

RESOLUTION 20-13

WHEREAS, current Administrative Rule prohibits ditch mowing before June 15 in Gregory, Lyman, and Tripp counties of western South Dakota and prohibits ditch mowing before July 10 for all counties east of the Missouri River on the state highway trunk system; and

WHEREAS, over time, additional counties west of the Missouri River have increased pheasant habitat resulting in steady increase in pheasant numbers; particularly in Dewey, Jones, and Stanley County; and

WHEREAS, these counties represent the primary western periphery of the pheasant range in western South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 over 19,000 pheasants were harvested in these three counties; and

WHEREAS, roadside habitat can be locally important for pheasant nesting habitat; and

WHEREAS, the consideration in front of the DOT Commission falls in line with on-going discussions regarding efforts and actions to enhance habitat efforts, bolster pheasant numbers, and the promotion of pheasant hunting in South Dakota.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission hereby expresses support to the South Dakota Transportation Commission for their consideration of adding Dewey, Jones, and Stanley Counties to the list of western SD counties where ditch mowing activity cannot begin before June 15.