

Public Comments

Deer Hunting Seasons

Bob Marquardt

Watertown SD

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Comment:

I would strongly recommend that the dates purposed for the upcoming ERD season be moved to the 3rd weekend in Nov. The NE part of South Dakota is pron to get snow and cold weather by the middle of Nov and the deer tend to relocate to there winter grounds by the second half on Nov. By setting the dates so late in the Month massive amounts of land in Codington County, both private and public, will not have any deer left to hunt, therefore effecting the harvest rates. Check the history of extending seasons due to excessive snow and difficult travel . The second reason for opposition of these dates is the rut will be over. Should not the east river hunters get the opportunity to hunt at least part of the rut? Late season no rutting deer.

Kelly Koistinen

Spearfish SD

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Comment:

What are the Biological reasons for increasing the number of muzzleloader tags available to SD residents? I would think that the Biologists don't even have a clue that the Commission is trying to increase the number of tags available in Muzzleloader season. You have to have sound Biological reasoning to do this! Not just because the State wants more money! If you create this increase in Muzzleloader tags, then you will have a huge loss of deer populations across the West River. There is enough opportunity out there for people to have a deer tag. Stop creating these idiotic proposals just because of the greed of the State. I realize that the state has lost revenue from the G,F,& P because you've lost the money from Nonresidents pheasant hunting. That is not the fault of the people of this state. Now, the Commission is drumming up these ridiculous proposals just to make up \$ for the State. I see right through your silly façade. The citizens of the State deserve better from the GF&P Commission! All these proposals are to increase revenues, just don't take away from the citizens of the State who've stuck with the system for so long and have paid a great portion of their personal income to enjoy the privilege to hunt and fish! Now, you create all these schemes to make money at the expense of the citizens.

Well, here you go again. In the same newsletter that you propose to make decisions based on New Criteria, you've just made these idiotic proposals with NO SOUND REASONING, just money! Where's the sound reasoning for the increase in; 1) New Special Whitetail Buck Tag--Why would you take away up to 500 tags/4% from the West River Deer Tag allotment to give to this new proposal? You'll take away the opportunity for someone to get a deer tag for the W. River deer season! Who can afford to pay \$169 for a deer? You just tried to do this with that other ridiculous proposal last year of new tag allotments and the residents responded with a resounding NO! Why then, would you try a similar thing again? Do you think we are not paying attention? Take these tags away from the East River Deer Season allotment then, and see what happens! East River Hunters will not like it either! But, apparently they have more money and power to sway the Commissioners! West River tags shouldn't be messed with! What are the criteria other than money? There aren't enough deer West River already! 2) Super tag. Why would you give a non resident the opportunity to hunt elk in this state? IT IS A RESIDENT ONLY TAG!! you will establish a precedence, and they will continue to bombard you about giving them a chance to hunt elk from that point on! And judging on how the Commission is always trying to change something, you'll probably give in to the pressure from them too! That is just simply not good thinking! 3) Increases of deer tags for Black Hills, West River Special Whitetail tags, None of these proposals are following the criteria guidelines you've just proposed, EXCEPT \$\$\$ financial for the State. You're increasing these tags without Biological reasoning! Just Money! Have you even consulted with the Biologists of the GF&P? I am disgusted with the way this Commission is using money as driving force of most of these proposals! I also think that you are relying on (not having enough people comment on your proposals). I wish you would just leave things alone! We don't even need all your dumb proposals, we've got enough rules to follow. All you do is restrict us SD citizen hunters and fishermen/women.

Thad Nafziger

Pierre SD

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Comment:

I'm writing (yet again) as a very frustrated & concerned lifelong resident hunter of the state of S.D. I will address my concerns per proposed item as follows: West River Soocial Buck proposed change. I vehemently oppose this change, my reasoning is as such..the price of the special buck tag has become quite expensive & for \$169 I should reserve the right to choose what species of deer I hunt for. It is an any deer special buck tag , in my humble opinion the reason it's called a special buck tag is that it gives the hunter (for a fee) special considerations & privileges not allowed with a standard deer tag. It appears to simply be another tactic by gfp to put more money in the coffers, & on that note I personally feel that gfp is supposed to be here to manage our resources & not to be a business entity who as of late certainly appears to act like one with sole concern being to make more money. There should only be enough revenue coming in to manage the current resources, & quite frankly if the expenditures of the department exceed the current (in your words license dollar only funded) budget, then maybe it's time to look at shrinking the department to fit the budget. In that vein of topic I would also say that if you truly are license dollar only (& park/camp etc.) funded that would make said license holders & users of parks etc. the sole financiers of gfp budget, or in other words your bosses. I suggest to you folks if this is the case you are not doing your bosses bidding or representing his/her wishes or interests, furthermore if gfp is to continue following the commissions recommendations (meaning commission has a lot of pull) they need to be held accountable just as Dept of gfp should be held accountable by us (their source of funding and theoretically their bosses) by making positions on commission an elected vs. appointed position so they will have a constituency to answer to & serve. Next issue this Super Tag proposal is not a good idea...Elk hunting in this state is all about being a resident. And any way you slice this (either taking the super tags away from total allocation for resident elk hunters, or adding additional tags for it...if you are able to add tags for any reason they should be for the allocation of residents only) proposal is unfair to the many, many residents who have waited a very long time to hunt elk in this state, & not only is it unfair to the aforementioned people I fear it opens the door for future precedent and potential expansion of non resident elk tag allocation. Next issue..I believe cutting tags by any percentage from west or east river is a mistake no matter where they get allocated. sure seems like west river bears the brunt of reallocation when it comes to tags..I would suggest you reallocate some tags from east river & see how that fairs as far as public outcry. I have held big game tags and hunting licenses in this state since eligible to do so, & am now 50 yrs old meaning I have technically been one of your many bosses for longer than I care to admit. And as said boss I'm very unhappy with the direction the dept has gone the last 8-10 years especially. It would appear in almost every case that's proposed change has come about is a direct correlation to money, & certainly appears to not give weight to biological ramifications nor residents concerns and desires. I firmly believe that some changes are in order in regards to not only policy/program approval but implementation also. Signed a very concerned boss.

Justin Allen

Pierre SD

Comment:

After record snowfall and cold in many portions of SD opening up numerous additional counties to additional antlerless whitetail harvest by bow and muzzleloader seems a bit overboard and premature. I find it hard to believe winter kill was not a factor in portions of the state. Thank you for your time

Justin Allen

Pierre SD

Comment:

SD needs to huge changes to bow hunting. Mule deer harvest has over doubled in the last five years as well Nr license sales. A 4 month season is crazy. We manage SD wildlife so well yet bow hunting is basically not managed at all. Limiting NR tag numbers along with where and when they can be used be used would be a great start to fixing the problem. Sept.1 start should have never been passed, please push it back at 2-3 weeks.

Also please address the NR antelope bow as well. Less tags as well as when and where they can be used. Harding Co. is overran with NR hunters.

Thank you for your time

Nest Predator Bounty

Gerald Wickstrom

Camberlain SD

none

Comment:

the bounty program is a waste of my license money. i'd rather like to see the money used for more hunting areas and/or food plots.

Randi Smith

Spearfish SD

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Comment:

This program targets native species to protect non native pheasants. I realize the economic benefit of pheasant hunting, however I think that the target species are valuable in our state. I believe the rodent populations will increase without the target species hunting them. Thank you.

Harlan Heitz

Mina SD

harlan.heiz@k12.sd.us

Comment:

I have trapped in SD all my life and I do not believe a special Reduction Program will have any effect on the Pheasant population in our state. It reminds me of how our state threw money into a catch and release coyote program years ago. I don't believe that did what they intended to either.

Nancy Neumann

Rapid City SD

nneumann@rushmore.com

Comment:

This is an absolutely horrendous plan. Nature was designed to balance itself without the interference of man. Not to mention the cruelty to the animals being trapped and killed. Also could mention the cost to taxpayers, but that is not my main concern. This is pure cruelty of animals

Laural Bidwell

Rapid City SD

labidwell@aol.com

Comment:

While this program hopes to continue the SD "heritage" of trapping for the next 100 years, there was no evidence that the wildlife involved will be here for the next 100 years. There were no metrics provided about how many raccoons, red fox, skunks and opossums there are - particularly in the Black Hills which are NOT part of the pheasant habitat. There are no wildlife management issues here. And there are plenty of activities in existence right now to "get kids outdoors." Finally - enforcing trapping regulations (including checking traps for animals) falls to exactly 4 conservation officers in the Black Hills. If you must have this program - restrict it to east river. In the hills you are exterminating wildlife for no reason what-so-ever. This is not a well thought out plan and this did not allow enough time for public input. So much for government transparency. I know that many GF&P employees who are passionate about their jobs and wildlife share the concerns that I have.

Louise Mcgannon

Mitchell SD

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Comment:

Please oppose Kristi Noem's Bounty Program. My neighbor's cats kill more wildlife than any predator.

Loss of habitat and bad weather hurts the wildlife more than their predators.

With the loss of these predators, we are opening doors to worse problems. These predators are here for a reason. They kill mice, rats, ticks just to name a few that we seem to deem problematic. One cannot start killing large numbers of predators without creating problems.

Pheasants are not even native to our Hemisphere.

Wendy Parent

Sioux Falls SD

Wendypj1@ gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Teresa Engebretson
Sioux Falls SD
tjengeb1@gmail.com

Comment:

Is there any science behind the proposed program? Have you spoken to the real pheasant and duck hunters? HABITAT is the answer. Put all monies to habitat. There is a balance in nature, and this program messes with that balance. "Mother Nature laughs last," and in a few years this will be apparent. Please reject this wrongheaded approach!

Linda Gregory
Gregory SD
zgrbell3@gmail.com

Comment:

Letting children kill animals for profit is a BAD idea-it has been proven that many criminals who torture/kill animals go on to kill/hurt people!
It is 2019, not 1819, so let's come up with a humane system. There are also other areas in SD that need attention-humane trap and neuter for feral cats-have seen too many cats and kittens out in the freezing snow. Also, more laws against animal cruelty.
Animals are being treated like trash and that is wrong-these animals have a right to live and you are sending a very DANGEROUS precedent to kill animals for money.
What kind of ethics/morality do you want for our future? We are already wrecking the habitats of animals-it is short sighted and reckless to kill wildlife indiscriminately. The irony of this program is also ridiculous-because the animals you want to save (birds) are going to then be hunted!
I know you have a large population of trappers who want to continue the 'trade' but in today's climate it's cruel and unnecessary.
Thank you for your time.

William McMullin
Oak Park MI
williammcmullin@vermontlaw.edu

Comment:

It's pretty disgusting South Dakota wants to pay children to kill animals. Teaching children not to have empathy is dangerous.

Melody Dennis
Deadwood SD
mdennis@rushmore.com

Comment:

This horrible program of tail bounty hunting. Seriously? You ha be to put a stop to it. I've never heard of anything so horrible and barbaric in my life. Trapping is in humane and barbaric. It's being outlawed in all but the most illiterate states. Getting the kids outdoors? To teach them to harm and main defenseless animals? What about baseball? Spend this money on bikes for kids. Game Fish and Parks is supposed to be protecting not destroying. This has to be stopped

Other

Lamoyne Darnall

Rapid City SD

lamoynedarnall@yahoo.com

Comment:

Due to the increase in population thus the increase in of water sports, I believe it is inevitable that additional water must be opened up for recreational and use. There are numerous smaller lakes where low wake conditions are and will be available.

Lamoyne Darnall

Rapid City SD

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Comment:

A once prolific bass population in Pactola has been decimated primarily due to spearing. Bass are very inquisitive and they are such an easy target because they will go right to a diver for an easy kill. Please stop permitting of bass in Pactola and let the population populate. It will take a few years to do so and a restocking would certainly shorten that recovery.

Larry Talley

Rapid City SD

larrytalley@rushmore.com

Comment:

I oppose spearfishing for large mouth bass in Pactola. It is my thinking that spearing bass would wipe out the bass population in that lake. Spearing suckers would be ok.

Larry Talley

Rapid City SD

larrytalley@rushmore.com

Comment:

Deerfield lake has a no wake zone for the entire lake and has been in effect for ever. I propose that a change to 20 MPH would make this lake more usable to more boaters. The current restrictions are unacceptable.

Joe Babcock

Wagner SD

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Comment:

As we know other states close walleye fishing during the walleye spawning period. Walleye populations are on the decline on Lewis and Clark Lake, Francis Case, and possibly other lakes.

Steve Doyle

Colan SD

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Comment:

The Governor is trying to get more pheasants in this state for the South Dakotans and non-residents to hunt and you are ruining their nests and nesting sights as well as other species. Pheasants and ducks and geese. Song birds are back. Where the deer gonna give birth? in a chisel plowed field that used to be a tree grove or grassland. Cause its farmed now. Or in grass land the it supposed to be managed by officials for this state for wildlife. Now you burn it. WHERE THEY GONNA GO!!! Why cant you people figure it out. Leave the trees. They are winter cover. Places for nesting birds. Protection from wind and weather and protection from soil erosion. Dont gimme that story bout native grasses. Things change and it will NEVER be the same. Grasses included. We dont have prairie anymore. No Buffalo roaming them. I dont wanna hear bout the raptors setting in them. That is an easy problem. Take care of it. I dont think one pheasant hunter would object. Ive heard that same line from USFW when they burn the acres and acres on all their land they manage in my area between Madison and Brookings. Native grasses!!! And raptors!!! The grasses you will never get back to what it was. The trees are doing more good than harm. Smatter of factly you should be planting more not taking them out. You both have the same mind set. Too much college- no knowledge!!!! I gotta plant more trees. I cant believe it.

Special Buck Licenses

Steven Radloff

Little Falls MN

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Comment:

I think that it would be beneficial to both the hunters and the state of SD to make these additional deer licenses available. This would give more hunters the opportunity to hunt the whitetail in your state. Plus it would bring more dollars to all the services offered that the hunters will be utilizing while spending time in all the areas they will be hunting in.

Kevin Ray

Gainesville GA

Comment:

I love hunting the great state of South Dakota and it's a shame how hard it is to get these tags. I think this would help the landowners tremendously in the harsh agriculture years and also generate more revenue for game and fish since non resident hunter fees cost more and of course have happy non res hunters. Killing 3 birds with one stone in my eyes. Thanks for your time on this matter

Wayne Mouser

Herreid SD

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Comment:

I am in favor of creating a special any whitetail drawing for residents and non residents.

Mitchell Engle
Corpus Christi TX
mitchengle@gmail.com

Comment:

Native South Dakotan.
Hunt yearly on private land in Western SD.
Support the recommended changes to start 2020

Chris Callahan
Thomaston GA

Comment:

support

Bryan Nazworth
Gainesville FL
bryan@quality-plumbing.net

Comment:

I have been an out of state hunter for 15 years in SD, the system has made it harder every year for Non residents to obtain a special buck or whitetail tag. it seems that the commission should consider the revenue from out of state hunters and the positive economic impact that we provide, while protecting the natural resource. I would urge the commission to pass this proposed change and further the efforts to allow access to non resident hunters.

Larry Lewis
Marquette MI
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Comment:

I have traveled to South Dakota for deer hunting for the last five years and the only thing that would stop my yearly trips would be the failure to draw a tag. The white tail draw has been difficult to draw under current rules

Kerry Smith
Reading PA
Kjsroofing@verizon.net

Comment:

support

Ryan Thompson

Pierre SD

thompsonr2@helenaagri.com

Comment:

Excellent idea, will take pressure of the original special buck tag and give non residents another opportunity for a private land tag

Kellan Clark

Oacoma SD

Comment:

I oppose any consideration that may take any kind of opportunity away from residents.

Troy Kirsch

Platte SD

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Comment:

Another way to get more nonresident license??? That is way it looks.

Russ Hanson

Pierre SD

hansonstaxidermy@mncomm.com

Comment:

I would like to see , all nonresident archery tags go buck only,, this would help bring back mule deer numbers on public land,

Nicholas Gilmore

Milbank SD

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Comment:

It makes sense that the GFP Commission would go through a complete overhaul of the lottery system for deer licenses (which was not a bad idea) and then follow it up with a push to further commercial the outdoors. I warned people that this was the entire reason for the lottery system overhaul, I just did not think that the commission had the gonads to do it within a few months. My solution would be to restructure the commission to be composed primarily of game biologists, not those who want to profit from increased pay-for-hunting operations. This whole idea erodes the In PRK, the surgeon removes the cover, lasers away 60 pages in the same manner, and it takes three to five days for the cover to grow back. A simple and concise procedure.(properly licensed) resident hunters desire to even try to ask for permission from the courteous land owners of the state.

Justin Allen

Pierre SD

Comment:

I'm against the proposal/finalization of any additional special buck licenses. As someone who actually buys a special buck licenses every other year west river I feel the addition of more licenses further commercializes hunting in SD. It encourages landowner to increase pay hunting and cut out local and family hunters. Pay deer hunting in western SD is on the rise and this will only further it while pushing others off private land onto crowded public lands. SD GFP keeps talking about and pushing increased opportunities for new and youth hunters but proposals like this are the death of public opportunity thru a snowball effect. West River already has 1,000 any deer special buck licenses and with this proposed addition of up to 1,000 any whitetail tags makes 2,000 special licenses. Although otherwise stated by GFP I find it extremely hard to believe that those 2,000 special licenses are not taken away from the general draw license availability. I feel just because you can access private ground either by paying or for free should give you the advantage of drawing tags more frequently than someone that does not have access to private. All this said I have a 2019 special buck license. Please leave the special buck license at the current number.

Thanks, Justin Allen, Pierre