

# Public Comments

## Fall Turkey

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**Eri Anderson**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not support fall turkey tags in the Black Hills, specifically in the northern hills. The GFP itself has highlighted declining turkey populations in this area of the hills and it is clearly happening. Tough winters and poor spring have led to much reduced turkey populations in the northern region. While 200 tags is minimal and meant to appease the few areas with overpopulations of turkeys, I don't feel the issuance of any licenses in the Black Hills is necessary.

## Other

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**Pat Ronan**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

As you are aware, South Dakota is practically the epicenter for out-of-state sportsmen at this time of year. With the snowgeese here and our walleye season open while others (especially MN) are closed, we get a huge influx of out-of-state hunters and fishermen. This is unacceptable right now. It is one thing for in state sportmen to hunt and fish responsibly but we definitely want to decrease any influx of people from outside our state. Some states, like Texas, have just implemented a mandatory quarantine of 14 days for anyone travelling into their state. On top of it, guides are posting that people should "come to South Dakota. No safer place to be right now" (see attached example). It will not be safe if we continue to allow unimpeded travel into the state.

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**Verl Scheibe**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I read an article from the Mitchell paper, ( at least as of 1 April) the boat docks for fishing on the Missouri River are still open, and lots of folks from other states are coming in to fish. That's the last thing we need is to have a large flux of folks traveling here when we are self quarantined. I fully understand the out of state business I'd good- but when everyone, and business here are staying home, attempting to reduce health risk, why on good earth, isn't the SD Game And Fish closing the boat ramps to prevent out of state (and in state) folks who don't care about the health risks from congregating in those concentrated areas? Do your part in this with the rest of us. Take a head from your governor!

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**Jennifer Belle**

**Athens OH**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I fell in love with the beauty of SD as a child and have been returning ever since. However, I was horrified to learn that SD voted to approve a trophy hunting quota of 60 mountain lions for both the 2019 and 2020 hunting seasons, a devastating 30% of the population.

On top of already allowing this many mountain lions to be hunted, the shameful part is that there will be an increase in permits for hunters to use their hounds to hunt mountain lions at Custer State Park. Using hounds is an incredibly cruel way to terrify and kill the animals.

If the Corona Virus has taught us anything, it is the harm from human interference with wildlife that is cause to humans as well as animals. I respectfully urge and implore you to end these harmful hunts to the ecosystem of this apex, majestic and crucial species. This atrocity has seriously made me reconsider future visits to beautiful SD.

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**Jonathan Eckrich**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Concerning the Sioux Falls archery access permit, in 2019 hunters were required to FIRST purchase an archery tag before they could apply for the permit. The same was true for Great Earth. This is burdensome for hunters like me because if we do not win the access permit, we are stuck with what amounts to a very expensive hunter preference point. I do not have any other hunting possibilities so the tags I bought went unused. This seems unfair. A better way is to do it how it used to be done. That is, hunters may apply for the access permit, then when successful they can purchase the appropriate archery tag. This is much more fair as hunters are not compelled to buy expensive licenses until they are assured of a place to hunt.

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## River Otter Delisting

**John Hopple**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Hello Sec Hepler, Chairman Jensen and Commissioners. The South Dakota Trappers Association strongly supports the delisting of the river otter. We believe that the ability to manage this animal should rest with in the Game Fish Parks. By delisting this animal this will provide GFP the decision making power to manage this species. Based on their decisions after this action the river otter will continue to flourish and expand its areas of availability through out the state. Other western states have seen these issues and expansions once animals were delisted. The wolf in our neighbor states is a prime example. State GFP officials have a better grasp of how and where to make decisions and those decisions will enhance the otter's outcome for the betterment of the species.

Thank You for your time

John Hopple

SDTA President

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**Gary Fawbush**

**Madison SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I feel with the ever increasing number of otters that delisting them would be a good policy at this time.

thank you

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**Matthew Bennett**

**Colman SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I personally 100% support the delisting of the River otter. I am a trapper and trap every year. For many years now I cannot even set beaver traps anymore because of the otters. They are everywhere. I even catch them in dry land coon sets. I have caught many over the years and turned them in. They are in the vermilion River the Big Sioux River Battle Creek Skunk Creek and all connecting water ways! As well as a number of pothole sloughs! And the lake's also. Lake Madison chain Lake Campbell and Lake Thompson to name a few. That is a FACT!!! I have personally seen them in all those places! We do need a trapping season for them!! It's about a balance for the carrying capacity of the land!!

## Youth Pheasant Hunting Season

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**Paul Lepisto**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

On behalf of SD IWLA Division President Kelly Kistner please see the attached comments in support of the Youth Pheasant Season proposal.

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**Savanah Hendricks**

**Vivian SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

This was presented to me at school.

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**Savanah Hendricks**

**Vivian SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

This was presented to me at school.

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**Diana Hendricks**

**Vivian SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

The ability to support not only youth but to get families in the field is very limited. This change will double the opportunity to get families into the field and hopefully create new traditions and memories for years to come. What are daughter has courageously done and thought out is an opportunity for for the next generation to help sustain the hunting industry in SD. It may take years to really see the impact this can have but nothing worth doing was ever said to be simple or fast! Knowing that we are not actually gaining any extra days and actually losing a day, for those who do not understand the petition or the proposal, but we will have instead 4 much more accessible days for active students and athletes, gives me hope that plain common sense is still available in our local leaders! Thank you to all who see this as an improvement to the Youth Pheasant Hunting Season. Please support this change!

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**Paul Lepisto**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

On behalf of SD IWLA President Kelly Kistner please see the attached comments in support of the Youth Pheasant Season Proposal.

Thank you.

# Youth Waterfowl Season

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**Paul Lepisto**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

On behalf of SD IWLA President Kelly Kistner please see the attached comments in support of the Youth Waterfowl Season proposal.

Thank you.

## Savanah Hendricks, Vivian, SD - Attachments

To whom it may concern,

I am in agreement with Savanah Hendricks. I am a student at Jones County and after school activities normally fill my after school time. From my practice and games, and my siblings games it is hard to find time to go out and hunt. Hunting is one of my favorite past-times and it is unfortunate that we have such little time to hunt. I also support the petition to change the Youth Pheasant Hunt days.

Sincerely,



Cooper Feddersen

To whom it may concern:

I am in agreement for a petition rule change which is to increase the number of days that youth can hunt to include two full weekends due to school extracurricular activities. Being a fellow multi-sport athlete I find myself on a routine where many activities get conflicted with school sporting events such as practice and games. Hunting in particular is definitely looked at as weekend expenditure and is hard to exercise and enjoy during weekdays due to school activities.

Sincerely,



Jake Dowling

I am a student at the Jones County School, and I am wanting to change the youth pheasant hunting season to better accommodate students and athletes. I am an active student and athlete, which takes up time that I want to use for hunting. With practice until six or sometimes six thirty, there isn't time to do anything else. Homework takes time away, too, and after that, there is only time to eat before I go to bed. Church is another thing that takes time away from hunting. On Wednesdays, I don't have anything after school until Youth Group (a church group that kids go to) at 5:30, and then I also have homework, so Wednesdays are full too. The only days I have to hunt are days off from school and Saturdays. On Sundays, I have church from 9:00-11:00, and then lunch and family time. With busy schedules like mine, I barely have time to hunt, and I would like to change that.

Sincerely,



Tristen Host

To whom it may concern,

I am in agreement with Savanah Hendricks. I am a student from Jones County High School who is involved in Football, Basketball, Cross Country, Track, Rodeo, National Honor Society, and many other extra-curricular groups. I support the petition to change the Youth Pheasant Hunt days. I hope you agree too.

Sincerely,



Wyatt Olson



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION

# The Izaak Walton League of America

DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE

April 21, 2020

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
523 East Capital Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America (Division) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Youth Pheasant Season. The proposal modifies the youth season from the current five consecutive days beginning the first Saturday of October to nine consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the third Saturday of October. This proposed change resulted from a petition presented by Savannah Hendricks at your March meeting and was adopted as a proposal open to public comment at your April meeting.

The Division supports this proposal, we believe it's a great way to get more young people in the field and engaged in hunting. Last year the number of resident pheasant hunters hit the lowest number since 1938. The Division believes we must turn that disturbing trend around and the change in the youth pheasant season is one way to accomplish that. The proposal also meets the R3 criteria of Recruit, Retain and Reactivate which we whole heartily support. The proposal allows young hunters additional time to hunt without heavy hunting pressure. The added time also provides a great opportunity to teach kids ethical and safe hunting practices.

The proposed expanded youth season may help increase participation in what historically has been an under-utilized hunting opportunity. We encourage the Department to vigorously promote this expanded youth season, so we see growth in youth and family participation in pheasant hunting.

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America urges the Commission's support of this proposal and we thank you for the opportunity to comment on it.

Sincerely,

Kelly Kistner

National IWLA President and President of the South Dakota Division of the IWLA  
603 Lakeshore Drive  
McCook Lake, SD 57049  
605-232-2030 (H) – 712-490-1726 (C)  
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SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION

# The Izaak Walton League of America

DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE

March 30, 2020

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
523 East Capital Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America (Division) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Youth Pheasant Season. The proposal modifies the youth season dates from the current five consecutive days beginning the first Saturday of October to two consecutive weekends with the first weekend beginning 21 days prior to the third Saturday of October. The proposed change came from a petition presented by Savannah Hendricks during your March meeting that was adopted as a formal proposal open for public comment.

The Division supports this proposal as we believe it's a great way to get more young people in the field and engaged in hunting. The number of resident pheasant hunters has hit the lowest number since 1938. The Division believes we must turn that around, the change in the youth pheasant season is one way to accomplish that. The proposal also meets the R3 criteria of Recruit, Retain and Reactivate. The proposal allows young hunters an additional weekend to hunt without heavy hunting pressure. The added time provides a great opportunity to teach kids ethical and safe hunting practices.

The expanded youth season may help to increase participation in what historically has been an under-utilized hunting opportunity. We also encourage the Department to vigorously promote this youth season, so we see growth in youth and family participation in pheasant hunting.

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America urges the Commission to approve this proposal and we thank you for the opportunity to comment on it.

Sincerely,

Kelly Kistner

National IWLA President and President of the South Dakota Division of the IWLA  
603 Lakeshore Drive  
McCook Lake, SD 57049  
605-232-2030 (H) – 712-490-1726 (C)  
[iwlasdpresident@outlook.com](mailto:iwlasdpresident@outlook.com)



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION

# The Izaak Walton League of America

DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE

March 30, 2020

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
523 East Capital Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America (Division) thanks you for this opportunity to comment on the Youth Waterfowl Season proposal.

This proposal would include residents and nonresidents hunters who aren't 18 years old by the opening day of the season. To participate the youth must be accompanied by an adult and be properly licensed to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota, unless they're taking part in a mentored hunt as described in law.

This would create an added opportunity for 16 and 17-year-old hunters to participate in the youth waterfowl season. Engaging this age demographic hopefully will get them excited about waterfowl hunting and recruit them into the activity. The proposal supports the R3 goals of Recruit, Retain and Reactivate that the Division also supports.

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America urges the Commission to approve this proposal and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on it.

Sincerely,

Kelly Kistner  
National IWLA President and President of the South Dakota Division of the IWLA  
603 Lakeshore Drive  
McCook Lake, SD 57049  
605-232-2030 (H) – 712-490-1726 (C)  
[iwlasdpresident@outlook.com](mailto:iwlasdpresident@outlook.com)



**Bob Berens** ▶ **Snowgoose Migration**



1 hr · 🌐

**Just starting to get good in South Dakota with lots of cancellations with coronavirus. No place safer than South Dakota right now with great lodging. Bob 651-230-4935**



👍 20

4 Comments

👍 Like

💬 Comment

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**Chris Greene**  
Thought all the geese moved north?



**Bob Berens**





**Joe Olson** shared his first post.



New Member · March 25 at 5:15 PM

Now that MN is on lockdown, are there any of you guys still going to SD to hunt snows? I'm supposed to go next weekend. Can you still legally travel to hunt? It's really not essential. Lol. Could a guy get in trouble. Thoughts? TIA.

10

144 Comments

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**Riverview Retreats** The lockdown specifically says you can leave for outdoor recreation like hunting and fishing

Like · Reply · 4d

3



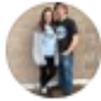
**Jon Ray** We're here now

Like · Reply · 2d



Write a comment...





**Spencer Vollmer**

17 hrs



Anyone think there will be birds left in northern South Dakota in two weeks



3

15 Comments



Like



Comment



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**Tyson Warner** Nope

Like · Reply · 11h



**Eric Davidson** We are supposed to get snow Thursday in North Dakota

Like · Reply · 9h



Write a comment...





South Dakota Snows shared a post.

Like Page



15 hrs

The last 3 days have been 🔥🔥 We can still sneak one more group in here this week yet - first come first serve basis. 605-728-2815



60

8 Comments 1 Share

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Ronan 1 of 2\_Jacks....pdf

March\_26\_2020\_IA....zip

IAC



Write a comment...



Nick Posusta shared a post.



20 hrs

Welcome to the show!



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February 28

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It's about to get ugly 🤔  
[#skvbustinatothernorth](#)



Roberta Atkins

