

**Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
May 5-6, 2022**

Vice Chairman Doug Sharp called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CT. Commissioners Travis Bies, Julie Bartling, Jon Locken, Stephanie Rissler, Charles Spring, Robert Whitmyre were present. Public and staff were able to listen via SDPB livestream and participate via video conference or in person with approximately 80 total participants via zoom and in person.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Vice Chairman Sharp called for conflicts of interest to be disclosed. None were presented.

Approval of Minutes

Sharp called for any additions or corrections to the April 7-8, 2022, regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Whitmyre with second by Bies TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7-8, 2022, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Sharp called for additional salary days. None were requested.

License List Request

Chris Petersen, administration division director, presented a license list requests to the Commission from Dale Critchfield with Real Western Hunting, LLC from Cheyenne, WY for a full fee license list request for all nonresident small game hunters. It was noted this request is for one-time use to distribute promotional materials to big and small game hunting.

Motioned by Bies, second by Bartling TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Update

Chris Petersen, administration division director, provided the Commission and overview of the budget and walked them through the state government budget lifecycle.

Parks and Wildlife Foundation

Kristina Coby, executive director, provided an update.

Sportsman Against Hunger

Jeff Olson provided an update on behalf of sportsman against hunger reporting that hunters donated 78,735 pounds of game meat to needy individuals and families across the state last year.

Go Outdoors SD Update

Ross Scott, wildlife staff specialist and Keith Fisk, program manager provided an update on Go Outdoors South Dakota.

Bounty Program Update

Jacque Ermer, wildlife regional supervisor, explained this is the fourth year of the Nest Predator Bounty Program. New this year, only youth under the age of 18 were eligible to participate the month of March. Starting April 1, the program was opened for all age participants. Over 2,100 tails were submitted by 143 youth in the month of March. Youth participation and interest in the program continues to be high with approximately 45% of participants being under 18 years old so far. The next biggest age group was 50-70 year-olds, making up 23% of all participants to date. As of May 5, just over 16,000 nest predators (68% being raccoons) have been removed by 778 participants, with 94% of the participants being from eastern South Dakota. GFP has been excited about seeing the level of youth involvement with this program and hopes this strong youth participation continues throughout the duration of the program. GFP again implemented weekly prize giveaways for youth participants under 18 years old. These giveaways will continue every week throughout the program and consist of a GFP-sponsored trapping package that includes three live traps, knife, and the *National Trappers Association Trapping Handbook*. So far, there have been seven youth winners and the kids have been really excited about participating in the program. Visit the Live Trail Tracker Dashboard at <https://gfp.sd.gov/bounty-program/>. The program will end on July 1, 2022 or sooner if the \$500,000 program cap is reached.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 2:00 p.m. and concluded at 2:02 p.m. The minutes follow these Commission meeting minutes.

OPEN FORUM

Jon Kotilnek, senior staff attorney, opened the floor for discussion from those in attendance on matters of importance to them that may not be on the agenda.

John Hopple, SD Trappers Assoc – feedback on bounty program and trapper program. Signed up over 60 youth this year that were part of either the ethics program or participated in the bounty program. Thanked Commission for having the program and if they cannot continue with the program recommended using the funds for the ethics program as they currently have more people who want to participate than they can support. Invited Commission to attend fall convention.

Bill Paulton – Edgemont, SD – spoke regarding elk concerns. Says elk numbers continue to increase up to 500 elk on his ranch impacting hay production. Provided powerpoint presentation and requested help from the Commission. Said he has been working with staff but they don't have enough tools to help.

Rep Tim Goodwin – Hill City, SD – spoke regarding the efforts of staff during legislative session noting GFP staff worked very hard. He reiterated Paulton's elk depredation concerns.

Stephen Humphreys – Pringle, SD – has a cow/calf operation and stated he is overrun with mountain lions saying it was not difficult to get on a set of tracks as they have been in his yard. Requested the commission look at other hunting options besides tracking. Should not rely on harvest numbers to determine population.

Jim Joint – Custer, SD – stated it's difficult to track a lion with the limited snowfall they receive. Says he and his friends have killed dozens of lions and there are still too many. Feels this lion population is depleting local wildlife especially the deer.

Nancy Hilding – Black Hawk, SD – stated powerpoints should be shown when zooming meetings.

FINALIZATIONS

Application for License

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the license application as follows:

1. Remove the requirement for unlimited access permits for archery, muzzleloader, mentor, youth, and apprentice deer license holders to hunt certain deer hunting units and public lands.
2. Limit the number of archery access permits for Unit WRD-27L to no more than 20 "any deer" access permits for residents and no more than 5 "any deer" access permits for nonresidents.

He explained research on R3 efforts (i.e., Recruitment, Reactivation, Retention) has identified rule/regulation complexity to be one of several obstacles for new sportsmen and women. The removal of these access permits will greatly simplify hunting regulations regarding mentor, archery, muzzleloader, youth, and apprentice deer license holders while having no impact to deer management in these areas. The number of access permits currently available, across all these seasons, has created unnecessary complexity for sportsmen and women as well as the administration of these access permits in the licensing system. Unlimited access permits were established with the intent to evaluate harvest and participation on specific management areas by deer hunters with statewide or region-wide (e.g., West River Archery Deer) license types including archery, muzzleloader, mentor, youth, and apprentice license types. Deer harvest and participation was evaluated on all areas that required an access permit in 2019 and results were presented to the Commission. As a result, the Commission took action to limit archery deer access permits to 500 residents and 125 nonresidents on management unit 35L and no other unlimited license types or access permit areas were limited. Since 2019, no changes have been made to the number of access permits available for archery deer hunters in management unit 35L and no further changes have been made to the unlimited access permit areas. Through the 2021 deer hunting season, hunting effort and harvest success by access permit users has been collected, providing sufficient baseline information regarding use on these areas. Harvest and success by hunters with statewide or region-wide license types will continue to be estimated at the firearm deer management unit level. In the event there is a desire to consider limiting access permits on additional areas and user groups, harvest and success data will be used to evaluate use by user groups on these areas beginning the 2022 deer hunting season. This change will simplify deer hunting regulations for statewide and region-wide deer license type user groups and reduce complexity of the deer licensing system. Limited access units (LAUs) are intended to reduce hunter densities and provide a quality hunt experience. Trend data of supports limiting the number of resident and nonresident archery access permits for Unit WRD-27L to help meet its LAU objective. In addition, a reduction in archery deer harvest will help meet the 80% firearm hunter success goal identified in the deer management plan for LAUs.

Motioned by Rissler, second by Whitmyre TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE APPLICATION FOR LICENSES. Motion carried unanimously.

License Forms and Fees

Switzer presented the recommended change to remove the inclusion of the state migratory bird certification permit with the nonresident spring snow goose, nonresident early fall Canada goose licenses, nonresident 3-day licenses, nonresident youth waterfowl licenses and decrease applicable license fees by \$5 each. He explained that currently, several nonresident waterfowl licenses include the migratory bird certification permit. With the 2-tiered duck license option, applicants must select a migratory bird certification permit to reflect their choice of the traditional or 3-duck license option and pay the \$5 fee for the applicable migratory bird certification permit.

Motioned by Locken, second by Rissler TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE LICENSE FORMS AND FEES. Motion carried unanimously.

Waterfowl Seasons

Duck Hunting Season

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the duck hunting season as follows:

1. Remove daily bag limit of 5 mergansers (including 2 hooded mergansers) and include all mergansers in the normal duck daily bag limit.
2. Remove the possession limit of mergansers and include all mergansers in the normal duck possession limit.
3. Remove the ability to transfer certain nonresident licenses after a specific date.

He explained these recommended changes cleans up administrative rules for the implementation of the experimental options available to duck hunters. The allowance to transfer certain nonresident licenses after a specific date is unnecessarily complex and creates difficulties with the administration of licenses as well as creates confusion with hunters.

Motioned by Rissler, second by Locken TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE DUCK HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

Early Fall Canada Goose

Switzer presented the recommended change to remove restriction for nonresident hunters in the counties of Beadle, Brookings, Hanson, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Moody, Sanborn, Turner, Union, and Minnehaha counties.

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Spring TO FINALIZE THE CHANGES TO THE EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Waters – Indian Springs

Jacque Ermer, wildlife regional supervisor, presented the recommended change to

1. Modify applicable dates and the area included in “no discharge of a firearm from a boat” of Indian Springs and Antelope Lakes in Clark County.
2. Modify applicable dates and the area included in the closure of fishing from a boat of Indian Springs and Antelope Lakes in Clark County.

She explained that in 2017, HB1001 tasked the SD Game Fish and Parks to work on agreements with landowners on nonmeandered water issues. One such agreement was

with a landowner on Indian Springs Lake in Clark County. The current rule was put into place in 2018 after discussions with a landowner who owned most of the flooded private property in the Indian Springs basin. It was the opportunity to balance the request of the landowner and the public recreational use of Indian Springs Lake. Landownership has changed hands since the original agreement. Due to water levels increasing in the area, the new landowner has requested to simplify the boundaries of the current area closed to “discharging a firearm or fishing from a boat” on Indian Springs to also include the waters of Antelope Lake. Antelope Lake is currently designated as a State Waterfowl Refuge. As part of this request, the landowner also agreed to change the start date in the current rules 41:04:02:12b and 14:07:02:01b to October 20th, giving sportsmen and women an additional 10 days in the fall to hunt and fish from a boat while allowing the water to be open to public recreational use during the winter, spring, and summer months. This date would also align with boating regulations on other state refuges. Indian Springs Lake is a non-meandered body of water thus is subject to landowner request to close it to recreational use if so desires. By GFP staff working with the current landowners, Indian Springs Lake can remain open to public recreational activities with minimal restrictions for 2 months vs being shut down year-round.

PROPOSALS

Antelope (Firearm & Archery)

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the antelope hunting season to adjust the maximum number of licenses available in administrative rule from no more than 4,115 to 8,000 one-tag "any antelope" licenses and from no more than 600 to 3,000 two-tag antelope licenses and add Campbell County to Unit PRA-63A (Potter and Walworth counties).

Motioned by Bies, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE ANTELOPE HUNTIN SEASON CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented no recommended changes to the archery antelope hunting season. He noted license and tag types will be presented at the June meeting

Archery and Muzzleloader Season

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the archery and muzzleloader deer season to adjust administrative rules to correct and simplify those deer units that are open for the respective LM1 units for antlerless white-tailed deer licenses and to exclude Custer State Park from the archery and muzzleloader deer hunting seasons.

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ARCHERY AND MUZZLELAODER DEER SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

CWD Regulations

Switzer presented the recommended changes to address an administrative rule clean up that was overlooked during the rule-making process when the GFP Commission modified cervid carcass transportation and disposal regulations in May of 2021.

Motioned by Rissler, second by Bartling TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES. Motion carried unanimously.

Fall Turkey

Chad Lehman, senior wildlife biologist, presented information on the Fall Turkey season.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the fall wild turkey hunting season as follows:

1. Adjust the maximum number of licenses available in administrative rule for the Black Hills unit from no more than 100 to 500 one-tag any turkey licenses may be issued to residents.
2. Adjust the maximum number of licenses available in administrative rule for the prairie units from no more than 400 to 2,500 one-tag any turkey licenses and 35 to 2,000 double-tag any turkey licenses may be issued to residents.
3. Establish or modify the following prairie units: 02A (portion of Pennington County), 08A (Davison and Hanson counties); 13A (Brule and Buffalo counties), 15A (Butte County and a portion of Lawrence County), 18A (Aurora and Douglas counties), 21A (portions of Custer and Pennington counties), 24A (Dewey and Ziebach counties), 27A (portion of Fall River County), 29A (Grant County), 30A (Gregory County), 31A (Haakon County), 35A (Harding County), 41A (Jones County), 45A (Lyman County), 49A (portions of Meade and Pennington counties), 50A (Mellette County), 60A (Tripp County), and 67A (Todd County).

Motion by Spring, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE FALL TURKEY HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the administrative action to approve the fall turkey hunting license allocation by unit as listed.

2022-2023 Fall Turkey

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident		Nonresident		License Totals											
		AnyT	31	2 AnyT	37	AnyT	31	2 AnyT	37	RES	RES	RES	RES	NR	NR	NR	NR
										1-Tag	2-Tag	Licenses	Tags	1-Tag	2-Tag	License	Tags
01A	Minnehaha	25						25		25	25						
02A	Pennington	50			4			50		50	50	4			4	4	
07A	Yankton	175						175		175	175						
08A	Davison/Hanson	75						75		75	75						
12A	Bon Homme	175						175		175	175						
13A	Brule/Buffalo	50						50		50	50						
15A	Butte/Lawrence	50			4			50		50	50	4			4	4	
17A	Charles Mix	50						50		50	50						
18A	Aurora/Douglas	50						50		50	50						
19A	Clay	50						50		50	50						
21A	Custer/Pennington	50			4			50		50	50	4			4	4	
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	50			4			50		50	50	4			4	4	
27A	Fall River	25			2			25		25	25	2			2	2	
29A	Grant	100						100		100	100						
30A	Gregory	100			8			100		100	100	8			8	8	
31A	Haakon	50			4			50		50	50	4			4	4	
35A	Harding	25			2			25		25	25	2			2	2	
37A	Hutchinson	25						25		25	25						
39A	Jackson		50			4			50	50	100		4		4	8	
41A	Jones	25			2			25		25	25	2			2	2	
44A	Lincoln	50						50		50	50						
45A	Lyman	50			4			50		50	50	4			4	4	
48A	Marshall/Roberts	100						100		100	100						
49A	Meade	50			4			50		50	50	4			4	4	
50A	Mellette	50			4			50		50	50	4			4	4	
52A	Moody	25						25		25	25						
53A	Perkins	50			4			50		50	50	4			4	4	
60A	Tripp	50			4			50		50	50	4			4	4	
62A	Union	50						50		50	50						
67A	Todd	25			2			25		25	25	2			2	2	
BH1	Black Hills	200			18			200		200	200	18			18	18	
TOTAL		1,900	50		72	4		1,900	50	1,950	2,000	72	4		76	80	
								RES & NR:		1,972	54	2,026	2,080				

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Bartling TO APPROVE THE FALL TURKEY LICENSE ALLOCATIONS. Motion carried unanimously.

Sage Grouse

Switzer presented no recommended changes to the sage grouse hunting season.

Mourning Dove

Switzer presented the recommended change to allow for mourning dove hunting at Shadehill State Recreation Area in Perkins County.

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO THE MOURNING DOVE SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

CSP Bison Hunt

Matt Snyder, regional supervisor, presented no recommended change to the Custer State Park trophy bison bull harvest, non-trophy bison harvest; and season regulations.

Mentor Turkey Recruitment

Kirschenmann presented the recommended change to establish new rules within the Spring Turkey Hunting Season chapter that provides for Mentored Youth Turkey Recruitment licenses. He explained the objective of this proposal is to provide a means of encouraging youth participation with non-governmental organizations (NGO) that promote wildlife conservation and the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of hunters. Currently for youth hunters, an unlimited number of mentored spring and fall turkey licenses are available for those youth under the age of 16 and valid statewide wherever a spring or fall turkey season is open, excluding Custer State Park. In addition, those youth who are 12 years of age who has completed a GFP's course of instruction in the safe handling of firearms are eligible to apply for limited draw prairie turkey licenses and to purchase an archery and/or Black Hills turkey license. A mentored youth turkey recruitment license sponsored by an NGO would be available to those youth 15 years of age and younger that do not already possess any type of spring turkey hunting license. A limited number of licenses would be made available by application to eligible NGOs for distribution.

Motioned by Bies, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE FOR MENTORED YOUTH TURKEY RECRUITMENT LICENSES. Motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Sylvan Lake Store Replacement

Matt Snyder, parks and recreation regional supervisor, presented information regarding the plans for the Sylvan Lake store replacement.

Sylvan Lake Fire Update

Matt Snyder, parks and recreation regional supervisor, provided an update regarding the Sylvan Lake Lodge fire.

Bison Center Update and Grand Opening

Matt Snyder, parks and recreation regional supervisor, provided the Commission an update on the Bison Center and information regarding the grand opening scheduled for Friday, May 20th.

ADA Assessment

Al Nedved provided a detailed presentation on the status of the ADA Assessment.

Camping, Visitation and Revenue Report

Al Nedved, Deputy Director for Parks presented monthly camping, visitation, and revenue reports.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Fish Spawning and Stocking update

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Administrator, shared information related to current fish spawning and stocking efforts being completed by Game, Fish and Parks staff. At the time of the commission meeting, the walleye egg take goal of approximately 95 million had been met and the yellow perch egg goal of 1 million was almost completed. Fish stocking was ongoing with trap and transfer of fish occurring statewide, as well as stocking of hatchery product from the coldwater facilities.

French Creek Cooling Project

Jeremy Kientz, fisheries supervisor explained Game, Fish & Parks fisheries biologists partnered with mechanical engineers from North Dakota State University to design, build, and evaluate a prototype system designed to provide thermal refuge for trout during periods of elevated water temperatures. The prototype was designed as a closed system which pumps cooled water through a heat exchanger housed within a refuge enclosure located in the stream. The system was tested in French Creek within Custer State Park in 2020 and 2021. Water temperatures during 2021 testing averaged 73° F in the stream and 67.3° F in the refuge system, exceeding the 5° cooling goal set during the project.

AIS Program Update

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Administrator, shared information related to the 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species program for 2022. Primary efforts will be aimed at using outreach and education to educate users on ways to help slow the spread of AIS in South Dakota. Additionally, watercraft inspections will occur statewide using Game, Fish and Parks staff, as well as County Conservation District staff in certain locations.

2021 Pheasant Harvest

Chad Switzer, program manager and Travis Runia, senior wildlife biologist, provided information on the 2021 pheasant harvest.

GFP/Pheasants Forever Cooperative Position – Hunter Recruitment

David Parker, outdoor campus east director and Isaac Full, Pheasants Forever explained in an effort to continue the Department's effort to Recruit, Retain, and Reactivate hunters and anglers, Game, Fish and Parks and SD Pheasants Forever have strived to draft, create, and implement a Contract Position. This Contract Position's focus is to create more synergy between GFP's Wildlife Education Team and local Nongovernment Organizations to increase education reach, increase hunter and

angler programming targeted at key user audiences, and focus on increasing the Wildlife Education Team's programming efforts with veteran audiences. Through collaboration between GFP and PF, Isaac Full was hired for this collaborative effort given his extensive programming background with folks of all ages, veterans, and tenure at Pheasants Forever as a Farm Bill Biologist.

License Sales Update

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division director, provided an update on resident and nonresident license sales.

Executive Session

Motioned by Sharp, second by Bartling TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:30AM MT TO DISCUSS THE QUALIFICATIONS, COMPETENCE, PERFORMANCE, CHARACTER OR FITNESS OF ANY PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OR PROSPECTIVE PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE. Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Bartling, second by Bies TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:15AM MT. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Motioned by Locken, second by Rissler TO ADJOURN AT 9:15AM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

**Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission
May 5, 2022**

The Commission vice chairman Doug Sharp began the public hearing at 2:00 p.m. CT. Commissioners Julie Bartling, Travis Bies, Jon Locken, Russell Olson, Stephanie Rissler, Charles Spring, and Robert Whitmyre were present. Kotilnek indicated written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes. Kotilnek then invited the public to come forward with oral testimony. Written comments attached.

Application for License

No verbal comments

License Forms and Fees

No verbal comments

Waterfowl Seasons

No verbal comments

Public Waters – Indian Springs

No verbal comments

The public Hearing concluded at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

Public Comments

Other

Dana Andersen

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Writing in opposition to the Nest Predator Bounty Program.

?? Trapping regulations are weak in South Dakota. Required trap check times are over 3 days west of the Missouri River and over 2 days east of the Missouri River (with extensions for weather and illness). SD doesn't require identification on traps, so there is no accountability for trappers who don't follow the rules.
<https://gfp.sd.gov/trapping/>

?? Animals caught in traps for several days can be attacked by other animals, starve, dehydrate, or mangle their mouths and limbs trying to free themselves. Since this bounty program begins in the spring, many young starve to death when their mothers are trapped ??

?? The program could unbalance our ecosystem. According to the tail tracker dashboard (<https://bit.ly/2QIpoyl>), the following tails have been submitted since the program began in April 2019:

107,400 Raccoon

16,091 Striped Skunk

10,934 Opossum

1,142 Red Fox

1,107 Badger

Gross and unnecessary.

Jennifer Swanson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing in opposition to the nest predator program. This upsets the balance in the SD ecosystem. Please consider ending this environmentally costly program.

Dennis Carda

Waubay SD

Position: other

Comment:

I have heard conflicting reports in regards to Lynn Lake. Would like clarification by commission. Is Lynn Lake and Middle Lynn lake 2 separate lakes or considered the same lake in regards to the 2 fish walleye limit?

Susan Minnaert

Madison SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is inhumane!!

Waterfowl Seasons

Trevor Harms

Madison SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the idea of allowing nonresident early-season Canada goose hunting because it will inhibit the ability of resident hunters to participate. In the early season, there aren't many places where you can hunt the geese. You have two options the roost or the field. If you hunt the roost all you can do is jump them because after they feed they will be all messed up in their pattern and more than likely not come back. Or you can try to get permission on a field, this is already not an easy task, add nonresidents into the mix and then locals will have to fight even harder to find somewhere to hunt. Allowing nonresident hunters during the regular season is good, but why change the laws on the early goose season when it works?

Public Comments

Other

Bradley Evans

Custer SD

Position: support

Comment:

Create a Bow and Arrow season for Prairie Units.

From: Charles Rokusek <crokusek55@outlook.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 8:56 AM

To: Olson, Russell <Russell.Olson@state.sd.us>; Sharp, Doug <Doug.Sharp@state.sd.us>; Locken, Jon <Jon.Locken@state.sd.us>; Rissler, Stephanie <Stephanie.Rissler@state.sd.us>; Bies, Travis <Travis.Bies@state.sd.us>; Whitmyre, Robert <Robert.Whitmyre@state.sd.us>; Spring, Charles <Charles.Spring@state.sd.us>; Bartling, Julie A (GFP) <JulieA.Bartling@state.sd.us>; GFP Wild Info <WildInfo@state.sd.us>; Keyser, Emmett <Emmett.Keyser@state.sd.us>

Subject: [EXT] Non-resident proposal for the Early Fall Canada Goose Season

Dear G, F & P Staff and Commission:

Attached you will find the 29 - 90 Sportsman's Club Position on your proposal to allow non - residents the opportunity to hunt during the Early Fall Canada Season.

Charles Rokusek
Sec. - Treas.
29 - 90 Sportsman's Club
731 E. 73rd St.
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108
605-362-9827

3/29/2022

Dear G, F & P Staff & Commission:

The following is the position statement of the 29 – 90 Sportsman’s Club on the Proposal to allow Non-residents the opportunity to hunt Canada Geese during the Early Fall Canada Season.

***(In 1998 we developed a position for the club on this issue and it’s as follows:
The 29 – 90 Sportsman’s Club and its members are oppose to non-residents having the opportunity to hunt Canada Geese in Southeast South Dakota during the early fall Canada Goose Season. The reasons which led to this position were to maintain access and opportunity for the residents of South Dakota. This position also took into account the fact that this part of the state has the highest percentage of the state’s population, and the fact that we were already losing grasslands and converting more cropland to row crops (corn and soybeans) versus small grains, and the fact that this part of the state is public access poor compared to the Northeast part of the state or the Missouri River Corridor.***

Since 1998 the land use change in the 20 Southeastern South Dakota Counties which is Region 3 of the G, F & P has accelerated even more. There are more and more acres being converted to row crop production and there is less small grain acres planted in this area. There has also been a large conversion of the existing grasslands to row crop production along with an increase in the amount of land that is being tilled and drained. Which results in fewer places for even the resident hunters to compete for and to use, and you want to add even more competition for these available spots by allowing non-residents the opportunity to hunt during this time period.

We the members of the 29 – 90 sportsman’s Club feel this continued erosion of opportunities goes against your 3 R’s and you should reconsider this proposal. We feel the entire Region 3 needs to be non-resident free.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,

Charles Rokusek
Sec. – Treas.
29 – 90 Sportsman’s Club
731 E. 73rd St.
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108
605-362-9827