

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
May 23, 2019

Chairman Gary Jensen called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. CT at via teleconference. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Scott Phillips, Russell Olson, Douglas Sharp, Robert Whitmyre were present when the roll was called. It was noted that a quorum was present. Commissioner Travis Bies joined at 8:10 a.m. Secretary Kelly Hepler was present along with 12 staff and public in Pierre, 4 staff and public in Sioux Falls and 4 staff and public in Rapid City, and 1 staff in the Watertown location.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

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

Jensen explained the reason for the special meeting is to reconsider the rules previously passed that were reverted back by the IRRC so they can be reintroduced.

Jon Kotilnek, staff attorney, said these rules were March proposals that were finalized in April. 10 rules were reverted. 41:03:01:07, 41:03:03:03.01, 41:06:01:20, 41:06:02:03, 41:06:62:01, 41:06:62:02, 41:06:62:03, 41:06:62:04, 41:08:02:13. He noted some are not being reintroduced as the Department will do additional work with the public before bringing them forward again. Did not bring part of 41:03:03:03.01 and all of 41:06:01:20 back because we are looking at changing the process. The IRRC's authority to revert rules is 1-26-4.7. The Commission's authority to reconsider the IRRC's action is found in 1-26-4.10.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jensen opened the floor for public comments from those in attendance.

Wayne Lloyd, Sioux Falls, SD spoke in regards to Hunt for Habitat: the program has been great and it kids are invested in it. Had 23 raccoons on his 47 acres this help eliminate the predators and the diseases they carry as well as involving kids
Wayne Lloyd, Sioux Falls, SD Super tags: various states do this and I participate in many states. Understands that money from super tags will be controlled by the department and not the Second Century Habitat Fund. Either way with the oversight disagrees with the concerns of Representative Cwach.

Steve Hemmer, location, SD Hunt for Habitat in favor and hope the money is used like it is supposed to be. Fees are in line with other states. Agrees with comments made by Wayne Lloyd

Jamie Al-Haj, Rapid City, SD spoke in opposition of the bounty program. She wants the decision of the IRRC upheld. She noted concern for the 18,218 animals killed since May 22nd not including their offspring which would put the number over 45,000. She said there is no significant scientific data that shows this will improve pheasant

habitat. Said comments are overwhelmingly opposed. She has concerns with kids trapping, killing and cutting the tail off animals.

Jane Cummings, Rapid City, SD, Urged the commission not to trap on public lands. People come to SD for all different reasons and trapping the young is cruel and should not be extended.

Nancy Hilding, Prairie Hills Audubon Society said she supports Crow Creek Sioux tribe members free park entrance. They should be allowed on all parks for free as these were their lands. Hilding said the Hunt for Habitat the rule is not on how you are spending your money. Should not spend the money on pheasants that are not native species would like it spent on SD threatened and endangered species. Would like the money spent on other things and not on pheasants. Hilding said she will provide the Commission copies of the trapping SD scorecards that show how poor our states score is in comparison to other states in the nations. Would like to have clarification on the trap check rules. Feels this is inhumane to have animals sitting in a trap for 3 ½ days. So if approved make modification on trap check time 24 hours. Trapping animals is also killing their children as well as non-target species. 2 species have been petitioned for listing with the USFWS. This program increases the list for these species. This is about teaching children sadism.

See attached public comments submitted prior to meeting.

RECONSIDERATION OF RULES REVERTED BY THE INTERIM RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE AS ADOPTED BY COMMISSION AT THE APRIL COMMISSION MEETING

Park License Exemptions - 41:03:03:03.01.

Scott Simpson, parks and recreation division director presented the proposed change to allow any enrolled Crow Creek tribal member and their family to enter West Bend Recreational Area without a park entrance license. He noted there are no changes from rules adopted by April Commission.

Kotilnek noted 41:03:03:04 which is listed on the sheet was already addressed and approved by IRRC.

Motion by Boyd, second by Phillips TO AMEND THE FINALIZATION OF CHANGES TO PARK ENTRANCE LICENSE EXEMPTION EXCLUDING 41:03:03:04. Roll call vote: Boyd-yes; Locken – yes; Bies - yes; Olson- yes; Whitmyre - yes; Phillips – yes; Sharp- yes; Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 8 yes votes and 0 no vote.

Motion by Phillips, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION OF CHANGES TO PARK ENTRANCE LICENSE EXEMPTION 41:03:03:03.01 AS AMENDED. Roll call vote: Boyd-yes; Locken – yes; Bies - yes; Olson- yes; Whitmyre - yes; Phillips – yes; Sharp- yes; Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 8 yes votes and 0 no vote.

Hunting license fees - 41:06:02:03. And Hunt for Habitat – (New) 41:06:62.01 – 41:06:62.04.

Tony Leif, wildlife division director presented the proposed changes to the hunting license fee that would set application fees and create one Custer State Park any bison license and three super license packages that include tags for one any elk, one any deer, and one any antelope. These licenses would be drawn through a lottery process with an individual able to submit as many non-refundable applications as they desire. He noted there are no changes from rules adopted by April Commission.

Leif also presented the proposed changes to create one Custer State Park any bison license and three super license packages that include tags for one any elk, one any deer, and one any antelope. These licenses would be drawn through a lottery process with an individual able to submit as many non-refundable applications as they desire. He noted there are no changes from rules adopted by April Commission.

Hepler said he spoke with some of the IRRC members and discussion on hunt for habitat the concerns were where would the money go. He said we want to be clear this money will remain under the authority of the department and funds will be leveraged with the fund when necessary. This money will go toward habitat for all wildlife not just pheasants. We will be accountable to show how this money was directed and through which programs.

Boyd said because these dollars will go toward developing habitat on private land please explain the public access component.

Leif responded all of these programs come with provisions noting the landowner cannot be involved in commercial hunting programs and will need to provide reasonable free public access.

Hepler clarified this money will not all go into private land. Some will go back to public lands to take care of what we have. We will work with GFP habitat staff on how to best utilize these funds.

Motion by Bies, second by Sharp TO FINALIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HUNT FOR HABITAT LICENSES AS PRESENTED 41:06:62.01 – 41:06:62.04... Roll call vote: Boyd-yes; Locken – yes; Bies - yes; Olson- yes; Whitmyre - yes; Phillips – yes; Sharp- yes; Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 8 yes votes and 0 no vote.

Traps to be rendered inoperable – removal of trapping devices – 41:08:02:13.

Kevin Robling, deputy secretary, presented the proposed change would extend the date from May 1 to August 31 that traps, snares and associated equipment may be used on public lands and improved road rights-of-ways. The rule would also require that the traps, snares and associated equipment must be actively operated and checked in accordance to trap-check rules. No changes from rules adopted by April Commission.

Robling said as you know public lands hold some of the best nesting lands in the state. This will provide opportunity to users to trap on those public lands and get those families outdoors. We have over 1,600 participants in the nest predator bounty program so far and it has been successful getting families outdoors and youth involved. This would extend the date to hunt on public land to August 31st.

Phillips asked what was done to restrict snares and what traps this includes.

Robling responded that in June 2018 we amended rules that pertain to this language which includes dispatch snares which cannot be used on public lands or road right of ways. All traps needed to be removed through May 1st. All the traps that are legal today can be used. These trap types that can be used on public lands include live traps, snares, leg holds, and conibears.

Sharp asked that if we go rid of those a year ago what is the significance in changing the dates and how is the current amount of trapping in comparison to previous years.

Robling explained the department did not change the dates prior to the establishment of the nest predator bounty program. The use of dispatch snares would not be allowed on public lands or road right of ways through August 31st. , 2018 fur barrier numbers are still being compiled. 44,000 fur barriers were removed in South Dakota with 3,200 license holders. This does not included landowners trapping on their own land. The majority of animals removed were raccoons

Sharp asked for confirmation that trapping on public lands will end on May 1st unless we change it today and this is why the IRRC sent it back

Robling responded yes when this was reverted by IRRC we sent communication to our public users and let them know there is no trapping on public lands today as it is back to the May 1st deadline. If this is approved today and approved by IRRC on June 3rd they would have 80 days left in to trap on public lands by extending it to August 31st.

Hepler said he and Commissioner Boyd had a conversation with some IRRC members and discussion on the trapping deadline but were more concerned on how the process led us to here

Boyd said part of the discussion involved concerns they had from people in regards to family pets and hunting dogs possibly getting caught in traps. Like the idea of modifying to only be live traps on public land.

Sharp asked staff to provide the trap check requirements

Leif responded that rule is not up for consideration today due to no public notice. Currently it is 48 hours East River and 72 hours West River. These rules can be brought back at later date should the commission want to.

Phillips said he appreciated motion to amend by Boyd but would like to comment that will not support extending because the public comments are against the concept of a nest predator bounty program. He would like to see public lands available for other uses.

Motion by Boyd, second by Phillips TO AMEND THE FINALIZATION OF CHANGES TO TRAPPING REGULATIONS 41:08:02:13 TO ONLY INCLUDE LIVE

TRAPS Roll call vote: Boyd-yes; Locken – yes; Bies - yes; Olson- yes; Whitmyre - yes; Phillips – yes; Sharp- yes; Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 8 yes votes and 0 no vote.

Sharp asked for input from other commissioners.

Bies said this whole trapping thing was started as a year program to see what the response is. Feel we need to extend it to August 31st to give it the opportunity

Phillips said again he feel this should only be on private land and leave public land available for other uses.

Boyd said the thought of doing this only on private land does make sense. This is a very sensitive issue. It does make sense to see it through for the year.

Phillips said it is his understanding that if we kill this proposal it keeps it on private land only.

Leif confirmed that is correct

Jensen said or we can limit this for one year.

Leif responded yes if that is the wish of the commission we can craft that into the administrative rule that governs this.

Olson reminded everyone if we limit this to private land we are excluding people who do not have access to private land. We have public lands for a vast amount of our users who only have access to public lands and we need to concentrate on those public lands.

Bies said by amending to only be live traps this addresses most of the concerns that were brought up.

Jensen asked if this will this be included in the WMI study

Hepler responded no this is not directly related to the study but we will review the success of this program.

Motion by Sharp, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION OF CHANGES TO THE TRAPPING REGULATIONS 41:08:02:13 AS AMENDED. Roll call vote: Boyd-yes; Locken – yes; Bies - yes; Olson- yes; Whitmyre - yes; Phillips – no; Sharp- yes; Jensen-yes. Motion passes with 7 yes votes and 1 no vote.

Adjourn

Motioned by Bies with second by Locken TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly R Hepler

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Public Comments

Hunt for Habitat Licenses

Gail Bickel

Vermillion SD

roettele7@yahoo.com

Comment:

you will destroy the ecosystem to please your hunters. Capitalism does not supercede a healthy environment!!!! Ignorance needs to network to understand how the world works.

Tony Lilich

Sapulpa OK

cheifilich@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Other

Rusty Schmidt

Rapid City SD

foxhound6126@hotmail.com

Comment:

I am completely opposed to limiting the access permits to the Custer National Forest.

Diane Lang

Seattle WA

lang_diane@hotmail.com

Comment:

Please protect our wildlife.

Steve Toepfer

Oacoma SD

stevetoepfer@icloud.com

Comment:

I was unable to leave a public comment at the assigned location as for the May 23 rd meeting so I am sending it here. I have read the proposed changes and I agree with them. I believe these are good changes.

Deborah Kitzul

Grand Blanc MI

warriorhawkwolf@yahoo.com

Comment:

We are destroying everything on the planet. Over 60% of the animals in the last 40 years. We are quickly coming to our own demise.

Trapping Prohibitions

Darci Adams

Hartford SD

darci_adams@yahoo.com

Comment:

I urge the SDGFP Commission NOT to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young. Trappers do not need four additional months on public lands.

Kim Tysdal

Rapid City SD

Kmtysdal@rap.midco.net

Comment:

The Nest Predator trapping is deplorable. Spend the money to improve pheasant habitat. I think there are better ways to entertain your children in nature. As a lifelong resident of S.D. and a hunter, I am disgusted by this.

Kim Benning

Redfield SD

Dbenning@midco.abe.net

Comment:

Please stop this cruel and heartbreaking action. Teaching children to kill animals for money is crazy. Build them a park or organize other outside activities .

Laural Bidwell
Rapid City SD
labidwell@aol.com

Comment:

Please do not extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young. This bounty program was not instigated properly or fairly. The existing rules were enough to "get kids outside" if that is what the goal was. Please stop this extension.

Tammy Jungen
Watertown SD
Tjungen@gmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Lori Lockman
Sioux Falls SD
Lolo2379@gmail.com

Comment:

There are many other outdoor activities to teach children besides killing animals and mutilating them. What happens when the insects and other small animals that these "predators" eat are overpopulated?

Todd Magnuson
Trent SD

Comment:

oppose

Patricia Jenkins
Brandon SD
dpjenkins@alliancecom.net

Comment:

I urge the Commission not to extend the use of traps on Public Lands. The current May 1st deadline should be maintained to reduce the suffering on orphaned wildlife and taxpayer expense.

Sheryl Plagmann

Mitchell SD

Dutchgal51@mitchelltelecom.net

Comment:

oppose

Heather Philbrook

Rapid City SD

hphilbrook1@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Leah Kelly

Sioux Falls SD

leahkellylmt@gmail.com

Comment:

Trapping is both a cruel and inhumane practice that has no place in civilized society. Only individuals that truly find enjoyment in inflicting pain and torture upon helpless animals would support such barbaric practices.

Dr. Vicki Koebernick

Rapid City SD

Drvickik@hotmail.com

Comment:

The new trapping laws are not only inhumane but also unsportsmanlike. There have been no studies done about the potential harm that this could cause to our ecosystem.

Jamie Vanhoorn

Milbank SD

jamielynn57252@yahoo.com

Comment:

Please keep traps off of public lands..do the right thing..

Kristi Quaintance

Garretson SD

qredrock@alliancecom.net

Comment:

This is an absolutely disgusting program. Jacob, from Noem's office, had no idea if after the program reached its end for the season, if there would even be a review! You don't implement this controversial program without a review. And even if it was reviewed as a benefit to pheasants, I would still oppose it. Tell farmers to quit farming ditch to ditch. Tell them to stop with the drain tiles. Tell Thune and Rounds to reimplement the CRP program. DO THINGS THAT WORK! Don't teach our kids this behavior. And then pay them with my tax dollars. I can't say I have hated anything more in this state as I do hate this unnecessary program.

Shari Rose

Rapid City SD

fixedfelines@wescomm.com

Comment:

Dont extend use of traps on public lands, stay with May 1st. Am against unethical trapping and the forced suffering on orphaned wildlife. In addition it's a public safety issue and being a high tourism state, we dont need any more bad press

Klara Parks

Piedmont SD

codreleafarm@gmail.com

Comment:

Please uphold the current deadline for removal of traps on public lands because it promotes public safety, promotes tourism and decreases the cruelty and number of orphaned babies that will die of starvation.

Mickie Hortness

Rapid City SD

mhortness@hotmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands by preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Eric Brychta

Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

"expanding use of traps on public lands" for the safety of the public health from any life, and decaying of any creature within the trap or the trap themselves harming the population of the state. The potential harm of no creature within the classification within i/e prey species or types are in potential harm as well.

Charlotte Petrick
Rapid City SD
sdshasta@yahoo.com

Comment:

I've hunted & fished for over 50 years; I eat what I kill. I wear leather & fur; I have nothing against ethical trapping. I'm ashamed of South Dakota's Nest Predator Bounty Program. Wanton killing for profit is wrong.

Thousands of native animals are being killed & wasted to protect a non-native commodity. These animals can languish for up to 72 hours West River, before being clubbed or shot. Thousands more dependent young are dying a slow death of starvation when mom is killed.

As predators are removed, their prey will increase. These lands will see a surge of mice, rabbits, rats, & moles. Pheasant habit (and crops) will suffer. The predators will rebound and pheasants will suffer. This insanity will have long term effects on the entire environment.

Hidden agendas, closed-door meetings, and my license fees spent for a special interest upset me. I'm upset that this program was implemented without the opportunity for public input. I'm upset that tail-less carcasses are being found by folks trying to enjoy the outdoors. I'm upset that South Dakota's well-earned reputation for conservation & stewardship is being tarnished.

Ethical sportsmen & wildlife biologists throughout the nation are appalled at this lame-brained plan that ignores science & research.

This isn't a Republican or Democratic issue. This is purely greed.

Charlotte "Charlie" Petrick
Rapid City SD

Larry Wiedenman
Rapid City SD
lwiedenman@rap.midco.net

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current deadline of May 1 should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands by preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Brenda Thomas
Interior SD

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Randy Ristesund
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

Enough

Terry Thomas
Interior SD

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Sue Hayes
Desdwood SD
Shayespeaches@yahoo.com

Comment:

This program was poorly researched and has no merit in providing better habitat for pheasants and is not a reasonable solution for getting kids outdoors. It is bad for SD's public image. Better habitat solutions are the answer.

Lani Olson
Rapid City SD

Comment:

I think more than enough animals have died under this ill-advised program, with untold litters of young left to die. Please at least stop it on public lands.

Kris Stapelberg
Rapid City SD
virtuesandvices@aol.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Louise Mcgannon

Mitchell SD

l.mcgannon@ymail.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program. I strongly oppose the cruelty to animals using my tax dollars to do so.

I have been covered in ticks these past couple of weeks and so have my dogs, you are allowing people to kill the animals that eat ticks. These animals you are killing are very beneficial to humans. This total disregard for our ecosystem is appalling and so is the cruelty and you are making us pay for it.

I feel there is a much better use for my tax dollars like fixing roads and educating our children. Ms. Noem has very screwed up priorities.

Yes, if it comes across that I am mad, it's because I am. Everything about this program is wrong whether it's on private or public lands. Public lands that I own. ??

Missy Dassinger

Rapid City SD

missydass@hotmail.com

Comment:

Hunting, fishing and trapping are a South Dakota way of life. Predators need to be controlled and the history and heritage of trapping is one that needs to be kept alive and well in South Dakota and beyond.

There are well funded "animal rights" groups trying to get foothold in South Dakota with the goal of ending all animal exhibits. No more Bear Country, no more Reptile Gardens, and no more Stock Show. If South Dakota gives an inch towards showing any empathy the animal rights agenda and you will see an influx of PETA and beyond.

Say YES to our constitutional rights of hunting and trapping and say no to the animal rights agenda.

Andrea Crouch

Rapid City SD

Comment:

It is a danger to the number of animals we have left in our area or in the world in general.

Leisa Bailey

Vermillion SD

leisabailey55@gmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young."

Laurie Dolan

Denver CO

Laurie_dolan@yahoo.com

Comment:

I am appalled at this trapping program:

- 1) If you want to save birds, focus on habitat
- 2) The tail bounty program is troubling as trapping usually causes the animals to suffer. Also, many of the trapped animals are mothers with young that rely on them for survival
- 3) The appropriation of this funding was not done correctly.
- 4) The funding should go to more constructive programs that benefits more South Dakotans (ex. Increase teacher pay)

I canceled my quarterly trip to see my family in Sioux Falls due to this program. I am disgusted by my home state of South Dakota with the lack of respect shown to animals (pheasants, factory farms, etc.).

Tim Colon

Sioux Falls SD

timcolon@yahoo.com

Comment:

Please preserve SD native wildlife, stop this unnecessary trapping.

Tom Stapelberg

Tucson AZ

Tes3938@gmail.com

Comment:

It is not necessary. And if South Dakota has tax money to waste, give teachers raises or spend it on STEM for K-12. I was born and raised in South Dakota and had been planning on retiring there. Now, maybe not. I used to be proud of my home state. Now, not so much.

Deb Roach

Madison SD

dmroach81@gmail.com

Comment:

"I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young."

Jeanette Williams

Vermillion SD

jdwilliams@vyn.midco.net

Comment:

Please, please, please for God's sake end this war on innocent little animals. For the first time in my 68 years I am embarrassed to be a South Dakotan.

Mark Wetmore

Vermillion SD

mw@birdhousecats.org

Comment:

If GF&P has a million dollars to toss out for a crackpot program like this, we should re-evaluate license fees. And the dedicated, less-reviewed nature of those funds. Is it intended to be an on-going program? Won't the targeted species populations just pop up again if it is only for one year? Dept. web site says one goal is to "Get the next generation involved and interested in outdoor recreation, conservation and wildlife management while increasing support for habitat." My generation was taught that sportsmen and women don't shoot ducks on the water or pheasants on the ground. Involving children in shooting beautiful animals in a trap is an obscene way to introduce them to the outdoors. Instead they should learn that "habitat" means a lot more than a place to grow pheasants; it also includes a place for the natural life of native species. THIS IS A BAD, EMBARRASING PROGRAM FOR THE STATE. WHAT IF THE NATIONAL PRESS PICKS UP ON IT?

Jeff Schultz

Tulare SD

schultzv33@hotmail.com

Comment:

predators need to be controlled this will help

Hannah Perez

Sioux Falls SD

Hjp013@yahoo.com

Comment:

oppose

Madelyn Jensen

Vermillion SD

Madi.marie.jensen@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Vicki Plucker
Rapid City SD

Comment:

This program is barbaric.

Wendy Parent
Tucson AZ
Wendypj1@gmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young. As a resident of Sioux Falls until recently, I do not plan on revisiting the state if expanded trapping on public lands is extended.

George L. Heiserman
Spearfish SD
lesheis@vastbb.net

Comment:

oppose

Suzann Spiker
Sioux Falls SD
Suzann1472@yahoo.com

Comment:

The nest predator bounty program is inhumane and irresponsible. It should be stopped. I do not want my tax dollars used to fund an animal cruelty program aimed at killing defenseless animals. The animals you're killing matter. They have value to the eco system and should not be killed because a greedy politician wants to increase the number of pheasants to drive increased out of state hunters. Did you know that a single possum eats about 5,000 ticks per season. I'm sure you realize ticks carry Lyme disease and are a health danger to humans. Skunks eat wasps and beetles helping to control insect populations and they eat fruits and vegetables thereby helping to distribute seeds for germination. Raccoons eat snakes, rats and insects we consider pests they like the skunk eat fruits and vegetables which helps with distribution and germination. Fox, have a helpful side for farmers. foxes are wonderful at keeping rodent populations down. They hunt chipmunks, rats, mice, voles and all sorts of other small rodents. Badgers eat insects and small rodents helping to control those populations. In addition, there is no control over how these poor animals are killed. There's no oversight into whether other animals are being caught in the traps and killed. Many of the animals probably have babies somewhere who then starve to death because their mom never returns. How are the bodies of all these animals bring disposed of? How do we know the animals aren't being trapped in Minnesota, Iowa or Nebraska and brought here to collect the funds? This program is truly disturbing from an animal welfare standpoint and completely irresponsible to our eco system. Kristi Noem you should be ashamed of yourself.

Bambi Leone
Rapid City SD
Bambileone@hotmail.com

Comment:

We need the animals.

Mary Burnham
Cheshire CT

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Carmen Muessigmann
Clark SD
carmenmuessigmann@yahoo.com

Comment:

Please end this sick practice. Habitat loss is the cause not nature

Heidi Madsen
Carpenter SD
stern.heidi@yahoo.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1st deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

David Bonen
Hosmer SD
bonen@valleytel.net

Comment:

i buy a trapping lic. every year and follow all the rules . now you can trap free and change the rules . there is more to SD then pheasants . trapping should be done when the fur is prime . might want to offer free trapping to the ones that do it right !!! this program is just not right . will be waiting for my trapping refund . it would only be fair . keep the public land and road ditches closed . dumbest program you could have ever come up with . hope its a 1 term Noam

Inga Gibson
Park City UT
Ingagibson@yahoo.com

Comment:

This "program" is cruel, unnecessary, ineffective, not based on any scientific grounds and irresponsible. It gives SD a black-eye for poor wildlife management and lack of basic compassion and ethics in preventing the unnecessary and cruel suffering of native wildlife.

Melody Dennis
Deadwood SD
mdennis@rushmore.com

Comment:

Please do not extend the use of traps on public land. This should not be allowed. Please stop this program. It was unethical, cruel, and heartless. Traps were removed May 1. Do the right thing. Keep the May 1 deadline.

Rebecca Volk
Scottsbluff NV
Volkier81@gmail.com

Comment:

Too many animals are going extinct to allow more killing

Cherrie Martenson
Rapid City SD
duaneandcherrie@hotmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Kan Humphrey
Hill City SD
plazykranch@hughes.net

Comment:

I am extremely opposed to this project. It sets up the environment that looses key species to invasions of non targeted animals to strip fields and grasslands of nutrients and plant growth. In turn, the unbalance will cost the farmers and ranchers much more then a few pheasants being prayed upon. Isn't that just life. Eat and be eaten. But this state doesn't address that, it addresses the almighty "buck" and Gov. Noem just played her hand as a irresponsible servant to the wildlife and land. And you became her pawn. Besides isn't the pheasant a bird from China? Non-indigenous to this land. Shame on you.

Missy Dassinger

Rapid City SD

missydass@hotmail.com

Comment:

The best predator bounty program is a GOOD PROGRAM that is keeping the history and knowledge of self reliance and the hunting and trapping heritage alive.

This program is being targeted by many online social media pages where people care about their emotion more than facts. They feel animals should have the same amount of rights as humans and that any animal ownership is equal to slavery. Not to mention that many of these people do not live in South Dakota but are active in socioa media pages that promote any animal rights agenda they can find.

The best bounty program will have a positive and lasting impact on the next generation and is needed to keep nuisance predator populations under control.

Check out "End SDs Nesr Bounty Program" on Facebook to see their opinions.

Cassie Thiewes

Apple Valley MN

Comment:

oppose

Ida Green

Paisley FL

Comment:

oppose

Patricia Beck

Madison SD

Comment:

Opposed Opposed Opposed to this cruelty!!!!

Savannah Robinson

Knoxville TN

savannahrae77@yahoo.com

Comment:

There is never a good reason for us to teach our young children, that are expected to one day take care of us with loving hands, that it is perfectly acceptable to harm other beings because they are vulnerable! Stop teaching abuse. Stop the power trips. And stop the incessant killing.

Lavonne Engelman

Mars Hill NC

Manekicrazy@hotmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young. The majority of citizens oppose the archaic practice of trapping and are appalled that it still continues and that the minority is given favor to continue a barbaric and outdated custom that most of the civilized world has evolved past.

Jordan Baer

Evansville IN

JordanBaer1@gmail.com

Comment:

Trapping is barbaric and despicable. It needs to end in South Dakota.

Linda Torlay

Fort Myers FL

lindalmt929@yahoo.com

Comment:

Seriously? Have we not, as a dominant species, rose above the level of trapping and killing for the sake of simply killing. And to teach that it's good for another species population that will only be killed at the pleasure of humans is just insane.

I often vacation in South Dakota, have family still there, and am considering moving back but am ashamed to be associated with the practices that are condoned by this state.

Stop this and stop it now.

Jami Lovullo
Santa Clarita CA
legalredfox@gmail.com

Comment:

As a wildlife professional, it is appalling to know that programs like this still persist and exist. There is absolutely zero biological or ecological reason to do this. Not only does it encourage terrible cruelty, kills completely innocent animals and costs taxpayers money, it leaves behind thousands of babies during Spring/baby season. Horrific. The world is watching. So far, they are condemning South Dakota as a completely backwards, back woods state. Shame on all of you. Absolutely zero justifications except to kill things for fun. This is not the 1800's. We should know better by now.

Kathryn Hess
Summerset SD
Kbhess21626@hotmail.com

Comment:

To trap kill and cut off the tail of a defenseless animal is cruel and inhumane. It is not only killing a defenseless animal, but also babies in the dens are left to slowly starve to death. I have seen people from other states remark on the program, they are horrified and disgusted. Please stop this now. This is a 19th century idea in a 21st century world. Please stop it now.

Denise Anderson
Tampa FL
Nisi711@hotmail.com

Comment:

I live in FL....overpopulated, killing wildlife for development, dead animals along the roadways. Visited South Dakota for its beauty and wildlife. You should EMBRACE your states wildlife and beauty. Not execute them in barbaric ways....and by children???? Disgusting and very disappointing to outsiders....

Mary Wulff
Hamilton MT

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Mary Shabbott

Punta Gorda FL

mshabbott@sbcglobal.net

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Rixy Hirsche

Olds AB

justroxy555@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Janet Schott

Stevensville MT

Comment:

A small number of people (trappers) already have enough allotted time to trap without adding more time for all the rest of us to have to worry about stepping in or having our kids step in traps. Tourism brings way more money to the state than trapping does. Let's not ruin our public lands for the few trappers.

Michael Roach

Madison SD

ska.sunka33@gmail.com

Comment:

For 30 years I have been afforded the opportunity to work my hunting dogs on public lands year-round. Now with the promotion and expansion of trapping on public lands I and others like me are no longer able to safely do so. We spend a great deal of time and money on our four-legged hunting companions. They are our partners in the field and family members at home. We appreciate the opportunity that public lands grant us in working these companions 12 months per year. But we cannot risk our animals in the event that they become ensnared in an unexpected trap. The granting and expansion of rights to a small group of people reduces the ability of others to use the same public lands.

While I originally thought a compromise might be to require trappers to clearly and obviously mark those plots where they place their traps, I came to the inevitable conclusion that I simply do not trust others, particularly the young people the state is encouraging, to consistently mark their traps. Besides, this "solution" still does not provide dog-owning sportsmen safe access to lands that are so called "public". I urge the state to restrict the expansion of trapping to private lands and leave public lands fully to the public.

Deirdre Cochran
Wellington CO
wolfdeirdre@gmail.com

Comment:

This isn't a game. Our wildlife is protected by the majority vote and that is STOP KILLING OUR WILDLIFE. Every animal on Earth is here with a purpose. All deserve to live and thrive. The only reason hunting should be allowed is to consume the animal and NOT for any other reason.

Cynthia Gardner
Boise ID
pms_ing@yahoo.com

Comment:

I am writing to urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Kelly Harnett
Spearfish SD
Beautifyspearfish@gmail.com

Comment:

Two whom it may concern,

I have three degrees in wildlife management, natural resource management, and fisheries and wildlife conservation and biology. I worked in the field for many years specifically with black bears, bobcats, deer, turkey, and bats. I hunt and fish for consumption. I have zero problems with hunting and trapping, when it is done according to best management practices.

Unfortunately, science (and you can pull several peer reviewed articles from the Journal of Wildlife Management among other sources if you'd like) has proven having an unregulated bounty, especially during spring when young are born is incredibly detrimental to biodiversity let alone ethically wrong. Even Pheasants Forever doesn't condone this as a management practices. And with many of these species, when they are heavily hunted, then tend to go into reproduction overload and increase the number of young they produce which is counterintuitive to the purpose of this 'management' plan.

Pheasant habitat has been decreasing in this state for a long time, if people want to ensure a healthy pleasant population, they need to manage for habitat not try to kill off a majority of predators.

This so-called management plan needs to be stopped immediately until a formal review of the process, procedures, and impact to the targeted species and biodiversity of the ego system can be conducted. I also urge you to speak to wildlife biologists in other states about their best management practices and habitat management practices.

I trust that you will not set South Dakota back decades by allowing such an outdated and proven false management practices to continue.

Respectfully,

Kelly L. Harnett

Kelly Harnett

Spearfish SD

Beautifyspearfish@gmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

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I trust that you will not set South Dakota back decades by allowing such an outdated and proven false management practices to continue.

Respectfully,

Kelly L. Harnett

Camilla Estes

Menifee CA

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Stephanie Samavarchian
Rapid City SD
stephaniepersia@yahoo.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Wolfgang & Kathleen Schmidt
Nemo SD
elkcabin@msn.com

Comment:

We urge GF&P to not extend use of traps on public lands. The May 1 deadline should be maintained to reduce suffering of these animals.

John Dal Negro Jr
Ocala FL
homer1949@hotmail.com

Comment:

barbaric thing to do

Eve Palma
Van Nuys CA
mitsuepalma@yahoo.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands.

Poh Ooi-Holmes
Ben Avon PA
pyoh@hotmail.com

Comment:

As a member of the public, I strongly oppose trapping in these lands!

Karen Schnitzer
Cheshire CT
kschnitzer1@aol.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife. Surely wildlife deserve some humane consideration, and ought to be able to raise their young in peace.

Mike Forzley
Rapid City SD
Mjforz@gmail.com

Comment:

I am a wildlife biologist with an M.S. from Montana State University, and am working on a PhD from University of Montana. The biologists in charge of this program have no integrity, and are ignoring basic, foundational aspects of conservation ecology. Biologists should not be charged with protecting and enabling NON NATIVE species like pheasants, especially when the tool that they are using is the eradication of NATIVE species. This is disgusting, anti conservation, and any biologist involved in this should be ashamed of themselves. STOP PRIORITIZING NON NATIVE SPECIES. Absolutely disgraceful. Your wildlife agency has no integrity. Stop pandering to hunters, start doing real conservation.

María Minguela
Ponce,P.R. PR
adefenderofbaddogs@outlook.com

Comment:

A Transgenerational culture of cruelty is being fostered. Maiming,hurting and killing wildlife under the excuse of "sport" is sickening.Children are being taught there is gratification in killing innocent wildlife.

Nancy Harris
Laurinburg NC
AmericanPatriot06061944@yahoo.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy Carolyn Harris

Diane Jackson
Huntingtown MD
dijacks@yahoo.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Janet Flanagan
Platina CA
Janet.Flanagan@outlook.com

Comment:

NO EXTENSION ON TRAPPING!

Julie Anderson
Rapid City SD
signsofhope@rap.midco.net

Comment:

Trapping on public land should be prohibited. The majority of the public is against trapping for fun and recreation. The second century initiative should include humane ways to generate revenue from our wildlife that live on public lands for the majority of visitors and residents who do not hunt or trap and have no desire to. Living with wildlife and protecting the land should be the vision of this agency, not trying to revive cruel and outdated traditions of the past. Please listen to the majority of the people in this state and visitors nationwide and stop the Nest Predator Bounty Program. This requires a permanent ban of traps on public land.

Mary Fritz
Laverne CA
mtfritzi@gmail.com

Comment:

"I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young."

Donald Brady
Sioux Falls SD
bsplace6193@gmail.com

Comment:

Just wondering how you tell domesticated animals and wild animals and kids not to mess with traps. They have no idea. Dont think its needed and I feel its just too inhumane.

Marilyn Rasmussen
Sioux Falls SD
mrasmussen064@gmail.com

Comment:

The Nest Predator Bounty program was launched without appropriate public input or scientific research. How can the randomness of this approach bring about the desired outcome? In addition, many of the animals are suffering starvation and cruel deaths. GFP does not really know if this program is helping or hurting the ecosystem. At the May 23 meeting, please STOP this program now.

Nancy Dean
Santa Fe TX
ndean43882@aol.com

Comment:

I urgently ask you to vote against the cruel trapping practices that affect our wildlife and can also indiscriminately cause death to other animals and possibly humans in a cruel manner if incidentally get trapped.

Ceanne Alvine
Tucson AZ
Ceannealvine@aol.com

Comment:

Public lands and wildlife are our heritage. Small animals do not deserve to be trapped and tails turned in for bounty. Sick sport. Please vote to eliminate trapping of small animals such as racoon, skunkx, fox, possum, etc. The ecosystem will balance itself out without intervention. Thanks

Jamie Al-Haj
Rapid City SD
jamie@msisd.com

Comment:

I am in opposition to Nest Predator Bounty Program and I am requesting that you uphold the decision of the South Dakota Legislative Interim Rules Review Committee rejecting your April rule amendment to allow trapping on public lands and improved road rights-of-ways beyond May 1.

There is NO sufficient scientific data to support that by decimating our native wildlife species, we would improve the pheasant population. The role that these native wildlife species play in maintaining a healthy diversified ecosystem, far outweighs any benefit that could be had by their elimination! The extension you had approved to allow trapping throughout their offspring season, opens the opportunity to not just kill 50,000 individuals but an additional average of 5 offspring. With the current updated killing of 16,145, if even just half were female, that is the deplorable possibility of 40,362 deaths in the first 7 weeks of this ill conceived program!

The justification of the proponents, to motivate South Dakota children to get outdoors, is mind boggling. What about fishing, camping, hiking, biking, rock climbing, boating, swimming, photography, and the list goes on, as outdoor activities, at no direct cost to the taxpayer? Trapping, killing, cutting off the tail, and literally throwing the body away, is teaching good stewardship of our environment to our youth???

The people of South Dakota are appalled at the concept of the Nest Predator Bounty Program and the manner in which it went into effect. Please respect our views and concerns, and maintain the decision of the South Dakota Legislative Interim Rules Review Committee!

Renee Lefthand
Freeman SD
ROLLYKOAL@YAHOO.COM

Comment:

I oppose the use of traps

Katherine Brown
Black Hawk SD
underthemidnightblue@hotmail.com

Comment:

Some people may visit South Dakota to hunt pheasants but far more people live and visit South Dakota because they like the proximity to nature.

There was no environmental impact study done to learn how this program would ultimately affect our state and I believe it will have dire consequences for wildlife and humans alike.

The Governor and her friends have a personal financial interest in pheasant hunting and I believe this program is not only a conflict of interest but a barbaric display of ignorance.

Linda Zachow

Custer SD

lindakz@goldenwest.net

Comment:

I think this program goes against our natural ecosystem !! Also, as a mental health nurse, I think this teaches animal cruelty is ok to young children as opposed to teaching normal hunting/fishing as a child is older!

Laura Tjaden

Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the

Kathleen Keys

Pierre SD

katmagjo@msn.com

Comment:

I am asking the commission to NOT extend the May 12th deadline for trapping on public lands. The citizens of SD need a chance to comment on this.

Lacey Jackson

Sioux Falls SD

laceyandandy@gmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1st deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young. The best outcome would be for the Bounty Program to be completely revoked and the practice of cruel and barbaric trapping eliminated until a full environmental impact survey can be completed.

Christine Clark

Custer SD

C21chris@gwtc.net

Comment:

This idiotic plan of Kristy Noem's needs to be shut down immediately!!!

Linda M. Hasselstrom

Hermosa SD

lindamichele777@gmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young. Because I am a rancher, I control hunting and trapping on my private land. I will close my land to ALL hunting and trapping if this deadline is not maintained.

Rachel Welch

Sioux Falls SD

RLRoth1029@gmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public land. The current May 1st deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with their young.

Peggy Mann

Aberdeen SD

mann_5m@yahoo.com

Comment:

Trapping is an inherently violent practice that is as unnecessary as it is cruel. South Dakota can and needs to do better. Please don't be blinded by greed. Please don't go backward into the barbaric time zone. Trapped animals are subject to extreme suffering, panic and agony often for hours on end. Let alone all the baby animals that succumb to death without being nursed by their mothers so inhumane and wrong. Anybody with a decent conscience can't support this and I won't.

Samantha Abbott

Spearfish SD

Saleab77@live.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Katy Stulc
Rapid City SD
Plagmkaa@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Donna Hudson
Sioux Falls SD
donnaohana@yahoo.com

Comment:

oppose

Donna Hudson
Sioux Falls SD
donnaohana@yahoo.com

Comment:

oppose

Karen Hilliard
Sturgis SD
Moxiecf11@gmail

Comment:

Please end this program now! Our family doesn't want to see dead and rotting corpses littering our beautiful landscapes as we use our beautiful public lands. The eco system of our state will unbalanced for generations and you know this but have turned a blind eye. Please, please end this program!

Courtney Keppelman
Sandy UT
ckeppelman@hotmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

James Bingham
Rapid City SD
jlb501@outlook.com

Comment:

Please do not extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1st deadline should be maintained. This is a terrible program and traps on public lands will harm tourism, increase the risk to public safety and will encourage unnecessary cruelty to animals.

t

Vicki Markus
Centennial WY
vicki.markus@gmail.com

Comment:

To Whom it May Concern;
Although I do not live in SD, I have vacationed there several times and my husband and son have gone pheasant hunting there numerous times. Because of your unscientific and horrendous actions against your native nest predators just to boost a non-native bird population (which you know won't happen), we will do our pheasant hunting and quail hunting in Kansas or any other state that does not wantonly kill their beneficial animals. I hope this backfires on you and your state. I hope you are infested with ticks, bugs, mice and disease! It would serve you right! Absolutely abhorrent what you have been doing. Your Governor is a psychopath!

Kc York
Hamilton MT
info@tfmpl.org

Comment:

Please stop the trapping bounty on public lands. This is not only scientifically unjust, traps and snares are indiscriminate, the young of these animals will also perish and the public's safe use of public lands is jeopardized. The good people of SD don't want this and the rest of the country is now watching, too. Honor the public trust and please discontinue this irresponsible unethical trapping bounty at least on public lands. Thank you.

Stephanie Witkoski
Davie Broward County FL
nikeeta21@aol.com

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Sally Bunt
Belle Fourche SD
sbunt00@gmail.com

Comment:

Get all the traps off public land and end the whole thing. Cold hearted when you think of all the babies that died because of the messed up program. I totally oppose this program.

Stacey Sturma
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Lori Tetreault
Whitewood SD
lori.tetreault57@icloud.com

Comment:

I urge the Commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands, which encourages hunters to destroy innocent animals which leads to ultimate deaths with their orphaned babies.

Deborah Gangloff
Rapid City SD
dgangloff@rushmore.com

Comment:

For God's sake stop this evil, inhumane, unnecessary practice. What kind of a state are we????!! Do you have a conscience? Keep our beautiful state in balance.

Lavina Staab

Sioux Falls SD

razziecat@sio.midco.net

Comment:

I am urging the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands by preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young. It is not sportsman like, it is cruel, and the goal of maintaining our public lands should not be eliminating/exterminating certain creatures.”

Dean Parker

Sioux Falls SD

dean.parker.77@gmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Colleen Jukich

Kalispell MT

Cjukich7@bresnan.net

Comment:

Please do not extend the trapping season further into our spring. This would leave suffering wild land babies a slow agonizing death. This is also the season for many outdoors persons to enjoy our land. Which means, kids in tow, pets tagging along in danger. Please stop this.
Thank you, Colleen

Ronelle Thompson

Sioux Falls SD

ronelle.thompson@augie.edu

Comment:

The indiscriminate trapping of these animals will have an impact on the ecological balance within our state. For example, possums are known for eating ticks. What happens now that hundreds have been killed—often mother possums leaving babies to die? All this for the pheasant population—seriously?

Mary Tautkus

Deadwood SD

jtct@rushmore.com

Comment:

I am so against this horrific practice that will surely impact our ecosystem not to mention teaching children nothing about compassion. It has been shown that people who do not respect wildlife and animals will not respect others either. Prove to me it is not about money...how can this state be so cruel!!!!

Sara Parker

Sioux Falls SD

sara.parker@perceptivemedia.net

Comment:

I am writing to ask the commission NOT to extend the use of traps on public lands, and maintain the current May 1st deadline. Allowing trapping on public lands through August 31st risks public safety and is bad for tourism. Mothers are also caring for their young during this time, please help to reduce the suffering of orphaned wildlife by preventing unethical trapping of mothers on public lands. Modifying the existing rule is not in the best interest of South Dakota.

Janice Zupko

Shirley MA

janlz62@comcast.net

Comment:

This is an abhorrent program that eliminates a large portion of animals just so another species of animals (pheasants) can be killed as well. What is the endgame here? Does the above statement make sense? If money is the driving force, someone has it all wrong. There are more humane ways to do it. Why focus on murdering animals when they can attract tourists who love to see them in their natural habitat? A majority of people oppose cruelty to animals and this is what this program is through and through. Think about the impact to the environment. You will see the consequences down the road. It will happen and then how do you correct it. Every drastic action has a very real and bad reaction. Nature can correct itself to a point but this is overkill that can never recover. Think about what impact this program will have if allowed to continue. Please don't let it continue. It will have devastating effects. Mark my words

Barbara St. Clair

Brookings SD

bobb5767@hotmail.com

Comment:

"I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young."

Michelle Short
Canton SD

Comment:

oppose

Sue Menter
Vadnais Heights MN
suementor@comcast.net

Comment:

I strongly urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with offspring.

Lisa Moore
Rapid City SD
jlnoore71214@gmail.com

Comment:

I fail to see any value to conversation but see it as something a person in power - I.e. Governor Noem. -can use for their own (or their families) personal gain. If this is needed it can be done in such a better way. As it is it now it is merely a mutilation program.

Cheryl Sparks Duncsn
Terre Haute IN
xraycs@yahoo.com

Comment:

oppose

Mitzi Frank
Sharon Center OH
mitzif59@yahoo.com

Comment:

I do not want trappers to have four additional months to trap on public lands because even more animals will languish and suffer. I believe that trapping is cruel and inhumane.

Peggy Ellingson

Sioux Falls SD

Peg4tzus@msn.com

Comment:

I am opposed to this program for the indescribable cruelty brought against "nest predators". The fact the Governor & GFP came up with this program in secret to only benefit big money from supposed out of state hunters of ducks & pheasants is even wo

Dianna Torson

Brookings SD

Torsond@me.com

Comment:

Too many animals are suffering. Mothers cannot return to their young. People's pets are at risk. Please retain the May 1st deadline for removal of traps.

Joe & Shari Kosel

Lead SD

jskosel@gmail.com

Comment:

Secretary Hepler, South Dakota Game Fish & Parks Commissioners:

We oppose expansion of the trapping dates. Two aspects of the current situation are critically important.

First, we would request consideration of an environmental review. There are no known numbers or limits being placed on these specific animals other than the financial limitation defined in the initiative. As a public resource, it is necessary to gather thorough information concerning the health status and population numbers of that resource.

Second, we believe as currently written, this rule violates state criminal law. Specifically, SDCL 40-36-27 and -16 preclude anyone from killing a predatory animal on public property without proper licensure. Our understanding of your rule is that anyone, regardless of the licensure, can engage in this trapping and killing of predatory animals. Our reading of the state law suggests that over 16,271 crimes may have already been committed. Administrative rule making cannot abrogate codified statutes passed by the legislature. It is our intent to push for enforcement of our criminal law.

40-36-27. Killing of predatory animal without hunting license as misdemeanor--Falsification of bounty claim. Except as provided by § 40-36-16, it is a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to hunt, take, or kill predatory animals without possessing a resident small game license or a resident predator/varmint license, or to falsify any bounty claim, or to claim a bounty on any skin for which a bounty has been paid or refused.

40-36-16. Hunting license not required of landowner to receive bounty. A landowner or occupant does not have to possess a resident small game license or a resident predator/varmint license in order to receive the bounties specified in § 40-36-15 for the killing of the predatory animals specified by that section within the confines of the owner's or occupant's property.

Source: SDC 1939, § 25.1001 as added by SL 1963, ch 141, § 1; SL 1998, ch 252, § 2.

Further, there is a reason May 1 is the current deadline. Beginning mid-May, these essential predators bear their young. By allowing traps to remain on public lands through this essential rearing period, you are allowing state-sanctioned animal cruelty on lands owned by all citizens of South Dakota.

When a mother is trapped and killed for her tail, her babies are left to die a slow death of dehydration and starvation. This is intentional and willful animal cruelty against our native wildlife.

40-1-2.4. Cruelty to animals--Felony. No person may subject an animal to cruelty. A violation of this section is a Class 6 felony. This codified law applies to all animals in South Dakota, regardless if domesticated, livestock or our wildlife.

We've received many comments and pictures from trappers, bragging of the lactating females they've trapped and killed. Using misogynistic language, as if obsessed with their torture. This is unacceptable by any compassionate standard of all life.

Commissioners, you are an independent body. Your role is not one of "follow the leader" but that of oversight. It is your duty to manage wild animals for the benefit of the public - the entire public.

Please reconsider expanding the trap dates on public lands and abiding by our codified statutes.

Shari Kosel
Chair/Co-Founder
South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SDFACT)

Joe Kosel
Attorney/Board Member
South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SDFACT)

Lead, SD

Natasha Osborn

Stevensville MT

Frogchase@gmail.com

Comment:

This is immoral. Killing wildlife during breeding season should be outlawed. Also killing native predators to benefit and introduced game bird is ridiculous. Study after study has shown that predator eradication does NOT help bolster populations. I used to live in SD and am ashamed that this state would allow such cruel, unscientific practices to benefit pheasant. Horrible.

Ethelle Bean

Madison SD

esbean@msn.com

Comment:

This program does not teach SD youth sportsmanship or how to enjoy the outdoors. It teaches animal abuse. Live trapped and then slaughtered by someone who is inexperienced? This is just so worthless a program. Plus what about the role these predators play in our ecosystems. Possums, for example, eat ticks and this is a wet year perfect for ticks. This program does not make scientific sense. It is wiping out native mid-level predators in a half baked scheme to protect non-native pheasants so out of state hunters can pay to come to the Noem family's hunting lodge and shoot peasants. In reality it is so cruel!

Donna Fisher
Deadwood SD
dmfisher@wildblue.net

Comment:

I support the ruling by The Legislative Interim Rules Review Committee to disallow trapping on public lands for the Governor's Nest Predator Program. I support the committee's view that all trapping equipment must be removed from public lands.

For the following reasons, I object to the Nest Predator program:

1. I object to a program involving children and youth that was implemented without study and without consultation about its effect on children's safety and psychological well-being.
2. I object to a program that has been implemented without expert scientific input comparing effectiveness of predator suppression with habitat development in enhancing nest production. Have as an environmental impact of this program been done about controlling small rodents, prairie dogs and rabbits when their natural predators are reduced?
3. I object to the investment of significant taxpayers dollars in a program that was not recommended by either the hunting public, the Legislature or GFP and implemented without due process. Pheasants Forever states that investment in increased habitat is more effective than predator control in improving pheasant populations.
4. I object to the investment of taxpayer dollars in a trapping and bounty program involving children as young as preschool as indicated in GFP publicity and photographs promoting the program. Has anyone given thought to training new trappers about humanely killing and safely disposing these animals?
5. This program has been advertised widely so that persons beyond our state see the images of young children encouraged to trap small game animals during breeding season, kill and cut off tails to receive bounties (without a serious youth education program or evidence that the killing will be effective in protecting nests). Tourism is our number two industry. Images of children with animals carcasses promoted in a photo contest do NOT project the image of a state that establishes wise wildlife policies or raises youth to be respectful and educated about our wildlife resources.

Therefore, I appeal to GFP Commissioners to immediately stop this program and to return unspent funds to programs from which they were taken.

Anne Kosel
Longmont CO

Comment:

I'm in disbelief that South Dakota-a state so rich in natural beauty and protected lands-would put its name next to a program such as this. Encouraging children to kill wildlife in order to kill more wildlife with guns for money?

Please please let it be your legacy to teach your children Respect and Protection of Life for the beautiful species of South Dakota.

Nina Ring
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

oppose

Eva Bareis
Rapid City SD
eva1365@hotmail.com

Comment:

Please oppose extending the trapping season to August 31 on public lands. A horrific number of animals have already been killed, large numbers in areas where there aren't even pheasants. Enough!

Alison James
Sandy Hook CT
alisonjames82@yahoo.com

Comment:

Another exercise of killing wildlife. For shame on this department.

Barbara Felderman
Rapid City SD
Annfelfer@gmail. Com

Comment:

STOP THE INSANITY!!! Such a unintelligent program and expense of our money!!! Two stupid selfish people started this alone. STOP IT NOW!!!

Jacqueline Dusseau-Beilke
Sioux Falls SD
jacqueline.beilke@gmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Amanda Johnson
Yankton SD
amandaj131@yahoo.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. This program is an absolute disgrace. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained for numerous reason not limited to: enhancing public safety, promoting tourism and reducing the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young. Why were the voters not given a say in this? The majority of South Dakotans oppose this horrific program and the least that could be done at this time is to keep trapping off public lands. Please do not allow trapping back on public lands and please please end this ridiculous, inhumane program immediately!

Jeannette Thomas Vance

Aberdee SD

Jeathomas@hotmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Karen Doyle

Temecula CA

nightpeddler@hotmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Cindy Rock

Milwaukie OR

C.rock@comcast.net

Comment:

I am writing to demand the trapping, killing and collection of tails of wildlife, stop immediately. As a former resident of this area, I am dismayed at the ongoing slaughter of wildlife for profit making. I believe our states are learning to appreciate their citizens regard for protecting wildlife.

Stephanie Farac

Pierre SD

Baller2661@gmail.com

Comment:

End cruel nest predator bounty. Horrible to the ecosystem and teaching kids to kill.

David Talleagle

Conroe TX

dreagle2679@yahoo.com

Comment:

OPPOSE TRAPPING ON PUBLIC LANDS

Kristi Miller
Harrisburg SD
Kristislack@hotmail.com

Comment:

Inhumane and unnecessary

Steven Neill
Spokane Valley WA
sneill@msn.com

Comment:

Besides being utterly needless and inhumanely cruel, traps set on public lands during the summer months pose a risk for humans and pets who frequent these lands during the warmer months on vacations or getaways. My dogs run free all the time in the woods but I certainly wouldn't let them where traps could be present. Thank you for your time, Steven

Maria Fotopoulos
Midwest City OK
mfotopoulos@earthlink.net

Comment:

May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Dana Utt
West Sacramento CA
lotuslovejoy2@gmail.com

Comment:

i oppose trapping on public lands.

Deborah Tesi
Las Vegas NV
natali100@yahoo.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.”

Dolores Zelazo
Morris Plains NJ
Dzelazo58@gmail.com

Comment:

I urge the commission to end the trapping! Stealing the lives of baby possum's and cutting off their tails is horrible! Stop it now!!!

Debra Inscoe
Wilm Im Ngton NC
disonba35@aol.com

Comment:

You must get rid of traps, they maim, kill and destroy

Barb Beronski
Chicago IL
Babeandbarb@yahoo.com

Comment:

Stop trapping animals. Stop killing animals

Kathy Maldonado
Palm Bay FL
tabbygirl62@gmail.com

Comment:

Trapping is cruel, inhumane and only benefits the hunter. So many other animals get caught and suffer. This is barbaric and outdated. We will not tolerate this any longer. End immediately!

Valerie Sisson
Kentwood MI
vlrie69@gmail.com

Comment:

This is horrible Cruel barbaric unnecessary

Deana Banos
Edgewood NM
deanabanos@yahoo.com

Comment:

History has shown what trapping can do to animals and the environment. Please allow nature to live and nature takes care of the environment! As humans on this earth, it is our responsibility to protect animals as we protect children because animals are innocent to the actions of mankind.

Marsha Pechman
Harrison Twsp MI
sunrayee1@yahoo.com

Comment:

Trapping is cruel and barbaric!! please stop killing!!!! please do not add more time to this horrfic act of cruelty!

Debra Johnston
Hot Springs SD
healingtouch.hotsprings@gmail.com

Comment:

Participants in the program are not required to complete any trapping education course; they don't even have to obtain a trapping license. The wildlife agency gives no guidance on how to humanely kill trapped animals or deal with domestic pets captured in the traps. Trapped animals can die slowly from shock, dehydration, starvation or exposure. The creatures who do survive long enough for the trapper to return are often killed inhumanely, by drowning, chest compression, asphyxiation or strangulation.

Mass trapping in the spring is especially cruel to young animals who are orphaned when their mothers are killed. These newborns often die of starvation.

The program claims to promote awareness and education while training a new generation in conservation and wildlife management. But instead it is training residents, especially children, to kill needlessly.

This is SEVERELY unbalancing the ecosystem. STOP THIS!!!!

Julie Nicholson
Oak Park IL
jewels.julie@comcast.net

Comment:

If we let all this trapping, there will be no more animals around. This has to stop! It is unnecessary!! It is so CRUEL!!

Amy Dozier
Jefferson WI
Kissyboots5983@netscape.net

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young. Please show some compassion for these innocent animals. Thank you.

Tanya Kasper
Wimberley TX
tkasper@newvistasolutions.com

Comment:

I am opposed to extending the use of traps on public lands - trapping should be ended not extended to prevent additional suffering. We do not want trappers to have four additional months to trap on public lands because even more animals will languish and suffer. We do not want our wildlife tortured and killed for the benefit of the cruel fur trade industry or any other industry. Please do the right thing and protect our wildlife.

Kirsty Cooper
Buckinghamshire ME
krustykapoor@gmail.com

Comment:

Stop killing wildlife in traps

Dina Canzoneri
Wilmington DE
calltopost@icloud.com

Comment:

Do not allow trapping on public land!

Margo Richardson
Lambertville NJ
Nikilovescamping@yahoo.com

Comment:

Please protect wildlife not destroy them. It beyond cruel and horrifying death.

Ashton Hennings

Sioux Falls SD

Stumpywump@yahoo.com

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1st deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing

Cheyne Cumming

Rapid City SD

Redtrigirl@gmail.com

Comment:

I do not support the killing of thousands of creatures for no reason. No science supports this mass slaughter. Teaching children to kill for the pleasure of killing leads to disturbed children. I hope tourists stop coming to this backward state.

Kimberly Rodgers

Benton City WA

Kimmohar@yahoo.com

Comment:

Get rid of all traps

Lynn Roeb

Fort Smith AR

lynnfroebuck@att.net

Comment:

I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young.

Patricia Stock

Olmsted Falls OH

patti7@cox.net

Comment:

Another 4 months of trapping is unnecessary and cruel. This is an abomination against all animals and you're okay with that. I don't think so. Stop trapping, period.

Patricia Stock
Olmsted Falls OH
patti7@cox.net

Comment:

I oppose this because Public Lands are for the use of citizens and their pets. We don't need any traps on public lands. They need to ban this barbaric and cruel act

Shelley Wyndham
Chambersburg PA
shelleyruthwyndham@gmail.com

Comment:

"I urge the commission not to extend the use of traps on public lands. The current May 1 deadline should be maintained because it enhances public safety, promotes tourism, and reduces the suffering of orphaned wildlife on public lands preventing the unethical trapping of mothers with young."

Wendy Luedke

Lead SD

wendyschmitz@gmail.com

Comment:

This program is wrong in several ways:

1. Facts: the reasons for the decrease in pheasant population:

a. "Pheasant populations hit their peak in South Dakota a decade ago because there were 1.5 million acres enrolled in CRP in the state. Since then, due to budget cuts and caps on the number of acres allowed in the program, CRP acres have dwindled and pheasant numbers have as well. And it's not as though our landowner conservationists don't have the desire to participate in the program. In fact it's the opposite. Last year, South Dakota landowners applied to enroll more than 42,000 acres during the regular sign-up for CRP, but only two landowners and 101 acres were accepted. That's right, only two landowners." (Capital Journal: 2017 SD Pheasant Season Showing Fewer Pheasants and Hunters - Dave Nomsen, Vice President of Pheasants Forever, Inc. Nov 23, 2017)

b. Loss of grasslands due to farming

c. Harsher climate: harsh winters, droughts, hailstorms, etc.

2. Yet, where is the logic? Instead of addressing the above, for profit, Noem creates another problem/solution by scapegoating by trapping and killing the animals (such as foxes, skunks, and raccoons) that may potentially eat the eggs of pheasants. All in hopes of increasing the pheasant population which in turn, provides hunters more pheasants to shoot and kill? What about the over-trapping (which will occur with a \$10 bounty) of the animals listed in this program? What happens to the ecological system when they are gone? Has anyone actually studied this? All in the name of pheasant hunting.....WOW!

2. Noem should completely recuse herself of this issue. Her Facebook page talks about how pheasant hunting is ingrained in her family tradition. And, she has a hunting lodge that she and her spouse profit from. How is her opinion objective? She needs to recuse herself.

3. The nation's 10% population of hunters do not speak for the majority. There are more nature lovers in SD as well as SD tourists that would never agree to Noem's program if they were well informed of her intentions. Noem's attempt to sneak this program in through the backdoor instead of through the proper channels speaks volumes for this.

4. Noem's close connection to NRA is another reason for her to recuse herself. She launched her run for governor at a gun shop! Why, Noem, instead of investing in long-term, sustainable businesses and training/preparing our citizens for the future are we wasting million(s) on this seasonal sport? The emollient clause is in place for a reason.

4. Noem's previous heroine stance on sex-trafficking....hmmm. Sex-trafficking is huge during pheasant hunting, Kristie, why does this seem to no longer be an issue?

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/nov/24/hunting-season-lures-strip-clubs-trafficking-to-sm/>

5. CRUEL and inhumane – no more needs to be said on this.

In conclusion:

I have made strong, rational arguments in support of ending this program, there is no true justification for it. If pheasant hunting is a dying sport, irrationally killing off other animals in a last-ditch effort to save it isn't the answer. Creating new jobs and new opportunities is.

Artificial Intelligence is coming/has arrives and will soon take a lot of South Dakota's jobs (SD is 7th out of 50 States that will be hurt the most by this), why isn't our focus and funds placed here? Why do so many of our jobs rest solely on the tourist season? It is not sustainable. Good, dependable jobs with good benefits are desperately needed. More training and education are what is needed. More incentives for businesses to come to and stay in our State are needed. This is where our priority needs to be.

We will never get back all the animals that have already died as a result of this program.

What a huge shame. What an embarrassment.

Maybe Noem's 2019 profits from her hunting lodge should go towards paying back the expenses already lost in addition to the establishment of an animal rescue program.

Letha Lewandowski

Webster SD

lewandowskiletha11@gmail.com

Comment:

There is absolutely no good reason to put a 10.00 bounty on fox, raccoons, opossum, skunks or any other animal!!! It is shameful for the State of SD. Do not extend the trapping season either!

Dennis Lewandowski

Webster SD

Comment:

Complete waste of money. Tax payers are paying for road kill from sd and surrounding states. Winters kills more pheasants than all egg eaters put together. Use some common sense. Save use some money.

Sheryl Skoglund

Cambridge MN

sherylskoglund@yahoo.com

Comment:

Oppose all killing trapping and or Poisoning the Animal Kingdom

Wendy Luedke

Lead SD

wendymschmitz@gmail.com

Comment:

This program is wrong in several ways:

1. Facts: the reasons for the decrease in pheasant population:

- a. "Pheasant populations hit their peak in South Dakota a decade ago because there were 1.5 million acres enrolled in CRP in the state. Since then, due to budget cuts and caps on the number of acres allowed in the program, CRP acres have dwindled and pheasant numbers have as well. And it's not as though our landowner conservationists don't have the desire to participate in the program. In fact it's the opposite. Last year, South Dakota landowners applied to enroll more than 42,000 acres during the regular sign-up for CRP, but only two landowners and 101 acres were accepted. That's right, only two landowners." (Capital Journal: 2017 SD Pheasant Season Showing Fewer Pheasants and Hunters - Dave Nomsen, Vice President of Pheasants Forever, Inc. Nov 23, 2017)
- b. Loss of grasslands due to farming
- c. Harsher climate: harsh winters, droughts, hailstorms, etc.

2. Yet, where is the logic? Instead of addressing the above, for profit, Noem creates another problem by scapegoating the animals she deems predators of pheasant eggs. Noem's program is all about the trapping and killing of animals (such as foxes, skunks, and raccoons) that may potentially eat the eggs of pheasants. The intended result? The potential increase of the pheasant population which in turn will provide hunters more pheasants to shoot and kill – giving a boost to the hunting season. My questions are:

"What about the over-trapping (which will occur with a \$10 bounty) of the animals listed in this program?"

"What happens to the ecological system when they are gone?"

"Has anyone actually studied the long-term effects of this program?"

All in the name of pheasant hunting.....WOW!

3. Noem should completely recuse herself from this issue. Her Facebook page talks about how pheasant hunting is ingrained in her family tradition. And, she has a hunting lodge that she and her spouse profit from. How is her opinion objective? How is this not all about our Governor's personal interests? She needs to recuse herself.

4. The nation's 10% population of hunters do not speak for the majority. There are more nature lovers in SD, as well as SD tourists that would never agree to Noem's program if they were well informed of her intentions. Noem's attempt to sneak this program in through the backdoor instead of through the proper channels speaks volumes to this.

5. Noem's close connection to NRA is another reason for her to recuse herself. She launched her run for governor at a gun shop! Why, instead of investing in long-term, sustainable businesses and training/preparing our citizens for the future are we wasting million(s) on this seasonal sport? The emollient clause is in place for a reason.

6. Noem's previous heroine stance on sex-trafficking: Sex-trafficking is huge during pheasant hunting, Kristie, why does this seem to no longer be an issue? <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/nov/24/hunting-season-lures-strip-clubs-trafficking-to-sm/>

7. CRUEL and inhumane – no more needs to be said on this.

In conclusion:

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Artificial Intelligence is coming/has arrived and will soon take a lot of South Dakota's jobs (SD is 7th out of 50 States that will be hurt the most by this), why isn't our focus and funds placed here? Why do so many of our jobs rest solely on the tourist season? It is not sustainable. Good, dependable jobs with good benefits are desperately needed. More training and education are what is needed. More incentives for businesses to come to and stay in our State are needed. This is where our priority needs to be.

We will never get back all the animals that have already died as a result of this program. What a huge shame. What an embarrassment.

Maybe Noem's 2019 profits from her hunting lodge should go towards paying back the expenses already lost in addition to the establishment of an animal rescue program.

David Slack
Englewood TN
middlecreek7777@comcast.net

Comment:

How about instead of expanding trapping on public lands, we stop trapping all together. It is a cruel and evil practice. Please stop hurting our precious animals.

Brenda Fergen
Vermillion SD
bsfergen@hotmail.com

Comment:

This program is unnecessary and poorly thought out. Pheasants draw hunters, but that is not a sufficient reason to extend the trapping season and to allow the killing of young animals.

There are many examples of the unintended consequences of wiping out the predators of one animal. Nature is a delicate balance and humans should not be messing with it for such a poor reason.

John Hauge
Deadwood SD
Jdhauge44@gmail.com

Comment:

I am completely opposed to this whole initiative. Gov Noem has initiated a program that benefits her and the other hunting lodge owners and has no justification in the real world. I have talked to wildlife experts from other states they say this is a totally foolish and unjustified program. I am very surprised that GF&P would approve of this action. I believe GF&P needs to be redirected and reorganized. They are not representing the whole state, only a minority. This program is destroying a whole layer of wildlife, which creates even more problems. I am asking you to take charge and terminate this program immediately.

Thank you,
John Hauge

Mimsi Milton
Highlands Ranch CO
mimsim@gmail.com

Comment:

This safe nest program is a laughable euphemism. It desensitizes children to the suffering of others, including animals, and allows slaughter of wildlife for no good purpose. DO NOT extend the killing season.

David Himes

Punxsutawney PA

bloodball94@yahoo.com

Comment:

Trapping is not effective and less controllable than archery and rifle. There are strict rules for hunters and strict limits of game, there are exceptions on all these rules for trophies/trapping. We are not cavemen, we evolved supposedly. Therefore it's time to end the uselessness of traps, snares and chemical. Chemical not only endangers the ecosystem and wildlife but now you're endangering humans. And that is a violation in war even.

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk, SD

nhilding@rapidnet.com

Comment:

I am submitting comments for Prairie Hills Audubon Society. We oppose the extension of the trapping season on public land and public-right-of ways by 4 months. We will write up a formal letter and send it directly to Commissioners individually. This on-line form has very limited space and lacks the ability to attach a formal letter as an attached document.

Alisa Dinovi

Hudson OH

adinovi13@yahoo.com

Comment:

I urge the commissioner not to extend the use of traps on public lands

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

nhilshat@rapidnet.com

Comment:

I submit these comments on behalf of myself as an individual. I am opposed to extension by 4 months of the trapping season on public lands & right of ways. Animals will die in "live traps" due to SD's excessive long "trap check times", which are 3 & a partial days west river and 2 and a partial days east river. These deaths will include non-target animals, which may include SD listed species such as swift fox, or those proposed for listing with USFWS such as plains spotted skunk or prairie grey fox. Western SD now has plague, carried by fleas on rodents. You will be killing predators that hunt rodents with plague. Much of western SD does not have pheasants or ducks, so some predator killing for bounties will be irrelevant to pheasant/ducks. If trapping is such a great recreational experience for children, why to you have to bribe everyone with bounties to get them to do such a "fun" thing? I suspect that a lot of children will be traumatized by your trapping program. I suspect the folks that find trapping "fun" are sadists. I don't believe that such a broad brush/not targeted predator killing program will be ineffective and a waste of wildlife program budget. The public notice, rule proposals and e-mail notice for the April meeting on the bounty program, described rule making actions that never happened. The program was approved administratively before the April GFP Commission meeting. Thus your advertising of the April Commission meeting was "bait & switch", enticing folks to come comment on an SD GFP plan, that was already decided on and started before the hearing. The public notice was deceptive. I think this plan should have required a Commission rule-making.

Donna Warner

El Paso TX

angel23451@yahoo.com

Comment:

TRAPS SHOULD BE BANNED EVERYWHERE! THEY ARE CRUEL AND BARBARIC!
BY KILLING ANIMALS YOU ARE ALSO DESTROYING OUR ECO-SYSTEM! THE FACT YOU ARE
ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IS OUTRAGEOUS!