

# Public Comments

## Antelope (Firearm and Archery)

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**Patrick Moore**

**Ellsworth Afb SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

The proposal for adjustments to buck only for the 2022 and 2023 seasons is justified with the decline of fawn populations this year. What does not seem justified is the restriction of mentored licenses to private land only. If the population is in decline to the point where a two year moratorium is considered being placed on doe and fawns, then access to private land should not be the ticket to a mentored opportunity. Either open a lottery style draw for all mentored applicants for the number of animals required to be hunted, or cancel the season all together. Privatizing the opportunities for youth antelope hunting for two years comes across as biased, and reserving significant opportunities for only those wealthy enough to own land. While I doubt this is the intent of the proposal, if passed, it would go a long way in breaking trust with the public who have faith in SDGFP to fairly and scientifically manage our public, natural resources.

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**Nickie Adams**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

RE: Supportive information #4

I understand decreasing licenses due to population. But taking the opportunity away for a mentored hunter to hunt public land is not the right way to do this. Finding private land can be difficult in SD and would be frustrating not only for the youth, but for the parent or mentee to try and assist the mentor from a successful or good hunting experience.

Please modify the proposal to allow mentors to hunt public land.

Decrease the landowner tags, don't make it harder for youth who are the future hunters when hunter numbers are declining.

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**Sallie Doty**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I have hunted antelope in Haakon County for the past 4 seasons. I am grateful that I received a tag from GF &P each year-thank you! I have noticed over the past four years the decline in population, and an increase in hunters. Also, public land in Haakon County is grazed down to almost nothing. As a taxpayer this is frustrating. If landowners are going to receive state dollars to turn their land into public, then the land should be untouched and allowed to go back to natural habitat. Just north of 11 mile road outside of Philip is a piece of public that resembles the surface of the moon. There has been 0 wildlife on the piece. It looks awful and overgrazed. How are you going to increase a population if you do not take care of the habitat needed for antelope to survive?

I support the proposed changes, with a few caveats. I would like to see this proposal for the next 5 + years and not just a few. There is no reason that there should ever be leftover kid or doe tags. The population cannot support this. I think the same should apply to deer as well. Also, I would like to see the license completely removed for non-residents. I realize they do not get many of the tags, but I think it would help to tame the frustration of those in state with the new changes.

In the proposed changes video it discussed that there has been a 16% reduction in the antelope population. Bringing it back up 10% does not bring it back up to a 94% rate. A 10% increase from being down 16% brings the population to 92.4% of what it used to be. These proposed changes need to be in effect a minimum of 5 years, and then reviewed after that as needed.

Finally, I think the G, F & P would benefit from interviewing hunters that frequent the same pieces of public about what we are seeing. I was surveyed by a professor at Nebraska while archery paddlefishing this year. He asked a lot more in depth questions about what we saw, how satisfied we were, what the water conditions were like, other species we observed, etc. This gave him a lot more insight in the paddlefiserman's experience. I know people sometimes do not respond to surveys, but it may help in the future. Flying a drone over and calling it "research" does not get an accurate picture of healthy populations.

I am for the proposed changes, and I think that they are a great start.

Sallie S. Doty

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**Justin Allen**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not support mentor antelope tags being only valid on private land only. 400 doe/kids were kill by mentor hunters last year. I'm sure a 100 plus were killed on private land. 200-300 killed a year on public land throughout all the units is worth keeping the youth involved in the outdoors. Also once again GFP and commission will not address Over The Counter (OTC) archery tags just like archery deer. Antelope firearm tags are being reduced by 60-75 percent in NW SD but we are still going to have OTC bow licenses for residents and non residents. Why? Again firearm hunters make the sacrifice to increase game numbers but bow hunters give up nothing. Please address OTC archery tags. With this said I do support the proposed license and tag numbers for the firearm season.

Thank you for your time  
Justin  
Pierre, SD

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**Gene Cox**

**Mobridge SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am writing to voice opposition to the limitation of Mentor Tags to private land only. I realize the doe population needs less pressure, but how much pressure is from mentored hunting? The objective of mentored hunting is to get kids out into the field to keep hunting going. While it is not proposed here, has anyone considered putting the age limit back on as a requirement? How many young hunters have received a tag before their first or second birthday? In conclusion, I would urge you to reconsider closing mentored hunts on public land for antelope. Thank you.

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**Crystal Gaikowski**

**Webster SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Hello, I seen a post on Facebook regarding proposed changes to antelope season. I think something has to be done to get numbers up I agree however how about setting an actual age for mentor license? Very young children can get tags when it's probably the parents using them. Make antelope archery unlimited on private land but a draw for public. Taking away opportunity for youth to get into the outdoors is not the way to go. My child looks forward to hunting every year. I sure hope you take public comments into consideration

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**Justin Broughton**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

A cap and draw should be in place for all non-resident archery antelope licenses. You cannot cap and restrict all other license types with no change to non-resident tag allocation. Respect the privileges of SD citizens, cap nonresident archery antelope licenses.

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**Renee Allen**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

First off I oppose not allowing mentor antelope hunting on public grounds. 200-300 does killed throughout the state on public land will not make or break the comeback of antelope numbers. Secondly, I can not express my disappointment of the mismanagement of the antelope herds in western SD by GFP. No population survey for three years when GFP used to do it every year. Over abundance of tags for the last two years despite hunters saying the antelope numbers did not support the tag numbers. Over harvest and drought and now we have a population so low we are not even allowing youth/mentors hunting on public land. You can do better SD GFP.

Renee Allen  
Pierre, SD

# Archery and Muzzleloader Season

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**Roger Dekok**

**Mount Vernon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Muzzleloader Deer Season and Use of Magnified Scopes. I oppose the use of magnified scopes for muzzleloader and for that matter crossbows. Both of these are a primitive weapons season. We are not allowed to use magnification on archery equipment and magnification should not be allowed on muzzleloader or crossbows.

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**Justin Broughton**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

A cap and draw should be placed on all nonresident archery deer tags. Nonresident archery participation continues to increase annually at an increasing rate irrespective of the changes the department put in place several years ago. Please considering capping the tags at the 8% allocation that is currently in place for rifle tags.

# Other

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**Russell Backus**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Dear Commission Members:

I would like to bring to your attention a situation that greatly concerns me. As a fishing guide for over 20 years and former national walleye champion, I feel that I have the experience to address this issue.

1st – On June 4th of this year a walleye tournament sponsored by Jared Roe Memorial, was held on Angostura Lake in Fall River County near Hot Springs. The tournament permit authorized by SDGF&P for a maximum of 80 teams. The tournament violated their authorization by allowing 92 teams. The 92 teams consisted of 3 team members in each boat. Each team member was allowed to catch a state limit of 4 fish each for a state limit of 12 fish per boat. Teams could only weigh in 6 fish. Because of an extremely good bite most teams caught a state limit of 12. I am estimating that over 1100 walleyes were harvested by the tournament anglers that day. This is an extremely high exploitation rate. This was calculated by 92 boats with 3 anglers all catching their limits of 12 walleyes per boat.

-The tournament starting procedure released all 92 teams at one time. Can you imagine the safety concerns I have over this when they all tried to get to their hot spots first?

-Angostura Lake consists of approximately 4000 acre feet at full pool level. At the time of the tournament water releases caused only a 77% full pool. This reduced the lake pool to approximately 3000 acre feet of available fishing water.

2nd – Angostura Lake cannot sustain this kind of harvest and still maintain good fishing tournament anglers plus recreational anglers. Angostura normally hosts 5 or 6 other tournaments each year thus increasing harvest exploitation. Please don't get me wrong, I'm not against tournament fishing, I am concerned about how the tournaments are administered.

3rd – Recommendations – Limit all Angostura tournaments to a max of 50 two man teams not 3. This will lower the exploitation rate and still provide a great tournament. Most tournaments on Angostura are run this way

-Eliminate the tournament start releasing all teams at the same time. I recommend requiring a staggered start. This will improve safety for everyone.

-Get fishing biologists more involved, with conservations officers who approve the tournaments. This would help them decide how many tournaments should be allowed and still achieve a reasonable exploitation rate.

-Conservation officers should establish a firm cut-off date for tournament applications. This would eliminate last minute decisions to have a tournament.

Thank you for hearing my concerns. My best interests remain with both tournament and recreational anglers.

Sincerely,

Russ Backus      605-545-3949   3505 Cypress Ct; Rapid City SD 57701

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**Brett Koplín**

**Rochester MN**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I can't believe you allow a trapping season for otters with only small numbers of these sacred creatures left