

Public Comments

Other

Matthew Lewison

Custer SD

mattlewison@hotmail.com

Comment:

The placidity of Deerfield Lake is unique and deserving of the preservation that the current no-wake restrictions provide. The needs of boaters wishing to travel at higher rates of speed are already well-accommodated in area lakes.

Cheryl Schreier

Custer SD

claschreier@gmail.com

Comment:

I oppose changing the no wake zone on Deerfield Lake. The regulation has been in effect for the past 55 years and there are other lakes in the area, Pactola and Sheridan that have areas for higher speed boats. I am a kayaker and paddleboarder and recreate on no wake lakes without the danger of fast moving boats. It is a safety concern, as well as impacting the tranquility this lake provides for the public. Thank you for considering my comments and please leave the no wake status for Deerfield Lake. A gem in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Bretton Hill

Black Hawk SD

Comment:

To put it shortly and simply: Deerfield's charm and strength is in its tranquility. Keep it a refuge for those who seek peace and solitude.

Jim Weimer
Rapid City SD
weimer@rap.midco.net

Comment:

Deerfield Lake is very close to 2 miles long. If you have spent much time at all at the lake, you've noticed well over 90% of the boat fishing is within 1/2 mile of the boat ramps. To go that 1/2 mile+ at 25 mph would take 1.2+ minutes (you don't have time to get up to speed before you idle down!) and at 5 mph it would take 6 minutes. After driving over 1 hour from Rapid City, over 50 minutes from Spearfish, or 30+ minutes from Custer or Hill City and launching and loading the boat, time savings is not a factor at all!

You will most always see canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards there on any random day.

Don't mess up the peace and

serenity of Deerfield Lake and the small craft for NO reason.

Thank you for your time

Jon Crane
Hill City SD
joncrane@mac.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose raising the speed on Deerfield Lake. I love to kayak on Deerfield because it is the only lake of any size in the Black Hills that I can use without worrying about speeding boats. I do not kayak on Pactola and Sheridan Lakes because of the speedboats and Jet Skis destroy the tranquility and make it more dangerous. 25 miles an hour is way too fast. In fact, I would be in favor of prohibiting all motors except electric trolling motors on Deerfield. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Jon Crane

Andrew Fanaras
Haverhill MA
afanaras@yahoo.com

Comment:

I cannot believe that a states game commission would even consider changing the current season less than 3 months before it is set to open. As a travelling bow hunter I have seen states all across the country propose changes to an upcoming season but it happens in the winter! Many, like myself, plan these hunts at least 6 months, if not a year, in advance. My friend and I already have flights booked, reservations at an airbnb, time off work, etc. This will be our first time coming to SD after spending 10 yrs bow hunting Wyoming Sept 1. We decided to make a change after spending 10 days last Sept staying in SD. The people and businesses seemed very receptive to out of state hunters. This was a big decision for us. I've spoken 4 different times thru the winter and spring with Game, Fish and Parks about our hunt. Never once was I told that the Game commission would consider changing the season dates. If not from a chance e-mail from a hunting website sending out news we would never have known of this. Not a good impression from the state we are thinking of changing to after 10 years in Wyoming. Like most nonresident hunters we spend money on licenses, lodging, food, supplies, car rentals, etc every year. During a tour of Mt. Rushmore last year we were told SD wants to encourage tourism in the state. Creating a bias against nonresident hunters by making their season different than residents and proposing such a change less than 3 months before the opener isn't going to "encourage tourism" to SD!

M Dean Hade
Rapid City SD

Comment:

The current no-wake restriction is a positive restriction. It has worked for 50 plus years.A change would increase noise,air and water pollution

Kathryn Hart
Rapid City SD
hart@rap.midco.net

Comment:

Please leave Deerfield Lake as is WITHOUT motorized boating...thank you

Darlene Kutzler
Hill City And Huron SD
bdkutzler@gmail.com

Comment:

We love the tranquility of Deerfield Lake. While there are other lakes that allow speeding boats and water activities, we feel that we need a quite pristine spot where there are no distracting elements. Canoes and other self -propelled watercraft should not have to worry about being upended by wake of those speeding boats. Pleas do not allow this speed increase. Keep our lake peaceful.

Arthur Hubbard
Southold NY
athubb12@gmail.com

Comment:

I booked a mule deer/antelope archery hunt for Sept 2019 in January with an SD outfitter because I was told by you folks the tag would be guaranteed. I put down \$2500 non refundable to the outfitter. If the commission intends to make changes such as making the deer tag a lottery I would ask that any changes not take affect until 2020 or at the very least retroactive for those of us who already made a purchase for this years hunting season.

Randy Gaskins
Sturgis SD
rgaskins@nwtf.net

Comment:

Deerfield Lake is the last good lake in the Black Hills where you can enjoy a quiet and calm day kayaking, canoeing, or fishing in a float tub. There are plenty of lakes for water skiing, and boat racing. Please leave one lake for people that enjoy the peace and quiet.

Susan Kruse
Garretson SD
susan_kruse2000@yahoo.com

Comment:

I'm very excited about the expansion! We own a home just east of the park, as well as land just north of the golf course.

For any new camp sites or buildings, I'd love to see a more sustainable model.

Use gray (shower) water for the toilets.
Install toilets with half and full flush features.
Use renewable energy for electric sites (either solar or wind).

If you're going to create an education center, have an area on ways to lower your carbon footprint. That area should be easy to update as there are always new ideas and options becoming available.

Have at least one campsite with an EV charging station.

Offer a full recycling station that accepts everything Sioux Falls will take.

There are hundreds of ideas on how to support sustainable travel. I'd love to see Palisades State Park become the most sustainable park in South Dakota.

Kathy Sjomeling

Hermosa SD

ksjomeling@gmail.com

Comment:

I use Deerfield lake, specifically, because of the current no wake Zone. As an avid kayaker, it is hard to find a large body of water in the black hills that is safe for a kayak, without speeding boats! Removing the no wake zone will remove Deerfield from an area I will use. Strongly oppose!!

Kelly Recker

Ottawa OH

Turkeykiller35@yahoo.com

Comment:

Start date of nonresident archery of public hunting: Making a change to the start of deer season this close to opening season puts hunters that have to plan in advance time off work in a difficult position. It's my opinion that changing the start date should be postponed until next season. Many hunters have already made their 2019 hunting arrangements with work and family, including myself.

Nonresident access permits: Knowing that the access permit is free, it is my concern that some may apply for these free permit with having no intention to hunt on public land, but to purposefully limit the availability of access permits for others. Outfitters that don't use public land may encourage their clients to apply for these permits with the intent of limiting the availability of permits to hunters that like to "do it yourself". This would also limit a hunters choice and force them to have to go through an outfitter. It is my strong opinion that this change would only benefit the outfitters and put the public land hunters at a huge disadvantage. I recommend charging a high enough fee for the access permit that would discourage this from happening.

I am also greatly concerned about the schedule that has been proposed for having to apply for archery tags. With your new timeline a hunter could very likely apply for an archery tag then come to find out later that they have been blocked from being able to get an access permit. With this new proposed timeframe, most hunters would not purchase an archery tag without having guaranteed availability of an access permit. I am strongly recommending that the committee take their time with this role out until all angles can be considered. If you choose to move forward, it is imperative that the results of the access permit lottery be posted with recipient knowing if they have been awarded an access permit BEFORE the August 1st deadline for archery tags.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kelly Recker
(419)796-0307
Ohio

Jim Cloos

Milbank SD

jjcloos@itcmilbank.com

Comment:

I support having an application deadline but believe deadline could be earlier , force them to commit sooner. Feel it necessary to limit total number of non res hunters. Just limiting number of access permits to certain areas will just push more of unlimited number onto walk in, school, etc. Limit the number of non res and raise the price.

The later non res start date should be later still, October maybe.

Talked to hunters from Pennsylvania last season who have been coming to SD for 6-7 years. When asked why not going to Mont only 20 more miles away they said it was cheaper and could get license anytime.

Thank You for listening to our concerns.

Justin Herreman

Rapid City SD

jherreman@gmail.com

Comment:

Dear Game Fish and Parks Commission:

We the 600+ members of the Black Hills Paddlers are writing this letter in opposition of the plan to remove the no wake restriction on Deerfield Reservoir. We are a regional organization of paddle sports enthusiasts in the Black Hills Region. We are composed of members who enjoy canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding and other human powered water sports. Many of our members enjoy fishing from our paddle craft.

Deerfield Reservoir is the largest lake in the Black Hills where people can enjoy recreational opportunities without fear of boat wakes and without the noise of loud boat motors. There are plenty of other lakes in the region (Pactola Reservoir, Sheridan Lake, Angostura Reservoir, Stockade Lake) that are large and where motor sports enthusiasts can enjoy their recreational opportunities.

We the majority members of The Black Hills Paddlers feel it would be a disservice to the Black Hills outdoor recreation community and the tourism industry to change the atmosphere of this gem of a lake. We have assisted in Triathlons at this lake in the past and this venue was chosen because of the lack of motorized boat wakes.

We respect the rights of motorized boats and many of us are owners of motorized watercraft. Deerfield reservoir is also a haven for wildlife including nesting eagles and we believe this change will negatively impact this wildlife in multiple ways. We respectfully request this change not be made and the solitude and uniqueness of Deerfield Reservoir be preserved for the enjoyment of all South Dakotans.

Regards,

Justin Herreman - Vice President
Stacy Smith - Secretary & Treasurer
600+ additional members

Ross Vander Vorste

Berkeley CA

vandervorste.ross@gmail.com

Comment:

Practiced by few and mastered by even fewer, archery hunting remains one of the most natural and ethical forms of hunting. More strict regulations on archery hunters, either in-state or out-of-state, will limit archery hunting at a time when hunter numbers are declining nation-wide.

As a former resident of SD, I have cherished my 10+ years of archery hunting in the state. Only through archery can you connect so closely with wildlife and the landscapes they thrive in. Never once during my time as an SD resident hunting public lands, did I say "I am being bothered by out-of-state archery hunters."

As an out-of-state hunter, I had planned to come back to archery hunt the opening weekend on public lands with my hunting friends, who remain in-state residents, a tradition that we hoped we could continue for many years.

I feel that benefits of allowing out-of-state archery hunters on public lands on the opening week far outweigh the negatives to in-state archery hunters. South Dakota relies on the money out-of-state hunters bring in and preventing these hunters from accessing public lands will hurt SD reputation as a great state for hunters as well as the local business in those areas.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ross Vander Vorste

Ce Faulkner

Piedmont SD

faulnce@aol.com

Comment:

There are plenty of other lakes in the hills for speed. Leave the one for quiet.

Tim Pravecek

Winner SD

bowhunterinsd@yahoo.com

Comment:

I believe the new regulations will help, but feel they do not go far enough. I would like to see a later start for non-residents and earlier application deadline for non-residents. I have bow hunted the public land at the mouth of the White River and can tell of experiences 15-1 ratio of non-residents to residents. And as far as harvest have come upon animals not followed up on or followed up and left.

Nathan Mielke

Breezy Point MN

nathan_mielke@hotmail.com

Comment:

Proposal #1: Archery hunting for nonresident hunters will begin on the first Saturday after Labor Day for public lands and private land leased by the department.

This proposal is a joke, majority of the states do not delay nonresidents hunting because there is no meaningful impact on the population from nonresident archers. There is no reason to delay it because of a few resident hunters who want all of the public land to their selves. The majority of public land in western South Dakota are a public resource owned by the federal government. Limiting the use of this land to nonresidents is a travesty. Especially to hold it for just the resident archery hunter who has little impact on the overall population. Crowding is not a problem in most of the state, maybe those who think it is crowded should look else where. Also other neighboring states have more archers per square mile than South Dakota.

Proposal #2: Establish an application deadline of August 1 for nonresident hunters, where any application received after that date the license will only be valid on private land, not including Walk-In Areas.

The number of nonresident archers is so low that it is a joke that it would be limited. What is the point of performing a draw or limiting the date of purchase when the nonresident hunter is having little to no impact on the population or crowding. Nonresidents typically come for the rut and tend to hunt for a maximum of a week. If crowding does occur, it tends to be a localized issue and happens during the rut when it is busy in every state (including both residents and nonresidents). Limiting the use of our federal public lands is a travesty (which most of western south Dakota public land is). This will also have a negative effect on the amount of money that is drawn into South Dakota.

Mike Wilson

Tipton IA

Bison4me@icloud.com

Comment:

I Respectfully object. What has the State done to mitigate issues? I've mentioned to the staff at Parks that they don't do enough to educate hunters that special rules apply in Parks. Signs at entrances, at campgrounds, a hand out sheet with rules on one side and a map on the other would help a lot. Rather than trying some mitigation measures it appears we are jumping to bans and heavy restrictions for a problem that may be solvable with better info and education. Don't punish us all for problems at a few busy Parks. Thank you for your time.

Mike Wilson

Tipton IA

Bison4me@icloud.com

Comment:

I respectfully oppose these proposed rules that would limit nonresident archery access to public land, reduce tags, and limit seasons. The States own published statistics for 2018 do not support the claims made by the petitioner (Dana Rogers-SDBI). On that basis alone I believe the Commissioners should table the issue until more study is done. SBDI claims the problem is wide spread...false, the stats show only a few counties have issues. SDBI claims that nonresidents have more money than South Dakotans and so can afford to hunt on private land...false and that is a ridicules and insulting claim. SDBI claims nonresident success rates are higher...often true but not unusual. Nonresidents have limited time and a lot invested, so of course they tend to be more focused and thus success rates are higher. The rule changes proposed are not based on good facts or science and would cause real confusion with various start dates and where hunting is allowed some land types and not others. Please table this finalization until more study is done. I'd gladly pay more for a tag and public land access rather than create a blizzard of confusing rules. These rules could result in a significant reduction in license fee income for the State and huge drop in hunting associated economic costs. Thank You.

Mike Norton

Rapid City SD

nortonmichael1922@yahoo.com

Comment:

My question is (and I've mentioned it to the staff at Angostura) they don't do anything to educate hunters that special rules apply. Signs at both entrances, at campgrounds, a hand out sheet with rules on one side and map on the other would help a lot.

I've archery hunted state parks where I am allowed too since I was a kid.

Why punish us all. I've never been in trouble and there is very limited hunters . We pay for our state parks why shut them down for archery hunting! Archery hunters are way more ethical and law abiding citizens. I have been a park ranger for many years and worked in states with the best animal growth in the world.

This is getting out of control in South Dakota.

Peter Sanchez

Fort Pierre SD

phsanchez16@ole.augie.edu

Comment:

I believe for non-residents the start date should be moved back until around the last weekend of September or the 1st of October, as the season used to be. This would allow time for Residents to hunt before non-residents ran all over every piece of public. Non-residents are especially present in the northwestern and southwestern parts of the state, as there are large numbers of mule deer on public land in these areas. However, soon after the first weekend of the season deer are pushed onto private land and tough for everyone to access. Therefore, I propose that in these two areas in particular (around buffalo gap national grassland, south of Edgemont, in the Cave Hills, and in the Slim Buttes) Non-residents should have limited access. I quite frankly do not understand why non-residents are able to buy statewide archery permits over the counter. Make it a draw system for counties that are extremely popular to non-residents. I have hunted in the cave hills before (Custer National Forest) and even with the needed access permit, the place is absolutely crawling with hunters the first week of the season. This area should have non-resident access permits reduced to around 25-50, residents only get 100 rifle tags, why let nonresidents run rampant in a unit that has seen large decrease in trophy quality the last few years? If you are worried about losing money, make the access permits on a draw basis instead of first-come first-served basis (as proposed), and that way you could charge an application fee to not lose funds from the reduced number of permits allowed. Overall, I believe the number of permits should be limited in the Custer National Forest as proposed, but maybe consider reducing the numbers even further, especially for non-residents. When I hunted there, I could not believe the number of fork-horned mule deer I saw slung over the back of guys pickups only to hear them brag about it at the bar. How can you manage for trophy quality when you don't even let the young bucks show their potential, christ they still have milk on their lips. South Dakota overall needs to do a better job of managing our herds and selecting certain areas that are managed for trophy quality and certain areas that are managed for herd size. This way, there can be areas for meat hunters and areas for trophy hunters. I agree completely with making public-land, statewide nonresident tags only available before August 1. South Dakota is a great state for Archery hunting and it is well known, however, we need to do a better job managing our herds and I believe the proposed changes would be a step in the right direction if they include the above changes.

Nicholas Renemans

Fort Pierre SD

Nixxmail@yahoo.com

Comment:

I agree with most of the items proposed. Especially the access permits for Custer National Forest in Harding Co. I would propose that the archery access permits for non residents be more synonymous with the rifle tags allotted to nonresidents in that area. I feel there should be less non resident pressure to this limited access area. Thank for you time.

Jesse Dewitt

Auburn IN

dewijw01@yahoo.com

Comment:

The recently proposed season change for out of state deer archery hunters is opposite of Governor Kristi Noem recent message. Not only is the proposed change unwelcoming, but it also affects local residents who hunt with out of state family and friends. In my experience, there is sufficient public access to accommodate all hunters. Delaying the start date will make pressure greater for the 3 week window prior to the start of antelope rifle season. This rule change would also eliminate the possibility of a velvet harvest. Other states do not have such rules for non resident hunters, please continue to be more welcoming and expanding hunters opportunities. Thank you.

Linda Hiltner

Wall SD

lmhiltner@yahoo.com

Comment:

Several times, I have rented a kayak and used it on Lake Pactola. Even though I hugged the shore, the power boat wakes reached the shore. What may be fun for water skiing, jet skis and fast boats is dangerous for those of us wanting something slower and unhurried to enjoy. Then at times when I was kayaking, I felt as though the fast power boats were purposely getting as close as they could to the kayak -- perhaps just for fun for them. Not so for the people in kayaks or canoes. I sincerely hope the Deerfield Lake speed limit remains as a no-wake zone.

Thank you for your time and attention on this matter.
Best regards,
Linda M. Hiltner

Jacob Gabel

Rapid City SD

jrgabel@gmail.com

Comment:

To Whom it may concern

I have been out of town and I missed the opportunity to comment on the GFP considering the removal of the wake zone restriction on Deerfield Reservoir. That being said I couldn't allow myself to not reach out and voice my

Jane Rogers

Des Moines IA

jrogers@spindustry.com

Comment:

testing

Mike Hurvig
Rochester MN
outwestland@gmail.com

Comment:

What in the world is happening with my home state? The proposal to delay the non-resident archery start date on public lands is not a good idea. Not only do we pay A LOT for the license to begin with, but I would bet that more than half of the non-residents are coming back to hunt with residents (I go with my family - the only times we get to spend much time together is hunting deer and pheasants). I go with my father who does not have many more hunting years, my brother, a family friend, and my brother's college roommate - all of whom are SD residents. Now I will no longer be able to partake in the archery hunt with them unfortunately. I'm not sure what you think the benefit to doing this is - it will drive people away from having any interest in hunting in SD any longer. Maybe that's what you want, I'm not sure. It's a difficult balance to keep residents happy and keep the HUGE revenue coming in from many sources from the non-residents. One day you may wish you handled non-residents differently, but hopefully that doesn't happen for you.

Sincerely,
One less non-resident paying for an archery license in 2019.

Tom Martley
Rapid City SD
tmartley@aol.com

Comment:

Hoping you leave Deerfield Lake a "no wake" lake. I would hate to see a bunch of jet skier's and power boats there making lots of noise and wakes. It is a nice peaceful place and hope it is left that way.

Mike Ratigan
Newcastle WY
mikecandy@rtconnect.net

Comment:

Caller wanted to let us know that he wants us to leave Deerfield Lake wake free. He tried to put it on a public comment but the I am not a robot button would not allow him to click any boxes so would not let him submit completed form

Kevin Jensen
Alcester SD
pastorkevin605@icloud.com

Comment:

I stand against the proposed change to increase the allowed boat speed at Deerfield Lake to 25 mph. I have fished on that lake and go out there every year to fish there or on the nearby streams. Changing the rule of no wake makes no sense. It is a pristine alpine lake and needs to remain that way with the no wake rule in place and enforced!

Loren Clayton

Omaha NE

I_clayt52@cox.net

Comment:

Our NE Douglas County BassMasters Club was informed that the length limit regulations for bass have changed for your "Trophy Lakes." We would encourage the State of SD to change them back to what they have been for years in the past. Our club holds club tournaments in IA, MO, KS, and OK. Our records consistently show that we catch more lbs. of fish when we fish either Francis Case or Lake Sharpe, and Roy Lake. It's the only reason we drive for 6 hours to fish in your state. We feel after 2 yrs after the regulations change, the fishing will be the same as the other states where we fish. Multiply that times the number of other clubs going to your state for the same reasons and that adds up to a lot of revenue not being spent. We are associated with BassMasters and thus are obligated to "catch and release." We have a lot of fun, because we usually all catch our five fish tournament limit, weigh in, and then release them. We tell others how much fun we have, show pictures, and tell the lengths/weights. That in and of its self draws more tourism. We ask "the powers to be" to please reconsider changing the regulations back to what they used to be. We thank you!

Shawn Pliska

Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

For all the money I spend on licenses, park fees, preference points, donations for sportsman clubs and taxes I feel that my opinion does not matter. South Dakota recreational opportunities have declined over the past year for my family, but CWD scares the crap out of me. Educate the public first is the answer, not more rules right out of the gate.

Proper disposal of carcasses should be encouraged, but not fineable. Several rural areas of this state don't have proper disposal site. It's out of line to expect rural hunters to drive several miles pass road killed deer to dispose of carcasses. I attended CWD work shop, to many unknowns. Not much data out there beside what we know from the black hills herds, little to no data collected outside of the black hills. More rules are not the answer.

No bird feeders below 6', Synthetic based deer lure products, no hauling deer or elk out of endemic area without head or hide (key word is endemic, what is your definition of numbers for endemic). As hunter for many years, I do not support any of this plan. Nobody knows if all the state herd is affected because animals have not been tested in most counties.

Brad Croucher

Mitchell SD

bkstickbow@mitchelltelecom.net

Comment:

This site needs an overhaul. I have been cheated out of a hunting season with my sons and I don't have that many left. I applied east river deer and at the end no group number, and said there was a control error. I started over and at the checkout it stated I was not eligible to apply for the unit, I figured the first app was good. Told my sons to apply on their own because no group number. Because of a trip the following Monday I could not call GFP to get answers so now I find out no application was recorded for me, my son has drawn a tag and no leftovers in that county.....lovely! This is the most confusing site I have ever been on. Take it back to where it was in the beginning at least you could apply on line. YOU HAVE UNSIMPLIFIED THE SIMPLE To bad for me and mine.