sustainable population. Adding dogs to the mix and extending the season without understanding why our harvest numbers are so low is not a scientific or logical approach and may further escalate the population balance for long-term sustainability. Please vote wisely and use caution in how we are managing our trophy game. Voting to move forward with the proposal is reckless and unwarranted at this time. Thank you.

Joe Arbach

Hoven SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have had a Mountain Lion tag each year since the season opened. I do not want to see this opened to non residents as there is enough hunting pressure now.

I would like to see public land, out side of Black Hills district, opened to the use of dogs though. I live in north central SD and the cats that come around here have no idea what land is pubic or private.

Sincerely,
Joe Arbach

Joe Arbach

Hoven SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of dogs on public land out side of the Black Hills region.

Rich Widman

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The GF&P should not continue to bow down to commercial interests and greed. What is your #1 priority? It used to be the citizens of this great state! We've all seen the destruction of our habitat and wildlife because of the decisions made by the last administration and unfortunately support by GF&P top brass. We've all seen the loss of hunters and fishermen because of those decisions. And yet, no one seems to learn their lesson. Quit making decisions based on greed and not science. Quit denying South Dakota's sportsmen/women their right to use their amazing outdoor traditions and heritage in their own home state! Quit ignoring the residents who live here, pay taxes, and pay millions to support SD businesses year round! Quit turning SD in a old European plutocracy where only the "royalty" or "wealthy" can use the land or waters for their benefit. AS we all know, Mt Lion harvest numbers have been steady going down. Some biologists say we may never get back to harvesting 70 lions so there is no scientific reason to bring in any more hunters. And, if we do get an increase in lions, all the better trophy hunt for our resident hunters!

Wayne Bremer

Piedmont SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am against the proposal to allow non-residents to hunt mountain lions in SD. I believe there are sufficient numbers of resident tag purchases to maintain the population and satisfy the hunt quota. Likewise, the non-utilization of dogs should be maintained outside of CSP.

Alena Neumann

Blaine MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I agree with these points:

This draft plan is designed to manage mountain lions for maximum trophy hunting opportunity, not for conservation.

Mountain lions regulate their own numbers and do not require intense management to limit their populations.

Hunting is a bad tool, killing the lions least likely to come into conflict with people, pets and livestock, and creating more space for young dispersing lions that are most likely to come into conflict.

Non-lethal methods are more effective and last longer.

Killing female mountain lions results in the orphaning of their kittens. Hunting leaves kittens to die from starvation, dehydration, and exposure.

Mountain lions are a keystone species in their ecosystems, maintaining biological diversity and other benefits to people.

Don't allow up to 250 out-of-state trophy hunters to hunt South Dakota's mountain lions.

Don't extend South Dakota's hunting season in the Black Hills Fire Protection district from March 31 to April 30.

John Blackburn

Yankton SD

Position: other

Comment:

First: You know about this than I do! My comment is: I object to allowing out of state hunters in lion hunting . We have plenty of S. D. persons who would like to "take" a lion. Please do not "give in" to public nor economic pressures to allow out of state lion hunters. Thanks!!! John P. Blackburn

Toby Royer

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The current mountain lion management plan's goals are being met by resident boot hunters. There is no current need to increase pressure or to increase the number of lions to be harvested.

This will open up more commercial hunting operations, leaving the average SD hunter with less opportunities.

Being from Aberdeen, I only get to make a few trips a year out there before the magic number is hit. If out of state hunters are allowed it would only shorten the season and not allow me and my children to make those trips.

Mountain lions are trophy animals and should not be treated as a varmint and pursued everywhere they exist.

Andrew Ellis

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I absolutely oppose ANY mountain lion nonresident license proposal. Allowing nonresidents to hunt OUR cats is B.S. and will only line the pockets of special interests big pig groups. It's a trophy animal that is being managed well by RESIDENT hunters already. 250 additional nonresident hunters will dilute the pool even further. I CAN NOT believe this is even being considered. Nonresidents have stolen enough hunting opportunities from residents already, DO NOT make it worse!!

Christopher Lane

Tea SD

Position: other

Comment:

I am writing this to show I oppose the proposal to allow 250 non residents to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota this should be a privilege reserved for SD residents. I do however support the expanded use of dogs in hunting the mountain lions.

Robert Eddy

Spearfish SD

Position: other

Comment:

* I oppose the sale of mountain lion licences to non-residents at this time. If additional harvest is needed, a rewrite of current hunting practices may be needed.

* I am in agreement to allow dogs, outside of the Black Hills, to be used in the pursuit of this sport.

Berdette Zastrow

Grenville SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We do not need non-residents hunting our lions. Please DO NOT approve the use of dogs on public land. We do not have to kill lions out of existence and disturb other wildlife while doing it. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Darcy Bracken-Marxen

Hermosa SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose extending the mountain lion trophy hunting season AND the use of hunting dogs.

Rick Hanger

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

In reference to Nonresident lion hunting I am basically opposed. Our limited specialty tags should remain resident only. If NR lion hunting is allowed I think it would be a fair assumption that you would see more hound hunting. Personally I think hound hunting has a negative effect on other wild life. Limited NR lion hunting, if allowed, should not have any negative effects on residents. i.e. no reduction in licenses, or season lengths.

Cristin Holm

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not issue so many permits- it will take out more than half the population annually.

Marian Hennings

Spokane WA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Mountain lions self-regulate their population and do not require human intervention by a hunting season. They should be left alone, with no hunting season.

Suzanne Hodges

Rancho Cordova CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

SDGFP guesses that there are 111 to 970 mountain lions statewide, and the breadth of that estimate shows that they have very little understanding about the vitality of the small population. If the actual mountain lion population is close to 111, then a quota of 60 hunting permits (as in the past few years) would represent a loss of more than half the population annually, and rapid extirpation of lions in South Dakota.

There's just too little habitat, too much human-caused mortality, and too few mountain lions to justify a hunt. Remember, South Dakota's wildlife belongs to everyone, not only to hunters.

This draft plan is designed to manage mountain lions for maximum trophy hunting opportunity, not for conservation.

Mountain lions regulate their own numbers and do not require intense management to limit their populations. Hunting is a bad tool, killing the lions least likely to come into conflict with people, pets and livestock, and creating more space for young dispersing lions that are most likely to come into conflict.

Non-lethal methods are more effective and last longer.

Killing female mountain lions results in the orphaning of their kittens. Hunting leaves kittens to die from starvation, dehydration, and exposure.

Mountain lions are a keystone species in their ecosystems, maintaining biological diversity and other benefits to people.

Don't allow up to 250 out-of-state trophy hunters to hunt South Dakota's mountain lions.

Don't extend South Dakota's hunting season in Black Hills region.

Our nation is on the verge of destroying this apex species upon which whole ecosystems depend. Hunting mountain lions is morally unjustified, and killing lions to prevent conflicts is ineffective and dangerous.

There is a critical need to know more about the biology, behavior, and ecology of mountain lions, and governments should base decisions upon truthful science, valid data, and the highest common good.

Conserving critical lion habitat is essential.

Suzanne Hodges

Rancho Cordova CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

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There is a critical need to know more about the biology, behavior, and ecology of mountain lions, and governments should base decisions upon truthful science, valid data, and the highest common good.

Conserving critical lion habitat is essential.

Dave Bacon

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jeanette Williams

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the season altogether, but please, please, please do not make matters worse by lengthening the season and increasing the use of dogs. It is just deplorable what our state is doing to these beautiful animals.

Anglia Dale

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Trophy hunting should not be allowed.

Katherine Svensen

Ellendale ND

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Laura Fairhead

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The numbers I saw said there are somewhere between 111 and 900 lions in the black hills. If that number is on the lower end, the season and the extension could wipe out the population. Lions are integral to the area's ecosystem.

Justin Allen

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm against allowing NRs to hunt Mt. Lions in SD. If you want to increase harvest start the season earlier. I'm also against the use of dogs on public land even if the track/chase originated on private. Thanks

Patrick Gross

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

On the onset this proposed expansion of selling our natural resources to hunters from outside South Dakota smacks of commercialism not at all unlike the fiasco when the legislature recently pushed for expanding waterfowl hunting to thousands of non residents. The SDGFP should have, as it first responsibility, South Dakota hunters as it's priority. We understand that harvest goals are being met by residents. That should be the end of the story! Lastly, the use of dogs for chasing down raccoons and other varmit is marginally acceptable based on the impacts they have on nesting birds and others, but using packs of dogs on such a special species as Mountain Lions is inexcusably wrong and totally smacks of the total abandonment of fair chase ethics many if not most hunters abide by. SDGFP should be the first to say no to this unethical practice. Totally OPPOSED.

Dianna Torson

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending the mountain lion hunting season and I oppose hunting with hounds.

Bill Antonides

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

First, thank you for your service. I know your job is tough, even though your mission is clear.

I will make this quick: We do not need non-residents hunting mountain lions, and we do not need more dogs and the accompanying commercialization and unethical practices (fair chase does not apply when a lion is chased by dogs and trapped in a tree).

What we need is for residents to understand they have a magnificent trophy animal in their state, and a trip to Africa is not necessary to hunt an apex predator. We need the GF&P to help get this point across. Think of the adverting and educational possibilities!

Thank you,

Bill Antonides

Dan Limmer

Lake Norden SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please protect resident opportunity. SD is not a shooting preserve. Thank you

Scott Kuck

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is another example of slowly forcing out resident hunters. There is no need for 250 non-resident hunters to be allowed to hunt mountain lions on top of resident hunters. Nor is the use dogs on public land necessary. The lion harvest numbers have stagnated in The Black Hills and there is no scientific or biological reason to allow these changes to the lion hunting. It will crowd hunters and potentially interrupt someone hunting on foot without dogs on public land. No needed and just another attempt to make money at the expense of South Dakota residents.

Mark Wetmore

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please back off the pressure on the lions for awhile. See what happens. A few less elk and elk hunters... won't hurt the state.

Dan Waldman

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to the proposal to allow non residents to receive a mountain lion tag. We have enough pressure from out of staters with our unlimited deer and antelope archery tags lets not do lions too.

Kath Knox

Belle Fourche SD

Position: other

Comment:

Please stop this insanity why kill off a beautiful anything for money these days

Ashley Johnson

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Limit or better yet, stop using hunting dogs for hunting mountain lions.

Bob Brown

Chamberlain SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Biological data provided in GFP's action summary certainly does not support more licenses. In addition I think the Commission needs to look at ways of making the lion season more attractive to resident hunters. We don't need additional nonresidents.

Jill Kosbau

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Commission: Do NOT approve this harmful proposal and protect mountain lions from cruel and unnecessary trophy hunting.

Kristi Quaintance

Garretson SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Do NOT expand mountain lion hunting. ESPECIALLY with dogs for goodness sakes! This isn't the old west. Some of these animals are working very hard just to be out of people's way. Leave them alone. Lobby DC to expand the CRP program so farmers aren't farming ditch to ditch. Give our wildlife more room and allow our wildlife to thrive and for the love of all that is holy, GET RID OF THOSE DAMN TRAPS for the stupid and very expensive nesting program. I know Noem took money from your program and your hands are tied but keep working to stay viable so there is still some "game" in the Game Fish & Parks.

Ray Fini

Saint Paul MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hi,

As a resident of Minnesota, I have interest in the conservation of species that have the potential to recolonize suitable habitat in our state. I believe expanding the hunting season and quotas makes this much less unlikely. It seems this policy is more about trophy hunting than about sound conservation. I believe non-lethal methods to manage the SD population would be a better solution to the predation issues. I hope you consider this and realize that your decisions don't just affect SD, they impact the whole upper Midwest.

Ray Fini
Saint Paul, MN

Nancy Fleming

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I don't think there is good enough information to do this. I also do not think using dogs is right. Seeing lots of neglect of dogs, sales and abuse of hunting dogs. I think mountain lions are necessary and useful predators in the ecosystem here. We don't have to kill everything.

Troy Erickson

Salem SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

There has been no problem reaching the mountain lion quota each year with the current system. Please keep the licenses available to residents only, and do not allow dogs.

Florence Duran

Box Elder SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Patricia Stock

Olmsted Falls OH

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is out and out slaughter. But than agai isn't that what trophy hunting is? Are you so bored you have to slaughter the cougars, who by the way could assist in killing deer that have CWD. Your hunters must have a really small dingie that they have to get pleasure from killing an apex predator. They're necessary man is not

Paulette Keller

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Shari Kosel

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Dear Chairman Jensen, Members of the Commission, and Director Leif:

South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SD FACT) writes strongly in opposition of the proposed updated mountain lion management plan. With support from over 4,000 members, we provide the following:

Without scientific knowledge of the number of mountain lions in South Dakota, a quota of 60 hunting permits could have devastating effects on the population and potentially extirpate mountain lions in our state.

Quota numbers should include those lions that are killed by vehicles, incidental snaring or trapping, poisoning, poaching, and public safety removal. Without more scientific information as to factual lion population numbers and, in light of the fact that the longstanding quota has not been met in several years, it is completely unnecessary to increase the amount of lions killed annually. We feel this increase is unjustified and dangerous for this essential predator.

Using hounds to hunt mountain lions is unethical and is not sporting. Often dogs die of exhaustion or are mauled. Hound hunting is unethical, inhumane and dangerous for the dog. GPS collars for hunting should also be prohibited as it does not provide fair chase.

Extending the mountain lion season could impact the end of mating season and occur when lions are pregnant, giving birth and/or rearing their young. This could result in orphaned kittens who will eventually die from starvation, dehydration and exposure. SDCL 41-1-4 No person may wantonly waste or destroy any of the birds, animals, or fish of the kinds protected by the laws of this state. Unborn kittens or those dependent on their lactating mother are wanton waste of our state wildlife.

Trophy hunting of mountain lions kills the lead member of the territory, resulting in inexperienced juveniles most likely to cause conflicts with livestock and humans. There's just too little habitat, too much human-caused mortality, and too few mountain lions to justify a hunt. Remember, South Dakota's wildlife belongs to everyone, not only to hunters.

The difficulty of hunting a mountain lion may be an indicator of lesser population numbers. At the very least, the fact that killing a mountain lion is such a difficult enterprise, should go to the credit of this noble, unique apex predator and should not lead to multiple rules allowing for an easier "harvest" by inexperienced, unsuccessful outdoorsmen. There remains insufficient evidentiary facts for the increase in the historically unmet quotas and in the universal use of hounds, GPS collars, and a lengthened season.

SDCL 41-1-2. Game birds, animals, and fish as property of state. All wildlife is held as a public trust by the state, similar to any other natural resource. Introducing 250 out-of-state hunting licenses, solely as a cash-grab, unfairly restricts the local enjoyment of this resource for South Dakota hunters and non-hunters alike. While value of mountain lions cannot solely be defined by monetary considerations, it is vital that your oversight not lead to the complete elimination of this unique public resource.

Respectfully,

SD FACT Board of Directors
Shari Kosel, Lead, SD
Sara Parker, Sioux Falls, SD
Joe Kosel, Lead, SD

Cole Walters

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Strongly oppose

Kathy Holm

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Vaughn Boyd

Whitewood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to extending the hunting season & using dogs. The season already in place is not necessary and extending it accomplishes nothing other than more cruelty to bug cats & the dogs. The limit you set is never reached in the time allowed so maybe your lion count is off. I don't think extending the season is the answer
Thank you

Janet Davison

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly object to the expansion of the mountain lion hunting season, and especially to the addition of allowing hunters to use dogs in pursuing mountain lions. Unless there is substantial evidence that the human population is at risk from mountain lion attacks, there seems to be no good reason for expanding the season, and even less for adding dogs to the equation. I am disturbed by the seemingly increasing attitude in our state government that less wildlife is better. Or perhaps it's simply that the only good wildlife is that which we can kill with impunity. What on earth is going on in South Dakota?

Courtney Huse Wika

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose these suggested changes.

Jan Humphrey

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Completely vile and inhumane. Not just to the cats but the dogs as well. Hey get some balls GFP and tell the gutless hunters to get off their asses and hunt, not drive up and shoot a helpless, exhausted animal.

Elene Fiordaliso

Wildwood NJ

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not increase the possibility or ease of killing these cats.

Kimberly Smith

Hartford SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is a horrible idea to let mountain lions be trophy hunted. It is inhumane and total disregard for potential cubs that could be orphaned. I am disappointed in our state and our governor and I will not vote for her again if this passes among other supporting representatives.

Tania Taylor

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose the idea of allowing trophy hunting outside the season.

Patty Larson

Nisland SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the expansion of Mt. Lion hunting season as well as hunting with dogs. The rest of the world is watching South Dakota and it's policies towards animal cruelty, hunting and trapping and we aren't looking too good.

Courtney Pierce

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the extension of the season and the use of dog packs to hunt the mountain lions.

Melissa Daniel

Box Eldee SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Pamela Fausty

Bedford NY

Position: oppose

Comment:

The proposal for the extension of mountain lion hunting season and use of dogs is irresponsible and cruel for both the lions and dogs. Instead of pandering to the commercial hunting interests you should adhere to what is in the best interest of the wildlife you are supposed to protect!

Kerma Cox

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Why on earth would you want to increase the limit? They don't even attain the limit set now. It seems that anymore you people just want to erase all our wildlife. Obviously I am wholeheartedly against this change.

Shirley Wright

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

People have moved into the lions territory. We do not need to around killing animals in their own territory. Dart them. sedate then, move them to another location. But killing is a sin. It's not our home. It's their's.

Sharee Heier

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This proposal is inhumane and not a fair hunt. I respectfully oppose this

Elizabeth Trygstad

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Sau Tsang

Las Vegas NV

Position: oppose

Comment:

This draft plan is designed to manage mountain lions for maximum trophy hunting opportunity, not for conservation.

Mountain lions regulate their own numbers and do not require intense management to limit their populations.

Hunting is a bad tool, killing the lions least likely to come into conflict with people, pets and livestock, and creating more space for young dispersing lions that are most likely to come into conflict.

Non-lethal methods are more effective and last longer.

Killing female mountain lions results in the orphaning of their kittens. Hunting leaves kittens to die from starvation, dehydration, and exposure.

Mountain lions are a keystone species in their ecosystems, maintaining biological diversity and other benefits to people.

Don't allow up to 250 out-of-state trophy hunters to hunt South Dakota's mountain lions.

Don't extend South Dakota's hunting season in the Black Hills Fire Protection district from March 31 to April 30.

Teena O'toole

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Shari Kosel

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Sarah Carl

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending mountain lion hunting season and increasing the opportunities for hunting mountain lions with hounds.

Allison Walls

Box Elder SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have always opposed Mountain Lion hunting season unless the lion presents a threat. Using hunting dogs is not a good way to go. It poses a threat to the dogs and the lions and their kittens. Please don't let this happen

Denise Heupel

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

We live along Antelope Creek just north of Box Elder where mountain lions have been spotted with uncomfortable regularity. I have small livestock and live in constant fear of them being killed by a lion. I fully support mountain lion hunting and hope that the limit is raised, because its just a matter of time before someone is killed.

Cynthia Grabow

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Inhumane actions! Using dogs is unfair and truly not a hunting sport!

Cynthia Grabow

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Inhumane actions! Using dogs is unfair and truly not a hunting sport!

Jesse Ekeren

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The reasons I am opposed to this are as follows:

-The current mountain lion management plan's goals are being met by resident boot hunters. There is no current need to increase pressure or to increase the number of lions to be harvested based on science and our wildlife biologists.

-There is no need to support more non-resident hunters due to social and economic pressures.

-This will open up more commercial hunting operations, leaving the average SD hunter with fewer opportunities.

-Dog packs on public lands disturb wildlife, livestock and human users.

-Mountain lions are trophy animals and should not be treated as a varmint and pursued everywhere they exist.

-When a mountain lion is pursued off private land, it should be safe from further pursuit by dogs on public land. The Rules of Fair Chase demand the animal hunted has a reasonable chance of escape.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jesse

Muzzleloader Scopes

Glenn Osterbur

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Justin Sahli

Bryant SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Muzzleloader should be primitive.

Justin Allen

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposed to changing the muzzleloader scope restrictions. A google search shows there is several 1x scope options out there so that argument isn't a great one. Moreover I don't agree with making all big game season/licenses as easy as possible to kill an animal. It seems like that is what GFP has done over the last few years with season lengths and weapon rules. Muzzy by definition is a tougher hunt and I don't agree with making it easier. Folks will always push the limitations of their guns and allowing this rule change guys that take shots at 150 yds with 1x scopes will just be shooting 300 plus yards now. Wounding rates will not come down as some argue but harvest likely will putting additional pressure on deer and ultimately tag allocations. If hunters want to use high powered scopes on muzzle loaders there is nothing stopping them right now from doing that during the regular firearm seasons in Nov. Thank you for your time. Justin Allen

Randy Thoreson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Donald Werner lii

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Brian Ballard

Yankton SD

Position: other

Comment:

If you are accepting the excuse that it is hard to find a 1x scope for your muzzleloader, you are very gullible. There are many scopes or no magnification electronic dot type sights out there. If allowed and you use a modern in line muzzleloader, you just as well call it another rifle season. While your at it, bring on the crossbows.....I think what you should be focusing on is having a more favorable season to hunt with a muzzleloader. Like a week or so before rifle season. Instead of everyone else hammering them first and then under usually the worst weather conditions....you get what's left over and by then most deer are on private ground. This really doesn't take rocket science. Just common sense.

Steven Ipswitch

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I feel that muzzleloader hunting should reflect the technology that existed at the time the arms were used, which precludes telescopic sights.

Scott Loecker

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Our muzzleloader season was originally intended to be a primitive hunting method. Adding the ability to use a scope will essentially turn this into another rifle season.

Fred Wells

Vale SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ryan Cummings

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposed to changes proposed to muzzleloader scopes. Modern technology has big game hunting as easy as ever and this is another step in wrong direction. What ever happened to the pride of out smarting an animal and getting close to it to kill it. Now we are taking 800 yd rifle shots, 100 yd bow shot and with this guys will try 300yd muzzy shots. There is no doubt wounding rates have and will continue to go up. Don't fix what isn't broken and leave the scope restriction as is at 1x. Thanks

Renee Allen

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not support the muzzleloader scope change. South Dakota has how many different seasons and licenses where you can use rifles with high powered scopes? I see no reason to add Muzzleloader to the list. If you want high powered scope feel free to hunt any of the several other deer season. New 1x scopes can be found with ease online, they do exist despite what some say.

Philip Neuharth

Menno SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would support this change. I understand that this was started as a primitive season. For a lot of us it is a way to extend our time in the outdoors. If the use of scope's changes the harvest rate of this season and it needs to be more restricted, through lottery draws or other means. That is what will need to happen. If the department supports this change, then I think we should as well. Thanks

Gregg Yonkovich

Aberdeen SD

Position: support

Comment:

agree with proposed change to allow 1-4, or 1-6X scopes. Would suggest including an straight power scopes in the proposal up to 4X or 6X. It's almost impossible to find 1X scope, and frankly the scope restriction has discouraged me from muzzle loader hunting. My eyes aren't what they used to be, and we all want ethical kills.

Justin Downes

Milbank SD

Position: support

Comment:

It is time to allow optics. Muzzleloading has enough disadvantages in South Dakota with the vast spaces and following rifle seasons. The modern muzzleloader is capable of much more than what the GFP allows as we are limited in taking an ethical shot due to not enough magnification in a scope. A 6x is of course a start but why are we limiting what scope someone uses? They still only get one shot. It's time to open this up and let this tag see it's true potential.

Kevin Burke

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Between advanced archery equipment, crossbows, and now this, it seems we are going away from fair chase and we are now discriminating against the traditional rifle season.

Jeff Sorensen

Viborg SD

Position: support

Comment:

99% of new muzzleloader rifle with scope combinations that are offered for sale by manufacturers come with 3-9 power scopes. When a search is googled for muzzleloader scopes, most all of the responses will be for 3-9 power scopes.

I am in support of doing away with all magnification restrictions on muzzle loading rifles. If a restriction is deemed necessary, I am in support of allowing the use of up to 9x magnification on muzzle loading rifles. Thank you.

Jason Taylor

Fort Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Muzzleloader Scope Proposal

I am against allowing scopes above 1x power on muzzleloaders. There are plenty of option out there for 1x power scopes. I did a quick search on the internet and found 4 different brands of 1x power muzzleloader scopes for under \$200 on the internet (Vortex Crossfire II, Thompson Hawken Hunter, Weaver Kaspas, and Traditions), which doesn't include red dot scopes.

There are hunters out there that don't put in for muzzleloader because they currently have to use open sights or a 1x power scope, changing that regulation and opening it up, will make the hunt easier and will make drawing the tag even harder, because more people will start to apply for the muzzleloader tag. There are some hunters that push their limits with rifles and try to take shots that are too far or beyond their capability, just because there is a buck standing on the hill side. Allowing a scope beyond 1x power would give some hunters a false sense of comfort and they will try to take shots beyond the muzzleloaders effective range or beyond the distance that the hunter has practiced at, at the range. In turn it would wound more deer. A 200 yard shot with a muzzleloader is not even close to what 200 yard shot is with a rifle.

A muzzleloaders max effective range is 150–200 yards, now you put a scope on it and a person will be pushing the limit of their muzzleloader and what it is intended for. For those that say it is hard to get close enough for an ethical, clean shot with open sights, that is just a bad excuse, I have done it many times and archery hunters still do it in December.

During the Muzzleloder Antelope petition portion of the September commission meeting, Tony Leif said, "If a person wants to shoot an antelope with a muzzleloader, then they can do that during the rifle season." It is the same thing here with this proposal. If a person wants to use a scope above 1x power, then they can during the rifle season.

The Commission, GFP and SD hunters have to look at the overall picture, instead of trying to keep up with the technology creeping and making hunting and harvesting game as easy as possible. Hunting isn't about how easy we can make it to harvest an animal. It is supposed to be about being in the outdoors, spotting and sneaking up to a close enough distance for an ethical shot, and the experience. The GFP should be helping to hold on to traditions, not setting them aside for technology. If you allow higher scope magnification along with the newer muzzleloaders, then you have basically created another "rifle season." Let's keep the muzzleloader season as primitive as it was intended to be and let's not let technology take over, like it has on many other seasons.

Please keep the muzzleloader season the way that it was intended to be, and reject this proposal.
Thanks

Ryan Wermager

Hot Springs SD

Position: support

Comment:

allowing 1-4 power scopes will result in more accurate shooting but will not extend the range of a muzzleloader. the average ML bullet has 32" of drop at 300 yards with a 150 yard zero. it will not extend the range, but will help those with eyesight issues to be able to see clearer. I have used a 1 power scope and it is a handicap. I cannot use open sights because of astigmatism. this is a great rule change that will result in less wounded and lost game. Period!

Dana Rogers

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The Muzzleloader season (along with archery) were meant as more primitive season opportunities. This petition is not valid as it was initially written! A Muzzleloader comes with open sights, there are 'red dot' type sights available quite abundantly and there are 1X (zero magnification) scopes available to purchase if you look.

I can empathize with an aging person losing some ocular acuity. However, you simply have to choose your shots within your capability and limits. To open the flood gates with magnification on the Muzz season will basically make it a RIFLE season with ranges of 300-400 yards being fairly attainable.

Just because a manufacturer can produce technology doesn't mean we need to use it or make it legal. I know the department is all about pushing this R3 to recruit, retain and reinvigorate, BUT is lowering the bar and making hunting easier really our best option?

Hunting is supposed to be challenging and can certainly be difficult. I'm troubled by the constant effort to push technology, increase shooting range (possibly increasing wounding) and making things 'easier'.

I appreciate your time as commissioners, working on behalf of SD sportsmen and above all our wildlife resources. I humbly ask that you please vote NO on adding high power optics to our Muzzleloader season.

Gerald Shaw

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Don't need it. Muzzleloader season is meant to be a more primitive weapon season and with current technology of muzzleloaders, adding scopes only invites people to push the limits far beyond most individuals capabilities. Keep primitive seasons primitive.

Jason Haskell

Aberdee SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I STRONGLY oppose the idea of magnified scopes on muzzleloaders. We have no need to add another "rifle" season to the available hunt seasons. The main draw of the muzzleloader is the challenge and the extended season. I would prefer to see a muzzleloader season that started a week before rifle, ran congruent with rifle and a couple weeks after. If you permit scopes there is no need to have an extended season and should be treated more like a rifle than the "primitive weapons" hunt that it is intended to be. Thank you for hearing my concern.

Brett Barnes

Mount Vernon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Opening the muzzleloader season up to variable power scopes is only opening the door to turn this into another rifle season. High end variable power scopes like the Vortex Razor Gen II 1-4x or 1-6x has enough adjustment that with a custom muzzleloader bullet an effective and trained shooter could effectively hit targets out to 800ish yards. I know this isn't the intent, but where does it stop? I'd like to see this stay as traditional as we possibly can. We already have rifle season, we don't need another.

Mike Murray

Letcher SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Putting a scope on a muzzle loader is giving people another rifle tag. Please leave it the way it currently is.

Nate Schaub

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We do not need another rifle season in the state. This would take away from harvesting a deer with a muzzleloader due to today's optics choices allowing quarter mile plus ranges.

Harry Globstad

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Allowing high power scopes on muzzleloaders will increase accuracy to ranges previously obtainable only with high power rifles. This is supposed to be a primitive season much like archery. If a person has trouble shooting open sights there are many zero power scope and red dots sights available. Please vote no on this issue.

Bob Brown

Chamberlain SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Allowing variable power scopes isn't needed. The muzzleloader season was first proposed as a primitive season. Has this changed. There are a number of options for 1X magnification optics available to hunters if they are not comfortable with iron sights. With the addition of sabots, a variety of bullet weights and powder charges, allowing 4X to 6X magnification scopes is basically the same as allowing many modern centerfire rifles. I respectfully cannot support this proposal.

Other

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: other

Comment:

Nancy Hilding to SD GFP

This is 2001 land area data relative to the proposal to make trapper ID only apply in SD to the GFP subset of SD public lands. You must consider all SD public lands, no matter the state agency/local government involved and all federal lands. I would send you the actual chart, but your on-line commenting does not allow attachments.

Table 1. Land acreages by ownership categories in South Dakota
(Source: Smith 2001, unless otherwise noted)

Ownership statewide acres % of statewide

total private land 36,875,256 78.7%

U.S. Forest Service

national grasslands (866,902)

national wildlife preserves (27,038)

national forests (1,125,318)

2,019,258

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers¹ 138,446

U.S. Bureau of Land Management 266,278

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

waterfowl production areas (148,142)

national wildlife refuges (46,713)

194,855

National Park Service² 248,217

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation³ 34,185

Federal lands subtotal 2,901,239 6.2%

Tribal trust lands⁴ 5,202,811 11.1%

S.D. Office of School and Public Lands⁵ 807,000

SDGFP

game production areas and water access
areas (185,670)

Division of Parks and Recreation and
Custer State Park (99,952)

285,622

Other state lands 373,282

State lands subtotal 1,465,904 3.1%

water 428,105 0.9%

TOTAL (based on the identified sources) 46,873,315

Barbara Garakian

Rancho Mirage CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

STOP THIS CRUELTY.. it's animal abuse and they suffer. Animals need to be free

Julie Anderson

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

To: Rachel Comes

Please forward this letter to the SDGFP Commission as public comment for the Mountain Lion meeting on Sept. 5th and 6th in Spearfish.

Thank You,

To: SDGFP Commissioners

The hunters of South Dakota complain because they claim the deer population in the Black Hills is too low because of mountain lions. The ranchers claim the mountain lions are killing their livestock. People living in the Black Hills complain because there are mountain lion sightings in their backyards or close to schools. The hound hunters want to kill mountain lions for recreation, as do trophy hunters.

Since a mountain lion season in the Black Hills was initiated, every year there are more and more complaints. This is because you are allowing the taking of the healthiest animals who would never come into conflict with humans for trophy and hound hunters, thus creating juvenile lions with no hunting skills who will predate on anything that will sustain them. The 2nd Century Initiative has thrown out science as any basis for wildlife decisions and now GF&P endorses killing to preserve hunting and trapping traditions as its priority.

The majority of the public abhors trophy and hound hunting, and giving the majority a voice should be a main priority of this agency. Mountain lions are self-regulating in their numbers and hunting them to sustain the population is a false premise. I call into question the population of lions estimated in the Black Hills, as the killing quotas in the past 2 seasons have not been met.

This agency needs to reassess the science involved with their decision making and give these animals a place to live where they won't be hunted, and their natural life cycles and habits can be observed. You also need to consult other agencies like the Humane Society of the United States and work in conjunction with their biologists to estimate the mountain lion population. They also have information that would help reduce conflicts with lions and people.

GF&P also needs reassessment of what drives their decisions to kill mountain lions, like quality mountain lion recreational opportunities (page 80, Strategy 2E).

Lastly, it is never stated in your plan that these animals feel, raise families and show love and affection like all felines. This is never taken into consideration when factoring in a season. Mountain Lions have a right to exist without human interference, especially in Custer State Park. There is absolutely no need to kill any of these animals in the park to satisfy the blood thirst of trophy or hound hunters.

I implore you to please, listen to your constituents who do not hunt, and wish to see these animals alive and in their natural habitat, not on someone's wall.

Sincerely,

Julie Anderson
845 Virginia Lane
Rapid City, SD
57701

Susan Theilen

Chilliwack BC

Position: support

Comment:

sick. Hate traps. If you must hunt. Be like an animal.. Hunt your prey like all other animals. Sick and disgusting. If you do use traps. Be a human and check them every few hours.....For human sake .

Teah Homsey-Pray

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I object to the aggressive proposed mountain lion hunt. I certainly see no reason for unfair hound hunting of this apex predator. Can SDGF&P identify the Prairie Unit Areas of gold lion habitat and then manage this unit in order to sustain the small mountain lion populations?
Maybe the science of mountain lions should be under closer study and then taught to our youth and the public? Maybe then SD would realize these animals are not our enemy.

Austin Falkingham

Tea SD

Position: support

Comment:

In reference to allowing the use of scopes on muzzleloaders, I fully support. Would it be possible however to allow up to 9x power? There are multiple scopes on the market that are specifically developed for use on modern inline muzzleloaders, and these scopes are typically 3x-9x adjustable. See links below for a couple examples.

<https://www.nikonportoptics.com/en/nikon-products/riflescopes/prostaff-p3-muzzleloader-3-9x40-bdc-300.html>

<https://www.leupold.com/scopes/rifle-scopes/vx-freedom-muzzleloader-3-9x40>

Ron Laughlin

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Re: Petition to allow 1-4, or 1-6 power scopes during muzzle loader season.

When these variable scopes are set on one power they are not truly one power. When set on one power these scopes are normally actually 1.2, or 1.3 power, or some such.

Vickie Hauge

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am a registered voter. In general I am opposed to trapping other then live traps for relocation for conservation and safety.

I don't feel fur trade is South Dakota's bread and butter, so why in this day and age do we find it necessary to use a claw trap?

However if trapping is permitted it should be checked every 24hours and all traps should be registered and the owner should have a log. Again, I am opposed...thank you.

Ted Ellenbecker

Beaver Creek MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the new regulations being considered for the Jim the Sioux and the vermilion rivers. A step backwards in time, an infringement on my fishing and a detriment to those smalll bodies of water as well as non target species. Also in conversations I have had with officers of SD GFP I have been til you don't have the money, time, or man power to police new catfish regulations on the Jim river . How ar enough goin to enforce and police these activities on 3 rivers? Your not are you! So you will unleash commercial harvest methods on 3 bodies of water and walk away. Don't do it.

Larry Rantapaa

Spearfish SD

Position: other

Comment:

The gfp website is a real disaster for someone trying to get an "Access Permit" when he already has an issued archery tag in hand. Just want to hunt in BH1 but nowhere is there a place to fill out the form or download to print it at home.

Test Test

Des Moines IA

Position: other

Comment:

testing the form due to changes- please disregard

Rachel Comes

Blunt SD

Position: other

Comment:

TEST...

Nick Harrington

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

Rachel Comes is awesome.

Nick Harrington

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support this form working like it should.

Michael Linn

Richmond MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am a archery hunter who enjoys the time spent seeing deer & interacting with them. This is what makes for a great hunt. I oppose the 2019 changes regarding nonresident archery hunters. Having to wait a month to hunt public land because you are a nonresident is unacceptable to me. Also limiting access to Custer National Forest based on you being a resident or nonresident (i.e. different number of access permits for residents than nonresidents) is wrong. Also making the application deadline so early in the year is another change I oppose. If South Dakota doesn't want nonresident archery hunters, I will go hunt & spend my money somewhere else. In a state with friendly faces & friendly places! Thank you for giving my ideas your consideration.

Lonny Kracht

Sturgis SD

Position: other

Comment:

Just want to send a note to the commission about some of the changes they have made to hunting this year. The first one is limiting the out of state archery hunters into the 35L unit to October 1st. This is a great change. Myself and my son spent last week camped in the Slim Buttes and only ran into a few other hunters. Last year was just the opposite. Out of state hunters were camped in several spots including the public campground. The change to limit out of state access to October 1st is great! The second is not so good. I am 61 years and have had a deer tag for the last 48 years. This is the first year that I did not draw a tag and that includes 1st and 2nd choices in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd draws. Was unsuccessful in all attempts. Not a fan of the new system. As I get older these changes get very confusing. The previous system was straight forward and easy to understand and everyone had the same chance of drawing. Thanks for the improvements you have made.

Josh Eggers

Brandon SD

Position: support

Comment:

I don't think for a minute that anybody would bat an eye at a \$3 increase in fees. The state parks are awesome, and we need to pay to keep them up! Thank you for the info.

Darlene Van Engen

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support raising fees for state parks and rec. areas. We have wonderful parks and it is important to keep them as beautiful as they are.

Lisa Bull

Delafield WI

Position: support

Comment:

Absolutely increase park fees to collect necessary revenue to restore/replace the beautiful parks that were destroyed or damaged during the floods!

Kent Riedling

Pittsboro NC

Position: other

Comment:

This comment is for the proposed fee increases. I travel on a motorcycle for 9 weeks at a time & I love to visit S.D. and the Custer Park. When you add the cost of out of state fees, the cost for just a place to put up a tent etc it starts getting close the 60% of a night in the hotel without a bathroom and shower. For 3 years I stayed camping 80% of the trip. Last year it decreased to 50% of the time camping. The campgrounds are often noisy and congested so there are drawbacks to camping and if the cost keeps creeping up then staying at a hotel is more attractive. It is very expensive to do this for 9 weeks so I am a bit cost sensitive. However one must deal with reality & I know your costs go up but making them as small as possible does help out. I love your state and the beautiful area around Custer State Park. Thank you for having such a nice place to visit. I know this does not say support or not but it may help with dealing with the amount of increases & how some of your campers look at things.

Kent Riedling 919 542 2997

Lonnie Green

North Sioux City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

You are going to price some people out of camping if you keep raising prices. Your prices right now are a little high to my opinion but I still manage to come at state campgrounds now and then. I do a lot of my camping at cottonwood at lewis and clark because I get half price. Maybe that's something you need to think about giving senior citizens a discount. Were on a fixed income from social security and its not much. I love camping but if you keep raising prices I guess I will have to cut back. I know you need money for repairs at randal creek but why take it out on the campers find some where else to get the funds.

Carlton Barse

Waubay SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

i understand the need for upkeep. but i also see the that if the in increase would would include water sewer or tarred pads.

Brian Baustian

Garretson SD

Position: support

Comment:

Our prices in South Dakota are right about half of what Minnesota is across the border

Lawrence Kennard

Newport TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am against the proposed fee increase on state park lands. The fees are already high enough and do not need to be increased.

Doug Dobesh

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have been a long time subscriber to the GF&P Conservation Digest, however my support of this publication ends when my subscription ends. It is rather pathetic that you would use this publication to allow the governor to try to justify her asinine Nest Predator Trapping program. Your wildlife damage program administrator attempted to defend it in the summer edition, and now Noem attempted to defend it in the fall edition. The readers of this publication deserve better. The sad thing is that with both of them, apparently the narrative has changed. When this controversial program was first announced, it was sold to the public as a means to increase pheasant nest survival rates, and now it has turned to a way to get people outdoors, and we have to endure ad nauseam all of the feel good stories of how this has been accomplished. Any person who condones the killing of wildlife, full well knowing that there will be young animals left to die in agony from starving to death, is immoral as far as I am concerned. Take these young kids that are all enthusiastic about trapping out to these dens where young animals are crying in agony due to slowly starving to death, and see how enthusiastic they are then.

Carey Zwahr

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Most of the increased camping fees are 20% plus with one year of bad weather is it possible to present an amortization schedule instead of just gutting campers in one year - This is my first year full time camping and fishing These fees seem excessive - can you perhaps charge exorbitant fees during weekends, high season or holidays instead when campgrounds are full. To pay 5 or 6 dollars more for a campsite on Tuesday or Wednesday just because maintenance staffing from weekend overcrowding doesn't make sense Thanks Carey Zwahr

Heidi Serck

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Thank you for the wonderful job you do maintaining our parks. They are not only some of the best I have ever been to but it seems South Dakota also has more park grounds than other states. It is a huge draw for our family in both educational and recreational experiences. This is still better value and experience than many other things. I believe you manage funds and needs very well and we appreciate you very much!

Billie Brooks

Hume MO

Position: other

Comment:

What do you mean that you are going to raise the 7 day fee for Custer State Park. I went into the park for a 7 night stay on September 11 and they are already charging \$20.

Caleb Howard

Omaha NE

Position: oppose

Comment:

I fish the big Sioux river on a weekly basis as I am part of tri state kats league. It has been a struggle catching flatheads of good size let alone any fish of good size, not only because of the high waters but also because myself and others in our league already find ditty poles and trot lines already illegally being used and nothing is done about it. I dont see why making it legal is going to justify anything when noone is caught doing it in the first place. If the DNR or game and parks where around 2 days before all big tournaments they would see what I am talking about. Nothing is labeled or marked but yet it's a continuous problem. Doing this commercial fishing bill or whatever is coming about to legalize this is not only going to hurt the fishery but also will keep actual rod and reel anglers from wanting to fish the big sioux.

Thomas Sams

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

The proposed annual park fee increase is 20%. That is too much in one year. Families will be excluded. Plus when maintenance is caught up will the fee be reduced? The camping fee proposed increases should also be reduced by 50%. Remember there is still the "handling fee" to pay...that with the proposed increases will knock out some families and retirees from using and camping in the SD state parks.

Tim Grace

Antioch IL

Position: oppose

Comment:

I would not support price increase for fees for your park. I feel you are doing a great job with your park but this is a state issue not an out of state issue. I totally support our parks at home and would support a fee increase at home also.

Henry Foster

Fort Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

you neglected to include the compulsory "phone reservation fees" in your proposal for camping fee increases, therefore the numbers you propose are very misleading. In any event fees are high enough as it is. The annual pass/daily entrance fees are out of line with what other nearby states charge. Why not request the legislature to set up a trust fund for repairs....??? I am opposed to this proposal.

Tera Hockenbary

New Underwood SD

Position: other

Comment:

My only complaint would be at Westbend in the lower section the breaker tends to blow on a regular weekend basis. Leaving you without camper air conditioning during the extreme hot days. This can be very concerning if you have left a pet in camper while out on lake. Temperatures can rise to over 100' very quickly! SOOO raising prices are understandable but they need to replace and fix issues that are already broken and have been for some time!

Linda Hubbard

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

1. There needs to be a dump station on the west side of Custer State Park. Not everyone leaves the park on the east side.
 2. The water in the shower houses is too hot. It scalds the scalp. I haven't used them since that happened. My friend used it this weekend and had the same problem. Of course, maybe that's what you want, less water usage.
 3. Why is Custer State Park reservations allowed to be made 1 year in advance, instead of like the rest of the state park's 90 days.
-

Nanette Koehn

Marion SD

Position: other

Comment:

Why don't you raise the fee to the out-of-state campers. other states do that now. For us SD people we have suffered as much as the state parks. And we already pay the taxes that go to the parks.

Park Entrance and Camping Fees

Tim Shumaker

Vermillion SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am ok with raising the park and camping fees. It is still a great deal for all we get versus the cost.

Dawson Huber

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Fees will go up again with no benefit to us campers. I have not seen any changes in our local parks due to increase in fees. The beach is full of stickers, not to mention there is no beach if you have a watercraft at all. There isn't nice grass at the campsites. The bugs are awful. We have nice campgrounds, but they are definitely not improving due to increased fees. I imagine attendance will continue to decline due to the increased cost of enjoying a weekend of camping.

Mary Keeler

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

GFP does an outstanding job maintaining our beautiful parks. They should be commended for not raising fees for 5-6 years. It is very reasonable to have an increase to these fees after this long.

Ron Bugay

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

it stated in DRG News today:

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks Commission is weighing whether to raise fees by nearly \$3 million next year. The commission says declining revenues and the need to repair flood damage may mean visitors paying more to enter state parks and campgrounds. Park entrance fees were last raised in 2013 and camping fees were last increased in 2014. The public has 30 days to comment on the proposal. The proposed fee increases would take effect before next camping season.

The last time camping fees were raised was in 2018, not 2014. this is incorrect and misleading the public.

Camping fee for Farm Island 2017 - \$19.00/night.

Camping fee for Fram Island 2018 & 2019 - \$21.00/night

Shelly Baumann

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Colten Baumann

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Joseph Felix

Jefferson SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I feel the state of south dakota should charge a non resident fee on all out of state campers and boat launchers!
We residents have a hard enough time getting spots the way it is

Jennifer Beermann

Elk Point SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please consider raising fees for non-residents, not residents. My family spends an average of 40 days in SD Parks in the spring, summer and fall. We have to plan out 90 days exactly and still do not get our desired sites a lot of the time. Only to see the sites are occupied by out of state residents who are not even utilizing the sites but one or two days out of the week they are booked. If you cannot give us SD Residents more lead time for booking,would you at least consider raising the non resident rates and leave resident rates alone.

Scott Eastman

Jefferson SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We pay enough already

Russell Baumann

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The cost of camping is becoming unaffordable. We have a lot of families that would like to spend more time in the outdoors but can not afford the cost

Jennifer Ramsey

Yankton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please reconsider raising the prices of park entrance fees and camping fees. Every South Dakotan should be able to enjoy our beautiful state parks; it should not be cost-prohibitive to do so. There are multiple states that do not charge to enter their state parks, or that offer free entrance for their own residents. I know that South Dakota has some of the most beautiful state parks in the nation, and that comes at a cost for up-keep and to run. But you also need to take into consideration that we are a middle-income state of hard-working citizens. Not everyone can afford to spend the money for entrance fees, especially to simply enjoy the beauty of the parks. And if the cost of nightly camping spots and cabin fees increases, you will make low-cost vacations and weekend getaways less affordable for families, or make it so they are able to do them less often. Perhaps the fees can be off-set for South Dakotans by charging less to in-state residents and increasing fees for out-of-state visitors. Please re-examine your plans and come up with another way to financially support our state parks without restricting access because of higher costs to the South Dakota residents.

Kevin Connors

Jefferson SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The state should charge out of state campers a higher fee and give residents first choice at spots. Nebraska makes south dakota residents buy a stamp for boat to use boat ramp below dam next to chief white crane campground.

Nicole Raethz

Humboldt SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We no longer camp as our kids are getting more active in summer sports so we don't have time. However I still enjoy visiting state parks but will stop going because of high fees. There are plenty of nice parks and other fun things to do that are not as expensive. It's to bad that we try and teach our kids to be active outdoors but when it costs too much those less fortunate don't get to enjoy the parks! And I love the SD state parks!!

Chuck Wendt

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This isnt rocket science. You need to budget properly. Raising rates on us because of budgeting incompetence on your part does not make me responsible. You should be trimming back. You are overcharging as it is. No wonder no one comes here. Put PUBLIC back in public parks.

Lori Zimmer

Harrisburg SD

Position: support

Comment:

It seems only right that fees would need to be increased to maintain the parks.

Donald Werner lii

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

As long as the additional funds will be used in the parks and campgrounds I support increasing the fees

Jack Tomac

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Given the fact that we almost always had to make reservations 90 days in advance, I find it hard to believe that state park attendance has been down this yr. we typically camp at Angostura and, except for preplanned weekends where we made reservations 90 days in advance, nearly all of our reservations were made due to someone's cancellation.

Jack Tomac

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

In addition to my earlier comments, better park management should be able maintain and improve state parks and campgrounds without an increase in fees. I hope the commission realizes that this yr was an unusual year and not have a knee jerk reaction because of it.

Sandra Portice

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

We have amazing parks! I totally support the increase! Still cheap family entertainment

Josh Gilkerson

Fort Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

A 17% increase in annual park pass is simply ridiculous. I believe anything over 10% will push folks away from SD parks and the GF&P needs to do a better job of planning/budgeting for annual fixes and repairs. I fully understand this is a fairly unique year with how wet it is, but you don't need to gouge us residents in this fashion for a one year increase. Maybe think about spreading the increase over several years instead of all at one time.

David Gibbs

Watertown SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Shawn Beringer

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I believe those of us that use these facilities should take on some of the cost to repair the damages. Buryanek is a mess and I miss Randall Creek.

Richard Hummel

Overbrook KS

Position: support

Comment:

I live in KS but have stayed a few days in the way to and from other areas in your state. I grew up in Iowa and just came back from visiting my mother. More flooding as I was driving home 9/15. SD been hit hard this year with flooding and storm related damage. I support the fee increase to help SD get their parks back in shape so we out of staters can utilize the state for traveling to and through.

Nate Thelen

Arlington SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I will not be camping in state parks if rates get bumped up that much. You will lose a lot of campers. There has to be a different way to get money to help on flooding and whatever else has struck us this year. Raise the rates but won't have anyone to be there camping, that doesn't make much sense. With how much camper cost plus fuel and food cost. People aren't going to be able to afford this luxury any more.

Garry Combe

Mina SD

Position: support

Comment:

Hopefully the increase can get lake hiddenwood back open.

Jason Tallon

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I'm in support of increasing fees to maintain the quality of the facilities at GFP campgrounds and parks. Even at the increased rates, the parks are a great value. I'd much prefer to pay a few extra dollars to see the parks kept up to existing high standards than to save a few dollars and see the parks suffer. The increases are modest, and a sound investment.

Noah Holter

Grand Forks ND

Position: support

Comment:

I think any money that goes to the parks is a good expense and five or so dollars more for a nights stay is still inexpensive. Great use of money and if that difference will make a difference for the parks it is money well spent.

Brandon Soulek

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

Regarding the proposed increases: My family takes great joy in using our state parks and recreation areas throughout the year. The damage caused this year across the state has been heartbreaking. We would like to voice our support for the raise in fees for the yearly park stickers and the camping fees. These changes still feel reasonable. The only increase I have a concern about would be the daily entrance fee. increasing from \$6 to \$8 might be too much and might actually cause more people to try to avoid paying. Thanks to everyone for the work you do to make our parks as great as they are. Looking forward to our next camping trip next weekend.

Jeffrey Reed

Alexandria MN

Position: support

Comment:

In addition to raising fees as proposed, I suggest eliminating the 7-day motorcycle fee and require an annual fee - justification is for the traffic they cause and their disturbance to wildlife in the park.

Paul Johnson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the increase in fees so we can pay for the 8 million dollars worth of damage in SD Parks. Going forward, we should always put our parks first to provide a first rate experience for our residents and non-residents alike.

Sandy Beck

Iowa City IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

David Hunter

Groton SD

Position: other

Comment:

I do not mind a small increase to the fees but I also expect the investment to be returned. I camp at Roy Lake most of the time. We have been told the a dump station had been approved 2 years ago and still no dump station for the west campground.

In fact, the last 2 years I have noticed the park appearance has declined. The bath houses have not been cleaned as they should. I have noticed more garbage scattered around. Roy Lake is a gem and I feel it is backsliding.

Chad Ulvestad

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Permanently raising fees for a temporary problem (flood damage) is the wrong approach.

Robert Deer

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Why not find a way to inforce day use fees, from what i see i bet 25 percent of people dont pay for a day pass and just (roll the dice) . Getting super expensive to hunt, fish , take camper.

Travis Blum

Bennington NE

Position: other

Comment:

I understand the need for increase in fees. However as an avid camper and Fisher that travels to south Dakota from Nebraska I feel these fees are a little in excess. I would support increase in half of these and also if they increase by this much i feel the non refundable non resident camping fee should no longer exist and it be removed. Thank
Travis

Rene' Larson

Lead SD

Position: other

Comment:

Checking why flood damage is not turned in on any of the several state declared disasters? Bridge replacement, flood damage to public infrastructure? Most of the costs should be covered by FEMA and the state should have resources for the small percentage not covered. I understand the fact that fewer people camped East River. We could not launch a boat at Pactola for several weeks. We went to angostura and camped at the KOA since there was no room at the campgrounds there or at Orman. All were full. But all the hills campgrounds were full. FEMA funds should cover most of the repairs.

Laurie Dipilla

Powell WY

Position: oppose

Comment:

We stayed in Rocky Point Reservoir in Aug 2019. We reside in Wy and we feel that your prices for camping and then the added fee per vehicle per night is very expensive already. I can tell you that people will pay once but wont be back. We love your state but we will not be back due to the high cost of camping, especially for seniors on a fixed income. It cost us 21 + \$12 per night. 2 vehicles. Thank you for letting me comment.

Larry Espinosa

Pueblo CO

Position: oppose

Comment:

This will hurt tourism. Doubling the fee for motorcycles to ride through Custer Park is outrageous. This is targeting a very specific group of people. Shame on you!

Josh Rasmussen

Pierce NE

Position: oppose

Comment:

The parks are owned the the federal government. Why are the people that all ready pay huge I mean huge amounts of taxes pay for what the government all ready has our money for? I greatly disagree with raising prices. I all ways go to South Dakota to go camping. You guys had it figured out, super nice camping areas well taken care of at a reasonable price. If prices go Up I might as well stay in Nebraska.

David Noll

Lake City MN

Position: support

Comment:

Go for it.

Dennis Holman

Brandon VT

Position: support

Comment:

Lots of storm damage to infrastructure is very expensive and needs attention. A modest increase in fees is justified but be honest about it. Show the public what needs to be done and the real costs. Also be clear that there are no real expectations that the fees will ever be reduced. You know that Politicians just can't make that happen. Thank you for taking such great care of your beautiful parks.
Dennis Holman of Vermont.

Alyssa Anderson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am not completely opposed to a fee increase as I understand that our entire state right now seems to be dealing with the effects of weather related disasters. That being said, I would really like to see some more creative ways to raise funds instead of just passing along the fees to park users. I work in oncology and I often recommend the parks as a way to get active but for many people the cost is prohibitive for them. Please consider alternatives such as:

- raise fees for out of state residents only and enforce. If someone in SD is making the reservation for an out of state person and you see this on license plates enforce the fee.
- activities for campers to raise fees such as running events, biking events, water races, triathlons
- fees to reserve equipment-kayaks, stand up paddle boarding, canoes, etc
- classes in outdoor activities-in Sioux Falls paddle boarding and yoga on the paddle board are very popular.
- bean bag tournaments, frisbee golf tournaments with the winner winning something like a state park pass or Gift cards to use for camping that way the funds stay at the park
- apparel and state park merchandise-I love my red shirt with the fun camper and tent on it.
- local golf courses to do golf tournament
- take the downed trees and make into mulch and sell it.
- we camp in Pierson ranch and the Halloween event is super popular. For those coming from outside that specific park (not camping and handing out candy) charge an entrance fee. For those campsites handing out candy I would not charge as they are already contributing with the "treats".
- inflatable race/days.

Lots of different ways to creatively raise money that maybe could lessen the amount to increase fees.

Patrick Hawk

Yankton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Your services over the last 5 years has deteriorated a lot no one enforces rules at Lewis and Clark camp grounds. All you get is a pad and electricity and you want more money you are pricing yourselves out of business .All you have to do is manage the park more effective by making the reserved sites more available rather than letting campers just camp on weekends and you would have more money than you could spend.You need to listen to what campers are saying

Fred Kinney

Eaton CO

Position: support

Comment:

I enjoy Custer State Park a lot. It is still a bargain price at the proposed increase. There must be enough revenue to support keeping this jewel in good condition.

Larissa Oyen

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Camping in South Dakota already costs a lot more than many families are able to pay. Camping is one of the last family activities that people can do without spending a lot of money. I would hate to see fees increase so that others can't do this.

C. Stephen Feldman

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I Hardly call the fee increases you were proposing modest! Increasing camping fees from \$21-\$26 is a 23% increase. Increasing park entrance fee is from six dollars to eight dollars a day is a 25% increase. Increasing yearly pass from \$30-\$36 is a 20% increase. Most of the damage is done in one area and that is not fair for everyone in the rest of the to pay the majority of the cost. But most likely will happen is that marginal campers I will seek other venues to camp. It is almost cheaper to go to Private campgrounds, then pay these exorbitant proposed increase . Please try to keep increases under 10%. Sincerely, C Stephen Feldman

Rick Jorgensen

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

With a rather large camping family, we truly support the GFP's efforts to maintain the facilities, however a 25% increase in entrance and camping fees is far from modest. Calculated for me personally, this equates to nearly \$1000 annually.

Isaac Holmes

Worthing SD

Position: support

Comment:

I think that you should increase the fees more than the proposal even. The parks are always booked months in advanced and South Dakota has some of the best state parks out there. If increasing the fees maintains the quality or even improves them, I'm all for it.

Jlynn Manley

Box Elder SD

Position: other

Comment:

Please consider a senior discount for the proposed new fees increase. We would like to continue to support our state and not have to search for alternatives. Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Assid

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

As an avid camper and utilizer of our State Parks from Yankton to Custer State Park, I support the fee increase if it is used to get all our parks back in shape. Less campground area will just create more issues obtaining campsites for everyone. This year has been horrible so support funding the repairs though increased fees.

Lyle Solko

Worthing SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The state (GFP included) is not the only ones that are suffering from mother nature. With the cost of gas, groceries, healthcare, etc. going up it is a burden for all people but effects the elderly and poor the most. I know 3 dollars more isn't much but it adds up. I would think the state (GFP included) would be able to get some federal aide to repair mother natures damage or possibly go without some equipment for a year or two instead of purchasing new so much. I love the parks this state has so if all avenues have been looked at then you need to add 3 bucks then go ahead but please research other areas to find money. Thanks.

Barbara Duffey

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposed to increasing the daily visit fee to the parks. Increasing yearly pass charges seems reasonable to me--I have a yearly pass and think it's a great deal, and those like me who get the passes are committed to supporting state parks already, and are often willing to pay more. We're already invested. I worry that the occasional visitor--someone who doesn't know much about the parks, doesn't visit parks often, or is from out of state-- might be deterred from visiting at all by a too-high daily fee.

Rick Rezinis

Port Hadlock WA

Position: other

Comment:

Are there guarantees in place for the increased fees to return to existing levels when the emergency has been resolved?

Laura Petersen

Gregory SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

First off there was ample time and opportunity to re-open Randall Creek. There is access to the back of Randall Creek and it easily could have been done. Bridges and roads have all been rebuilt this year and Randall Creek's is not that big of a bridge. It definitely seems like some effort would have opened this campground.

The second thing is I wonder how much of the 8 million dollars is covered by insurance. I hope that is addressed in your public meeting.

Camping is popular and so are the state parks. Don't make them so pricey that the average person cannot afford to go. If you really feel the need to increase the fees just do the entrance fees or the camping fees but not both. Don't penalize the public for the laziness of not opening Randall Creek.

And don't be greedy.

Kyle Lee

De Smet SD

Position: other

Comment:

I would support the increased fees IF there was a reduced campground rate for SD citizens over 55. Our senior CITIZENS deserve a break.

Jessica Pickett

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm ok with in the increase in park entrance fees, but not camping fees. We actually purchased 4 park stickers this past year. We camped in the state parks several times these past three years since we owned our camper, and we travel several miles through the state to go to a state campground (mostly in Pierre). If this fee increase goes through we will dramatically cut our camping at state parks and camp at private campgrounds with more amenities. We will also reduce the amount of park stickers we purchase if camp ground fees are increased.

Josh Kempers

Sioux Center IA

Position: support

Comment:

While I am in support of a "modest" raise to directly support repairs and keeping South Dakota parks beautiful, I doubt we will ever see the prices come back down if we have a year with no weather related damage. Let's at least and be honest in the wording and call it a price "Hike". I don't consider a 20% increase modest. If we did a "modest" decrease of the boards salaries of 20% would they be ok with that or would they suggest something more reasonable like 3-8%.

Aaron Buchanan

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Is obvious to see that the GF&P division is going to need some more money to repair the damages that this years weather has caused. I'll happily support & pay extra to care for our State's parks!

Brooke White

Sioux Falls TN

Position: support

Comment:

I am in full support of the increase in fees. I would however, like to make an additional suggestion. Lewis & Clark Recreation Area is an extremely popular state park. When we go camping there, nearly half of the vehicles we see are from out of state. Consideration should be given to significantly increase the camping fees for those from out of state. It's a tragedy when residents of the State of South Dakota struggle to camp in their own state parks as residents of other states take advantage of the beauty we have worked to maintain.

Brett Gildemaster

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

The fee increase is necessary and the proposed rate increase is not unbearable. The last time I checked the campgrounds are full almost every weekend. I fully support the increase.

John Schoenfelder

Iroquois SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

While I understand that you had a lot of cost due to the weather this year. I cannot understand how you are to transfer that cost to the camping community. We are the ones that keep these campgrounds open paying the fees already oh, if you upset us we will just tell our campers and quit coming to the campgrounds. Then see who is going to pay these camping fees. You regulate so much when we are camping. Do not raise the prices of camping and camping access fees. You have a good thing going with camping in the state of South Dakota. You do not want to do anything to change that and by raising the prices of camping and Camp fees oh, I guarantee that you will change that.

Debra Thompson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

20%+ increases are not a "modest" increase, and far above the rate of inflation. Please keep in mind that most of the families who utilize our State Parks/Campgrounds have also been impacted by the devastating weather in 2019.

Diane Skrivseth

St. Anthony MN

Position: support

Comment:

My family tent camps at CSP every couple of years because we are so impressed by what the Park offers. Two years ago we finally tried camper cabins for a week. That was delightful. Even though we don't camp at other SD parks, I support the increase in fees so that the state can maintain quality campgrounds and ranger programs in all its parks.

P.S. Yes, we do tent camp in MN. But, sometimes we cross the border to escape the mosquitoes.

Michelle Schamber-Wiedman

Madison SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As someone who has camped at least 12 weekends this past summer and intend to camp at least 2 more times before the end of the season, i oppose the increase in camp fees. Would it be a option to create package deals so you can get discounted rates the more you camp? (similar to sporting event season packages). i am not opposed to increasing the entrance fees.

Gwyneth Fastnacht

Wessington Springs SD

Position: support

Comment:

If raising the fees helps to keep the park system strong in our state, I trust this decision. We use the French Creek horse camp every year. It is an amazing facility and we hope to see it, and other camping spots, continue to contribute to the recreation and beauty of Sd.

Ronald Galvan, Sr

Yankton SD

Position: support

Comment:

I FEEL THE RATE INCREASE IS FAIR AND NECESSARY THANKS RON & VICKI GALVAN

Mary Josko

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

By keeping camping fees low more people will come which will bring in the revenue for needed repairs. Campers like me, will just camp less times in the summer if the fees increase. How much is a person willing to pay to go live with mosquitoes and have a sleepless night?

Randy Fiebelkorn

Lennox SD

Position: other

Comment:

Reduce the increase to residents and greatly increase the fees to out of state campers! Residents fees should be less and Out of state camping fees should be considerable more!

Kris Ferguson

Gordon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hello, I grew up in Ardmore, SD and live only a few hours from the Black Hills. My daughter is at USD now. We have always loved coming to the SD State parks for family trips because you do an excellent job of taking care of your parks and it is affordable for a family. I'm afraid that increasing the rates will make it more difficult for families like mine to make SD their vacation destination. Thank you.

Jason Wilhelm

Miller SD

Position: support

Comment:

I understand the need to increase fees for camping as the upkeep for facilities is increasing and the damage from flooding. But have you ever considered having a instate fee and out of state fee for entrance and camping sites like hunting licenses?

Trevor Davis

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I'm all for it.

Leave the firewood at \$5, though.

Hope we're able to generate enough to cover the damage.

\$1.5M could be thrown in the pot next year by NOT doing the tail program again!

Paying out crucial state funds for roadkill doesn't benefit pheasants.

Jim Lynch

Langhorne SD

Position: support

Comment:

Scott,

We stayed Legion Lake in Custer SP back in May during the snowstorm and experienced the hard work that was done very quickly by the employees. We were out of power for couple days but we had brought a generator with us. We received several email and calls from the office to check on us during that time. As far as the increase, we would have no problem with a small increase. We do plan on coming back. Again, we appreciate all the efforts by the Park and Central Office employees to make our trip so memorable.

Thanks for your time,

Jim and Kathy Lynch

Langhorne PA

John Miller

Woodstock CT

Position: support

Comment:

No one likes to see fees go up. Although I feel that some increases are needed at this time. I would hope that the increases would be a little less than those presently proposed.

I am a former resident of South Dakota and am looking into retiring in South Dakota.

David Mosher

Box Elder SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have been buying an annual transferable pass but I will no longer do so. \$80 is too much for this pass.

Although I only go to a park once or twice a year I felt that I was helping support the park. From now on I will buy a daily pass.

Stave Hoose

Aberdeen SD

Position: support

Comment:

S.D. has one of the best state park systems in the nation, with lots of activities available.

If a few extra dollars per trip will help keep that going, then I'm all for it.

Tim Brady

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

Good morning,

As we all know. None of us I think are for raising fees. However being one that enjoys our state parks and understands business. I understand that these fees are to help repair and maintain the parks for the next generations. These fees are very reasonable and I think they need to happen. So I support this decision.

Thank you for your time

Tim Brady
1490 Green Meadows Dr.
Piedmont, SD 57769
605-430-5624

Richard Schurter

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

This is a modest and sensible approach to repair our wonderful state parks. Possibly consider this as a 4 year plan and see where repairs and money have accomplished, then vote to renew or adjust as needed.

Don King

Custer SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support the increase in these fees to support our parks and recreation. These fee increases are still very affordable.

Vickie Hemmingson

Madison SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

THIS IS NOT FAIR TO US THAT CAMP! I ALSO GOT FLOODED OUT!! BUT, I CAN'T STOP PAYING MY TAXES CAUSE I NEED TO REPLACE STUFF IN MY HOUSE AND REPLACE THE STUDS AND INSULATION ETC... I LOST A FREEZER FULL OF MEAT AND FOOD DUE TO THE FLOOD AND I CAN'T GO TO THE STORE AND GET IT FOR FREE!! I HAVE TO EAT THE COST OF THE FLOOD FOR THE HOUSE AND FOOD CAUSE MY INSURANCE WONT PAY FOR IT. I AM NOT IN THE FLOOD PLAIN AREA!! AND THOSE WHO ARE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY THE COST EATHER, CAUSE YOU GOT FLOODED OUT ALONG WITH US!! WE PAY OUR TAXES FOR YOU AND ALL GOVERMENT SO WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO PAY AGAIN FOR THESE THINGS!!?? THIS WILL CAUSE YOU TO LOSE CAMPER'S AND I FOR 1 WILL BE GOING SOMEWHERE ELSE!! thankyou

Royce Quamen

Garretson SD

Position: other

Comment:

You really need to relook at your reservations on campsite policy. A lot of South Dakota Campers would like to camp during the week but all the camp sites come up as reserved. And if you would drive thru the camp ground during the week most of the sites remain unused and reservations have been cancelled. They are cancelled because the camper only wanted the weekend. So prior to the weekend the weekdays (usually 3-4 days) are cancelled which is 2- 3 days of lost revenue. And the weekday Camper now has not had enough time to prepare. Again lost revenue.

Tim Wical

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Is there no end to rate increases. If there are lots of visitors then we need bigger newer facilities. If there is a low visitor count we need to increase to cover the loss of revenue. Does anything ever get paid off? Does the State pay property taxes to itself? It never ends so it doesn't matter what we the customer say you will raise fees no matter what.

Holly Ulvestad

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The cost would be prohibitive to the elderly on fixed incomes and to the young families with children. In SD we do not get pay increases to keep up with this

Beverly Swaney

Thomas OK

Position: oppose

Comment:

SD is driving out of state travelers away with all these entrance fees and a \$7.70 charge because someone is out of state!!! We spend the summer in our home state of SD visiting family. We have a pickup pulling our Rv and a car pulling a trailer with 2 motorcycles. We can't even have the bikes on the trailer in the park without a sticker on each one. We have decided to not use SD State Parks ever again in our travels. You are driving the tourists away and now you want to raise the prices and make it even worse for out of state travelers!!!!

Palmer M Thorson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Although I generally support rate increases I would like to offer some considerations. Reduced rates for all in state Veterans not just disabled. Senior citizen reduced rates. Consider a sliding fee for the size of camping unit (huge rigs pay more than small popups as an example).

Debra Reinke

Rock Valley IA

Position: support

Comment:

I understand the need. You say that the increase will "directly support repairs caused by flooding and storms." So can we expect to see these increases removed when the repairs are finished or will they stay there along with the usual inflation increases?

Gary Vogel

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

To large of increase

Don Schmoll

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

please do not raise the fees. cut costs in other ways as the general taxpayer has to.

Kathy Kirkeby

Chanhassen MN

Position: support

Comment:

I support your proposed fee increases for campgrounds. I'm from MN (grew up in SD) and SD campgrounds are some of the best yet cheapest around, so they definitely are worth extra fees.

Steve Lathrop

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

There are so many camping now a days that it is very difficult to get SD camping spots. People who can afford the fees are able to get around the 90 day window by getting camp spots outside or before the 90 day window begins. I and my family can not afford to do that and there fore do not camp as much as we like. If the fees are increased that will cause us to not do SD camping and will have to go elsewhere. I understand that many camping spots and lakes have damage that needs repairs but perhaps finding a different way to generate revenue for repairs would be better proposed.

John Williams

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I agree with the small increase of park fees

R Galvan

Yankton SD

Position: other

Comment:

With the proposed fee increase to help with the 8 million dollars in Damages when the \$8000000 damages are met by the fee increase will the fees go back to the original amount or to the current inflation amount decided at that time

Brion Hase

Sioux City IA

Position: other

Comment:

I'm fine with increasing the fees for camping spots to cover new expenses, but not pleased with proposed vehicle permit increases. Our motorcycle group has camped in SD State Parks once or twice per year for the last 20 years, and I have personally been camping in the SD SPs since the 70's. Iowa SPs don't charge vehicle permits nor do most local or county parks. We are paying hundreds of dollars now in motorcycle permits for one or two days of use, raising that to \$8/day is unfair and will sadly force us to consider other parks outside South Dakota.

Amber Drake

Bowdle SD

Position: support

Comment:

In favor of increase of fees due to the massive amount of cleanup, fixing, and maintenance that will be required for many of the campgrounds and parks. We love to camp and will entertain the increased costs without a problem. My family of 6 lives near Lake Hiddenwood and would really, really like to see that park and campground re-open. It was a hidden gem in our area, but loved by all that fished, camped, or played there. Such a beautiful place that so many would love to be able to use again. Thank you!

Lenny Grube

St Paul MN

Position: support

Comment:

My position on this topic may not carry much weight, being I live in St. Paul, MN. But I thought you might like to know, I stayed two nights at a camping cabin in Oahe Downstream Recreation Area this past June. I paid a total of \$115 for the experience, had the best view in the park, and thought it was worth the money. Although, I was a little insulted with the \$7.70 Non-Resident Fee. That was a fine "How do you do?" Regardless, \$57.50 per night vs the proposed \$69.50 per night, all tax and fees included, would not deter me from doing the same again.

On another note, I do most of my camping in a tent. It's a cost issue. I think your statewide \$15 per night tent fee should be commended. And not just for folks like me. That goes a long way in encouraging your youth to spend time outdoors, in keeping it affordable for teens, young professionals just out of college, and young families.

Kevin Purcell

Fairbanks AK

Position: support

Comment:

They proposed increases are not too much and the new rates are still a good deal.

Eric Reisenweber

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Insupport the raise in fees. Our state parks are well-maintained and should be enjoyed by all. The small increase would help in a large scale with repairs. Keep up the good work!

Bill Vander Vorst

Gettysburg SD

Position: other

Comment:

Good Morning, I am not opposed to an increase in park entrance/camp site increase but I feel a \$6 increase in park fee is to much and will deteriorate families from camping as much.

Steve Shimp

Fort Myers FL

Position: support

Comment:

We are a visitor to South Dakota. The fee increase would not deter us from coming, yet a decline in quality of your parks would. FYI, when we are in SD, our spending will exceed \$250/ day on food, lodging, fees and entertainment.

Madonna Goodart

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

As a life long western SD resident and enthusiastic camper, hiker outdoor lover, I do not have a problem supporting a fee hike. I do however balk at a permanent fee hike for a temporary problem. It is very hard to swallow this on the heels of the predator bounty fiasco. 1.5 million dollars would have gone a long way to repair flood damage.

And as a supporter of Black Hills Playhouse it is irksome to be forced to pay an entrance fee to attend plays. Why can't Playhouse ticket holders be able to show their tickets at entrance locations to get one time fee forgiveness? Or if you are a local resident and purchase a season ticket Playhouse package could you also buy a reduced price annual entrance sticker at the same time? Make the annual pass an added value to the Playhouse package.

Lynn Morford

Highmore SD

Position: support

Comment:

Do not necessarily oppose increasing fees. However, the comfort stations at West Bend and Oahe Downstream #1 are in need of upgrading, so hope that might be on the list of projects to be completed.

Jim Christophersen

Brookings SD

Position: support

Comment:

Keep up the great park system we enjoy.

Ronald Ewing

Elk Point SD

Position: support

Comment:

?????? - Money going to a GREAT cause.

Bill Bagley

Maitland FL

Position: support

Comment:

I have been to SD only once, the proposed campground fee is reasonable and the people who use the amenities should pay for them.

Bill Bagley
1948 Durrand Ave.
Maitland, FL 32751

Davidq Charles

Yankton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please see attachment.

Dennis Welch
Council Bluffs IA
Position: support

Comment:

I fully support the increase as I enjoy your parks, camping, fishing and boating. I understand the need to keep up with damaged caused by the weather!

Collin Moriarty
Sioux Falls SD
Position: support

Comment:

I strongly support increasing the state park fees in order to offset inflation and the cost of flooding.

John Newsome
Barnhart MO
Position: support

Comment:

We love camping at Custer State Park! We support this small increase in camping fee to improve campgrounds. I would recommend you expand the camp site capacity at the State Game Lodge Campground. There is a need for pull-thru full hookup sites for large Motorhomes, 5th Wheels and Travel Trailers. I would recommend 20 to 30 new 50amp diagonal sites be installed between route 16A and the current camp sites. Please do not make any of the current sites smaller to add additional sites.

James Musil
Huron SD
Position: support

Comment:

I support any increase in the camping fees. We have some the best and well maintained camping sites of any of the near by states. I love to camp in SD and will gladly help pay for the restoration of the grounds.

Stan Stille
Bellevue NE
Position: oppose

Comment:

You are going to loose our whole motorcycle club who has been camping in your state for 15 years or more with your increasing park entry fee.

Amy Vick

Toronto SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

You can't stop mother nature. Sure, this past spring/summer flooding was tragic, however, raising the fees for all campgrounds in SD to help pay for damages is uncalled for. If you have a park next to water, it's bound to get wet. We camp in the SD state parks almost every weekend. We start early in the spring & go as late in the fall as we can. We were at parks that had flooding. The parks did the best they could with what they could. I don't see why I should have to pay more to help the parks fix damage when some of it possibly could have been avoided. Preventative maintenance goes along ways. It's ridiculous how the increase in camping fee's is to help "pay for repairs" to the parks every time but I can say in the past few years, there hasn't been any. Take Lake Poinsett for example. It's probably one of the busiest in eastern SD but it's the dirtiest. My 20-year-old niece said that. How many 20-year old's notice things like this? Maybe the parks that had a lot of damage should see an increase but not all of them. They're probably the parks that have the highest cost of operation as well. If the staff would repair things instead of drive around aimlessly all day, it's amazing what could get accomplished.

Michael Anderson

Belle Fourche SD

Position: other

Comment:

OMG! Another department nickel and dime us to death. So once this fee is assessed and it will be 'no' matter what we say. Will we drop this fee increase once these road and parks are repaired? I don't think so! Once this fee goes into effect you folks won't go back to the fee is used to be. It isn't the nature of State government to do that!

Mike Gabel

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am sure there needs to be an increase but this seems to be a bit to much at a time.

Bob Helget

Lafayette MN

Position: support

Comment:

I frequently travel to SD for camping and fishing, the quality of the campground and facilities is always very good and compared to other states and private campgrounds the current prices are low. Your proposed increases are reasonable given the value you are providing.

Kenneth Seffron
Carter Lake La IA

Position: other

Comment:

You should make fee for elderly and veterans cheaper

Bob Roehrich
Greeley CO

Position: support

Comment:

South Dakota has beautiful parks with nice facilities. If additional funds are needed the rates must be increased.

Carol Smith
Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

The state employees do an excellent job with the parks and I think the proposed fees are quite reasonable.

Matthew Longtin
South St Paul MN

Position: support

Comment:

While not a South Dakota resident, I can say that your current fees are lower than surrounding states while your facilities are on par with or exceed theirs. The modest fee increase you are proposing is, in my opinion, very acceptable. Your infrastructure is consistently in good shape and should be maintained by those of us who use your parks.

Michael Amick
Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

If you want to make a TEMPORARY (1-2 year) surcharge due to the flooding damage I could support it. Other than that, cut expenses in other areas if you need more money.

Janice Maag

Madison SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I know people who limit camping now due to campsite costs, will most likely do even less camping if costs increase. People's wages do not keep up with cost of daily living expenses let alone increases of everything else.

David Cecil

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We have all suffered loss due to storms, floods and economic problems. For those of us on social security for our income have no way to recoup our loses. All you have to do is charge more or additional fees. It's just plain wrong, our taxes paid to build the state parks and then we keep getting charged more and more to visit what we paid to build. Live within your means as the rest of America has to.

Mindy Roeder

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I find these increases to be nothing but reasonable. I agree that they will be crucial in taking care of all repairs and hope it will also contribute towards good up keep of all of the parks. You have my full support!

Clayton Petersen

Albert Lea MN

Position: other

Comment:

I love coming to SD to enjoy the Black Hills. This fee increase do to flooding should then go back down next year since you didn't flood each year? or is this a way to jump it up and leave it there?

Kimberly Lang

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I do support a fee increase if that is what is needed to maintain access to the campgrounds and lakes our family enjoys the use of. My suggestion would be for GF&P to consider significantly raising the cost for out of state users. We frequently camp and fish at Orman, Angostura and Shadehill reservoirs as well as the river. It is becoming impossible to reserve a campsite. You not only have to reserve at the 90 day mark but if it's a holiday weekend you have to reserve several days ahead of your planned arrival to get a spot. At the Orman campground you see many vehicles and campers from Wyoming. Shadehill is full of campers from North Dakota. I'm not saying these campgrounds should not be accessible to people from out of state. I'm sure (especially Shadehill) relies on them. But I do think most of these people can afford to pay a higher price and since they are not paying taxes routinely within our state they should be expected to pay a significant amount more to camp here than a resident does.
Thank you for your time.

Gary Schaap

Betesford SD

Position: support

Comment:

It is a good idea to raise the fees due to the flood damage. Almost everybody understands this. And the South Dakota game fish and parks delivers an excellent product. I have felt you've been under charging for several years. Keep up the good work with the state parks especially. They are just excellent!

Paul Demarest

Santa Cruz CA

Position: support

Comment:

We stayed at the Game Lodge campground a couple of years ago and I have to say it was the cleanest, most well equipped campground I've ever stayed at in over 50 years of camping. Unlimited hot water, clean restrooms, immaculate grounds - its worth it to maintain these high standards. If rates need to be raised then I say "do it".

Sharon Williams

Valley Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

You want us to enjoy the outdoors but if you keep increasing fees people on social security aren't going to enjoy camping and fishing.

Shane Carnahan

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Why are the fees increasing when most if not all those damages will be covered by FEMA? I understand FEMA is long process.

Kathy Larson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

There is a 2018 \$19.4M surplus. Go there for repairs. Once you increase fees to one of our state's largest assets, the trend will only be to increase in the future. Other states have done this. People stop using the parks and revenue drops, or as in the Three Rivers Park District case in Minneapolis park attendance dropped so severely the city converted the parks to "FREE".

Carrie Lent

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I would most likely not buy a pass or go camping at state parks anymore as the fees are already very high. Increasing them would make it difficult for your average person to budget.

Kirk Hauck

Castlewood SD

Position: other

Comment:

I think it would be a good idea to upgrade some camp sites with fresh water and sewer pump out services. You could charge a premium rates for those sites. Instead of just increasing rates increase services. That's how you increase revenues.

Shelly Fisher

Omaha NE

Position: support

Comment:

Increased fees will help fix damage and the price is still completely worth it for such a beautiful, well kept area.

Leah Venable

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I use the parks regularly and do not feel like this is a huge increase in fees to repair and maintain our parks!
Keep up the good work!!

Lois Timmermann

Sibley IA

Position: support

Comment:

Like state parks. Fees reasonable

Ryan Van Deraa

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Part of the reason why camping is so appealing is because of how cheap it can be. I am not saying it would break the bank but would prefer to see it stay the same. If it does go up, I would recommend putting a freeze on the price for a long while. Over 10 years

David Mozingo

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

I personally would support the increase in the park fees. My wife and I love to go across the state and enjoy the different parks. We do a lot of camping and hiking. It is certainly worth the extra fees to ensure we have wonderful places to camp and explore throughout this wonderful state.

Paul Hess

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Increased rates put an undue burden on senior citizens. With the lack of availability of spaces for weekend camping it takes longer reservations just to have a space for a weekend thereby costing extra for days not usable. And now with increases you put camping and enjoying the state parks even farther out of reach for the average senior. There should be separate and reduced fees for seniors.

Scott Abbott

Yankton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I've been camping at Lewis-Clark rec area for 30 years. It is turn ing into a very expensive vacation. I used to camp 3 or 4 times a year, now 1 or 2 times. I can't help but notice all the Iowa License plates , they take over the park. Let charge them more since they don't pay taxes here.
I love our park, it is amazing! GFP does an amazing job. - Scott Abbott

Ronald Dragoo

Hettinger ND

Position: oppose

Comment:

Are you kidding me??? If I have a issue or disaster in my world I DONT EXPECT everyone else to PAY for it..... if you had full hookups or WiFi I could see the increase but just because you need more money for a flood and once that's paid for will the will the rates go down?? I really doubt it you will come up with another reason to raise the rates again. I guess that's why I have a generator and we will just start dry camping elsewhere.

Chris Godlevsky

Windsor CO

Position: other

Comment:

We are out of staters and use SD parks frequently and have been impressed with the facilities, cleanliness and upkeep to the State Parks. We are OK with the Park Entrance increase but feel that the per day camping fee increase is a bit high. How about a \$3/day increase?

Cynthia Beisler

Minneota MN

Position: support

Comment:

My family and I love camping at SD parks. I am normally opposed to the increase of fees but in this case I think it is needed and well worth it. I feel that SD park representatives do what they can to make those state parks very nice and enjoyable and they are conservative with the moneys given to them to spend. Thank you SD

Richard Crim

Box Elder SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

A 25% price increase for camping fees is a little much. While I do agree an organization must keep up with the cost of inflation in order to provide the public a good product, these proposed increases are way too high. I recommend SD Parks reassess the amount of each increased fee before they drive away thousands of visitors annually.

Anthony Sanderson

Herreid SD

Position: support

Comment:

I think we should also look at when a boat is licensed the money should go to sdgfp like North Dakota does you license a boat throw game and fish there is no title boat if the state wants money for the road we can license a trailer which is on the road anyway

Keith Schram

Brookings SD

Position: support

Comment:

Seems like a fair "tax" (temporary?) on Park users and not a tax on people who don't utilize the services.

Mike Minarick

Gretna NE

Position: support

Comment:

I am a NE resident & use your parks numerous times throughout the year. You do an excellent job of building & maintaining them & the fees charged are well worth the money. Thanks for doing a great job!

Neil Johnston

Franklin TN

Position: support

Comment:

The state parks and campgrounds are a great asset for the state and the proposed increases for repairs are completely justifiable and within reason.

Boyd Stewart

Reedsburg WI

Position: other

Comment:

I do not think a increase of 20% to 25% in fees a "slight increase" as you stated...

Sharleen Stevens

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I love our state parks and would love to see them repaired. For the number of times I frequent them throughout the year, I wouldn't think twice about paying an additional \$6.

Wendy Fjellanger

Pipestone MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm from Minnesota and I camp most of the time in South Dakota parks . If you increase fees in all parks just to fix a couple of parks that's not fair. If that is going to happen then you should put water and sewer in all of the parks, then people might be willing to pay that increase. Otherwise just make the increase to the parks that need the repairs, leave it at that.

Susan Weitzel

Mitchell NE

Position: support

Comment:

I support the fee increase, however, I have prepaid for four different trips in 2020 at Custer State Park. I think 2020 reservations need to be honored at rates at the time of reservation.

Nicholas Vanoverschelde

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in support of increasing park entrance and camping fees throughout the state. Thanks.

Lyndee Kamrath

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

My family spends a great deal of time camping at State Parks throughout the year. It is a time for family bonding and enjoyment of the outdoors. Many families are not in a financial situation to be able to afford larger vacations and camping throughout the State provides opportunities that individuals may otherwise not be able to enjoy. As a State we pride ourselves on our nature and we should help everyone in the State be able to afford to spend time in our Parks.

Mandy Buck

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the increased camping and park entrance fees. I know these fees have not increased in at least the last two years (2018 & 2019). The camping fees are far less than several of the private campground fees I've experienced in the past. Additionally, state parks are known for their top notch staff & facilities - something that is not a guarantee at privately owned campgrounds. Thanks for all you do!

Taunia Schmeling

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

If you are going to raise the fees to enter the parks, maybe you should consider updating the camping reservations website. It is absolutely the most inaccurate and tedious website ever. When i go to reserve a spot, i am frustrated before i start. And i know that i am one on many who are unhappy with its ease of use. Why am i going through and entering all of my information and then when i finally get to pick out a spot, there are none. What a waste of time. And canceling or moving or anything is a 15 min phone conversation and then the spot might be taken or you have to wait for it to be "available". And I'm talking to some lady in California?? You need to do something about that because we love camping and will pay the extra fees, but myself and others are sick and tired with the website issues.

Karl Schmidt

Estelline SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support raising the entrance and camping fees to the state parks in South Dakota as proposed. We use the park system frequently and the money charged to enter and use it is money well spent. The increase is fully justified.

Paul Petrocco

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose any additional rate increases for state park entrances. I understand there are a lot of damages due to recent flooding....What has happened to the money from the recent increases in big game, small game and fishing licenses? Not to mention the nonsensical agent fee increases?!...I go online and print my license on my own paper with my own ink. Why am I paying \$4 agent fee when I do all the work? What about the cost for preference points? \$10 for elk and \$5 for everything else. There was around \$78,000 from archery elk preference points from area H2A21 alone!

Brian Malde

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Doesn't the state have insurance for natural disasters? I realize that you are talking about flood damage but I would think that insurance proceeds would be used before automatically increasing rates. If rates are increased, will they be reduced after repairs are made or will they become permanent?

Lucinda Devries

Box Elder SD

Position: other

Comment:

Out of state visitors camping fees should be higher than SD residents. The fees could be increased more than proposed.

Kelly Lorang

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I completely understand the need to raise extra revenue to take care of the damages done. I would, however, appreciate if those decision makers would look at other options for revenue increase so as not to increase the yearly fees quite so much. For example, the daily fee for visiting a park could be set at "X" amount, but decrease the longer people visit. Thank you.

Kim Bruguier

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

While I understand the need for a revenue increase, I would encourage the board to not approve the price change. My family is like many others- we can not afford big family vacations, but we do save up each year to buy our state park pass and go camping through out the summer. The cost increase is going to mean 1 or 2 less trips for us when we can't afford the increase. We don't have a camper, we have a tent, and camping is our family fun that we enjoy together. Please just take a moment before voting to think about the financial stability of ALL those that take in your beautiful parks.

Nate Kruse

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Yes, I would support this. As we campers are using the grounds and facilities, we enjoy the clean grounds, restrooms, available electrical hook-ups, and subsequent services. The increase is minimal compared to the budget variance.

James Helsper

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Its not only game fish that suffered from damage along with my self and plenty of others have losses to .who am I to get relief from besides my self then to make up for it I have to take from other expenses to make due so that is what you should consider it's the easy way out to just tack on more expense every time with out a set limit of collect and it never goes done. Next year we have another flood and you and I will probaby see this same request for increase.

So if there is not a time limit on the tack on like one years time then a drop back to the previous years charge then I'm opposed to it.

Best Regards

James Helsper.

Marsha Travis

Box Eldee SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Maybe have campers pack it in/ pack it out, would help with fees, instead of raising fees. Everything is to expensive already for alot of people.

Jennifer Gross

Madison SD

Position: support

Comment:

I purchase three park stickers every year and will gladly pay the increase to keep my state park in the great condition. I feel blessed to have these green spaces to enjoy leisure time, and also camp, hike and swim. Bless the staff for their kindness and professionalism, they deserve accolades they never receive.

Randy Griffith

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Seems like the park system is catering to those with the big expensive RV's. I need electricity for a Cpap machine so I am forced to take an RV spot to get that. No electricity available in tent areas so little by little the tenters are being squeezed out.

Also the reservation system stinks. People who can't afford to pay for several nights and not be there just to get a spot is ridiculous. These folks with 50,000.00 plus units could care less if they lose a hundred while us younger folks can't do that.

Message I get is the park system is only interested in getting more and more money.

I would like to see electricity available in tent areas so if nothing else a tent can use a fan on miserable hot nights.

I for one can't keep up with the increased costs associated with South Dakota's state parks. I might get a reservation once maybe twice a year if lucky due to the reservation system. Not worth it anymore.

Vicki Galvan

Yankton SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would rather help pay than have the parks close.

Micheal Crawford

Ellsworth Afb SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a military member stationed in SD, park entrance and camping fees are much higher for the amenities provided than in other states we've been stationed. Would definitely dissuade our family from using them as frequently.

Adolf Arendt

Valley Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The annual state park sticker fee and the camping fees are already high enough.! We try to budget in a few camping trips close to home each year, and used to try and go to the Hills camping once a year, but we decided it was to expensive this year.

So far we have only gone camping close to home two or three times in 2019, and perhaps we will get one or two more close to home trips in.

If you must raise the fees, now or in the future, how about only raising them on the people under 72 who are working and seem to always fill the campgrounds up with new or almost new campers, buses, and 5th wheel units with slide outs, and skip raising the fees on us old folks with small old campers?

Thank you.

Amber Margheim

Vermilion SD

Position: support

Comment:

I think your plan is great. It will cost us a little more but it is not prohibitive when it is \$4 or \$5 here and there.

Jared Seiler

Yankton Sd SD

Position: other

Comment:

If we are needing an increase in revenue for repairs and improvements why would we not look at increasing prices for non residents like we do with hunting and fishing permits.

Leray Swedeen

Henry SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Mights as well make camping for the rich people. Maybe consider selling some of your land or maybe better manage the money you have. I guess if you can afford a 80k pickup 80k camper and a 80k boat this won't Matter.

Geri Paslay

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Fully support

Doug Bergman

Eau Claire WI

Position: support

Comment:

South Dakota is in the center of the map and yet such a hidden treasure. It still remains one of the least expensive places with so much beauty and accessibility to the public.

Pam Libra

Randolph NE

Position: oppose

Comment:

I don't think that raised rates are fair when you already charge out of staters an extra fee and we live just across the river just charge the South Dakota residents the same as the rest

Angie Olberding

Stuart NE

Position: support

Comment:

While I don't like to see an increase in fees, I realize there has been a lot of damage and would willingly pay more to help the parks be repaired. I always enjoy camping in South Dakota state parks and I think they are beautiful and well maintained.

Jack Tomac

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

In addition to my two previous comments, I would like to add. As with anything, I don't mind paying for something if I can get something in return. Having to book 90 days in advance before making plans can even be considered, or when the sites are still for 1050's-60's size campers, and the list goes on with promises are never kept. Your list of reasons for the increase focus to much on the lack of management. Give me something in return and I'll gladly pay the increase. And don't tell me that the improvements are what I'll get in return as I doubt I will ever see anything.

Jon Voyles

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please dont increase the camping fees. If you HAVE to increase something please just do the park entrance fee.

Elizabeth Naasz

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I love the outdoors. I want to make sure our parks are being funded properly and taken care of. I am more than willing to pay a few extra dollars every time I enjoy our State Parks because that just means the parks will have more reasons to be enjoyed. Thanks for doing this hard work that you do!

Bob Jonas

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

camping is all ready to high in price.... you get nothing for your money but a pad to park on that's it... I have had a park pass every year for last 20 years if it goes up IM DONE

Darren Eggleston

Wolsey SD

Position: other

Comment:

I don't mind the increase if you plan on updating some bathrooms at campsites.

Julie Friman

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please don't increase these fees and make camping too expensive for families to enjoy. I buy 3 park stickers and often pay for 2 camping spots so my kids can enjoy camping also. We have to pay for campers and gas to get to the campgrounds and we go every other weekend May-September. We and others may have to go less often if these fees increase. Camping needs to stay at a reasonable cost for families to be able to enjoy this activity.

Mary Grider

Indialantic FL

Position: support

Comment:

We just completed a 10 day RV trip in SD. We camped at Spearfish City Campground, Custer state park(Sylvan Lake and Game Lodge) as well as Badlands Natl Park. Your parks are amazing. Custer was my personal favorite. The \$20 fee for 1 week and the inexpensive nightly camp rates are very reasonable. The park is beautiful, everything was clean, and the employees were wonderful. The fees could be increased and it still be a great value.

We loved everything about our BlackHills trip!

Tony Voeltz

Marion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We oppose raising camping fees and park entrance fees because when our houses flood we do not get any government help and I feel that you are taking it out on the people that want to use the facilities, it was mothers natures fault and not ours. I think the excess charge should go to the out of state people that come over and take all of our camping sites. It is very hard for SD residents to get a spot as they are always reserved a week ahead by non residents.

Jennifer Dailey

Jefferson SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ashley Mckeown

Brandon SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am pro raising the park entrance fees by a few dollars to help repair them after all of the damage caused by flooding.

Teresa Imerman

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

These are natural treasures. The state of South Dakota has done a great job reserving these beautiful lands for public use. It's a continued investment to repair and maintain South Dakota state parks.

Lori Frederick

Lead SD

Position: support

Comment:

We need to keep our State parks in peak condition. This will assist in providing the additional funds needed to repair the damages occurred.

Nancy Lrsen

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I would consider a 10% in fees acceptable. We camp 55-60 nights a year and that would be an increase of approximately \$250. Too much, We would really rethink our plans.

Ann Miles

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

James Brickey

Custer SD

Position: support

Comment:

Good Idea

Jacob Naasz

Winner SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jami Selleck

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

It will make it harder for low income families to go camping

John Malan

Springfield IL

Position: support

Comment:

Go for it.

Joyce Maras

Huron SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not feel a \$10 per night raise in the camping cabins is reasonable. There is little to nothing provided in these cabins and the cleaning is usually poor. The tables and decks are rarely if ever cleaned, and many years we have stayed an entire week. This is a hefty increase. If you ever watch a cleaning crew of one or two they spend less that 10 minutes cleaning the entire cabin and site. This is not worth \$385 a week plus the fee to get in the park. You shouldnt need 3 million in one year to recover 8mil. Do you plan to lower the rates in 3 years.? I doubt it. Please lower the proposed increases on everything suggested.

Thank you for this consideration.

Lee Walter Herrboldt

Menno SD

Position: other

Comment:

Don't like the increases but the bills have to be paid. The tent people use the bathrooms and electricity plus take up a spot for a camper so why would theirs stay the same or drop? Maybe Wi-Fi could be added.The lewis&clark grounds are very well kept up. thank you

Doug Dobesh

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Surprise, surprise. Instead of cinching up your belt and make do with what you have got, you at the GF&P will do what government agencies usually do and just raise fees. Apparently inept leadership has gotten you into a situation where you didn't have a contingency plan in place to offset the loss of revenue. I guess when you have a commission where the only criteria that determines who is appointed to it is the size of your governor's campaign contribution, one shouldn't be surprised. You are going to do what you want to do anyway, so stop insulting us by making believe you have any interest in our opinions.

Mike Nesheim

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

Charge non residents more for camping, and park entrance. We already pay taxes for our parks. Increase residents a smaller amount, and non residents even more. \$40 yearly entrance, \$10 increase in camping fees for non residents

Jenette Merrill

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I do support an increase to maintain the parks. However I would increase the annual fee to \$40.00 and keep the daily rate at \$6.00. Those of us who frequent the parks understand the reason for the cost increase. On the flip side you may have family who does not frequent the parks and are trying out a park for the day. I would hate to deter someone trying out a park due to a higher daily entrance fee.

Terance Biddle

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Give me a break! The last thing you should be doing is "rising" park fees at this time. Trying to get families outdoors and now you want to increase the rates--ridiculous. Vote this thing down!

Douglad Mills

Carpenter SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

If you get to greedy you will lose money. I might not pay that to park my camper

Renaë Kehrberg

Omaha NE

Position: support

Comment:

As a frequent user of Lewis and Clark State Park at Yankton SD I support the increase in fees to maintain the quality facilities, camp pad upgrades, marinas, walking /biking trail, bath and shower facilities and countless beaches. I am grateful to have such a beautiful vacation spot here in the Midwest and support the needed fee increase to maintain it.

Cheryl Allen

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

How about raising fees for non residents instead of residents? It's getting difficult for people who live here to get camping spots without booking days in advance because the parks are filled with people from out of state.

George Howard

Everett WA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Worst. Idea. Ever.

At most state parks when you have a camping reservation. The fee paid covers the entrance, and any Day use fees. When I camped in Custer State park this past summer, I was shocked and disappointed that in addition to my camping reservation fees I had to pay a park entrance fee. I am also still trying to remove the sticker placed on the inside of my windshield placed there by your over zealous "greeter" on my arrival without asking or my permission.

I will not be returning to any SD state parks and will tell others to avoid them as well.

John Nelson

Madison SD

Position: support

Comment:

I'm aware that parks all across the state have been affected by our spring and summer of excessive moisture, and I am fully willing to pay higher fees to help address the need to repair and maintain the parks I love and depend on.

Ryon Berry

Philip SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

If the governor and SDGF&P can waste \$1,000,000 on the bounty program maybe the state should learn to be more responsible with the money it collects instead of charging everybody more \$ because of their poor management of the budgets which are our tax dollars.

Mike Dailey

Jefferson SD

Position: support

Comment:

Our SD State Parks are an important asset for our State. Please help support them!

Bill Steely

Houlton WI

Position: oppose

Comment:

Many of the campers I know including me are retired and on a fixed income and a rate hike will make me look elsewhere for camping.

Sandra Hocking

Box Elder SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident and senior citizen who can barely afford the fee as it is, I object to raising the fees for residents. I am all in favor of higher fees for non-residents, just like it is for fishing and/or hunting licenses.

Terri Quast

Blue River WI

Position: support

Comment:

As a frequent visitor to your state and state parks, I would be more than happy to pay increased fees earmarked for flood damage repair.

David Strasser

Lennox SD

Position: support

Comment:

We realize the need for more funds, and I am OK with that, BUT the availability of sites stinks! There should somehow limit the out of state camping, give residents a 24 hour period to get sites 1st, make out of state higher price, or just do SOMETHING so residents can get sites in our own state!!! Another way to raise money would be to charge extra for every vehicle on the site. some sites have vehicles stuffed in all over the place.

Martin Pemrick

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

Don't like to see the fees increase but feel it is needed because of all the damage to the parks. I think they should consider a senior fee as Recreation.gov. does.

Perry Herrboldt

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I think the increase is to high almost 24 percent in regard to the camp site increase . Also the jump for park entrance fees is to steep. this has been a tough year for a lot of people . I don't think very many of us had a 24 percent increase in our pay this year.

Bobby Pudwill

Milbank SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support the suggested campground fee increases. SD has a great portfolio of well maintained sites and we need to keep them in top condition.

Dione Smith

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Fees were just raised. The new fees prevented family from being able to gather twice a year on the river already. Im concerned that this will end annual family camp outs all together. We used to fill 3 camper sites and 4 cabins twice a year.
Seems to me you lost money already busy based on my own families experience.

Richard Webb

Elk Horn IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

CSP Equestrian Camp fee increase, it should be noted that increasing the fee at a time when the campground is struggling to fill and with the recent fire, also no horse water available to most patrons isn't a wise decision, we have heard of some improvements but haven't seen any. I hope you don't price yourselves out of a continuing market. Return business seems to be your market, and with all the rains the trails have been adversely affected, it is sad to see the deterioration and lack of maintenance, but I understand that cuts had to be made, I always admired the condition of your trails and hope to see them recover.

Dave Mccoy

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Seniors citizen can not afford the increase

Peggy Butzke

Salem SD

Position: other

Comment:

We are users of the South Dakota state parks both in day use but more especially in camping. We are very proud of the parks that the state offers and support continued efforts to keep them in quality condition. We understand that costs increase and would support an increase in Annual fees and camping fees. However not only do we not support an increase in daily use fees, but we would recommend actually lowering them. We have had a number of occasions when our kids wanted to join us at our campsite for the day and didn't come because of the cost. If you are only charging \$36 for an annual pass, \$8 a day is ridiculous. You would probably make more total revenue on day passes if you lowered the daily entry fee. We would recommend \$4 to \$5.

Andrew Hoy

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I will gladly pay more for my annual park entrance pass in order to help keep our state parks running and thriving. The \$45 my wife and I spend on our two annual passes is the best value in recreation, and we would gladly pay far more than that for the privilege of visiting the wonderful parks in our area. Please know that we will gladly pay the proposed fee increase and still believe that we're getting a fantastic value for our money.

Thanks,
Andrew Hoy

David Kayser

Emery SD

Position: support

Comment:

I think out of state hunting and especially fishing license could be raised also.

Richard Oreskovich

Eden SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Until I purchased a boat last summer, I would almost never visit a state park or campground because of the cost. There are a lot of folks in sd, retired included who cannot afford your high cost recreation.

Roger Allen

Jacksonville IL

Position: oppose

Comment:

It seems odd that 7 day park entrance fees for motorcycles would double when other entry fees are rising only a small percentage.

While the increase seems small, it is still a 100%.

I doubt it will discourage visits to the wonderful South Dakota parks but it just seems a little lopsided.

Ray Ziegler

Bismarck ND

Position: support

Comment:

You folks do a fantastic job with your parks and because of that you have my full support and trust in determining the needs. North Dakota has the money, but can't figure out what us campers want and because of that we spend a lot of time in SD parks. Your suggested fee increases are to minimal, we have been camping for 40+ years and will continue to support you even if you chose to double the increases. I recently suggested to Law makers that ND give SD one Billion dollars out of our Heritage Fund in exchange for reciprocity for Hunting and Fishing Licenses, you folks know what to do with it, our administration will just burn through it on consultants and studies, take no action and become a barren land.

Have a great day.

Michael Bancroft

Senoia GA

Position: support

Comment:

We camped there and the proposed increase does not seem unreasonable.

Sandy Parisien

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I suggest charging a greater fee for out of state use of South Dakota Parks, camping, fishing and hunting.

Rollie Noem

Hill City SD

Position: other

Comment:

As a former Director of Custer State Park, I understand the need for periodic fee adjustments. My concern is not with the proposed increases but rather the lack of a daily entrance license option for CSP. A \$10 daily would tie in well with the park's current \$20 7-day option. I believe the positive impression a reasonable fee option would have on anyone just desiring to spend a few hours driving the Wildlife Loop Road and/or Needles Highway would be significant. Anyone planning on spending more than one-day would naturally still opt for the 7-day pass. Reinstating the daily option for CSP would be a public relations plus at a time when the traveling public is being hit with fees at every turn.

Aminah Hassoun

725 Allen Ave SD

Position: other

Comment:

Please consider a lower rate for all park/camping fees for South Dakota Residents/ in-state users, and a higher fee schedule for OUT-OF-STATE visitors.

Michael Van Otterloo

Vibog SC

Position: oppose

Comment:

Rome wasn't built in a night, neither does \$8 million in repairs, request federal funding. We typically book 14 days at a time. That is a \$70 increase for us. Small increase, not a 24% hike.

Michael Schild

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

While ongoing maintenance is a requirement, I don't feel such a steep increase is justified to cover flooding. Most people in the state are making the same income as they did in previous years, and perhaps not having a cost of living adjustment to compensate for inflation. As a result, I feel this increase will only drive down attendance and leave more empty sites. Other state departments who are dealing with effects of weather and flooding might be looking for emergency funding or grants to offset the costs. This should be the first option for GF&P as well.

Aaron Deutsch

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

An increase in camping fees by almost 24% (preferred campsite) to repair flood damage is a considerable increase and hardly modest. Will this price ever come back down once park repairs are completed? I imagine the answer to that is no.

Jill Baird

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am not opposed to the Park Entrance fees being raised but I am opposed to the camping fees being raised. Camping is a wonderful experience, especially for young families and it is expensive enough now. I would like to see a rule that you must check in within 24 hrs of your reservation date. Some people that have money to waste, reserve campsites many days in advance of when they plan to arrive. This makes it hard for those of limited incomes to get campsites.

Mike Peterson

Piedmont SD

Position: other

Comment:

Hi, I understand there was damage done by flooding, but don't you have insurance or a reserve fund for emergencies like all the taxpayers have to do? Is there a place I can see the budget? I can't believe you can't shift money around a little rather than rushing to raise fees. That's how us as taxpayers have to live. Thanks.

Robert Vandeventer

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

If I could get a reservation in Custer State park in a reasonable time I'd might be in support of it. It's impossible to get a site on short notice. Yes I know Center Lake has same day reservations but no hookups.

Doug Barnes

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

I see you are proposing some major increases in camping and use fees for public parks. According to the information provided, the reason for these fee increases has to do with flood and other damage to state park properties. As I am a user of some of these facilities, it is my belief that users should pay fees to support the services they use. So a fee increase makes sense IF:

The proposed fees are not to be used for new construction for state parks. Your claim is this is to repair damage so the increases should only go to repair damage.

The proposed fees will be rescinded when the GFP has accumulated the approximate \$8 million in damage. Also, if a bridge is out at Pickstown, that should be covered by the Transportation Department as they are in charge of roads.

My expectation is that you will file thank me for my comments and then forget about them. Prove me wrong, please.

James Mccaffrey

Brandon SD

Position: support

Comment:

I also think you should look at electricity useage i believe you should have a extra charge for air conditioners, charge per ac unit or a surcharge of some kind you could easily put it as a option when selecting camper type size and amperage needed and if they select no ac and there camper is equipped and they are caught using it have a fine in place something needs to be done because these campers are coming with 2 or more ac units that run nonstop and i have also seen many times campers with there windows open with ac units running when you are running more then one unit nonstop it has do greatly eat into the profit margin or eat it up entirely so the people who dont have ac or dont need power at all and just need the spot to park pay the same amount to compensate for the lost profit in electricty. You could just make the reservation tag that hangs on the campsite post a different color for instance blue if they paid for ac and white for everything else. Then if there ac unit is on and have a white tag a 20 dollar fine. This would greatly help with the repairs and also keep the rates low.

Scott Bjerke

Clear Lake SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I get inflation requires price increases, but I can go to other parks and get water at my site along with 50 amp hook up for the same price.

John Tlamka

Fremont NE

Position: oppose

Comment:

Collect your money from the Corp of engineers .they are the ones who changed their methods of retaining and releasing water. In 30th years I have not seen such problems with the river system . Something has changed and they can't get it done right as in years past .

Scott Cuny

Buffalo Gap SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

most people that go camping are on a fixed income, and live on a budget, so if you raise your camping fees, your going to lose customers, so why raise it? leave it as it is

Kelly Von Eye

Miller SD

Position: support

Comment:

I do not oppose an increase to any of the fees. We have stayed a a few of the different campsites over the last couple of years and we very much enjoyed the time ewe were there. The state has been devastated this year with the flood waters and I would like to be able to go back and enjoy camping at the sites.

Michael Reichmann

Watertown SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am sure a certain percentage of current park fees already goes to maintenance of the parks grounds and facilities. Granted this is a rare season that could not have been predicted. There are individuals that are managing the State Parks department, just like I am in charge managing my money. I put away money for emergencies or I carry insurance for the other things. Out of the millions of dollars collected each year you should have been putting money aside for just these types of disasters. Not every park was affected by the same flood waters. When I budget for a new vehicle and if before I buy it, my furnace dies. I guess I will have to wait to buy that new vehicle. Maybe the GF&P needs to take a look at their budget and put somethings off until theses repairs are made. I highly doubt that you will raise the rates now and lower them after all of the repairs are made. You will just find ways to spend the new.

Roger Dietrich

Yankton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Nebraska charges SD residents \$45 for an annual entrance fee while NE residents are only charged \$35. I think SD should charge out-of-state more residents more than SD residents, It is only fair. When you drive through Lewis & Clark Campground more than half the license plates on vehicles are from NE or IA. Raise more revenues by charging these people more. It will not stop them from coming to our beautiful parks.

Terri Jones

Brookings SD

Position: other

Comment:

I would like to suggest raising fees on out of state park users since in state users are already contributing tax dollar to the upkeep of our state parks. There are different fees for out of state hunting, fishing, etc. this same principle should be applied to park fees. Using Lewis & Clark recreation area as an example, you have out of state campers booking sites for the full week all summer just so they can have a place for the weekend. This is VERY unfair to instate campers who would like to camp during the week days. If the fees were higher for these out of state people they might not book full weeks and this would open up more sites during the week for in state users. I know this is being done because we had a camper from Nebraska tell us this is what he and another family do. When we asked if the cancel when they don't come we were told no. This is another problem that should be address with your reservation policy. This should be run just like hotels. If you don't show up on the day of your reservation, you are charged for that day and the room will go back as open and rented to someone else. The same day reservations require you to check in by 10pm on the same day and this should be required of the advanced reservations. This would eliminate the problem of empty campsites sitting empty all week thereby preventing other people from using the sites. I can't begin to tell you how many times we've heard people complain to the people at the check in desk about being told everything is unavailable when they can see the park is half empty. It sends a bad message to visitors to the park. As I've just pointed out, by raising fees on out of state campers (not SD taxpayers) and requiring same day check in for ALL reservations, the major problems that we've been seeing would be greatly reduced. My husband and I have been camping and enjoying the wonderful Lewis and Clark recreation area for 45 years, and we would like to see the abuses that are taking place with the reservation system corrected and also fee the out of state people should be paying MORE for using the parks that the South Dakota taxpayers are already supporting.

Sincerely,
Terri and Dennis Jones and family

Susan Michels

Owatonna MN

Position: support

Comment:

We must be forward-thinking about our state parks. A reasonable increase in fees today can make a tremendous difference to future generations. I am a frequent visitor, and will pay it gladly.

John Hollinger

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

add more sites to generate more income

Howard Howland

Bellevue NE

Position: support

Comment:

I support the proposed increases in the use fees. I think they should not apply to current reservations.

Charles Trimble

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The current fee structure is already quite high. While the daily and annual passes are not killers to the average (not the \$85K plus annual income families) potential South Dakota residents looking to recreate outdoors. But, the daily camping fees are already a really big expense. \$21 a day to camp is really a lot of money and then to be taxed, state sales tax and tourism tax, adds insult to injury. I'd like to know why I have to pay for tourism. If it brings in that much money why am I paying more for everything, like using our state facilities.

My wife and I are both retired. We like to camp around South Dakota but also see the hit in our budget to do so. The park and recreation area fees are only a part of the equation as fuel, and food. Tracking the expenditures for one outing will reveal a considerable diversion in household funds. If you use the parks and recreation areas like we do, the annual pass is the way to go and even with a very modest increase in this fee we would probably continue to do so. A second vehicle, not so much. The camping fees however are a different issue. We usually go to camp for three days. Do the math making sure you tax everything. Now add in the already ridiculous \$5 charge for four or five pieces of punky firewood.

It is not the role of state government, or government at any level, to provide jobs. I'm thinking if you need the revenue that bad, and South Dakota is all about finding revenue, then proceed. But I'm thinking it is time to cut spending. It is time to remove dead wood.

I will also add it has been my observation that maintenance and upkeep on existing facilities is lacking. It is always more fashionable and politically advantageous to build new grandiose projects. Possibly developing new areas is not a good idea when already publicly owned property is left to decay.

Doris Wragge

Pierce NE

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am definitely opposed to an increase in camping fees and the additional \$5 seems overwhelming. For retired people to spend 2 weeks that is an additional \$70 plus taxes and fees. As much as we love South Dakota parks, I would think seriously about no longer camping there. Please try to handle flood expenses some other way. Many many campgrounds are all in the same situation.

Alisa Miller

Yankton SD

Position: support

Comment:

South Dakota has beautiful parks and to continue to have those and make capital from tourism this is the only way.

Scott Schubert

North Sioux SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Fees are high enough. We are making camping an activity only wealthy can use.

Would also like to see camp grounds at chief white crane mowed and weeds especially cockle bur eradicated.
Thanks

Todd Dixon

Springview NE

Position: oppose

Comment:

If the fees went up for one year that would be fine, but we all know that they would never go back down. We the people did not cause the flood damage. Look elsewhere for disaster relief, we paid for our own damages already.

Patty And Dave Jenkins

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I find this appalling that you would raise the rates for all areas of Camping in SD. The SD GFP and our wonderful Governor Noem should have thought about this when you were spending \$1.5 Million dollars plus cutting off the tails of innocent animals in our State, which by the way only benefited a few. Maybe you can get those traps back and sell them to cover the costs of flooding? The Management of this State is getting dumber by the day including GFP, Legislative Members and NOEM!

Alex Dannenbring

Chicago IL

Position: oppose

Comment:

People are going to quit camping when its too expensive.

Patrick Klune

Sioux Falls, Sd SD

Position: other

Comment:

I'd suggest lessening or eliminating the annual park entrance fee. Divide the projected revenue from the projected annual fee increase up between the anticipated daily fees including camp sites. You'll likely lose some of the annual users. The dailies and campers are coming no matter what. Full disclosure - I am not currently an annual pass purchaser.

Aleta Starner

Freeman SD

Position: support

Comment:

We enjoy camping at the parks and happy to support

Debra Auck

Elkton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We don't camp as often as a lot but we do not see alot of upkeep at our campgrounds. And don't feel that we should have to pay extra for entrance and camping fees both!

Brian Feller

Olathe KS

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Harry Clarkson

Minong WI

Position: support

Comment:

I have already payed for a reserved camp site in Custer State Park during August 2020. I do not expect to be billed for the proposed camping fee increase for 2020....

Rhonda Baxter

Clear Lake SD

Position: support

Comment:

Make sure it gets done right and not just a bandaid

Kenny Haiar

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like the commission to consider raising the annual fee a little more and maybe keep the nightly fee a little lower. Going from \$21.00 per night to \$26.00 is quite a jump. I am not saying the state doesn't need it but \$5.00 per night seems a little high. Thank you.

Darrick Schubert

Dakota Dunes SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Fees keep going up yet services and up keep keeps getting worse? Not sure campers should take the burden of paying for natural disasters or possible the inability of some to manage those disters.

Philip Metcalf

Vancouver WA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Camping fees should include or exempt you from the entrance fee to SD state parks, very disappointed that after paying or camping fee we had to pay another fee to enter a park. 1 week 20.00 or a year 30.00 as a none resident how much use were we going to get out of that fee?

Stephen Reed

Boulder CO

Position: oppose

Comment:

I visited Custer state park for the first time a couple of weeks ago and it cost over \$50 to get in and camp in a tent for one night. If anything, you should be reducing prices. Also, you shouldn't be charging people from out of state an extra fee. Colorado doesn't charge people from South Dakota extra at their state parks.

Kathy Leick

Stanchfield SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

you will force many seniors to travel elsewhere to find affordable camping.

Danielle Phillipson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Loyd Piester

Sioux City IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I understand the flooding situation but if camp grounds keep raising their fees and game and parks the fishing license fees no one can afford to pay for it and I for the three of us will have to start spending our money in our own state and keep the tourists money here.

Christy Land

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

i appreciate going to our parks and donating to keeping them beautiful and accessible very small price to pay to enjoy such beautiful places

Raven Christman

Lemmon SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Travis Keller

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Regarding the proposed increase to park and camping fees, I am OPPOSED.

Already the fees charged are arguably too high.

Enjoying State and/or US parks should not put citizens out of pocket. The Gov't, both State and US are exploiting citizens by charging at all. While I do understand that maintenance of these parks does cost money, taxes and basic living expenses already deprive many from having the ability to even consider enjoying our parks. Imagine if the cities started charging to use their public parks. Based on what's going on with State & US parks, there's really no reason why they shouldn't/couldn't.

Getting out and enjoying the great outdoors is a God given gift. While there are things people can do absent cost, increasing the costs for those that aren't only further restricts the opportunity.

I do agree that users should pay a part of the expenses but feel they already pay more than their part. When you add up the expenses that a family already has to pay just to spend a weekend camping & fishing it's absurd. There is a popular meme that goes around stating "Camping; when you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person." It's not just the expense for park entrance, fishing licenses, & camping fees, but also the sales tax collected on goods and fuel needed to do it. (plus boat, trailer, & vehicle license/registration) As it is now, said family could likely spend less money doing an activity locally in town. This is NOT how it should be. Going camping/fishing, etc always used to be the "poor mans" way of vacation. Not any more.

The prices you are proposing may seem negligible in some cases but preposterous in others. For example, an increase of \$1 for fire wood, OK but DOUBLE the price for a 7-day Motorcycle Park Entrance??? WHAT kind of impact can a motorcycle, of all things, have in 7 days??? \$10 is bad enough especially when the average 7-day permit purchased is only used for a couple days. Even under current prices, a 2nd ANNUAL vehicle permit can be purchased for only \$15. So even the \$10 price is absurd for a 7-day pass. If anything, you should just charge an outright \$15 for an ANNUAL motorcycle pass. After all, motorcycles have way less impact and are only used for a short part of the year.

The camping fees are also more than enough. How is a campsite worth \$20/day just because it has electricity? Again, imagine if your house used \$20/day in electricity. you're talking \$600+ per month in an electric bill. Does

that seem right? I get it that the fee pays more than the electricity but the point is still one to consider.

The parks we have for camping are always sold out 90-days in advance. (summer wknds) I have suggested it MANY times EVERY year that you should build MORE campsites yet it doesn't happen. It doesn't take a business major to realize if you have a product that gets sold out then you need more product. This is the MOST FRUSTRATING thing about our State parks. You can't just go...you have to have it planned at least 90-days out. HOW are you going to always know? Gone are the days of coming home after work on a Friday and telling the kids to pack their bags cause we're going camping. The parks SHOULD have "1st come, 1st served" sites available as well as just "primitive" sites and "off grid" camping available. Most of the parks only have camper pads, limited tent sites & cabin options with no choice as to "prime, preferred, modern" or even non-electric if they don't need it. People are literally forced to pay the prices whether they need the "extras" or not. If you need more money then expand the options. ADD MORE CAMPGROUNDS!!! You're missing out when you're sold out.

I read about the \$8 million in flood damage and I get it. The problem I have is, was this our first flood? We are South Dakota for goodness sake. Do we NOT expect weather? Do you not expect that when it snows you may have to plow? Natural disasters happen. This is something that should be planned for. Why isn't there a "put away" fund for this? There should already be money put away/earmarked for natural disasters. We KNOW that there is a time it will be needed. Budgeting 101 = budget for all things known and save for the unknown.

While I have offered my opinion as it relates to your proposal, let me counter with a proposal of my own. South Dakota is a huge tourist destination. Non-residents are not paying the taxes that residents are. Charge a Non-Resident fee! You already have higher prices for non-resident hunting/fishing licenses. Expand on that. Also, consider adding a 1-cent fuel tax that is deferred to State Parks. People wouldn't complain about paying another penny per gallon of gas as much as they would on the increase in Park & Camping fees you are proposing. Furthermore, this would also tap into the tourist market to capture more revenue from the non-residents not paying the taxes that residents do. Keep it at a penny, or less however. If you exceed that then you will get more complaints but I don't see a penny or less on fuel prices making as many waves as the increased fees. (Heck, even the .1% to eliminate the .9 that is a standard in fuel pricing. \$2.59.9/gallon?...Just make it \$2.60 and be done with it.)

Emily Nesheim

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I would recommend charging more for out of state users, especially camping fees. Increase resident fees \$1-2 and non residents \$8-10 per night more. As residents don't we already support the parks with taxes? It would be no different than fishing, and hunting licenses. Non resident park entrance should also be higher.

Henry Foster

Fort Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

You conveniently neglected to include the compulsory "phone reservation fees" in your so numbers are very misleading. Fees are high enough as it is and out of line with nearby states in many cases, especially the annual passes. Additional fees will motivate us to look elsewhere for campsites.

Dennis Raml

Watertown SD

Position: other

Comment:

I do not see raising the annual fee \$30 should be enough. If you have to raise the fee do so for the nonresident and leave resident as is. The camping fee could go up, but again the non resident should be more . If you raise it do so in even number \$25 would be plenty.

Colin Niehus

Huron SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Stop raising what you call fees and I call taxes

Jennifer Freeman

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I think the minimal fee increase will be extremely beneficial.

Stephanie Coughlin

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

As a user and supporter of the South Dakota state parks system, I would like to voice my full support for the GFP Commission's proposal to adjust both Park Entrance License and Camping fees.

Implementing any fee adjustment is seldom easy and without controversy, and I appreciate you taking on this challenge. I believe it's necessary and prudent for the GFP Commission to carefully consider such adjustments periodically in order to ensure South Dakota's state parks continue to be operated and maintained at the high level of service and quality we're accustomed to and expect from these valuable places.

Thank you.

Roger Anderson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I understand the need to maintain sufficient funds to keep up our state parks, and I feel that the department is doing a good job. I do, however, dispute the practice of charging our out of state campers the same camping fees that we as state residents pay. I spend a lot of the summer at campsites and I see many campers from Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska utilizing our parks. They don't buy fuel as they fill at home before they leave, they bring food and beverages from home and, therefore, pay precious little sales tax. Our resident tax dollars support the division and the out of state campers reap the results. I feel that these out of state people should bear more of the burden. Out of state hunters pay more for a license than residents do plus most of them spend a lot of money in the State on food and lodging. I have heard from many fellow resident campers that it is difficult to get a reservation as so many of the out of state people utilize the campsites and take advantage of the fine facilities that we as residents pay for. Hopefully you will consider my suggestion! Thank you.

Virginia Wingen

Canova SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I support the need to increase the park entrance fee but not the fee to camping.

Becky Josephson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

I recognize the need for higher fees due to flood damage. However, I feel the \$10 increase on cabins is much too high. The rate was already raised \$5 this past year, and moving the price up higher makes camping out of reach for a lot of people. The cabins available at the state parks are an excellent alternative for those who do not own campers and do not want to sleep on the ground. I spend several nights in the cabins in several parks each summer and absolutely love it, but \$55 per night is too much money to pay for the amenities the cabins offer. The rest of the rate increases are quite reasonable, but making the cabins that expensive is going to negatively affect campers like myself.

Autumn Anderson

Belle Fourche SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Karen McCormick

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I certainly see the need for helping our beautiful state parks, but the increase seems a little high. Does the burden of building a new bridge fall on campers? Isn't this why we pay taxes? Please keep reasonably priced family outdoor activity affordable!

Brad Hansen

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Fees are getting so high now that only the richest can afford to go. Seems like GF&P's goal is to only have \$100,000.00+ campers filling the parks. We typically buy annual passes for four vehicles and camp 4-6 weekends each summer but I guess we'll give that up and build our own camp spot on the farm.

Richard Hunhoff

Yankton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I think that out of staters should pay a higher camping fee than South Dakota residents. SD residents pay for the building and maintenance of our beautiful campgrounds, but out of staters pay the same camping fees that we do. They are taking advantage of us.

Charles Leathers

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

Dear Commissioners,

I am not going to oppose, nor support, the proposal to increase South Dakota's state park entrance and camping fees.

There is no doubt to me that South Dakota's state parks are some of the finest in the nation. I have camped all over the western part of the country, and I can say this from experience. I do not question the need of fixings the parks damaged or destroyed by natural events or just normal deterioration. Even so, I want you to consider the impact that the fees have on people with lower incomes, especially disabled vets and people with disabilities.

If you do not have a 100% permanent and total disability rating from the VA, you do not qualify for a Disabled Veteran State Park fee reduction card. Having this card permits free entry and fifty percent reduction of the campsite fee.

Most people with a disability struggle financially, but since I am a veteran who has been rated as 100% permanent and total. I will address you from this perspective. I can tell you that when you are living on a fixed income, just five dollars a day can make quite a difference in one's life. And if you receive less than the 100% disability rate, you really struggle.

If you are not aware, the VA disability rating system is not a balanced. By this, I mean that a person rated at 50% does not receive half of what a vet receiving 100% does. Now of course technically, they are able to work enough to make up the difference. This, in reality, does not always bear out.

Without going into a lot of detail you might consider all of this in your decision making. I know it's complicated as veterans without a permanent and total disability rating can go up and down on the rating scale and there is the possibility of fraudulent use of the system. Do not forget to the non-veteran disabled persons. Spending a day or two enjoying the outdoor recreation that South Dakota offers is a splendid way of replenishment of spirit that life's struggle of living with a disability brings.

Sincerely,
Charles Leathers

James Schelling

Orange City IA

Position: support

Comment:

We love the SD state parks and have no problem paying more for camping or entrance fees when monies will be used to fix or improve them.

Linda Hubbard

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

You are going to price people out of using the campgrounds. Seniors and young families will not be able to go camping.

You are catering to the rich out-of-staters, of course, that's all you are after (money, money, money)!

Lori Bachmeier

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Already frustrating to get reservations the way people book a week or more in advance just to get the weekend then either cancel and turn around right away to rebook days closer to the week or holiday or they only show for the days closer to the week end, not sure it is going to even be worth the hassle if prices go up

Darwin L Schmiedt

Woondsocket SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

First, this is definitely the wrong time to be initiating any increase. Everyone has been impacted by the flooding this year. The park system is not the only one suffering from financial needs for all the water. Money is and will be tight for everyone for several years.

The park system spends money to advertise and encourage, especially youngsters, to come and enjoy the outdoors. Unless things have really changed, young families are not in a flush financial situation. The continued increase in fees will eventually make camping available only for the well to do. That is not what I see for SD.

I would hope that the GF&P would maintain some sort of emergency fund in their budget, if not, perhaps mismanagement is a problem.

I suggest that the park system bite the bullet like the rest of us and work with what funds you have available.

Craig Kjar

Garden City ID

Position: support

Comment:

SD Parks are some of the best in the USA. I support raising the fees as proposed. I will still visit and camp at these prices. It is a reasonable value for the services and facilities SD Parks offer.

Lyn Halvorson

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

A 20% increase in camp entrance and daily camping rates is excessive. Many campers are young parents with small children who will determine the cost of camping is no longer affordable with the proposed rate increases. Granted, flood damages to campgrounds need to be repaired, but 20% rate increases will totally eliminate or greatly reduce camping as a family activity for many who simply will not be able to afford it.

Why not increase non resident hunting fees to generate additional revenue?. A 20% license increase would be a minimal part of the total amount spent by non resident hunters to participate in SD hunting.

Shirley Oltmanns

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

If camping fees need to be changed the first thing should be for out of state campers. They should be paying more than in state campers because we pay taxes here in the state of South Dakota in the first place. Also they should only be able to reserve camping spots 60 days ahead not 90 days like in state residents.

Rules Review Process

Aaron Miller

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support changing Administrative Rule to permit telescopic sights on muzzle loaders for use during big game seasons. There are less than 10 states that do not permit telescopic sights. Of the states that border SD, ND is the only state I am aware of that prohibits telescopic sights. In addition to being difficult to purchase, telescopic sights increase safety by allowing shooters to more accurately identify their target and what is behind their target. They increase accuracy, thereby reducing the number of wounded animals. Also, many hunters are not familiar with shooting open sights or firearms with no magnification. Traditional hunting is becoming less common as new hunters are much more used to utilizing technology and modern equipment. This rule has always been difficult to enforce as there is no way to determine if a scope mounted on a muzzle loader is 1x or less unless the scope is closely inspected.

Wayne Linn

Grand Rapids MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hello,

I have been a S.D. archery hunter for the past few years (along with many of my hunting friends) and have enjoyed hunting in your state....However with the new rules that went into place for non-resident archery deer hunters for the 2019 season, I am serious about hunting in a different state that treats all hunters the same, (resident & non-resident). Having to apply for a non-resident archery licence earlier (April) and not allowed to hunt Public lands OUR National Forests the same time as residents is just plain Wrong! It is apparent that S.D. treats my son and I (as a non-resident hunter) much different than it's resident hunters....? We don't have ton's of money, but rest assured if the rules for non-resident hunters are not changed to be more 'equal' with that of it residents, we will be looking at hunting in other states that want us ! Thanks for listening to my comments.

Al Lehmann

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Since we are on an almost fixed camping budget, our stays will be reduced by the ~20+% fee increase. You will get almost the same \$\$\$s as last year because our stays will be shorter or some stays will be omitted. I am sorry that you are having budget problems but we are on a fixed budget and cannot just magically pull money out of the air.

Jerome Besler

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I AM OPPOSED TO ALLOWING non-residents in to hunt mountain lions in SD. I AM ALSO OPPOSED TO ALLOWING DOGS TO BE USED on private lands outside CUSTER STATE PARK. I THINK USING DOGS IN CUSTER STATE PARK IS OK because they are under supervision from game wardens. There is the difficulty, which lies in training the dogs, and in the physical endurance it can take to reach a treed mountain lion especially in ruff terrain. It would piss me off while I am hunting and have a group of dogs come running in and ruin my hunt. Let alone have loose dogs chance off other wildlife.

Trap Check Times-East and West

Vickie Thompson

Custer SD

Position: support

Comment:

Any animal suffering should be as minimal as possible! Less than 24 hours is Not too much to expect from an ethical reasonable,responsible person. All though I am not a trapping supporter, this is about animals needless suffering!

Vickie Thompson

Custer SD

Position: support

Comment:

Any animal suffering should be as minimal as possible! Less than 24 hours is Not too much to expect from an ethical reasonable,responsible person. All though I am not a trapping supporter, this is about animals needless suffering!

Vickie Thompson

Custer SD

Position: support

Comment:

Any animal suffering should be as minimal as possible! Less than 24 hours is Not too much to expect from an ethical reasonable,responsible person. All though I am not a trapping supporter, this is about animals needless suffering!

Paul Van Gerpen

Avon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Travis Seitzinger

Avon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Donald Werner Iii

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

A 24 hour trap check requirement would exclude many amateur trappers that work day jobs from trapping. Please leave intact the 48 hour check requirement.

Donald Werner

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Darrel Thompson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Not a trapper myself but our state wildlife agency should be doing everything possible to have more trappers out in the field. These guys do so much for wildlife management. Ignore the anti's and support our South Dakota values of hunting, trapping and fishing.

Justin Allen

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm against the proposal of the trap check times. Thanks to GFPs trapping program this year it was my first year i have ever trapped. I always took my kids with me to set and check our traps. With the busy life that kids bring there is no chance i will trap if traps are required to be checked every day. Along that my kids will not trap as well. This proposal is a great way to get folk out of trapping and terrible road to go down.

Philip Neuharth

Menno SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support making the trap check times the same, both east and west river. Thanks

David Kerr

Dm IA

Position: support

Comment:

I hunt pheasants in sd every year. Please continue the current trap check regulations. Sd has a better small game population than Iowa and I feel your trapping regulations are one of the main reasons why. Thanks.
David Kerr

Darcy Bracken-Marxen

Hermosa SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the 3-day check timeframe for east river trapping. Should be a maximum of 24 hrs.

Alexa Kruse

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending trap check times to 3 days. Trap check times should be every 24 hours statewide.

Peggy Mann

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Needs to be checked every 24 hours. Please have some compassion on this cruel barbaric primitive practice. We need to be a good Steward's of land and all God's creatures.

Melody Dennis

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

What is wrong with you people. Unless you want trapping banned altogether you better start working with the people of this state. Trapping is cruel, inhumane and totally unnecessary. If you are going to allow traps they should be checked at the minimum 24 hours. Our state is appalling in it's treatment of animals. Stupid

Christine Kellen

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please switch to checking trap times to every 24 hours.
Animals should not have to suffer for up to 72 hours

Jo Kephart

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending trap check times to 3 days east of the Missouri River, and ask the GFP Commission to make trap check times 24-hours throughout the state. Three days is too long of a wait for unintended victims. Thank you.

Tammy Jungen

Watertown SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending trap check times to 3 days east of the Missouri River, Please make trap check times 24-hours throughout the state. Anything else is just cruel.

Beth Millard

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Traps should be checked DAILY!!!
Be the Governor we thought you were when we voted for you... won't make that mistake again..

Madonna Goodart

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

It is imperative to ck traps every 24 hours. Traps do not discriminate- they catch everything, not just the intended animals. It is cruel to not ck those traps every 24 hours. Please do the right thing and require this.

Kris Stapelberg

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

While the rest of the modern world begins to learn how to live harmoniously with nature, South Dakota continues to go backwards toward the Dark Ages. I'm not a fan of trapping to begin with, but these lenient laws are only making it that much more cruel and unacceptable. Please, SDGF&P, don't extend trap check times anywhere (in fact, why don't you shorten the time West River?).

Angela Duvall

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please change trap check times to 24 hours! please don't allow more suffering!

Suzanne Hodges

Rancho Cordova CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

It is an atrocity that so called humans would let an innocent animal suffer needlessly. . .shameful, cruel, arrogant, selfish act that darkens your state. Even native Americans had more respect and compassion for their fellow creatures. I am ashamed of South Dakota for even considering 2-3 day check times. If those who do this dirty deed can not tend to business quickly, humanly perhaps time for them to quit!!!!

Samantha Kratovil

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Do not extend trap times. Animals will suffer.

Gwyneth Fastnacht

Wessington Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending trap check times. I'd like us to be a more civilized society and reduce cruelty to animals by having at least 24-hour check requirements. I'm surprised by GF&p position on this topic and have lost a good deal of respect for the department.

I understand hunting and trapping may be necessary, but extending cruelty, pain and suffering is not required.

Heather Allmendinger

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please don't extend the check times to three days! Please make the check times 24 hours throughout our entire state. The traps are indiscriminate , and I am concerned about this ! Thank you for listening

Alex Szameit

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Dean Parker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing in opposition of extending trap check times from two days to three east of the Missouri River. The current trap check time is already too long.

Instead, please change trap check times to 24-hours throughout the state of South Dakota. This will decrease the time animals spend suffering in traps, and increase the odds that unintended trapping victims (such as endangered species and pets) will survive.

Randee Huber

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

While I oppose trapping in all forms, trap check times should be no more than 24 hours statewide.

Mark Steck

Canton SD

Position: support

Comment:

regarding the proposal for the three day check time east river, I am supportive. Last year I caught almost 800 muskrats. One was alive but only because he was freshly caught. My animals suffer far less than the natural deaths they face in nature.

Think about it. How does an animal die in nature. Usually its by starvation, disease, ponds freezing to the bottom, etc. It's not Disney world out there.

A three day check allows me to be more efficient

Pete Harper

Flandreau SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the three day check for east river. I am an accomplished trapper. I use modern day techniques. If I choose, my critters are all dead within minutes.

Rocky Von Eye

Plankinton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

It is shameful to think anyone would approve anything other than a 24 hour trap check. Have we become so callous to animal cruelty? If a person intends to trap they need to get out and check traps every day. Twice a day would be best in order to prevent unintended catches ie lost hunting dogs or domesticated animals from suffering. I have lived on my farm for 40 years so yes I know all the issues. We do not need this trapping program in the first place and adding animal cruelty to the mix is disgraceful.

Julie Berry

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is cruel to trap an animal, and to have it suffer in a trap for up to 3 days is inhumane. I oppose trapping at all, but at a very minimum time frame it should be checked at least every day. Also what happen if a protected species is trapped in this contraption? There should be the same consequence for trapping a bald eagle in error as there would be for killing one by shooting it. Please reconsider and require traps to be checked daily.

Cristin Holm

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please set the time to check traps to 24 hours to lessen the suffering of the animals caught in these traps!

Tobias Carr

Belle Fourche SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Debbie Hardesty
Belle Fourche SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Tara Tennis

Newell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending trap times to 3 days. I also oppose them not marking their traps as they put the traps down and pets also get trapped and the trapper never contacts the pet owner. Strict trapping laws should be enforced. Trapping at a culvert is not acceptable.

Jodi Hildebrand

Wakonda SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Melody Dennis

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Ban traps. Disgusting. If you have to have such inhumane treatment of animals in the state traps should be checked every hour on the hour. No less

Katie Cozine

Chamberlain SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not extend the trap check time to 3 days east river. Please consider 24 hr trap check times statewide . Thank you

Trisha Krull

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Brenda Manning

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I very much oppose extending the trap check times to three days east of the Missouri River. I encourage the GF&P Commission to make trap check times 24 hours throughout the entire state of South Dakota.

Janet Lalley

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

3 days is way way way too long!!!

Alyce Whipple

Brandin SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

3 days is far too long to check a trap. I am an advocate for hunting and trapping but I believe three days is far too long. Please reconsider.

Heidi Madsen

Carpenter SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending trap check times to 3 days east of the Missouri River. Please make trap check times 24-hours throughout the state.

Kerma Cox

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

If it were up to to me and many like me, trapping at all would be outlawed. However, being that's not possible, all I can say is- what on Gods green earth makes you think extending the suffering of these creatures an additional day is a good idea? Why? At the very least they should be checked every day. Animals feel pain just as you would if caught in a trap. It's just plain cruel. Have a heart. Three days is inhumane. Imagine your pet suffering like that for three days. Please.

Margie Cox

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Two days is good three days no it is not right two many domestic animals are getting caught in traps.Why make animals suffer wild or DOGS or CATS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Tara Brady

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

24 hour is too long so 2-3 days is far beyond too long. Please change this to 24 hours or less. Animals that are caught in these traps shouldn't have to suffer. I don't believe in trapping anyways but if we have to deal with it the least the GFP can do is make it as humane as possible.

Rhonda London

Colton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

3 days is too long of a period. It needs to be 2-3 times a day.

Amy Wieczorek

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Traps should be checked daily. Any less is pure animal cruelty.

Amy Anderson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

These traps need to be checked every 24 hrs. No animal should suffer in a trap for 3 days, no matter if it was the animal aimed for or one that for trapped by mistake!

Leanne Voorhees

Huron SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I believe it should be within 24 hours. How horrible to make animals suffer any longer, especially if they could be saved from that kind of entrapment!!

Kelly Morgan

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending trap check times to 3 days east of the Missouri River, and ask the GFP Commission to make trap check times 24-hours throughout the state. Animals suffer terribly while in a trap. Hunting/trapping should not cause an animal to suffer, rather death should be quick. Humane treatment of animals and humans is what we should be striving for as an intelligent species. Thank you.

Jane Andersen

Tabor SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Stop the torture. No way should this be acceptable

Laural Bidwell

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Leaving an animal trapped for 3 days is cruel. These trap check regulations should shorten the time to check traps to 24 hours. In addition traps should have contact name of the trapper on them so that violators can be identified and subject to punishment.

Anglia Dale

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Paul Kuhlman

Avon SD

Position: support

Comment:

A uniform check time would be advantageous to trappers.

Amy Dravland

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Bob Dravland

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Holly Love

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Check trap times 24 hours...NOT EXTEND TO 3 days!!!!

Patricia Stock
Olmsted Falls OH
Position: oppose

Comment:

Why should these animals, that are trapped, suffer another 24 hours? Trapping is barbaric and cruel and you want to extend that another 24 hours. How about we put it to the test and trap a trapper and let him hang in a snare for 72 hours. No, let them check them without the extension.

Heather Spaich
Lehigh KS
Position: other

Comment:

You try being in a painful trap for days. See how much you like it. Don't make these poor animals suffer any more than necessary. Humans are heartless, uncaring creatures.

Annie Stenvig
Aberdeen SD
Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending the check times. I would be in favor of no more than 24 hour check times.

Linda Greene
Sioux Falls SD
Position: support

Comment:

I would like to see trapping done away with. It's just plain evil but if this can't be done. Traps need to be checked at least within 24 hours. Humans don't need to be wearing fur.

Nancy Dean
Santa Fe TX
Position: other

Comment:

The proposed change on trap check times should not be increased to 3 days. It is not uncommon for non-intended animals to be caught and they may not survive. It is cruel for any animal. If they don't want to check them every two days they should remove them. I don't want to step in one on vacation either. Thank you.

Sarah Ulmer

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Trapping is inhumane- period!

Teresa Degolier

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please make trap times every 24 hours across the state. It would be cruel for an animal to suffer for 3 days. Thank You.

Mary Panerio

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Traps should be checked frequently to prevent needless animal suffering.

Jana Haecherl

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Trap check times need to be shortened - unintended trapped animals like cats, dogs, birds of prey, etc. can become extremely distressed after 2-3 days in a trap, often resulting in amputation, starvation, or death. Traps should be checked EVERY DAY, especially in poor weather conditions. Any longer is inhumane.

Ben Haecherl

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Trap check times need to be shortened - unintended trapped animals like cats, dogs, birds of prey, etc. can become extremely distressed after 2-3 days in a trap, often resulting in amputation, starvation, or death. Traps should be checked EVERY DAY, especially in poor weather conditions. Any longer is inhumane.

Tania Taylor

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please reconsider check times, this is barbaric and in this day and age we should not allow this as a society.

Sherry Lee

Alpena SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is an not a humane practice. It often catches unintended victims such as family pets and maims or kills them, as was the case with several farm cats. It also can result in the death of protectef animals. Please just ban the practice.

Connie Hammes

Lake Park MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

The more often traps are checked, the less animals (which include intended and unintended wild animals and pets) have to suffer. Animals left in traps are often mauled by other predators, and suffer dehydration and often hypothermia.

Taryn Hoeksema

Platte SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We love trapping and hunting but I really believe we should keep it at 2 day. Three days put death and dehydration risk on unintentionally trapped animals. Let's keep it safe out there for both humans and animals :)

Sheena Thomas

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

If anything should be changed about the trapping check times, it should be to shorten it to every 24 hrs, or done away with all together. This "sport" is barbaric and outdated. How many unintended victims have been affected by trapping... getting by only losing a appendage at best. Please do not extend the check times to 3 days, that is 3 days too long to suffer.

Linda Mcelhinny

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Within two days of setting traps is plenty of time. Do not change to 3 days for the sake of domesticated pets, unintended animal catch.

Dave Bacon

Aberdeen SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Morgan Roth

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ronnalynn Beal

Beulah ND

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose track check times to be extended. Unintended animals make their way into traps. Extending check times would prolong unnecessary pain of the animal. It also decreases the chance of successful rehabilitation of severely injured animals. It will also increase the chance of death of the animal.

Rachel Welch

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The three day trap period causes unnecessary suffering for all animals including ones that are not intended to be trapped. Trap check times should be 24 hours to reduce suffering.

Melissa Wolfgang

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please make trap check time 24 hours. There's no need to make them wait and suffer for three days. Odds of survival will be significantly decreased.

Kelli Decosse

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Keep it at 2 days

Rogene Brown

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

PLEASE require hunters to check their traps within 24 hours! Any longer than that is just torture, and us unnecessarily cruel.

Rachelle Hurd

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No to extending trap times to 3 days!

Janet Daviaon

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I believe the required trap check time should be changed to 24 hours, not extended to the longer period proposed by Game, Fish and Parks. Domestic pets become caught in these traps and to leave them there for more than 24 hours is cruel and inhumane. Our state is better than this.

Kristen Cash

Wakonda SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Louise Mcgannon

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose extending the number of days to check traps. How very cruel to be caught in a trap and wait days for the trapper to come kill you, languishing without food and water. Many chew off limbs trying to free themselves.

I oppose trapping in any form but extending the check Times is another whole level of cruelty.

I learned long ago that GF& P is never for the animals.

Gene Hetland

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I request that the trap check time NOT be extended to three days. Animal cruelty is animal cruelty, and making animals suffer longer in traps is horrible.

Stephanie Samavarchian

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please DO NOT extend trap check times. This only leads to more suffering of both intended and unintended targets. It is inhumane and unconscionable. Pure laziness!

Nancy Neumann

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I absolutely oppose the current days that animals can suffer in traps. This whole trapping is barbaric and should not be allowed

Allen Tarbox

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I feel trap checking should be done at least every 24 hours. Animals do not need to suffer for 2 or 3 days in a trap.

Emily Wilson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Animals should not be allowed to suffer in traps as it is inhumane and cruel.

Michelle Wasson

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Too long for animals to suffer needlessly - lets be more humane pls

Charlotte Petrick

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I absolutely oppose raising trap check times. Quite the opposite should be happening. I'm thankful for the ethical trappers I know who check their traps daily.
I am disgusted to watch my state's descent into a backwards, uncaring entity as evidenced by recent activities endorsed by this administration.

Lonnette Olson

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No animal should have to suffer any longer than necessary. I personally feel traps should be checked every 24 hours. Animals other than the intended victim may be caught, and perhaps their lives can be saved if found soon enough. Please don't extend the check time.

Patty Larson

Nisland SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Leg hold are incredibly cruel and shouldn't be allowed at all. But since South Dakota people insist on torturing animals at least make trappers accountable and shorten trap check times to no more than 24 hours.

Karen Ketchum

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Trapping animals is totally cruel. No animal deserves to be injured in this way. So unethical. Why is this state going backwards. If you are trapping they shouldn't injure the animal and need to be checked every couple hours. Seriously we don't do this to humans.! So do this to any living animal. It's just wrong and unethical.

Lori Pliska

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

These traps should not even be used. And every two days is too long to wait. No way wait three days. Too many animals suffering and someone's poor family pets. Do not extend actually shorten the time to check

Lisa Moore

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

72 hours is FAR too long. Incredibly cruel to think any animal would be suffering in the heat, in the cold, in the trap for 3 entire days. Come on, don't make South Dakota look poorly again. The bounty on tails was a disgrace and now this.

James Moore

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Check traps every 24 hours.

Cheryl Huso

Sturgeon Lake MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

Make trap check times 24-hours throughout the state!

Shari Kosel

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Dear Chairman Jensen, Members of the Commission, and Director Leif,

South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SD FACT) writes strongly in opposition of the proposed change to the trapping prohibition rules. With support from over 4,000 members, we provide the following:

It is clear that this proposed rule is in direct reaction to South Dakota constituents expressing their right to free speech. Because Nancy Hilding with Prairie Hills Audubon Society had the gall to advocate for animals and reasonably propose a change in favor of 24 hour trap check times, we feel GFP Commission reacted immaturely and abusively of their power to increase the trap check times for east river from every two days to every three days. This behavior is unacceptable, unwelcome and unworthy of the duty your body owes to the public trust.

We cannot begin our opposition without uniformly discussing how inhumane trapping is to begin with. The inexplicable push by the current administration to support and increase this activity for the "next century" is offensive. The calculated appeals to "tradition" are meaningless in light of your changing longstanding requirements. The lengthened check times increases the inevitability of suffering for target animals and those that are indiscriminately trapped by happenstance.

This change only appears to be for the purpose of convenience and as a reactive tantrum to opposing views. We should all expect better of our government and its appointees.

Critically, this change refuses to take into account the effect upon our state's wildlife and those constituents who do not wholly support this activity.

When a citizen attempts to work within the system to make reasonable requests for incremental change, the authority is best served by not responding with aggressive and needless counter proposals. This behavior can only serve to further the gulf between citizens, undermine trust, and to promote more aggressive opposition rather than working together to align our values and preserve a healthy and positive environment for all citizens. That is the "tradition" South Dakotans should be actively trying to preserve.

Respectfully submitted,
Shari Kosel, Lead, SD
Sara Parker, Sioux Falls, SD
Joe Kosel, Lead, SD

Trapping Prohibitions

Sandy Metzger

Sturgis SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please check traps every 24 hours at least. End suffering.

Skyler Scott

Presho SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Joe Sees

Avon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Roger Beissel

Maple Lake MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Paul Voigt

Avon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Gregg Voigt

Avon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Randall Robinson

Milford UT

Position: oppose

Comment:

this proposal is written specially to get rid of game management and recommendations made by biologists to please animal rights groups. I'm strongly opposed to anything like this because i do trap in this beautiful state.

Ryan Dejong

Avon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Brittany Dejong

Avon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Brad Poppe

Avon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Regulations are fine the way they are.

Julie Anderson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Stop trapping with the snap shut trap! Safe humane live traps are cheap at running in rapid city!

Kenny Podzimek

Avon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I enjoy hunting and trappers provide a valuable service and the current regulations are working fine.

Donald Werner Iv

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

John Malan

Springfield IL

Position: support

Comment:

I support trapping prohibitions, specifically, to prohibit all trapping until all endangered species capable of being trapped, intentionally or not, are no longer endangered.

Philip Neuharth

Menno SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not support these trapping prohibitions. This is nothing more than a group of anti's that are trying to undermine our great heritage in this state. Thanks for supporting the great outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen in this state.

Annette Hof

Crooks SD

Position: other

Comment:

Leave the animals alone, they don't need to be trapped, period. If mama gets trapped, whose going to take care of her babies. NO ONE! And that's not fair to the mama and her babies.

The animals have alright to be on this planet also, it's just not our planet. Today its all about money and who gives a grap about life. That is so wrong!

The animals haven't done anything wrong to us, are they just an easy target of what? Our planet are loosing a lot animals, because of the humans that don't give grap. Before you know it, many more animals will be gone :(So please NOMORE trapping, its not fair to the animals. They want to live, just like us.

We are all animals and we need to help planet to become a better place for ALL of us, NOT JUST FOR US

Denise Maher

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am appalled to hear you are considering extending the requirements for checking traps from two days to three days East River. Not only does it add undue suffering and stress to wildlife caught in these traps but it also impacts local pets caught in these traps. If a trapper can not attend to his/her traps every 48 hours, they should not have active traps set out out. Please do not extend this time frame. It is not unreasonable to require trappers to check traps every two days. Thank you.

Dawn Paul

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Trapping needs to be STOPPED, It is not only killing the attended VICTUM it is killing Eagles, pets,etc..... A LONG and PAINFIL way to die. Please outlaw traps. Please

Ellen Suthard

St. Petersburg FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is so cruel and inhumane! Please stop this barbaric practice

Michele Morales

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

24 hours is bad enough, I'd like NO traps!!

Ashley Johnson

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Cynthia Herndon

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose extending the time traps can remain unchecked. Doesn't it go without saying that allowing an animal to suffer is inhumane?

Shari Kosel

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Dear Chairman Jensen, Members of the Commission, and Director Leif,

South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SD FACT) writes strongly in opposition of the proposed change to the trapping prohibition rules. With support from over 4,000 members, we provide the following:

It is clear that this proposed rule is in direct reaction to South Dakota constituents expressing their right to free speech. Because Nancy Hilding with Prairie Hills Audubon Society had the gall to advocate for animals and reasonably propose a change in favor of 24 hour trap check times, we feel GFP Commission reacted immaturely and abusively of their power to increase the trap check times for east river from every two days to every three days. This behavior is unacceptable, unwelcome and unworthy of the duty your body owes to the public trust.

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Critically, this change refuses to take into account the effect upon our state's wildlife and those constituents who do not wholly support this activity.

When a citizen attempts to work within the system to make reasonable requests for incremental change, the authority is best served by not responding with aggressive and needless counter proposals. This behavior can only serve to further the gulf between citizens, undermine trust, and to promote more aggressive opposition rather than working together to align our values and preserve a healthy and positive environment for all citizens. That is the "tradition" South Dakotans should be actively trying to preserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Kosel, Lead, SD
Sara Parker, Sioux Falls, SD
Joe Kosel, Lead, SD

Shari Kosel

Lead SD

Position: support

Comment:

Dear Chairman Jensen, Members of the Commission, and Director Leif,

In summary, SD FACT OPPOSES the proposed change to east river trap check times from every two days to every three days and SUPPORTS the proposed 24 hour check time east and west river.

Re state park fees

2900 Poplar Dr
Sioux Falls SD 57105
27 September 2019

To the SD Game, Fish, and Park Commission,

This input is to suggest changing the proposal for the increased park fees.

The news article I see indicates that the fee increase would generate about \$3 million additional revenue. It says some of this revenue is needed is for repairs due to storms, while some is for the increasing costs that would have been needed anyway even without the storms.

My suggestion: If the fees must be increased, please determine what portion of the needed funding is for the storm repairs. That portion of the funding should come from state reserve funds. Note that the state's reserves are often referred to as "rainy day funds". The recent floods certainly were "rainy days"! Very rainy! It is not fair to ask park users to pay the part of the increase that is due to the recent floods. That should be on all of us. If \$8 million is needed for storm damage repairs, take the whole \$8 million from reserves and get it done.

In this way, the fee increases could be less. Such as: perhaps the park sticker could be \$34, rather than \$36. Perhaps Tent-only camping could be \$10, rather than \$15.

In short, Please use state reserve funds, not park user fees, for repairing storm damage, and reduce the proposed fee increases accordingly.

Thank you for considering the logic and fairness of this public input. And thank you for your service on this commission.

Sincerely,



Cathy Brechtelsbauer

September 18, 2019

SD Department of Game Fish & Parks
523 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

RE: Increase to Park and Camping Fees


I received the notification that the SD Game Fish & Parks Commission is considering a "modest" increase in park fees for 2020.

I would not consider a 20% increase in Park Entrance License (from \$30 to \$36); a 24% increase for Prime camping fees (from \$21 to \$26 per day) and a 21% increase to preferred campgrounds (from \$19 to \$23 per night) a "modest" increase.

While I understand that many of the State Campgrounds suffered damages with our weather in 2019, does the State not contribute anything to repairing these? You state that you want to preserve the opportunity for the entry level camping family to get involved in the outdoors...a 20%+ increase in fees will not provide this opportunity.

South Dakota Treasury had excess funds from the 2018 budget....certainly some of those funds can be directed to fix the disasters that occurred in the State Parks. These increases are far above the rate of inflation, and I am sure that we are not the only family who will have to reduce our number of camping outings going forward if these new fees are adopted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Thompson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Debra Thompson
47856 270th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Comes, Rachel

From: Comes, Rachel
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 4:51 PM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] GFP Commission Considers Increase to Park and Camping Fees

Categories: Commission

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 8:04 AM
To: GFP Commission Public Comments
Subject: FW: [EXT] GFP Commission Considers Increase to Park and Camping Fees

From: Karen McDowell [mailto:krmcdowell@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 4:20 PM
To: SDGFPINFO
Subject: Re: [EXT] GFP Commission Considers Increase to Park and Camping Fees

If you increase the entrance fee and camping fee, it would help seniors who are on a fixed income to give them a break on both. You already have reduced hunting and fishing for them.

Karen McDowell
Centerville, SD
[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Wed, Sep 18, 2019 at 8:05 AM, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks wrote:



GFP Commission Considers Increase to Park and Camping Fees

With the state park system facing \$8 million in flood damages, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission is **considering increases** to state park entrance and camping fees.

Increasing the prices on camping spots is becoming cost prohibitive for a lot of families. Living by Yankton, my family goes camping at Lewis and Clark Recreation area quite often. As you know, it is very difficult to get a spot at this campground due to pressure from Nebraska and Iowa. On any given weekend, there are more Nebraska and Iowa campers than South Dakota. I've heard numerous Nebraska and Iowa people comment that they can't believe that they are charged the same amount per night as a South Dakota resident. I would propose that you raise all spots one or two dollars and increase the cost for non-residents to make up the difference. This would be similar policy to hunting and fishing licenses, which seems to work very well.

David Charles
Yankton, SD



Allen Dunbar <allendunbar77@gmail.com>

proposed change

Allen Dunbar <allendunbar77@gmail.com>
Draft

Wed, Sep 25, 2019 at 7:38 AM

I am writing in regards to the proposed change in administrative rule regarding the use of horses to train dogs for those people that qualify for such activity.

My name is Allen Dunbar, and I am from Oconto, Wisconsin. I have been coming to work and train dogs from horseback on the Ft. Pierre National Grassland in August for close to 20 years. I usually bring 2 horses, and a handful of dogs, all owned by me. I enjoy my time spent in the area.

Since that time, there have been several changes that have continually limited my ability to enjoy the use of Federal property, for which I am a taxpayer. Originally, there was a lottery system put in place, then a limitation of days, now this additional (change). Each time one of these changes has been made, it has further limited my ability to spend adequate blocks of time pursuing my passion.

While in South Dakota, I spend quite an amount of money on motel, fuel, food, sundries, etc.

I question how many people this will actually affect. How many horseback dog trainers are currently using the National Grasslands?? This last season (2019), I did not see one other trainer on the Grasslands.

For who's benefit is this rule change being made??

I would recommend that NO CHANGE be made to the current system. This allows me, as a taxpayer, to use and enjoy ground that I support financially.

Sincerely,

Allen Dunbar
Oconto, Wisconsin
allendunbar77@gmail.com

P.S. I tried sending this by email.
however the email address that
was listed was NOT valid -

Dear Commissioners,

I am strongly opposed to increasing the magnification of scopes on muzzleloaders.

When I advocated in support of a separate muzzleloading season in the late 1970s, the focus was giving traditional muzzleloader hunters a separate season independent of the regular rifle season. The idea was to encourage and promote traditional blackpowder hunting with caplock or flintlock rifles which used open sights and to allow hunters to pursue game without interference from long-range shooters and larger numbers of hunters in the regular rifle season. We did not ask for a season preceding rifle season, but a time where we were not competing with shooters using scoped rifles shooting deer out to 500 yards with modern ammunition. We were overjoyed when the first antlerless tags were made available to us for a short season following the regular rifle season.

However, the introduction of modern in-line rifles, blackpowder substitute propellants, shotgun primer ignition systems, and modern fast-twist barrels which shoot modern bullets has effectively made muzzleloading hunting an extension of the modern rifle season. The only thing that has leveled the playing field for traditionalists was restricting muzzleloaders to open sights during muzzleloader season.

Traditional muzzleloaders can be adversely affected by weather. Flintlock rifles cannot use modern blackpowder substitutes. Shooting a traditional patched round ball generally restricts us to shots of 100 yards or less. Modern in-lines, however, are not affected by weather and allowing scopes on these rifles will enable users to shoot to 300 yards or more. It effectively puts us traditional shooters back to the point we started before a muzzleloading season was adopted – competing with modern rifle shooters during the same season.

When the Commission approved any deer tags for muzzleloader season, we were finally able to hunt trophy deer and it was possible to draw every two years. With the proliferation of in-lines, the number of muzzleloading hunters increased. In 2017, there were over 7000 applicants for 1000 tags. Since I received my first any deer tag the first year they were offered, I have been fortunate to get one more with three years of preference. Allowing scoped muzzleloaders will likely increase the competition for limited tags because more hunters will participate if they can use a gun that is effectively a modern scoped single-shot rifle.

If you are going to allow scoped muzzleloaders for muzzleloading season, why not allow anyone to use crossbows during bow season? I see little difference. I urge the Commission to restrict muzzleloaders to open sights or zero power optics.

Respectfully,

Fred L. Wells III

13060 193rd Street

Vale, SD 57788

605-210-0819

wellsfl@sdplains.com

S.D. GF+P Commission Members,

I have read the magnification change to be used on muzzleloaders during the muzzleloading season. I have hunted w open sights and with a 1 power scope during this season. I appreciate being able to use the 1 power scope as it allows my aging eyes (65) to place the crosshair exactly where needed to make a clean ethical shot at short range. I would like to see the muzzleloading season kept short range as it was originally intended and to keep the Hunt in this season and not turn it into a long range event. I have a 6x scope on my .270 and can easily shoot to 300 yards. I know of people hunting on the reservations that use 4-16x scopes on their muzzleloaders (they carry 2) and shoot to 300 yds. and beyond.

My question to you is: What is the purpose of this season? and do you want to encourage longer range shooting, because this proposal will do that!

Paul Sand, Rosholt, SD

Thank you,
Paul Sand

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
523 E Capitol
Pierre SD 57501

Sir, madam, to whom it concerns:

I read your draft plan and find that unfortunately it is designed to manage mountain lions for maximum trophy hunting opportunity, not for conservation!

Mountain lions regulate their own numbers and do not require intense management to limit their populations. Hunting is a bad tool, killing the lions least likely to come into conflict with people, pets and livestock, and creating more space for young dispersing lions that are most likely to come into conflict.

Non-lethal methods are more effective and last longer.

Killing female mountain lions results in the orphaning of their kittens. Hunting leaves kittens to die from starvation, dehydration, and exposure.

Mountain lions are a keystone species in their ecosystems, maintaining biological diversity and other benefits to people.

I urge you to end the hunting of these precious mountain lions.

There's just too little habitat, too much human-caused mortality, and too few mountain lions to justify a hunt.

Remember, South Dakota's wildlife belongs to everyone, not to killers!

Sincerely:

Virgene Link-New
P.O. Box 249
Anacortes, Wa. 98221



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September 25, 2019

Gary Jensen, Commission Chair
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Pierre, SD 57501

Tony Leif, Wildlife Division Director
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
523 East Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Proposed 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons

Dear Chairman Jensen, Director Leif and Members of the Commission,

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and our supporters in South Dakota, I thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' (GFP) proposed 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons ("Proposal"). We oppose the Proposal because the staff's recommendations fail to conform with the best available science, and such excessive amounts of hunting will ultimately increase human and livestock conflicts—just like in Oregon and Coloradoⁱ—and harm mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) populations for the long term.

As detailed in the comments the Humane Society of the United States submitted on August 21st, 2019, regarding the draft South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan, we are opposed to the use of trophy hunting to manage mountain lions in South Dakota (Attachment A). We reiterate that this practice is not only cruel and unnecessary, but research has found that excessive trophy hunting leads to increased conflicts with humans, pets and livestock. Furthermore, trophy hunting and predator control of mountain lion is harmful to other wildlife including by diminishing our ability to restrict the spread of ungulate diseases, such as chronic wasting diseases.

Under South Dakota law, the Commission has a mandatory duty to conserve wildlife populations and avoid management decisions that threaten their viability. State statutes charge the Commission with the "conservation" and "protection...of wild animals and fish," as well as the "management of...wildlife to ensure their perpetuation of viable components of the ecosystem." SDCL § 41-2-18(1), (3). And because "[w]ild animals in [South Dakota] are the property of the state," the "citizens of this state have an interest in the management of wildlife so that it can be effectively conserved." *State v. Halverson*, 277 N.W.2d 723, 724 (S.D. 1979), citing SDCL § 41-11-1. The Legislature empowered the Commission with broad rulemaking authority in order to ensure that "expertise...in the field of wildlife conservation" guides wildlife management. *State v. Moschell*, 677 N.W.2d 551, 560 (S.D. 2004). The Commission is thus obligated to consider the best available science in order to protect the judicially recognized public interest in the conservation and protection of wildlife populations.

For the reasons that follow, we request that the Commission not approve the Proposal and protect mountain lions from unnecessary trophy hunting now and in perpetuity.



1) The Proposal would authorize trophy hunting levels that exceed what experts consider a sustainable offtake rate, threatening the stability and long-term survival of mountain lion populations in South Dakota as well as their range expansion to their historic range where they had been extirpated. GFP has recently released an adjusted mountain lion population estimate for the Black Hills of 260 mountain lions of all ages, or 203 adult and subadult mountain lions (those old enough to be trophy hunted). **The annual trophy hunting quota of 60 mountain lions amounts to 30% of this adult and subadult population.** Such high level of killing is unnecessary, cruel and not sustainable for the long-term stability of South Dakota's mountain lion population.

While we do not support a trophy hunt on mountain lions, GFP must ensure that any quotas not exceed 14% of the adult and subadult populations if the agency is determined to authorize a hunt. Multiple studies throughout the western U.S. have shown that this limit can prevent the killing of mountain lions above sustainable levels.ⁱⁱ Setting such a cap on trophy hunting quotas will help ensure the long-term sustainability of mountain lions in South Dakota. Therefore, the annual trophy hunting quota for mountain lions must not exceed 28 adult and subadult lions in order to stay under this 14% cap.

Additionally, we do not support the proposed changes to lengthen the season dates from December 26 – March 31 to December 26 – April 30 as well as the permitting of nonresident hunters to trophy hunt mountain lions. Such changes could lead to increased killing of mountain lions above sustainable levels.

2) The Proposal expands the use of hounds to pursue mountain lions in Custer State Park by increasing the number of access permits from 57 to 75. Additionally, outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District, the Proposal would expand the allowance for hound hunting that originates on private land to cross over or culminate on any public lands where unleashed dogs are permitted. Hound hunting is particularly cruel and harmful to both the mountain lion and the hounds, as well as to kittens and non-target wildlife.

As detailed in Attachment A, using radio-collared trailing hounds to chase mountain lions and bay them into trees or rock ledges so a trophy hunter can shoot at close range is unsporting, unethical and inhumane.ⁱⁱⁱ Hounds kill kittens, and mountain lions often injure or kill hounds.^{iv} The practice is exceedingly stressful and energetically taxing to mountain lions.^v Furthermore, hound hunting is not considered “fair chase” hunting by most.^{vi} Fair chase hunting is predicated upon giving the animal an equal opportunity to escape from the hunter.^{vii} The use of hounds provides an unfair advantage to trophy hunters who rely on hounds to do the bulk of the work in finding and baying a mountain lions. Hounds also chase and stress non-target wildlife, from porcupines to deer,^{viii} and trespass onto private lands.^{ix}

If GFP authorizes a trophy hunt on mountain lions, the agency must prohibit the use of hounds. Therefore, we do not support the increased number of access permits into Custer State Park nor the proposal to expand the allowance for hound hunting outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

The Humane Society of the United States is strongly opposed to the Proposal as it only seeks to expand trophy hunting opportunities, not conserve mountain lions. South Dakota's mountain lions are an important component of our natural wild heritage and deserve reasoned management so that their populations are conserved for future generations.^x If trophy hunting of mountain lions is to continue in South Dakota, GFP must limit this practice so that it does not exceed sustainable levels. The proposed quota of 60 mountain lions, or 30% of the adult and subadult population, is not sound wildlife management. We call on the Commission to



reject the Proposal and, instead, call on GFP to conserve mountain lions for all South Dakotans, whose interest in wildlife conservation the Commission is bound by law to protect. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darci Adams
Humane State Program Director
The Humane Society of the United States
dadams@humanesociety.org

ⁱ E. Ross, "Oregon May Be Over-Hunting Cougars — Which Could Cause More Conflicts," Oregon Public Broadcasting (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.opb.org/news/article/cougar-overhunting-conflict-oregon/>; R. Moore, "Are state actions increasing the risk of cougars attacking people?" Boulder Weekly (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.boulderweekly.com/news/are-state-actions-increasing-the-risk-of-cougars-attacking-people/>.

ⁱⁱ B.T. Maletzke et al., "Effects of Hunting on Cougar Spatial Organization," *Ecology & Evolution* 4, no. 11 (2014); R. A. Beausoleil et al., "Research to Regulation: Cougar Social Behavior as a Guide for Management," *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 37, no. 3 (2013); H. S. Cooley et al., "Does Hunting Regulate Cougar Populations? A Test of the Compensatory Mortality Hypothesis," *Ecology* 90, no. 10 (2009); C. M. Lambert et al., "Cougar Population Dynamics and Viability in the Pacific Northwest," *J Wildl Manage.* 70 (2006); H. S. Robinson and R. Desimone, "The Garnet Range Mountain Lion Study: Characteristics of a Hunted Population in West-Central Montana: Final Report," *Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks* (2011); H. S. Robinson et al., "A Test of the Compensatory Mortality Hypothesis in Mountain Lions: A Management Experiment in West-Central Montana," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 78, no. 5 (2014).

ⁱⁱⁱ T. L. Teel, R. S. Krannich, and R. H. Schmidt, "Utah Stakeholders' Attitudes toward Selected Cougar and Black Bear Management Practices," *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 30, no. 1 (2002).

^{iv} F. G. Lindzey et al., "Cougar Population Response to Manipulation in Southern Utah," *ibid.* 20, no. 2 (1992); Kenneth A. Logan and Linda L. Swenor, *Desert Puma: Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation of an Enduring Carnivore* (Washington, DC: Island Press, 2001); L. M. Elbroch et al., "Trailing Hounds Vs Foot Snares: Comparing Injuries to Pumas Puma Concolor Captured in Chilean Patagonia," *Wildlife Biology* 19, no. 2 (2013).

^v H. J. Harlow et al., "Stress Response of Cougars to Nonlethal Pursuit by Hunters," *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 70, no. 1 (1992); C. M. Bryce, C. C. Wilmers, and T. M. Williams, "Energetics and Evasion Dynamics of Large Predators and Prey: Pumas Vs. Hounds," *PeerJ* e3701 (2017); F. Bonier, H. Quigley, and S. N. Austad, "A Technique for Non-Invasively Detecting Stress Response in Cougars," *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 32, no. 3 (2004).

^{vi} J. Posewitz, *Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting* (Helena, Montana: Falcon Press, 1994); Teel, Krannich, and Schmidt, "Utah Stakeholders' Attitudes toward Selected Cougar and Black Bear Management Practices.," *Cougar Management Guidelines, Cougar Management Guidelines* (Bainbridge Island, WA: WildFutures, 2005).

^{vii} Posewitz, *Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting*.

^{viii} S. Grignolio et al., "Effects of Hunting with Hounds on a Non-Target Species Living on the Edge of a Protected Area," *Biological Conservation* 144, no. 1 (2011); E. Mori, "Porcupines in the Landscape of Fear: Effect of Hunting with Dogs on the Behaviour of a Non-Target Species," *Mammal Research* 62, no. 3 (2017).

^{ix} Hank Hristienko and Jr. McDonald, John E., "Going into the 21st Century: A Perspective on Trends and Controversies in the Management of the Black Bear " *Ursus* 18, no. 1 (2007).

^x Cynthia Jacobson et al., "A Conservation Institution for the 21st Century: Implications for State Wildlife Agencies," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 74, no. 2 (2010); Michael P. Nelson et al., "An Inadequate Construct? North American Model: What's Missing, What's Needed," *The Wildlife Professional*, no. Summer 2011 (2011).



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Attachment A

August 21, 2019

Gary Jensen, Commission Chair
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Tony Leif, Wildlife Division Director
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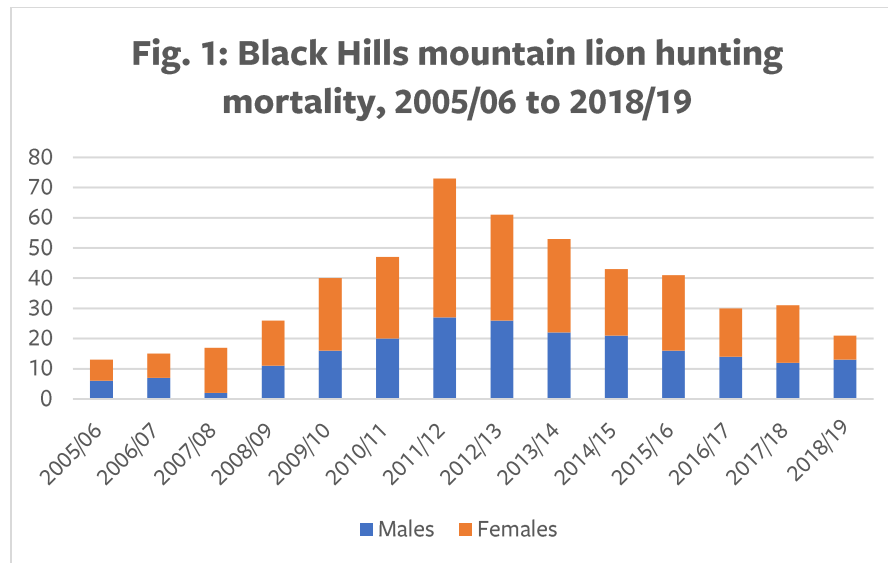
Email: LionPlan@state.sd.us

RE: Draft South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan, 2019-2029

Dear Chairman Jensen, Director Leif and Members of the Commission,

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and our supporters in South Dakota, I thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on the draft South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan, 2019-2029 (“Plan”). We support South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks’ (“GFP”) efforts to update the agency’s mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) management objectives using the best available science to provide universal guidance to wildlife managers. However, we strongly recommend the Plan not include trophy-huntingⁱ as a primary management technique. The practice is unnecessary for sound management and harmful to mountain lions, livestock and people as we explain herein.

Since peaking in the 2011/12 hunting season, mountain lion mortality from trophy hunting in the Black Hills has steadily declined (Fig. 1).ⁱⁱ During the 2018/19 season, trophy hunters killed 21 mountain lions. This is despite a robust number of license sales and the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions in Custer State Park, as well as GFP’s purported dramatic increase in South Dakota’s mountain lion population. GFP claims that the Black Hills population now numbers 532 total mountain lions, or 413 adults/subadults. This amounts to an increase of more than 200 cats compared to the agency’s 2016/17 population estimate of 300 total mountain lions, or 230 adults/subadults.ⁱⁱⁱ This increase in population is biologically impossible and must be re-evaluated for accuracy. Furthermore, the confidence intervals on the current mountain lion population estimate are extremely broad, such that the population could number anywhere between 111 to 970 mountain lions according to GFP’s data.^{iv} If the lower end of this estimate is representative of the actual population, the current quota of 60 total mountain lions in the Black Hills would allow the killing of more than 54 percent of the population. Given the planetary extinction threat facing Earth, wildlife managers must ensure they are using the best available science and the precautionary principle to conserve and protect wild, native large-bodied mammals.



While anecdotal evidence and trophy hunting mortality counts are not clear indicators of population size, the decreasing trend in trophy hunting mortality despite robust hunter numbers may be representative of a declining mountain lion population (Fig. 1). Additionally, the number of mountain lion observations has steadily decreased according to the Plan. As such, we urge GFP to halt any trophy hunting of mountain lions in the state until a reliable population estimate can be established and externally peer reviewed, and the agency can obtain a clearer understanding of the effects trophy hunting may be having on the species in South Dakota and beyond.

If GFP is to continue allowing trophy hunting of mountain lions, their management must be conducted in a moderate manner to be sustainable and avoid social disruption to lion communities, preventing human and livestock conflicts. Above all, we urge the agency to make the following changes within the management plan:

- **Set sustainable quotas based on reliable research and population estimates in order to prevent over-persecution.** We recommend GFP establish within the Plan a cap on trophy hunting quotas of no more than 14 percent based on adult and subadult mountain lion population estimates for the Black Hills. Multiple studies throughout the western U.S. have shown that this limit can prevent the killing of mountain lions above intrinsic growth rates.^v Setting such a cap on trophy hunting quotas across the state will help ensure the long-term sustainability of mountain lions in South Dakota.
- **Restrict trophy hunting of mountain lions outside of the Black Hills to protect mountain lion kittens and allow dispersing cats the opportunity to establish themselves in territories throughout South Dakota and beyond.** The Plan acknowledges that suitable habitat exists for mountain lions in South Dakota's prairies. Yet, hunting of mountain lions outside of the Black Hills is unlimited both in quota and season length. GFP must rely on the sound science to regulate mountain lion hunting throughout the state, including in the prairies, to allow them to recover in their historic range in Midwestern and Eastern states where they have been extirpated.



- **Prioritize the use of non-lethal methods when responding to conflicts with mountain lions.** As we detail below, research shows that trophy hunting of mountain lions exacerbates conflicts with humans, pets and livestock. Furthermore, lethal predator control can further disrupt the delicate social structures of mountain lions. In cases where non-lethal predator control can be utilized, such as hazing, relocation, and letting animals leave on their own, GFP should prioritize these methods above lethal options.

For the reasons that follow, we urge GFP to incorporate these recommendations into the Plan:

I. Trophy hunting of mountain lions is unsustainable, cruel and harmful to family groups

Trophy hunting is the greatest source of mortality for mountain lions throughout the majority of their range in the United States.^{vi} The practice is harmful to more than just the wild cats who are killed. Conservation biologists have derided this practice as unnecessary and wasteful. Batavia et al. (2018) write: Compelling evidence shows that the animals hunted as trophies have sophisticated levels of “intelligence, emotion and sociality” which is “profoundly disrupted” by trophy hunting.^{vii} For these reasons, GFP must not allow trophy hunting of mountain lions in our state:

1.) *Trophy hunting is unsustainable and cruel:* Large-bodied carnivores are sparsely populated across vast areas, invest in few offspring, provide extended parental care to their young, have a tendency towards infanticide, females limit reproduction and social stability promotes their resiliency.^{viii} Human persecution affects their social structure,^{ix} and harms their persistence.^x

Research shows that trophy hunting results in *additive mortality*—trophy hunters increase the total mortality to levels that far exceed what would occur in nature.^{xi} In fact, the effect of human persecution is “super additive,” meaning that hunter kill rates on large carnivores has a multiplier effect on the ultimate increase in total mortality over what would occur in nature due to breeder loss, social disruption and its indirect effects including increased infanticide and decreased recruitment of their young.^{xii} When trophy hunters remove the stable adult mountain lions from a population, it encourages subadult males to immigrate, leading to greater aggression between cats and mortalities to adult females and subsequent infanticide.^{xiii}

Biologists Wolfe et al. (2015) recommend that states manage mountain lions at a metapopulation level rather than at the single population level. They further add: “We recommend a conservative management approach be adopted to preclude potential over-harvest in future years.”^{xiv} Instead, South Dakota’s mountain lions experience *additive* levels of mortality.^{xv} Extensive research shows that this additive mortality caused by high levels of hunting results in population sinks.^{xvi} High hunting mortality does not result in decreased numbers and densities of mountain lions because of compensatory emigration and immigration responses, typically by dispersing subadult males.^{xvii}

2.) *Trophy hunting is particularly harmful to kittens and their mothers:* In heavily hunted populations, female mountain lions experience higher levels of intraspecific aggression (fights with other cats) resulting in predation on themselves and their kittens.^{xviii} Over-hunting harms a population’s ability to recruit new members if too many adult females are removed.^{xix} A Utah study shows that trophy hunting adult females orphans their kittens, leaving them to die by dehydration, malnutrition, and/or exposure.^{xx} Kittens are reliant upon their mothers beyond 12 months of age.^{xxi}



3.) *Trophy hunting harms entire mountain lion communities:* A recent study on mountain lions shows that mountain lions are quite social animals and live in “communities,” with females sharing kills with other females, their kittens and even with the territorial males. In return for these meals, the adult males protect the females and their kittens from incoming males.^{xxii} Disrupting these communities leads to deadly intraspecific strife, including infanticide and social chaos within the family groups.^{xxiii} Trophy hunting destabilizes mountain lion populations, which may cause increased conflicts with humans, pets and livestock.^{xxiv}

4.) *Trophy hunting is unnecessary, as mountain lions are a self-regulating species:* Mountain lions occur at low densities relative to their primary prey, making them sensitive to bottom-up (prey declines) and top-down (human persecution) influences.^{xxv} Their populations must stay at a much smaller size relative to their prey’s biomass or risk starvation.^{xxvi} They do this by regulating their own numbers.^{xxvii} When prey populations decline, so do mountain lion populations.^{xxviii} Mountain lion populations also require expansive habitat, with individual cats maintaining large home ranges that overlap with one another.^{xxix}

5.) *Killing large numbers of mountain lions halts their ability to create trophic cascades in their ecosystems, which benefits a wide range of flora, fauna and people:* Mountain lions serve important ecological roles, including providing a variety of ecosystem services.^{xxx} As such, conserving these large cats on the landscape creates a socio-ecological benefit that far offsets any societal costs.^{xxxi} Their protection and conservation has ripple effects throughout their natural communities. Researchers have found that by modulating deer populations, mountain lions prevented overgrazing near fragile riparian systems, resulting in greater biodiversity.^{xxxii} Additionally, carrion left from mountain lion kills feeds scavengers, beetles, foxes, bears and other wildlife species, further enhancing biodiversity.^{xxxiii}

6.) *Hound hunting is harmful to mountain lions, hounds and non-target wildlife:* Using radio-collared trailing hounds to chase mountain lions and bay them into trees or rock ledges so a trophy hunter can shoot at close range is unsporting, unethical and inhumane.^{xxxiv} Hounds kill kittens, and mountain lions often injure or kill hounds.^{xxxv} The practice is exceedingly stressful and energetically taxing to mountain lions.^{xxxvi}

To escape from the hounds, mountain lions use evasive maneuvers such as running in figure eights, scrambling up trees or steep hillsides and using quick turns to evade the pursuing pack of barking hounds. As a result, mountain lions could exceed their aerobic budgets causing their muscles to go anaerobic (while hounds are capable of running a steady pace with little ill effect).^{xxxvii} For every one minute the hounds chased a mountain lion, it cost the cat approximately five times what it would have expended if the cat had been hunting. A 3.5-minute chase, according to Bryce et al. (2017), likely equaled 18 minutes of energy the mountain lion would have expended on hunting activities necessary to find prey.^{xxxviii}

Hounding is not considered “fair chase” hunting by most.^{xxxix} Fair chase hunting is predicated upon giving the animal an equal opportunity to escape from the hunter.^{xl} The use of hounds provides an unfair advantage to trophy hunters who rely on hounds to do the bulk of the work in finding and baying a mountain lions. Hounds also chase and stress non-target wildlife, from porcupines to deer,^{xli} and trespass onto private lands.^{xlii}



II. Trophy hunting mountain lions does not boost prey populations but it could exacerbate ungulate diseases

Research shows that ungulates are ultimately limited more by their food resources and other habitat factors (“bottom-up” limitations), rather than by their predators (“top down” regulators).^{xliii} However, when herds lose their predators, they suffer poorer health and body condition, as well as more degraded habitats.^{xliiv} With a healthy assemblage of native carnivores, ecosystems enjoy the benefits from top-down regulation, which increases the health of ungulate herds with which they are integrally coevolved.^{xliv}

Mountain lions reduce deadly deer-vehicle collisions^{xlvi} and help maintain the health and viability of ungulate populations by preying on sick individuals, reducing the spread of disease such as chronic wasting disease (CWD).^{xlvii} This ecosystem benefit is increasingly important as CWD infection continues to infiltrate ungulate herds in South Dakota and neighboring states.^{xlviii}

Hunters likely cannot substitute for mountain lions as providers of ecological services such as stopping the spread of disease.^{xlix} During a three-year study on Colorado’s Front Range, researchers found that mountain lions preyed on mule deer infected with CWD.¹ The study concluded that adult mule deer preyed upon by mountain lions were more likely to have CWD than deer shot by hunters. According to the study, “The subtle behaviour changes in prion-infected deer may be better signals of vulnerability than body condition, and these cues may occur well before body condition noticeably declines.”ⁱⁱ This suggests that mountain lions select for infected prey and may be more effective at culling animals with CWD than hunters who rely on more obvious signs of emaciation that occur in later stages of the disease. Moreover, the lions consumed over 85 percent of carcasses, including brains, removing a significant amount of contamination from the environment.^{lii}

The best available science demonstrates that killing native carnivores to increase ungulate populations is unlikely to produce positive results. Numerous recent studies demonstrate that predator removal actions “generally had no effect” in the long term on ungulate populations.^{liii} Because ecological systems are complex, heavily persecuting mountain lions will fail to address the underlying malnutrition problems that deer face. Research also shows that disruption by oil and gas drilling does, in fact, greatly harm mule deer populations.^{liiv} If South Dakota wants to grow its ungulate populations, then GFP must foster survival of adult female mule deer and elk to stem declines; and it must increase nutritional conditions for ungulates as these factors are the most important for mule deer survival.^{liv}

Persecuting mountain lions will not help bighorn sheep recruitment, either. It is clear from the literature that bighorn sheep populations are in decline in the U.S. because of unregulated market hunting, trophy hunting, disease from domestic sheep,^{lvi} resource competition by livestock, and loss of habitat.^{lvii} Sawyer and Lindzey (2002) surveyed over 60 peer-reviewed articles concerning predator-prey relationships involving bighorn sheep and mountain lions, concluding that while predator control is often politically expedient, it often does not address underlying environmental issues including habitat loss, loss of migration corridors, and inadequate nutrition.^{lviii} The best available science suggests that persecuting mountain lion populations is not a solution for enhancing bighorn sheep numbers. That is because mountain lion predation upon bighorn sheep is a learned behavior conducted by a few individuals who may not repeat their behavior.^{lix} Similar behavior has been documented on endangered mountain caribou in the southern Selkirk Mountains – as trophy hunting disrupted sensitive mountain lion communities, female lions took to higher altitudes to avoid incoming, infanticidal young males, and preyed upon mountain caribou.^{lx}



South Dakota can better plan for bighorn sheep management by selecting relocation sites for bighorn sheep that have little stalking cover.^{lxi} Escape terrain that contains cliffs, rocks, and foliage makes excellent ambush cover for a mountain lion and should be avoided.^{lxii} Also, the amount of mountain lion predation is generally greater on small-sized bighorn sheep populations (those that are under 100 individuals) than on other larger bighorn sheep populations.^{lxiii} A host of authors reviewed by McKinney et al. (2006) and Ruth and Murphy (2010) recommend only limited mountain lion removals to benefit bighorn sheep populations.^{lxiv}

III. Trophy hunting increases human-mountain lion conflict and livestock depredation

In March 2019, the Humane Society of the United States published a report on livestock losses from mountain lions using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's data.^{lxv} For South Dakota's cattle and sheep ranchers, 2015 data show that most livestock losses came from maladies (illnesses, birthing problems, weather and theft) with far fewer losses coming from native carnivores and domestic dogs together.^{lxvi} In 2015, nearly 96 percent of unwanted cattle losses in South Dakota were from maladies with only 0.17 percent coming from mountain lions, according to the USDA.^{lxvii} According to 2014 data, zero sheep were lost to mountain lions in South Dakota.^{lxviii}

Human-mountain lion conflict is higher in areas with mountain lion trophy hunting.^{lxix} Trophy hunting and predator control of mountain lions results in increased conflicts because lions' social structures are destabilized.^{lxx}

A recent review of predator-removal studies found that the practice is "typically an ineffective and costly approach to conflicts between humans and predators" and, as a long-term strategy, will result in failure.^{lxxi} Instead, the authors concluded, non-lethal alternatives to predator removal, coupled with coexistence (husbandry techniques) may resolve conflicts.^{lxxii}

A Washington state study shows that as mountain lion complaints increased, wildlife officials lengthened seasons and increased bag limits to respond to what they believed was a rapidly growing mountain lion population. However, the public's perception of an increasing population and greater numbers of livestock depredations was actually a result of a declining female and increasing male population.^{lxxiii} Heavy hunting of mountain lions skewed the ratio of young males in the population by causing compensatory immigration and emigration by young male mountain lions, even though it resulted in no net change in the population.^{lxxiv}

Study authors found that the sport hunting of mountain lions to reduce complaints and livestock depredations had the opposite effect. Killing mountain lions disrupts their social structure and increases both complaints and livestock depredations.^{lxxv} Peebles et al. (2013) write:

... each additional cougar on the landscape increased the odds of a complaint of livestock depredation by about 5%. However, contrary to expectations, each additional cougar killed on the landscape increased the odds by about 50%, or an order of magnitude higher. By far, hunting of cougars had the greatest effects, but not as expected. Very heavy hunting (100% removal of resident adults in 1 year) increased the odds of complaints and depredations in year 2 by 150% to 340%.^{lxxvi}



Hunting disrupts mountain lions' sex-age structure and tilts a population to one that is comprised of younger males, who are more likely to engage in livestock deprecations than animals in stable, older population.^{lxxxvii}

Rather than allowing trophy hunting of mountain lions, GFP must make a concerted effort to utilize non-lethal methods when rare conflicts occur, prioritizing these above lethal removal of mountain lions. The current reliance on lethal removal for mountain lions that enter a human community is cruel and not in line with best management practices for mountain lion conservation. Techniques such as hazing and relocation are viable options that prevent unnecessary killing and are largely supported by the majority of South Dakotans, as detailed within the Plan.^{lxxxviii} According to surveys of South Dakota residents in 2018, public education, relocation and hazing are by far the most widely supported methods for addressing human, pet and livestock conflicts with mountain lions.^{lxxxix}

Furthermore, GFP must work with livestock owners to ensure they are adequately and appropriately employing nonlethal predator deterrence techniques. Installing predator-proof enclosures, using livestock guardian animals, or utilizing frightening devices are all effective strategies to prevent conflicts with mountain lions and other carnivores. Other livestock husbandry practices are also essential at reducing conflicts with carnivores. Livestock operators should:

- Keep livestock, especially maternity pastures, away from areas where wild cats have access to ambush cover.^{lxxx}
- Keep livestock, especially the most vulnerable—young animals, mothers during birthing seasons and hobby-farm animals—behind barriers such as electric fencing and/or in barns or pens or kennels with a top.^{lxxx} The type of enclosure needs to be specific for the predator to prevent climbing, digging or jumping.^{lxxxii}
- Move calves from pastures with chronic predation problems and replace them with older, less vulnerable animals.^{lxxxiii}
- Concentrate calving season (i.e., via artificial insemination) to synchronize births with wild ungulate birth periods.^{lxxxiv}
- In large landscapes, use human herders, range riders and/or guard animals.^{lxxxv} Guard dogs work better when sheep and lambs are contained in a fenced enclosure rather than on open range lands where they can wander unrestrained.^{lxxxvi}
- Suspended clothing; LED flashing lights (sold as “Foxlights”); radio alarm boxes set off to make alarm sounds/noises near pastures are some of the low-cost sound and or visual equipment that deters wild cats.^{lxxxvii}

According to USDA data from 2015, only an estimated 11.2 percent of cattle and calf operations in South Dakota used any nonlethal predator control methods.^{lxxxviii} Expanding the use of suitable techniques that are landscape and animal specific is essential to reducing conflicts and preventing the death of livestock as well as wild carnivores.



IV. Trophy hunting of mountain lions is not economically sound or supported by the majority of Americans who want to see wildlife protected

Trophy hunting of mountain lions is not in the best interest of these iconic species, nor does it represent the interests of the public majority. The practice deprives citizens of their ability to view or photograph wild mountain lions. Nonconsumptive users are a rapidly growing stakeholder group who provide immense economic contributions to the communities in which they visit.^{lxxxix} The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s 2016 wildlife-recreation report indicates that wildlife watchers nationwide have increased 20 percent from 2011, numbering 86 million and spending \$75.9 billion, while all hunters declined by 16 percent, with the biggest decline in big game hunter numbers, from 11.6 million in 2011 to 9.2 million in 2016.^{xc} Altogether, hunters spent \$25.6 billion in 2016, about one-third that spent by wildlife watchers (Fig. 2).^{xcii}

Figure 2: Wildlife recreation participation & expenditures, 2011 vs. 2016 data			
Numbers	2011	2016	Change
Wildlife watchers	71.8M	86.0M	+14.2M (+20%)
All hunters	13.7M	11.5M	-2.2M (-16%)
Big game	11.6M	9.2M	-2.4M (-20%)
Small game	4.5M	3.5M	-1M (-22%)
Migratory birds	2.6M	2.4M	-0.2M (-8%)
Other animals	2.2M	1.3M	-0.9M (-41%)
Expenditures	2011	2016	Change
Wildlife watchers	\$59.1B	\$75.9B	+\$16.8B (+28%)
All hunters	\$36.3B	\$25.6B	-\$10.7B (-29%)

The public values mountain lions and views them as an indicator of healthy environments while posing little risk to people living near them.^{xcii} A new study indicates that Americans highly value wildlife, including top carnivores such as mountain lions, and are concerned about their welfare and conservation.^{xciii} Surveys also show that the majority of Americans do not support trophy hunting.^{xciv} An additional study showed that most believe mountain lions are the best representative of the Southern Rockies heritage and landscape.^{xcv} Authorizing a trophy hunting season is not in the best interest of South Dakotans who prefer that these large cats remain on the landscape, without threat of persecution.

V. Conclusion

As detailed above, trophy hunting of mountain lions, especially at unsustainable and excessive rates, can harm the long-term survival of the species and increase conflicts with humans, pets and livestock. Moreover, high rates of killing can be damaging to ecosystems and to other wildlife, including South Dakota’s ungulate populations which benefit from mountain lion predation on individuals infected with chronic wasting disease.

For reasons stated above, the Humane Society of the United States recommends the Plan not include trophy hunting of mountain lions as a management strategy. South Dakota’s mountain lions are an important component of our natural wild heritage and deserve reasoned management so that their populations are



conserved for future generations.^{xvii} If trophy hunting of mountain lions is to continue in South Dakota, GFP must include within the Plan a cap on trophy hunting quotas to not exceed 12 percent of the adult mountain lion population. Furthermore, GFP must restrict trophy hunting of mountain lions in the remainder of the state in order to protect both dispersing and breeding mountain lions and their kittens. Lastly, we call on GFP to prioritize the use of non-lethal methods to address conflicts with mountain lions as lethal removal can harm not only individual mountain lions but entire populations and because lethal methods are not supported by the majority of South Dakotans. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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ⁱThe Humane Society of the United States defines trophy hunting as the practice of killing—or pursuing with the intent to kill—wild animals to display their body parts, not primarily for food or subsistence (The Humane Society of the United States 2017).

ⁱⁱ South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, "South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan, 2019-2029, Draft," (Pierre, South Dakota 2019).

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^{vi} See e.g., The Humane Society of the United States, "State of the Mountain Lion: A Call to End Trophy Hunting of America's Lion," (Washington, DC 2017); Cougar Management Guidelines, *Cougar Management Guidelines* (Bainbridge Island, WA: WildFutures, 2005).

^{vii} Batavia et al. (2018) write: "...nonhuman animals are not only physically, socially, and emotionally disrupted [by trophy hunters], but also debased by the act of trophy hunting. Commoditized, killed, and dismembered, these individuals are relegated to the sphere of mere things when they are turned into souvenirs, oddities, and collectibles. We argue this is morally indefensible. Nonhuman animals are not mere objects but living beings with interests of their own, to whom we owe at least some basic modicum of respect (Regan, 1983). To transform them into trophies of human conquest is a violation of duty and common decency; and to accept, affirm, and even institutionalize trophy hunting, as the international conservation community seems to have done, is to aid and abet an immoral practice." Authors then argue that trophy hunting cannot be "presumed [to be] integral to conservation success."

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- ^x Chris T. Darimont et al., "The Unique Ecology of Human Predators," *Science* 349, no. 6250 (2015).
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THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

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Comments on the draft South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan, 2019-2029

September 29, 2019

Helen McGinnis
PO Box 300
Harman, WV 26270
304-227-4166
Principal Admin of [Klandagi: Puma Rewilding Facebook](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed South Dakota management plan for the next ten years. I am dismayed that your goals are to continue to reduce the Black Hills population by extending the season, allowing more lion hunting in Custer State Park, allowing nonresidents to hunt, and expanding opportunities for hound hunting outside the Black Hills.

You continue to regard mountain lions essentially as vermin rather than as valued native species which play an important role in ecosystem management. This is puzzling. It's my understanding that your comprehensive studies of elk, deer and bighorn sheep have determined lions are responsible for little if any reduction in the populations of these ungulates. There have been no documented attacks on humans. There have been very few instances of depredation on livestock, and relatively few on pets. (Pet depredation is controlling by removing the "offending" lions.)

The draft mountain lion management plan issued this past July recognizes that suitable habitat for small populations exist outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District. You claim year round hound hunting outside the Hills increases the opportunities for lion hunting. That's ridiculous. Without setting aside areas of suitable habitat on public lands outside the Hills where lions are protected and allowed to breeding, lion hunting opportunities will not expand.

Lions in what I call the "Ring of Death" just outside the Black Hills Fire Protection, east and south of the highways that ring the hills, should be managed in the same manner as lions within the ring. It's obvious now lions attempting to disperse from the Hills onto the "Prairie" are mostly killed in the Ring.

Consider opening the Black Hills to hound hunting. The idea of hounding is reprehensible to most people, but whether a lion is harvested by boot hunters or houndsmen, the outcome is the same—it is dead. Houndsmen have the opportunity to observe the lion they are about to kill and can choose not to kill females that are

lactating. More important, many houndsmen are dedicated to their sport. The chase is over once a lion is treed. Some opt not to kill the lion. Hound hunters are the most effective advocates of lions in Montana because they want more lions to hunt. Some make money as outfitters for out of state residents.

Hunting is not ethical in state parks. I will advise my friends to boycott Custer State Park. Using the park as the only areas in the Black Hills where hound hunting is allowed is unfortunate. One fact of interest—in 2009 and maybe in later years, elk have been herded from Wind Cave National Park (the only area in the Black Hills where lion hunting prohibited) into Custer State Park, presumably to increase hunting opportunities in the state park. So apparently the lions in Wind Cave NP have not noticeably affected elk numbers.

I am interested in restoring cougars to eastern North America. I do not agree with recent articles essentially claiming recolonization will take place no matter how lions in source populations—of which South Dakota has been the most important—are managed. I hope to submit a journal article on the subject.



September 28, 2019

TO: South Dakota Game Fish & Parks Commission

FROM: South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SD FACT)

RE: Updated Mountain Lion Management Plan

Dear Chairman Jensen, Members of the Commission, and Director Leif,

South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SD FACT) writes strongly in opposition of the proposed updated mountain lion management plan. With support from over 4,000 members, we provide the following:

Without scientific knowledge of the number of mountain lions in South Dakota, a quota of 60 hunting permits could have devastating effects on the population and potentially extirpate mountain lions in our state.

Quota numbers should include those lions that are killed by vehicles, incidental snaring or trapping, poisoning, poaching, and public safety removal. Without more scientific information as to factual lion population numbers and, in light of the fact that the longstanding quota has not been met in several years, it is completely unnecessary to increase the amount of lions killed annually. We feel this increase is unjustified and dangerous for this essential predator.

Using hounds to hunt mountain lions is unethical and is not sporting. Often dogs die of exhaustion or are mauled. Hound hunting is unethical, inhumane and dangerous for the dog. GPS collars for hunting should also be prohibited as it does not provide fair chase.

Extending the mountain lion season could impact the end of mating season and occur when lions are pregnant, giving birth and/or rearing their young. This could result in orphaned kittens who will eventually die from starvation, dehydration and exposure. *SDCL 41-1-4 No person may wantonly waste or destroy any of the birds, animals, or*

fish of the kinds protected by the laws of this state. Unborn kittens or those dependent on their lactating mother are wanton waste of our state wildlife.

Trophy hunting of mountain lions kills the lead member of the territory, resulting in inexperienced juveniles most likely to cause conflicts with livestock and humans. There's just too little habitat, too much human-caused mortality, and too few mountain lions to justify a hunt. Remember, South Dakota's wildlife belongs to everyone, not only to hunters.

The difficulty of hunting a mountain lion may be an indicator of lesser population numbers. At the very least, the fact that killing a mountain lion is such a difficult enterprise, should go to the credit of this noble, unique apex predator and should not lead to multiple rules allowing for an easier "harvest" by inexperienced, unsuccessful outdoorsmen. There remains insufficient evidentiary facts for the increase in the historically unmet quotas and in the universal use of hounds, GPS collars and a lengthened season.

SDCL 41-1-2. Game birds, animals, and fish as property of state. All wildlife is held as a public trust by the state, similar to any other natural resource. Introducing 250 out-of-state hunting licenses, solely as a cash-grab, unfairly restricts the local enjoyment of this resource for South Dakota hunters and non-hunters alike. While value of mountain lions cannot solely be defined by monetary considerations, it is vital that your oversight not lead to the complete elimination of this unique public resource.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Kosel, Lead, SD
Sara Parker, Sioux Falls, SD
Joe Kosel, Lead, SD

sdfact.org

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
September 29th, 2019

SD Game, Fish and Parks Commission
Joe Foss Building
East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear SD Game, Fish and Parks Commission,

Prairie Hills Audubon Society has sent you our comments on the Draft Mountain Lion Plan Revision.

Today we write to object to all the proposed changes to the 2019-2021 Mountain Lion Hunting Season.

Staff set an objective of 200-300 lions in the Draft Plan Revision. The staff's population estimate for Jan of 2019 was 203 adults and sub/adults and with kittens added to the mix -- the population is 260 lions of all ages. This is comfortably within your population goals.

All the proposed changes to the season will result in more lions killed.

GFP recommended changes from last year:

1. Change the season dates from December 26 - March 31 to December 26 -April 30.
2. Increase the number of access permits in Custer State Park from 57 to 65.*
3. Allow nonresident hunting opportunity and provide 250 nonresident lottery licenses.
4. Establish a nonresident license fee of \$280.
5. Outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District, expand the allowance for the use of dogs that originates on private land to cross over or culminate on any public lands where unleashed dogs are permitted. The current restriction for the Fort Meade Recreation Area would remain.
6. Authorize the commission to extend the hunting season beyond April 30.

Since the 2012-13 season, the "harvest limit" in the Black Hills Unit, was greater than the actual harvest, thus the things limiting the harvest in the Black Hills, is actually the number of days available for hunting, hunting methods allowed and the number of hunters. Increasing these will increase the harvest. The Prairie Unit has an unlimited harvest for 365 days a year. The expansion of the area where hound hunting can occur will also increase the harvest in the Prairie Unit.

We believe that your harvests have been too high, as we explained

in our comment letter on the draft Mountain Lion Management Plan Revision. We thus object to these changes. They seem like a wish list for all the pro-hunting groups at the stakeholder meeting. Are you giving every pro-lion hunting group that attended, a small prize? What about the groups concerned about concerns of conservation of lions and their expansion and recovery of former ranges?

We are especially concerned for Custer State Park (CSP), where you allow for 8 new lions to be killed. As you have not specified a lottery application and new CSP sub-season intervals, we are not sure under what procedure those 8 "soon to be dead" lions will be inventoried and/or hunted -- and we must assume they are just hunted with a general license.

We ask you to look into the potential impacts to pregnant ungulates and/or newborn ungulates of a spring lion-hunting season in April. Please discuss when bison, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk and deer all deliver their children and how activity associated with lion hunting (especially with hounds on CSP) might provide for too much disturbance during periods critical to ungulate breeding success.

We ask you to evaluate if spring hunting will increase killing of nursing mothers with dependent young.

Denise Petersen (staff of Mountain Lion Foundation) has mapped data from the SD GFP cougar Mortality data spreadsheets. [MAP LINK - 23 YEARS OF SD COUGAR MORTALITY DATA](http://mountainlionfdn.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d0181adaffd74bf287acf4b6a6a38d8b), Please view this interactive map - layers are available for type of death, sex, by year of death. Click on the dot to learn about dead lion, it's age, sex and cause of death. Thanks to Denise Petersen of MLF for creating this interactive map & thanks to SDGFP for sharing their records. <http://mountainlionfdn.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d0181adaffd74bf287acf4b6a6a38d8b>

Sincerely,

Nancy Hilding

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hilding". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

08/31/19

Dear people

Having read the proposals
up and coming I think some
folks are miss lead! as
a Audubon Society? Don't
they deal with birds? we trapper
take care of the predator that prey
on birds? as for changing check
times that is bad Idea.

Sounds like trapper harass ment
from the get go. to me some
one's have a alternative
project. Some thing like
put out by "peta"

Don't want or Need these
people in South Dakota!
I Vote NO!

Charlie Bode

910 Fifth St

Scotland SD

57059

605 589 4812

Leave message

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
September 29th, 2019

SD Game, Fish and Parks Commission
Joe Foss Building
East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

Currently in SD trappers must check traps every 3 and a partial day west river and 2 and a partial day east river. Prairie Hills Audubon Society (PHAS) petitioned to shorten that to 24 hours statewide, with variances allowed for emergencies and contingencies. 86% of the states in the USA have 24-hour trap check time and SD GFP's education course for new trappers, tells new trappers to check their traps daily, regardless of what the law says.

Many folks have been concerned about the "nest predator bounty program" and associated animal suffering and/or unintended take of non-target animals such as pets or endangered species. The nest predator bounty program existed for 5 months and 54,460 tails were submitted - it ended before August 31st due to "bounty limit" being reached.

The suffering of all species is reduced and the survival of unintended wildlife victims is improved with shorter trap check times. The folks at the Commission meeting speculated the SD trap check rule (3 and 2 days spent in the traps) was 20 years old, but we are not sure how long the rule had such limits.

SD sends out a voluntary survey to folks with furbearer licenses and about half of them respond and then SD GFPs estimates the "furbearer" harvest from those responses. In 2018, harvest estimate derived from furbearer license holders, was 68,589 fur-bearers trapped. That number would be a minimum estimate, as the estimate on "harvest" of coyotes, red fox, skunks, raccoons and badgers would be too small, as trappers don't need furbearer license to trap those. So the Bounty program almost doubled the take of species...but each year for maybe 20 years, a larger amount of animals could have spent 2 or 3 and a partial day in SD traps.

SD's excessive trap-check time is a longstanding issue for wildlife welfare in SD. If animals spend longer time in traps, they experience increased risks of exposure, hunger, thirst, predation, physical damage from traps/snares, damage to themselves trying to escape and shock. SD animal cruelty laws allow that anything SDGFP allows is not cruelty to animals. We hope you have empathy for the animals dying or suffering slowly in traps/snares and make

some changes in favor of animal welfare and shorten the time they spend in traps in SD.

The Humane Society of the United States proposed an amendment to our proposed rule that we consider a friendly amendment. We petitioned for these conditions:

"A GFP staff person may release or euthanize an animal held in a trap longer than 24 hours. Upon permission of & following the guidance from Game, Fish and Parks any person may release or euthanize an animal in a trap longer than 24 hours."

The HSUS suggested we allow for the humans to have an option to nurse animals back to health, in addition to animal release or euthanasia. We agree that is a good addition to the proposed rule.

At the September meeting we handed you a copy of a paper with the text of SDCL 41-8-28. "Trap robbing or injury as misdemeanor." We suspect this statute would preclude letting third parties release animals in traps, however you should check with your attorney about the statute. We were not aware of the statute when we wrote the proposed rule. So, after consultation with your attorney, you might want to delete that clause, but still retain other parts of the proposed rule change.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hilding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "g".

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society



September 28, 2019

TO: South Dakota Game Fish & Parks Commission

FROM: South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SD FACT)

RE: Proposed Trapping Check Times

Dear Chairman Jensen, Members of the Commission, and Director Leif,

South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SD FACT) writes strongly in opposition of the proposed change to the trapping prohibition rules. With support from over 4,000 members, we provide the following:

It is clear that this proposed rule is in direct reaction to South Dakota constituents expressing their right to free speech. Because Nancy Hilding with Prairie Hills Audubon Society had the gall to advocate for animals and reasonably propose a change in favor of 24 hour trap check times, we feel GFP Commission reacted immaturely and abusively of their power to increase the trap check times for east river from every two days to every three days. This behavior is unacceptable, unwelcome and unworthy of the duty your body owes to the public trust.

We cannot begin our opposition without uniformly discussing how inhumane trapping is to begin with. The inexplicable push by the current administration to support and increase this activity for the “next century” is offensive. The calculated appeals to “tradition” are meaningless in light of your changing longstanding requirements. The

lengthened check times increases the inevitability of suffering for target animals and those that are indiscriminately trapped by happenstance.

This change only appears to be for the purpose of convenience and as a reactive tantrum to opposing views. We should all expect better of our government and its appointees.

Critically, this change refuses to take into account the effect upon our state's wildlife and those constituents who do not wholly support this activity.

When a citizen attempts to work within the system to make reasonable requests for incremental change, the authority is best served by not responding with aggressive and needless counter proposals. This behavior can only serve to further the gulf between citizens, undermine trust, and to promote more aggressive opposition rather than working together to align our values and preserve a healthy and positive environment for all citizens. That is the “tradition” South Dakotans should be actively trying to preserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Kosel, Lead, SD
Sara Parker, Sioux Falls, SD
Joe Kosel, Lead, SD

sdfact.org



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In summary, SD FACT OPPOSES the change to the east river trap check times, and SUPPORTS the proposed 24 hour trap check time east and west river.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Kosel, Lead, SD
Sara Parker, Sioux Falls, SD
Joe Kosel, Lead, SD

sdfact.org