

Public Comments

Deer License Allocation

Brad Taylor

Fort Pierre SD

bradtaylor40@hotmail.com

Comment:

I oppose the the change. Leave it as it is and let the preference point change have a chance to work

Jim Gruber

Estelline SD

jgruber148@yahoo.com

Comment:

if you really cared about numbers and increasing chances you would address the 50% allocation nonsense to land owners... but, as usual, being an appointed body you will never bring this issue up... tell me why?

Pat Malcomb

Sioux Falls SD

pmalcomb@sio.midco.net

Comment:

Not needed don't do it there will be a huge backlash.

Nic Edlund

Farmington MN

nwedlund27@hotmail.com

Comment:

I have been hunting South Dakota for over 7 years as a non-resident. In that time I have seen the hunting pressure increase and the quality of animals decrease. The health of the deer herd is of great concern to me. My question is, you think limiting non-residents is going to help the quality of the herd? I know a lot of South Dakota residents that get 5 to 7 buck tags a year and more doe tags than that. I don't see how giving more tags to residents that can already buy numerous buck tags is going to help the quality of the deer herd. I full understand the out cry coming from your residents. Maybe y'all should look inward, and limit the number of tags some of your residents are getting. I believe your upper end of your resident hunters are doing far more damage on the deer herd than non-residents. If you want to look at it from a business and funding stand point. Per hunter who actually contributes more to the community and game and fish? When non-residents are paying \$286/tag and they are spending money on lodging and fuel, who is contributing more and you want to limit that because of some residents who are complaining that 5 buck tags a year isn't enough. I am sorry, I just don't see the logic. I truly wish I could be in Pierre on the 10th to voice my opinion.

Dale Johnson
Summerset SD
djohnson@petelien.com

Comment:

I want to comment on the non-resident and youth parts of the deer license allocation proposal. I have seen the profound impact that hunting and the outdoors has on our youth. I have also witnessed the decline in youth utilizing the outdoors. There are a lot of reasons for the decline back one of the biggest is a lack of opportunities. The youth tags and youth seasons are wonderful programs but I believe the waiving of a fee for preference points and the bonus points for unsuccessful youth applicants makes these programs even better. Getting a kid out hunting is the first step. But if they then have to wait for several years to take the next step of hunting with the chance of harvesting a buck, we are taking a big chance of losing them. I have heard some say that this gives an unfair advantage to youth in drawing a tag. Yes it does give youth an advantage and that is the point. It gives them an advantage the same way resident only pheasant season gives residents a chance to harvest birds before non-residents. But you don't hear any one calling that unfair. The fact of the matter is if we don't continue recruiting more youth into the outdoors, this all becomes mute. Because we won't have the privilage of hunting and fishing. PETA and WWF and HSUS are banking on the next generation not having ties to the outdoors. I also fully support not allowing non-residents to apply for extra tags until the 5th drawing. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Dale Johnson

Scott Jamison
Wentworth SD
sjamison@dakotacare.com

Comment:

I have commented twice during the previous hearings on the deer license changes. I remain opposed to any change, feeling that there is no mandate for this, quite the opposite. After the Legislative committee rejected the change, due to overwhelming public opposition, I see that the GFP changed the name of their proposal and are now framing it as simply a way to increase youth hunting opportunities. The new youth offers should have been included in the original proposal if they were valid. Instead they now appear to be an attempt to buy a vote on the Legislative committee. I oppose this change, as do the majority of the people who have voiced an opinion.

Matthew Langenfeld
Littleton CO
Mattlangenfeld@hotmail.com

Comment:

Please don't make changes to the existing draw structure for deer. It works fine as is.

Arnold Veen
Milbank SD
arnieveen@yahoo.com

Comment:

This proposal has a very high public opposition in the original first proposal and was sent back to the GFP for further review/study. As far as I see it you did not make any changes to the original proposal that the public opposed.

In adding the youth portion to the proposal I feel it is a poor attempt to try and run a proposal with very little support.

I would strongly urge the Commission to reject this proposal!!

The original problems still exists in the proposal and adding new sections does not fix those issues.
Thank you for your time. Arnie Veen

Adam Carroll
Rapid City SD
Adamgc3@hotmail.com

Comment:

If this is truly about taking care of the residents... I would like to see residents only have 1st and 2nd draw to receive our preferred tag... after this allow non residents in the 3rd to start applying... make your residents happy before you let these big wig non residents commercialize South Dakota hunting just as you guys have allowed non residents to ruin what use to be great resident pheasant hunting..

Adam Carroll
Rapid City SD
Adamgc3@hotmail.com

Comment:

Let the people vote, you send out a million harvest surveys... what is one survey on yes or no going to hurt

Murdean Olson
Sisseton SD
mvolson@venturecomm.net

Comment:

I am an 80 year old lifetime South Dakota resident who has applied for an east river deer license every year eligible since 1952. There were a few years where a license could be obtained with less than a three year availability period, but generally speaking a three year wait between licenses was most common. As I stated previously, I am now 80 years old. I realize that the three year time period between licenses, at my age, may result in an inability to obtain a license ever again due to potential health or other problems caused by age. Therefore, I would like to suggest a special provision to allow yearly east river deer licenses for 80 year or older resident South Dakota sportsmen who wish only to have the opportunity to enjoy the season and, if fortune is with them, to harvest the buck of their lifetime. Landowners have a special privilege. This would not involve a very large number of requests for this special license such as the landowners application does. I would appreciate very much any consideration you could give to this proposal.
Thank you.

Alex Barrett
Greensboro NC
abarrett@haganbarrett.com

Comment:

I travel to SD every year to pheasant hunt, spending several thousand dollars on lodging, guides, meals and incidentals. I have tried repeatedly to draw a non-resident waterfowl license to hunt the plentiful ducks we see around your beautiful state, but have been successful only once in about 10 tries. I encourage SD to open up waterfowl hunting to non-residents. I believe it would be a further boon to the businesses which cater to hunters.

Jared Nicolaus
Box Elder SD
jarednicolaus@gmail.com

Comment:

I have two kids in the Mentor Program through SD Youth Hunting Adventures, and for three seasons, we have been unable to procure a buck tag for the kids. Although they enjoy going out and harvesting does, we are trying to develop the next generation of hunters, and allowing our young hunters the opportunity to hunt for a buck will be much more beneficial in developing an interest that will last a lifetime.

Maddie Nicolaus
Box Elder SD
maddienicolaus@gmail.com

Comment:

I have been mentored for three seasons with the SD Youth Hunting Adventures program, and have had a lot of fun going out and hunting for deer in the Black Hills and out on the prairie. One thing that I wish I could do is to be able to shoot a buck. I have shot one doe every season, and will not be eligible for the program after next season, and would really like to be able to experience hunting for a big buck, and be able to have the feeling of pride and accomplishment that goes along with a successful hunt. I don't know all the rules and regulations that are involved with these laws and legislation, but I do know that I am one of many kids that would like the opportunity to experience hunting for a buck. Thank you for allowing me to tell you my story, and I hope that kids in the future will be able to experience what I did not get to experience.

Kort Nicolaus
Box Elder SD
kortnicolaus@gmail.com

Comment:

I was able to shoot my first deer this season with the help of the Youth Hunting Program. With the help of my mentor, I shot a white tail doe at a preserve where they needed to reduce their population. It was a lot of fun, and much more fun than the last two seasons when I was not able to shoot a deer. It is really cool to see how a couple of the other mentors got to shoot a buck, and to hear their stories of how they hunted and waited for the right time and the deer that they shot. I would really like the chance to do this, and I kind of understand the points system when my Dad and my Mentor explain it, but I just want to be able to hunt for a buck. Please think about this when you are talking about the points and the future hunters that live here and how the chances we get when we are young will keep us wanting to hunt when we get older. Thank you, Kort.

David Lewton
Rapid City SD
davidlewtion60@gmail.com

Comment:

Please listen to the public that pays your wages! The majority of hunters are not in favor of this proposal, even the sdf&p's own data shows that. I don't know why this is being rammed through. I have no doubt that the you will pass this again. Why? What political reason is this being push so hard for? I am sure that in a year or two the public will find out the real reason! Is it money? What does the state gain? This proposal makes no sense. The true relationship between the number of hunters in the field is the population of deer. Look back 5 to 10 years. The population of deer was larger which in return ment more tags available. More tags means more hunters! Please look back through the data to confirm that to your selves. The data doesn't lie. Next, what does muzzle loader hunting have in common with rifle hunting? Nothing! With only 1000 tags vs 30000 tags available on each side of the river. This is a trophy hunt! The Black Hills took 25 years to turn into a trophy unit. BH has 2500-5000 available tags, nowhere near the prairie tag numbers! The black hills are a trophy unit! Why not combine black hills and muzzle loader deer with the other trophy units like CSP, and refuge deer? Does that make to much common sense? Why is special buck tags(both sides of the river) combined with east and west river deer tag draw? To much common sense again? This is being pushed through way too fast to have some of these common sense things put together. If change needs to happen, let's have it make common sense. I would be totally surprised if the commission actually reads this! I think it is all political and you have your mind made up before the meeting even starts. Please surprise me and email me back that you really read this, each and every one of you. Thanks in advance if you do read it.

Mel Dutton
Faith SD
mel.dutton@faithsd.com

Comment:

A recent press release indicated that nonresident deer hunting opportunities would be pushed back to the fifth draw, giving resident deer hunters an increased opportunity to acquire multiple licenses ahead of nonresidents. I am not sure I understand the proposal but if it gives residents that have a license an opportunity to get a second license before a nonresident has even one, is just plane wrong. I am a large landowner in Perkins County. Last year I had two friends apply for 353C. One a resident one a nonresident. The resident drew a license, the nonresident did not. This was what I expected based on the small percentage of nonresident licenses. I then had the nonresident apply for a left over tag in 49B. The nonresident did not draw a licence in that unit either but the resident drew a leftover license in 49B. There were no buck tags left after this draw so my nonresident friend did not get a license and my resident friend had two. This is absolutely not fair. I feel that residents should have the advantage for their first choice license over nonresidents but once they draw a license they shouldn't get a second one before the nonresident gets their first one. This would be a bad rule change if residents can get multiple licenses before a nonresident can get even one. I feel so strongly about this, that if this is approved, I will close my ranch to any resident hunting

Jerrud Kruse

Ramona SD

Jkrusekbrw@gmail

Comment:

Your new proposal is not fair to all citizens of South Dakota. All citizens should have equal opportunity at each individual season. Just cause someone hunts less doesn't mean they should have a better opportunity at their only choice. This proposal is not giving all citizens equal opportunities at all deer hunting seasons in South Dakota and has no support from the citizens. This proposal is only wanted by the commissioners so they can act like they are some super commissioners. Listen to the citizens of South Dakota and stop this now!

Robert Eddy

Spearfish SD

Comment:

As a hunter and landowner, I fully support the proposal to change the drawing system. I do not feel it is appropriate for one person to have multiple tags while others must be denied the opportunity to hunt. Landowners can always obtain a tag, for their own property, if they do not draw in the standard process and non-residents still can obtain a tag (8%) from the first drawing, that is not being eliminated. I do question the Muzzleloader being included in this proposal, but alteration can be made in the future. Thanks again for your hard work, and know that there are many out here who support the change.

Randy Lemke

Aberdeen SD

Comment:

This seems to be the same system that Minnesota uses and coming from Minnesota I have seen what a disaster this has been. The GFP claims that it is creating 3500 more opportunities to hunt deer this is not true, you are taking from the majority to cater to the few who will hunt only in certain counties. You are penalizing the majority for the sake of a few. that is socialism.

Casey Foster
Sparks NE
berrycreekllc@yahoo.com

Comment:

1/10/2019 SD Game, Fish & Parks Dear Commissioner,
I am a South Dakota landowner, Game, Fish, & Parks Habitat Cooperator, outdoor enthusiast, and conservationist.

The ranch I live on is located in the very southeast corner of Todd County and northeast corner of Cherry County Nebraska. I live in a unique situation where the state line runs through the middle of my property, approximately two thirds of the land is located in South Dakota and a third in Nebraska. Due to the fact that my house sits approximately 50 feet inside of Nebraska, I am a Nebraska resident. Currently there are only twelve Non-Resident deer permits available for all of Todd county. Therefore, drawing a permit to hunt deer every year on my own property is virtually impossible. If I am lucky, I can draw every other year, or every third year. On average I will winter 30 to 40 deer on my property. Managing the herd is difficult due to the lack of hunting opportunities for a Todd county.

Therefore, I am writing to ask that you consider increasing the number of non-resident deer permits that are issued in Todd county.

If you have any question about my commitment to wildlife and conservation Tim Olson was here to inspect the cooperator projects that I am involved in.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Casey J. Foster

Michael Beutler
Rapid City SD

Comment:

I think muzzle loader season should remain it's own separate draw.

Mark Peterson
Aberdeen SD

Comment:

You guys just aren't getting that the vast majority of the public wants nothing to do with this plan. It was a plan developed from poor questions in a poor survey and needs to be dropped. If this gets approved I think you can expect the legislature to be inundated with calls and requests to correct this travesty.

Jack Dokken
Pierre SD

Comment:

oppose

Chuck Klafka
Hill City SD
Klafka.chuck@gmail.com

Comment:

Hello

Can you please clarify if all free youth licenses with Preference are for both resident and non resident youth. I support any and all youth involvement regardless but it's never mentioned.
Thank you.

Toby Hinckley
Sturgis SD
tobyhinckley@ymail.com

Comment:

I think giving 2 chances for a deer license is better

Scott Wittrock
Harford SD
wittrock.scott@gmail.com

Comment:

I would however change mentor hunting back to age 10 and change the preference point availability to those 16 and older. There is no reason a child under 10 needs to be accumulating preference points so early. There are many studies showing that children under even up to 12 cannot handle the "death" of an animal such as a deer. Their brains are unable to process the difference. The change to preference points appears to be a money grab by GF&P.

I would actually favor an elimination of the preference point system altogether, straight up luck of the draw. You would most likely get more people applying.

Thomas Harnois
Pierre SD
Tharnois888@gmail.com

Comment:

Hate to agree with change but you heard us loud and clear. Appreciate that a lot, i will for sure support a change like this! Also this is for the deer tag changes. Has anything been said about caps on archery tags for nonresidents?

Jim Hearn
Rapid City SD
khearn@rushmore.com

Comment:

The new proposal in essence no change at all. I am so frustrated that I have to wait years to hunt close to my home. Easy River areas have significantly fewer areas to hunt deer limiting those that live out west. I now understand that the amount of voters East River is significantly higher than West River voters and the decision was now political. The wait for a Black Hills tag is long so there can no longer be "any" family traditions for Black Hills. Why not allow the choice of two tags both East and West River. Separate Black Hills from your proposal. This will favor local hunters who live in the Black Hills. East River hunters have a higher advantage of hunting close to home. Please allow us that live in the Black Hills the same advantage.

Phillip Johnson
Cantom SD
Phillip_johnson@mail.com

Comment:

With the time and effort the commission and SDGFP-OUTDOORS have spent on the deer allocation we could have educated the entire state on how the current system actually works. As a resident we have the best hunting opportunity around. If I applied for and bought a tag in each state that borders SD I still wouldn't have the same opportunities as I do right now being a resident and playing the draw game. I strongly oppose any change to our current system. It should be left alone, give the current system a couple years to work out any details and see how the cubes system will work in favor or disfavor to the state. We also need to address the non resident archery hunting opportunities to our state. I like seeing them here but there are too many hunters in key areas. An increase in non resident license cost to something more in line with the rest of the western states bordering us and having them limited to a drawing for mule deer is a must.

Corey Johnson
Sioux Falls SD
Coreyjo1@hotmail.com

Comment:

What in the world is this supposed to try and accomplish? It's not going to help anyone get a tag quicker! This is worse than the first proposal you put out.

Matt Anderson
Rapid City SD

Comment:

Why let someone have first choice in two areas? I have been putting in for black hills deer for a couple years now and have yet to draw. I liked the idea of limiting the field with this being first choice as opposed to letting people put first choice

Bruce Behm

Plymouth MN

bruceb@quazarcapital.com

Comment:

I am a non-resident landowner who pays over \$10K/yr. in property taxes, i invite friends to hunt with me, collectively we spend over \$5K/yr. for licenses and tags on deer and pheasants, plus quite a bit of money on other items., additionally i pay for 70 acres of food plots and allow the Fish & Game to study and collar deer on my property, I ask for very little from the State of SD, may i please get some consideration for getting deer tags, i feed them and create habitat for everyone around me. Why not let non-resident landowners get the same consideration as residents for drawing deer tags? thank you for your consideration. Bruce - Ps: you have some of the best CO's I have ever met, very knowledgeable and helpful.

Steve Mehlbrech

Salem SD

Comment:

This is no better than the first change you attempted to do. I still have to wait for the 2ns draw for west river if I apply for east river first. My county will be gone after the first draw. All you did was change the chart to make it look better. This compromise is a joke and I can tell you we are not falling for it. Leave it the way it is. I have been hunting for 15 years and have gone a year here or there without a tag, but its worth it! There are already so many left over tags EVERY YEAR! LEAVE IT THEE WAY IT IS. Stop trying to compromise for the 5%. Not one person complained how it was except generational hunter in a tiny area and outfitters. Please, do not change this! Keep it the same. This is no compromise , You are going to lose more money than you think and the poaching is going to get worse.. LEAVE IT ALONE . Your making the majority severely angry.

Daniel Severson

Chancellor SD

dan@bencoparts.com

Comment:

I think the Custer State park deer License should not be involve in the first option. It should stay separate as it always has

Mark Gunnufson

Marvin SD

Comment:

Very glad that after all this work you seem to have found a middle ground on this! Thank you!

Dustin Berg
Dell Rapids SD
dustin.hollie@gmail.com

Comment:

I still do not understand why we are trying to fix what isn't broken. I prefer to keep it the way it is.

Earl McArthur
Rapid City SD
Kotacal89@aol.com

Comment:

It is refreshing to know that public opinion and input was effective to reach an acceptable compromise regarding the deer licensing process.

Shannon Frericks
Ashton SD
goslinghunter@gmail.com

Comment:

It's really easy, and do it like this! One Buck tag per resident no matter what weapon do you use, they have to choose the East River or West River and Black Hills. All other tags for other stuff like Refuge and extra does should be drawn.

Brett Waibel
Draper SD
info@badriverhunts.com

Comment:

I'm not sure why someone needs to shoot more than 2 bucks in our state, resident or not. I was at the meeting yesterday and listen to 2 guys talk about youth yet they referred right back to them self's. I'm on the board of west river pheasants forever

Chad Boheman
Valley Springs SD
huntchad4@aol.com

Comment:

This still will not allow me to feed my family. You people need to stop trying to please the trophy hunters and listen to the people that use the hunting resources in this state to put food on our tables

Bob Deutz
Marshall MN
bobdeutz@gmail.com

Comment:

Why being a nonresident land owner of Deuel county is there virtually no chance to hunt rifle season for a buck on ones own land. Even if there was preference points or something that would give a person a chance to participate with some sort of realistic chance would be fair. Paying property tax each year to your county and state should give a person a chance to hunt a buck with a rifle on ones own land.

David Strasser
Lennox SD
davegail@midco.net

Comment:

To bad you caved to the hunters that apply for so many licenses, and leave the one license a year person, or youth out of the picture. It is to bad that those greedy hunters carry so much weight with your decision.

Bruce Keppen
Sioux Falls SD
bkeppen@hotmail.com

Comment:

good compromise

Jason Venjohn
Sioux Falls SD
jv.75@hotmail.com

Comment:

Will my preference point still count that I purchased last fall for this coming east river deer season?

Jared Vock
Summerset SD
jared.vock@gmail.com

Comment:

These changes are unnecessary, people can manage their preference points themselves in order to get the seasons they want. I do not want to be limited by some committee as to which licenses I want to be able to get. Depending on the year and financial situations I may be able to hunt more years than others. Furthermore, the muzzle loader should not be snowballed in with this. When you have the multiple draws I run the risk of losing opportunity to hunt in the areas I want to hunt in.

Dayne Weelborg

Estelline SD

daynew@wwtireservice.com

Comment:

I want to commend the commission on this compromise. As volunteers to our great state they have received unwarranted negative feedback that quite frankly is un-South Dakotan. They have listened to level headed outdoorsman who have tried to come up with an unbiased and fair proposal that doesn't meet everyone's expectations, but if you are open minded you can see its pretty darn good. It allows avid hunters to maintain there traditions and friendships across the state, while ultimately adding another 1,000 tags into the mix for the single tag hunters to more often draw there preferred tag. All the while not alienating the landowners who provide the habitat for the game animals we so dearly love to chasea place to eat and sleep. Thanks again to the commission, secretary Hepler "whom I once wanted to lose his job, and now consider a friend" Kevin Robling special projects coordinator, and Wayne Lloyd for his unrelenting desire to find common ground with all parties. You are to be commended for a job well done, South Dakota sportsman and women owe you a debt of gratitude. And in conclusion if and when this passes, lets all stay as committed to finding ways to get more habitat as we were to getting our way on this proposal.

Thank you,

Chris Kessler

Brandon SD

Chrisjkessler@gmail.com

Comment:

It seems this is a better alternative to the first deer allocation proposal given by the GFP. However, I still do NOT believe the muzzle loader season should be included into the new proposal.

David Del Soldato

Rapid City SD

sheyenne97@yahoo.com

Comment:

you should just leave it alone is working just fine as is

Dean Gesch
Sioux Falls SD
dgesch@sio.midco.net

Comment:

I am opposed to the deer license allocation proposal because it provides no chance for non-resident licenses in East River counties. As a resident, I am likely to get my preferred license, or at least my second choice, for East River. However, our long standing deer hunting tradition that includes non-resident friends and family for East River hunting will likely never happen again. The opportunity these non-resident hunters had, which allowed them to get a license at least every couple years in the third drawing, is now gone. In the county we hunt, all licenses are always gone after the third drawing, so a non-resident stands no chance with four resident-only drawings. What is the rationale for adding a fourth drawing? Wouldn't residents already have ample chances to get their preferred licenses in the first three drawings? And, why is West River treated differently with a percentage of licenses set aside for non-residents (East River has no such provision). Why couldn't non-residents at least be allowed in the third drawing and be able to accumulate preference points? Alternatively, why not allocate a small percentage of Special Buck licenses for non-resident applicants (both East and West River) and allow them to accumulate preference points. It may take quite a while to accumulate enough preference points but at least a non-resident would have a chance at a "dream" license. Overall, I am disappointed in no consideration for non-residents for East River licenses. At the very least, non-residents should be treated the same for East River and West River licenses.

Ronnie Jaenisch
Ashby MN
Rjjaenis@prtcl.com

Comment:

As a non resident and want to hunt east river deer what drawing can I apply in? It doesn't say in your proposal. Do we have to wait till last drawing.

John Lindell
Greenfield MN
john.lindell@bakertilly.com

Comment:

I am a non-resident landowner, paying over \$11,000 a year in real estate taxes. I have many family and friends that come out to hunt and fish each year. We spend thousands of dollars on licenses each year, while providing hundreds of acres of food plots, CRP and other habitat for the wildlife. I think there should be some consideration for non-resident landowners who provide food and habitat for the wildlife. If I am reading the deer license proposal correctly, a resident could have up to 11 deer licenses, before a non-resident would be eligible in the 5th drawing, on a first-come, first-served basis. Thank you. John

Tyler Fode
Piedmont SD
tylawfode@gmail.com

Comment:

support

Cody Haugen
Colorado Springs CO
Codyhaugen@yahoo.com

Comment:

Curious to the rational behind not allowing non-resident muzzleloader licenses?

Skip Miller
Columbia MO
S.miller2015@yahoo.com

Comment:

Needs to make it possible for nonresidents to get an east river rifle tag. By the time I am able to apply there are never any available.

Raymond Bender
Sioux Falls SD
rgbend@gmail.com

Comment:

G & F regs are composed by non--hunters who do not have a clue with reality! Why make regulations complicated---G& F want animals regulated--if a resident,allow him/her to purchase one or two license and hunt anywhere in the state--forget the technicalities

Joshua Lieberman
Pierre SD
jtlieberman@venturecomm.net

Comment:

good job ladies and gentlemen.
I'm proud of the perseverance that all have endured during this process.

one very important part that needs to be added or thought into further is emergency declarations. leading into this deer population reduction we were severely impacted by EHD. the last year we had it we lost alot of deer and we got into declaration discussion. This are fundemental building block to ensure we can react appropriately when the time comes.

im just asking for a review that makes sure we have not boxed ourselves in when the time comes.
what happened to us was having to make the call 1 week before season. Anyways good job.

David Lewis
Raymond SD
davidl6811@gmail.com

Comment:

Question: Does this proposed process affect Archery Deer tags. Can I purchase a resident archery deer tag and still be qualified for all the gun deer draws?
Thank You

Suggestion: to enable a better understanding of the amount of deer harvested by county in the state, have you considered an internet or web registration like several states already require. Oklahoma does this for turkey.

Matthew Korstjens
Milbank SD
ringneckchaser@gmail.com

Comment:

When are they going to address the fact that landowners can get 2 tags one for landowner and one during the general draw, in a season while other hunters cannot get any tag in the season. If they are going to give out landowner tags they should not be eligible for half of the tags for the normal draw.

Dan Snyder
Pierre SD
Shunkaska57501@yahoo.com

Comment:

I support leaving it the way it is, we do not need a change. It is about waiting your turn not making it impossible for us avid deer hunters. Thank you!!!!

Scott Gackle
Canton SD
Scott.gackle@hotmail.com

Comment:

I like the original way licenses were going to be allocated. I only hunt one area and it currently takes me 3 years to get a tag. I was hoping the original changes might help get it to every other. I'm not sure how somebody was able to draw east river and west river every year. So not sure how the new changes would effect them, either way I'm for any change that will allow me to get to the black hills more often. Thanks

Allen Schulte

Box Elder SD

allenschulte@goldenwest.net

Comment:

I will start by saying that a board member, from Madison, SD shouldn't be quoted, in regards to nonresident hunters. With that being said, are we improving anybody's chances of drawing with the new formula? Let me give a few scenarios. I am a East River landowner and also own a cabin in the Black Hills. My first 2 choices would be Black Hills and Muzzleloader, I don't care bc I can still get my landowner permit at home. Second scenario, I own a cabin in the Hills, own no land, and that is the only place I prefer to access, I would prefer that license. Third scenario, I live in south central SD, I apply for every license available to me, and usually get 2/3rds of them (some are better than others.) Fourth scenario, I live in East River SD and own no land, I own a cabin in the hills, and can't put my home county as one of my first 2 choices. Fifth scenario, I only have access to public land, I put muzzleloader and hills as my first 2 choices (refer back to scenario 1). Ok, now, what about previous preference points? Do they carry over? Do they gain if I don't draw? What happens if I only draw one of my 2 first choices. What happens if I don't draw any of my first two choices and don't draw on the second draw?

Robert Rowles

Rapid City SD

bohr549@yahoo.com

Comment:

I fully support the first option without modification. An individual should have to pick one season as first choice. I live in the Black Hills and can only hunt every two to three years. Let people hunt where they live. If limited tags are available to residents, then there should NOT be eight percent given to no-residents. Then you take another eight percent to land owner preference, that further reduces my chances as a resident of the Black Hills to hunt where I live. Only winners in this new proposal is the big money people who have connections to hunt east river, west river and Black Hills seasons.

Dennis Micko

Estelline SD

dbmicko@gmail.com

Comment:

I certainly appreciate the new deer licensing proposal and thank the commission for listening to the public input that led to the change. Thank you!

Philip Neuharth

Menno SD

Pneuharth@hotmail.com

Comment:

I support the current deer license proposal. Thanks

Todd Rhew
Hot Springs SD
trhew2@goldenwest.net

Comment:

My question is, and always has been, if hunters are being passed over on any of the draws, then why is there such a thing as "Left over" licenses? Shouldn't these tags go to the hunters that were "unsuccessful" in the draws to begin with? Also, why are non resident hunters getting any tags, when there are residents that have to wait 3, 4, even 5 years before they are able to draw a tag? Start putting the people who live, and pay taxes, in South Dakota first.

Harold Bickner
Kimball SD
BICKNER@MIDSTATESD.NET

Comment:

This is an excellent compromise

Larry Wynia
Yankton SD
lcwynia@gmail.com

Comment:

First draw deer seasons. I think this I'd s great compromise. Just do it!

Bruce Haines
Mitchell Sd 57301 SD
brucehaines@qwestoffice.net

Comment:

Way too many rules!

Cody Ulmer
Menno SD

Comment:

Leave it the same it was, raise the price of out-of-state, and make the bow hunters go into a lottery and not have them guaranteed. It's that simple. Other states charge more than we do, and we gladly pay to go and hunt there because we simply hate all the out-of-staters who come in and pay just as much as we do for a tag.

Eric Gednalske

Pierre SD

eric.gednalske@gmail.com

Comment:

I want more hunters to be able to harvest one deer, instead of a few hunters harvesting multiple.

This relationship must exist to create the next generation of properly conserved hunts.

Bob Lee

Desmet SD

cardinallee1982@gmail.com

Comment:

How in the world can residents keep track of this. I have been applying for resident deer license for years. I have noticed that license for residents not filled have just disappeared.

Examples, this was the first year I applied for Snyder's Kingsbury county. I was denied but when I looked at draw results there were license not filled.

There was no chance to really in a second draw. They just disappeared. This has happened in other countries as well. I talk to land.

Also, our of State tag price needs to be increased.

Frustrated out doorsman.

Gary Lueth

Blooming Prairie MN

garylueth@gmail.com

Comment:

Your contempt for private landowners is mind numbing. You are debating 2,3,4,5 licenses for people that don't own land! Who feeds the deer! No hunting signs if you are from Sioux Falls!

Political idiots! Your contempt for private landowners is mind numbing. You are debating 2,3,4,5 licenses for people that don't own land! Who feeds the deer! No hunting signs if you are from Sioux Falls!

Brian Odde

Mound City SD

brianodde@gmail.com

Comment:

Leave it as is.

Joel Dykstra

Platte SD

joeldykstra@gmail.com

Comment:

This is not good for South Dakota hunters no matter how many times you revise it. Please hear us and drop it.

James Gruber

Estelline SD

jgruber148@yahoo.com

Comment:

for the life of me , this new deer hunting proposal is absolutely hard to understand.. i keep saying let politicians get involved and leave it up to them to destroy a good thing.. number one, and foremost, if the commission was an elected entity most of this would never have happened in the first place.. appointed positions rarely ever work.. number 2, if you really cared about numbers, and this is a simple one... remove this 50% of all licenses going to land owners... many of who do nothing for wildlife, hunt and will continue to hunt on land not leased or owned by them... we see it every fall,.. and how many tickets are written per year for this offense..... few if any.... and why? simple.. politics,, and third... one buck per person per year is enough for anyone... spread it out like you want,,, but only one buck... if family tradition is so important then hunting a doe should not bother any one.....

Brandon Schmitt

Pierre SD

Bigschmitt9@hotmail.com

Comment:

This proposal is worse than the first one. No one should be allowed both an east and west river tag until the 3rd draw. It will not alleviate any of the draw problems as everyone will still apply for east and west river. There is no one that needs a second tag until the 3rd draw. If y'all are going to go with this proposal you just as well not change it at all. If you want to open up more tags eliminate the nonresident leftover draw and only allow them to apply in the first draw after that all leftover tags should convert back to residents only.

Dylan Vogel

Groton SD

Dylanj1000@hotmail.com

Comment:

We as the people who pay your salary do not want any changes to the deer season. This is completely ignoring what we want. You are suppose to be representing hunters not your own views!

Douglas Symonds

Spearfish SD

bettysymonds1@hotmail.com

Comment:

This new approach appears to be more workable process.

Robert Woerman

Brandon SD

drbobw@alliancecom.net

Comment:

Thank you for listening to the public, South Dakota Hunters. SDGFP must retain the support of South Dakota Hunters or there will no longer be a hunter from South Dakota in the field.

Clinton Peterson

Box Elder SD

Comment:

Much better than first however the only thing that really needs changed is the nonresident archery deer should be restricted to 1 tag statewide or a limit on number of tags for nonresident. They slam the public land west river and take a large number of deer from the public lands. Your percentage of deer killed by bow is way off because you are not counting the number of deer that are hit and lost.

James Cantalope

Eureka SD

cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

When third draw happens you should be able to go to same season if you only have one tag, lots people just like to hunt one unit, if you have a east river tag, u might want a second tag there cause your a hunter who prefers not to drive across state to shoot another deer

Arlin Angerhofer

Big Stone City SD

arlinverna@tnics.com

Comment:

Will there still be landowners licenses?

Charles Baldwin

Custer SD

sbaldwin9@gmail.com

Comment:

The original proposal on this issue last year was better in the intent to provide deer tags to more hunters and this just takes it back to easier for one hunter to get multiple tags. I recommend going back to the original proposal for fairness to more hunters.

Kelly Mahoney

Starbuck MN

kellyjmahoney@yahoo.com

Comment:

If I understand this proposal correctly, non-residents will now have an EVEN WORSE chance of getting a license than the previous system where you had to wait for the third draw. I was born and raised in South Dakota. I would love to hunt with my brothers and sister and cousins, but there was NOT A SINGLE rifle license available for ANY non-resident adult in Brule county when third draw finally came. Residents on the other hand could get multiple deer licenses before a non-resident could even attempt to apply. More than once, the only realistic license I could attain was a bow license. Tough to justify this license and a trip home when my family can shoot out to 400 yards but I can only reach out 40 yards. Non-residents coming to hunt means additional spending that is a huge blessing for our state. Why can't non-residents enter into the 2nd draw? I can't be the only home state person who doesn't have a realistic hope of coming home to hunt with family. PLEASE, please, please reconsider this plan!

Glenn Purington

Rapid City SD

glennpur@rap.midco.net

Comment:

Once again the GF+P buckles under to the landowners and ranchers of this state. Now you say they can hunt on they're ranches and have a tag for the Black Hills. I thought you were going to make it more fair and provide more hunting opportunities

Joshua Aman
Minneapolis MN
zocha316@gmail.com

Comment:

I was strongly hoping that there would be an opportunity for non-residents to get an 'any-deer' tag in all counties. I was born and raised in SD and still have a farm there in Edmunds County (east river). Our land is kept local and purposely rented to only local farmers. My grandfather, father, uncles, brothers, etc., have been hunting our land for years. I have taken a job at a university in Minneapolis and since then have never been able to acquire an 'any-deer' (rifle) tag with the rest of my family. It's certainly not the worst case scenario, it's just disheartening to know that every year I still go back home to hunt with my family, pay the higher fees to hunt back home as a non-resident, and yet cannot participate in buck hunting on our farm anymore because I do not have an opportunity to apply for an any-deer tag (rifle) in our county, and most likely will never again be able to, based on the application statistics. It's a family tradition that I can no longer do because I am a non-resident and I don't see this changing anytime soon. The last time I called to talk to DNR about this, they simply said, sorry there's nothing we can do for you. Just very disappointing.

Jason Heintzman
Ipswich SD
daksat@valleytel.net

Comment:

Leave it the way it is, what good is it if you only allow a max of 2 tags when someone would like to get double east river tags as applicable today but then can't apply for west river for same year which in turn would be over the limit of 2 tags total, it would be 3, so now you can only apply for 1 east river and 1 west river and not allow for the 2nd antlerless tag for east river. This most certainly will decrease what you are trying to do and making it harder for everyone to enjoy what we have now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Wyatt Skelton
Bryant SD
wyattskelton@hotmail.com

Comment:

Allow muzzleloader deer season to additionally to be open simultaneously for the two week antelope season statewide.

I know this change is forced upon the hunters and believe it should be evaluated yearly and not in 3 years. Especially if it is a major flop and have to be stuck with it for 3 years before changed or modified.

James Klukas
Hotsprings SD
jamesklukas27@gmail.com

Comment:

All you unelected gfp officials , your surveys are utter nonsense. You are merely attempting to paint a picture that public input influences policy. The purpose of these surveys are purely and solely public relations and a blatant deception.

Andrew Schmidt

Piedmont SD

k8hvntn2@yahoo.com

Comment:

The only problem I see wrong with this bill is it land owners can still apply for two tags also. Landowners automatically get a tag they should only be able to apply for one other tag. Talking to people this is what angers everybody.

Garlan Bigge

Huron SD

gbigge@hur.midco.net

Comment:

Leave it like it also has been.

James Glowacki

Big Sky MT

glowackijim@gmail.com

Comment:

I know that wildlife officials are doing their best to manage the deer population. However, as a non-resident hunter the regulations just keep getting more complicated . It takes some effort to figure things out during the license/draw period

Kelly McPhillips

Yankton SD

kellymcphillips@hotmail.com

Comment:

in addition to supporting this most recent proposal to allow application for two seasons at once. please begin to evaluate and consider the elimination of the preference system and return to simple lottery draw requiring hunters to identify if they did or did not have a license in the previous year. The preference point system can't work and is problematic as i commented in 1985 when it was instituted. The preference systems across the west have destroyed the mathematic probability of drawing a license by artificially diluting the pool. Thank you for your diligent work on difficult problems. -kelly

Tim Brumbaugh

Rapid City SD

dakotatim@yahoo.com

Comment:

Deer Season new first draw limits. I think you had it right the first time, limit everyone to a single first draw tag. You compromised and I understand but you should have stuck too your guns.

Jason Merickel

Wadena MN

jmerickel@merickellumber.com

Comment:

I hunt private land in perkins county and I don't understand why it takes preference points to draw the West River Special Buck. Maybe there is a way to create a seperate tag for hunters that are using an outfitter versus ones like myself that have permission to hunt private ground. I get that you want as many opportunities as possible for your residents, but when I don't draw a tag it doesn't create more opportunity for anyone on the property we hunt. It would also create less competition in the west river draw, by making the special buck license basically first come first serve.

Also in regards to doe tags. I think if the property you are hunting is over a certain size there should be more doe tags available. both years i hunted out there we saw dozens of does each day and we could not get a license because residents eat up all the tags. because of this there are zero does taken off of this property. thank you for your time.

Andrew Farley

Winner SD

af.shibby@gmail.com

Comment:

I am in agreement on the with the first 3 drawings. I don't see why anyone would need more than 6 licenses

Brandon Tekrony

Brookings SD

brandon.tekrony@hotmail.com

Comment:

I support this compromise.

Randall Pratt

Mitchell SD

rpratt@mit.midco.net

Comment:

I am curious as to how landowner gratis tags will figure into this. As with the special buck tag limiting the applicant to a single opportunity in the first draw, a landowner tag should also count against the draw. If not landowners will skew the process and could essentially have 3 applications in the first round. Thank you for your consideration and again I believe the initial proposal may have been the best for all.

Tom Wilcox

Sioux Falls SD

tomwilcox@yahoo.com

Comment:

I see no need to make any change whatsoever to the existing system. I believe this feeling is shared by the vast majority of the deer hunters. I have been a deer hunter for a long time and I'm not aware of anyone that sees a need for a change.

Clark Baker

Sioux Falls SD

clarkbaker27@yahoo.com

Comment:

Leave it alone.....NOW u have made it more confusing

Nancy Wetering

Tea SD

nanc4931@gmail.com

Comment:

Passing this proposal would allow our family (5 hunters) to uphold our annual hunting trips!!

Casey Jensen

Lennox SD

casey.r.jensen@gmail.com

Comment:

In favor!

Brett Hudson

Harrisburg SD

mallard_24@hotmail.com

Comment:

This is a much improved proposal. Good compromise. As a hunter who takes advantage of East River and Black Hills deer in the same year, I support this proposal.

Weary Young

Burke SD

wlysky64@yahoo.com

Comment:

Makes more sense than anything I've seen so far in all the messing around with ideas to make changes. Would like to see preference points actually mean something. I think a preference point should get license before any non preference application is filled.

Ronald Smith

Deadwood SD

rgsmith2@live.com

Comment:

It is my recommendation, for the first draw, everyone applies for 1 rifle license by area, using preference points, including non-residents. Non-Residents are allotted a % of the tags. This method gives equal access to SD residents who have a favorite hunting spot/region, before someone else gets two licenses. The Non-resident % provides out of state family an occasional hunt at home. Thanks for taking input.

Randy Routier

Buffalo SD

Comment:

I just heard through the grapevine of a proposal to limit the number of nonresident archery licenses on private land. If this is true I would highly disagree with this decision. As far as the new rifle license allocation I am fine with it.

Robert Kadlecik

Sioux Falls SD

Bobmarhakad@icloud.com

Comment:

I believe the original one first draw, is the fairest not this second. The original one first draw accomplishes best to give EVERYONE A CHANCE TO DRAW. I sat at a meeting in Yankton next to a man on my left who had 7 deer licenses and the guy to my

Terry Halvorson
Yankton SD
ttllhh4@gmail.com

Comment:

I still don't like the second change still odds are better applying for all separate than having to choose 2 I have deer hunted for last 37 years leave it the same or you will loose more hunters then you think you will gain know myself and numerous other friends and myself have been looking into hunting bordering states next year if this goes through

Travis Donelan
Garretson SD

Comment:

I personally don't mind the new proposal. Keep it similar to the current draw with a couple small tweaks. A complete makeover isn't gonna win anyone over

Don Hantzsche
Summerset SD
Tlwdah@gmail.com

Comment:

Although this is much better then other proposals I still disagree with including muzzleloader season with all the rifle seasons. I believe it should be a stand alone season as it is today just like bow season is. This is a primitive weapons season not a rifle season. I hunt muzzleloader season because I can no longer draw a bow nor draw to load a bolt in a crossbow unless I buy a \$1500 crossbow which I can no afford. With muzzleloader season being lumped in with rifle season the chances of me ever drawing another muzzleloader any tag are slim to none. If your determined to lump it with another season make it bow season.

Jacob Maras
Crooks SD
Jcbmaras@yahoo.com

Comment:

The proposal does not fully define how one would apply for or receive 2 tags in the first draw. Do we get two first choices? Can they both be for east river or can you only apply for two separate seasons. This comment area is not mobile friendly and may prevent some people from fully being able to express themselves. How are preference points allowed to the two first choices? Can they be applied 1/2 and 1/2 or do all preference points need to be applied to one first choice? If we do not get two first choices this (in my opinion) is no better than the previous proposal because you cannot decide where preference points should be applied in a logical manner. I plan my east and west river deer hunting trips separately with different groups of people and this system appears very detrimental to the way I and my friends hunt. A much more logical system would be creating multiple shorter seasons. This would allow more people in the field and scheduled trips would be more reliable on a year to year basis.

Brian Becker

Rosemount MN

becker.m.brian@gmail.com

Comment:

I believe nonresident hunters should be eligible for at least 10% of the overall hunting licenses for the West River, Black Hills and Refuge hunting seasons during the first drawing. I believe that nonresident hunters bring in a considerable amount of revenue to SD during this part of the year that small businesses depend on. I think that making changes to the license application structure for nonresidents may have a negative impact on registration turnout and small business revenues in future seasons to effectively manage the states deer population.

Gary Sedivy

Vermillion SD

karsenedivy@yahoo.com

Comment:

Why not apply for all, but only be able to receive two like you do on elk apps. You will make more money on preference points.

James Cantalope

Eureka SD

cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

Follow up to my earlier comment, in third draw u can apply for same season if you already have a tag in the following, east/ west river deer. Including special buck, black hill deer, all others if u have a tag already u have to wait til 4th drawing to apply in that season again, so in third draw u can apply for one additional tag in the following east west river deer including spec buck, black hills deer, So after the third draw u can have two tags in these three season only for total 5 period

Doug Leschisin

Eden SD

lesch@venturecomm.net

Comment:

This proposal is too complicated for most people. I predict GFP will get a storm of complaints and end up going back to the old drawing system or a less complicated one.

Harry Mitchell

Hot Springs SD

wanesharose1@gmail.com

Comment:

happy with things the way they have been. looks to me that I will get less tags.

Kelly Blair
Milesville SD
blairhwy34@gmail.com

Comment:

I do not understand the rationale behind this proposal. It appears that the GF&P is trying to get more hunters into the field. Why is this necessary? Aren't all or nearly all of the deer licenses state wide already being sold? As a landowner, who does not charge to hunt my place, it seems like getting more people who don't already have a place to hunt out in the field will make the problems of gaining access worse. The hunters who come here have been coming here from between 5 years up to over thirty years. If my hunters don't draw tags, I will not let any new people hunt my property. The way the state of South Dakota ie, the GF&P are interpreting old laws and making it impossible for landowners to keep hunters from walking unimproved section lines to access public lands is causing friction between landowners and the GF&P. In my opinion since these unimproved section lines, and since I pay the taxes on them, the public should not be allowed to force their way onto my ranch. To me this is not only a violation of my rights as a landowner, it to me it is trespassing. To add to this, I have had two major fires on this ranch in the last ten years, one of which was CAUSED by a group of trespassers. I cannot stop these "trespassers" from walking my property, and I can't stop them from smoking and possibly throwing burning cigarette butts away. I can however, control my hunters that have permission, they follow my rules, or they hit the trail. The GF&P need to mend some fences with the landowners, instead of forcing this stuff down the landowners throats. If it aint broke, don't fix it.

Darin Blow
Crooks SD
Darin.blow@dmshealth.com

Comment:

There is nothing wrong with the current system

James Cantalope
Eureka SD
cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

Continued, last and final input on drawing, you should only be allowed one tag in each season of the following. 1 in Custer, 1 in refuge, 1 in muzzleloader if successful, rest up to five for total five overall

Roy Hendrickson
Caputa SD
rhendrickson@nvanet.com

Comment:

Not sure why the change when the hunting public do not want or ask for it to change, I guess a select few have the most influence with those in charge.

Terry Kohrt
Lennox SD
bigt45sd@hotmail.com

Comment:

Once again, the only thing GF&P is interested in is selling more licenses. Deer numbers are down so low everywhere I usually hunt, it is not worth going. Definitely opposed to selling any more licenses. Need to sell less and build the deer herd back up.

Ron Erion
Spearfish SD
rerion@gmail.com

Comment:

I preferred the 1 first draw proposal but I do understand that there was a lot of opposition to the original and I applaud the Commission and SDGFP for listening and accepting a plan that will allow 2 first choice applications.

As I stated, I would have preferred the original proposal.

Pat Malcomb
Sioux Falls SD
pmalcomb@sio.midco.net

Comment:

really now we are going down this road, leave it as is there is nothing wrong with it

Scott Kuck
Aberdeen SD
kucklaw@nvc.net

Comment:

NO change is needed. As evidenced by the "compromise" you have had to make. The system was never broken to begin with. You have messed around with this proposal needlessly. Just leave well enough alone!

Tom Riddle
Mitchell SD
Riddleandsons@gmail.com

Comment:

Again leave deer licenses as they were ,this is what South Dakotans want,,

Josh Baumann

Stevens Point WI

jbaumann@stpaulequips.com

Comment:

As a former resident, I accrued 4 years of preference points for East River Deer. I moved away in March of 2018 and now sit with 4 preference points that I would love to be able to use! I was writing to encourage an open opportunity for NR hunters to draw buck tags east river. Thanks for listening!

Sincerely,

Josh Baumann

Jeff Peterson

Hartford SD

Comment:

Confusing. Not a solution.

If I, or my son stop hunting somewhere its going to be because we don't have a safe and productive place to hunt, not because we can't get a tag. Type of tag (buck or doe) also does not matter.

Do you know a resident who has stopped pheasant hunting or deer hunting because they don't have a place to hunt, or no longer want to compete on public lands? I do.

Do you know someone who no longer hunts because they can't draw a deer tag? I don't.

Access to all school lands, and BLM with clear boundary markers would help.

James Stengle

Yankton SD

jbstengle@gmail.com

Comment:

As a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB), I find it strange and disheartening that you treat an important but small segment of deer hunters with indifference. My concern is for SD landowners that are non-residents. You make it almost impossible for East River non-resident landowners to draw a deer tag to hunt on their own land. I know of several NR that want to hunt deer on their property that they pay taxes on and actually have created and maintained excellent wildlife habitat. A landowner, whether a resident or non-resident, should be able to secure a deer tag to hunt on their own property on which they pay taxes. Please loosen up your rules to allow these tax-paying owners of lands that they own and have owned for generations to be able to secure a deer license. They are all willing to pay the NR fees but have little or no chance of ever drawing the tag. This is clearly discrimination and it likely will need a court challenge to change your attitude against these NR landowners. Wake up! If hunter numbers are declining, it shouldn't be so difficult for a NR landowner to draw a deer tag on their own property. There are court cases the uphold landowner rights regarding hunting licenses/tags.

Justin Murphy

Lyons SD

justintmurphy@outlook.com

Comment:

Commissioners,

I am writing in regards to the new proposal for the deer tag allocation. I commend the commission and sportsmen who were able to work together and find a compromise that works for everyone. From the beginning my stance was for no change to the system and I was firm on holding my ground. After much open discussion with other sportsmen and research I have concluded that change is inevitable. I believe the current proposal is the best option for both sides. No matter what decision is made there will be individuals who do not agree. It is important to follow these changes closely and to readdress them in three years if the new system is not working. Hopefully we can pass this proposal and move onto more important issues that our state faces such as habitat, quality herd management, and public access. Thank you for all of your hard work and service to the state.

Justin Murphy
Lyons, SD

Jim Riis

Pierre SD

jkriis@pie.midco.net

Comment:

I really like the new proposal for deer licenses & want to thank the staff & commission for all the hard work they did to come up with this.
Hunters in South Dakota have many opportunities & that is because we have such a great staff of biologists & commissioners!

William Duffy

Sioux Falls SD

duffy.bill@principal.com

Comment:

The black powder season should happen before the regular rifle season as it is in most other states.

Jason Seykora

Harrisburg SD

jaseykora@gmail.com

Comment:

I feel that this new proposal is more than confusing at best. If its not broken don't try and fix it. Leave it alone

Julie Janson

Custer SD

Cjascjanson@aol.com

Comment:

By caving in and giving some residents 2 deer licenses while some of us don't get one at all so they can carry on their "tradition" of hunting in two different places, you are completely destroying our tradition of deer hunting. We hunt in one place and only get a license every 2 or 3 years while others get 2 licenses in one year.

This is so wrong. I cannot find words strong enough to express my anger.

You must serve ALL residents of SD by giving everyone an equal chance at our first choice or I'm going to contact my representative.

Kyle Wilson

Mitchell SD

klwilson@santel.net

Comment:

Now I do not argue that change can sometimes be a good thing, I still do not believe that combining everything into a single draw is the answer. This proposed system give landowners preference in all seasons above everyone else as they do not need to apply for their most preferred tag which is almost always going to be where they own land, as they are guaranteed their landowner tag. Now they dont need to worry about applying for their "home" unit in the first draw and can instead apply for a different unit in the first draw because they will fall back on the landowner tag giving them preference over the rest of us have to apply for everything. Maybe my position is out of line, but just because you own land east river and are guaranteed that tag shouldn't give you better chances to draw a black hills tag then the next guy. A landowner tag should count towards your ability to apply for multiple tags in the first draw.

Seth Warner

Gettysburg SD

sdw15magnum@gmail.com

Comment:

I would like to see a proposal that would make recipients of the Apprentice/Mentored tags ineligible for the regular season drawings. From what I have seen the long season Sept-Jan has negatively impacted archery season and the regular season hunting. From what I saw in Walworth county over the last couple years the numbers are way down from previous years, the deer that you are able to find seem to be overhunted. Making those who have gotten a tag for 5 dollars ineligible for regular season tags would help those of us who have hunted for years be able still get a buck tag. I personally know of 14 and 15 year old hunters that had 5 or more tags including the apprentice tag this past year.

Ryan Fliehs

Corsica SD

rrfliehs@gmail.com

Comment:

Please do not change anything with the current deer drawing structure.

Paul Kruse

Brookings SD

murphykruse@gmail.com

Comment:

I don't see the problem with the way the deer licenses we're being handled. I have seen and heard far more opposition to the previous plan you tried to propose and see the same with this plan. I am trying to understand why the change. It's like the board feels they have to do something, if it isn't broke why fix it? If you would spend this amount of time on habitat as you do with changing rules we might not have this problem! You are just making the resident sportsman/women more upset. I would also really like to see how many of the actual board members really participate in conservation and hunting. I'm getting more and more upset with the way SD is handling this. I spend thousands of dollars each year on hunting and it only seems to get worse. I guess I will have to look outside the State for other opportunities! Please figure it out!

Scott Rosenkranz

Sturgis SD

scott.d.rosenkranz.mil@mail.mil

Comment:

I fully support this, I supported the first one. Right now someone by the "luck of the draw" can get 4 first choice tags and another may not get any first choices. We need this to be more equal which will help in teaching younger hunters game conservation. As it stands, if I cannot get the tags I want in the location I want, I may not hunt or my children may not. Those fighting this either typically get all their tags, have land-owner preference and always get a tag, or just assume it is big government and haven't fully looked in to it.

Douglas Eoute

Stillwater MN

deoute@hotmail.com

Comment:

8% for me applying for rifle buck tags especially W. River that I have hunted since 1991 is very low number. Do appreciate being able to archery hunt many of those years. But getting a rifle draw license every other or 3rd year draw is disconcerting. Thanks

Marlyn Krosch

Custer SD

smagick@hotmail.com

Comment:

I preferred the earlier proposal as I would like to get a deer hunting license in the area I live more often I also feel that one deer tag per year per hunter is enough

Russell Andrews
Rapid City SD
styknstring@gmail.com

Comment:

I support the current proposal but I'm not sure about the specifics of preference point accumulation. If I were to apply for WRD and MZD in the first draw and receive my license for WRD; would I receive a preference point for MZD? If so, I would support the current proposal. I feel MZD should not be included in the first draw and be treated like Archery Deer due to the limited number of any deer tags issued for MZD.

Ryan Campbell
Sioux Falls SD
Rkcampbell90@gmail.com

Comment:

There are a few different areas that I oppose with his current proposal. The first being that we are allocating 8% of the deer licenses in South Dakota for out-of-state hunters. I continually hear about trying to get more people in our state involved in hunting yet we are giving away a substantial portion to people outside the borders of South Dakota. As a father of three young children I would much rather see those opportunities for a buck license given to our young kids, our veterans, our elderly or anybody inside of South Dakota who would like an opportunity to hunt before giving it to out of state people.

In addition I would like to know where this desire to change our license system is coming from? It feels like we are making changes for the sake of making changes. The system of cubing the preference points makes sense to me as it allows those who've gone longest without a tag a better opportunity to get drawn in the unit that they would like. We have not given that system any time to see if it will work and help get more people into the field and now we are trying to come up with another system.

Trever Marquardt
Harrisburg SD

Comment:

oppose

Scott Gamo
Cheyenne WY
gamowolk@yahoo.com

Comment:

Dear GFP- as former SD resident I am glad to see that the 8% NON-RESIDENT tag allocation was kept for the West River and Black Hills tags. I am curious why a similar approach has not historically or currently been taken with East River Tags? It would seem from a deer population standpoint the heavier agricultural-based habitats found in East River counties certainly support robust populations of white-tails (certainly landowner opinions, relatives included suggest). Often I have noticed many third-round drawing tags yet available, albeit limited to antlerless or doe tags. To meet population management goals it may benefit GFP to consider ways to increase out of state interest to purchase tags thereby leading to enhanced harvest potentially helping in minimizing very late season depredation issues and other landowner concerns. Part of increasing that interest could include allocating some number of any deer with antlerless tag to better meet population goals and out of state interest. This could also be done in a manner consistent with other states' approach to non-resident hunters with the increase in fee for the tag generating more revenue for the management of the species. Thanks you for the opportunity to comment.

Douglas Hayes
Spearfish SD
hayes3@spe.midco.net

Comment:

You caved into pressure. Keep it to one first choice or you should have left it alone. One first choice includes more hunters getting licenses instead of one hunter getting two first choices. It now takes about 4 years for me to get a Black Hills license, (that's all I apply for) it will remain the same. EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED with new proposal.

Clark Baker
Sioux Falls SD
clarkbaker27@yahoo.com

Comment:

I would like a count who was for or against I still think it is a terrible idea

Troy Stulken

Pierre SD

Comment:

The money need to change the License computer program will be more then two million I would guess. GFP just spent this money last year on changing point system. Problem is not how you draw license. System in place works and one off best in nation. Take money going to waste on new program and use it on the wildlife. People have trouble finding a place to hunt that they can get a tag is the problem. Make more places or better place for the public. On opening day of west river deer season nine different group showed up to hunt one quarter of walk in next to were I hunt. That was not safe for those groups. Some how three deer were harvested without any hunting accidents. Always leftover tags in this area. Just like many units. Just very few public deer hunting spots. The areas that take many years to draw have lots of public land for people to hunt. No changing this problem with what every you do!

Dean Guthmiller

Casper WY

diggoff@aol.com

Comment:

I lived in SD for 35 years and had to move for employment reasons. The way the deer drawings are it takes me 3 years to get a tag as a now nonresident. Giving even more preference to SD residents, when they have eh most options for the least amount of money, is just another slap in the face. No one needs multiple deer tags for any reason other than they like to hunt. any other argument is nonsense. It is not economically feasible to hunt deer for subsistence reasons. It's cheaper to go to the store. As a former resident I always felt like a bastard stepchild when it came to hunting and now it's even worse. There are may people, 4 in our group of 5, that were born and raised in SD and have fond memories of hunting just as the residents do. It's just unfortunate that having moved away now prevents us from enjoying the hunt. Now that is made even more difficult. There are many "residents" who do not have the length of time as a resident as we do but still reap the benefits.

Travis Everson

Castlewood SD

Comment:

For the life of me I am not sure why GFP continues to push this issue. Probably 90% of the people I talk to oppose a change to the current system. The remaining 10% are neutral on the issue. When I ask around about who supports this system I am being told it is people that live in the Black Hills area and want to hunt there (with a buck tag) every year. If that's true that can't be representative of the majority of sportsman in the state. My worry is that this is another example of government (GFP) thinking they know what is best for the public. Well God gifted all of us with the ability to think for ourselves, so please represent the majority on this issue.

Please reconsider,

Travis Tisher

Watertown SD

tisher@datatruck.com

Comment:

I applaud the group for attempting to enhance hunting opportunities. However, in my opinion, if the stated goal of getting more hunters in the field is the measuring stick, the proposals miss the mark. I will give two scenarios specific to me. Prior to significant quantity of licenses cut in Marshall County, my extended family (grandfathers, fathers, uncles, youth, etc) applied for any deer first choice and any antlerless second. Every year, we all had one or the other tag. This gave all 10-12 people a reason to meet at "deer camp". Of course not all harvested deer, and that was not our priority. Sitting on the tailgate drinking hot chocolate with grandpa was the priority. After any antlerless tags were eliminated and any deer cut significantly, we were on a two to three year cycle to draw. Those that did not draw did not make the trip to Marshall County and eventually all but me has quit deer hunting. 11 people lost.

With respect to youth and bringing new hunters to the sport I have three children currently age 12, 16, 18. We all acknowledge other activities make finding time to hunt a challenge for kids (and parents of active kids). Personally we exclusively hunted the first one or two weeks, depending on the calendar, prior to archery season. And the final two weeks after Jan 1 when archery and pheasant hunters were not afield. We hunt public land that is heavily pressured during those seasons. This past year, with archery starting early, and youth season ending Jan 1, unfortunately two of my kids did not harvest deer. We competed with, and lost, to those hunting pheasants and archery deer. Not a complaint, just a fact. I have heard so many other parents say they are not interested in taking their kids hunting because the public land is marched through every day and they don't feel comfortable asking permission on private land. Maybe that's not right, but it is a fact and I feel the same way.

What if we went back to the days where there were more hunters afield? Add license numbers, add any antlerless tags. I wonder what this would do to deer numbers. As stated earlier, my group of 12 did not fill 12 tags. I know the harvest data proves the same for other groups as well. It seems to me the focus is moving toward appeasing those who are trophy hunters rather than the families and friends who hunt together.

Perhaps it could be practical to block parcels of land for new or youth hunters only. Not all season, but perhaps a couple weeks. Especially late in the year when deer yard up and provide great opportunities for those who are not so experienced.

The proposals on the table are confusing. Consider fishing regulations in the state. We are coming full circle from time decades ago with statewide limits, through years of body specific limits, back to (nearly) statewide regulations again. In the name of simplifying regulations. Why are we running the same route with game regulations?

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on why I feel hunter numbers are down, and unfortunately, with confusing proposals that do not address the root causes, will continue to decline.

Joseph Creager

Rapid City SD

Comment:

Why was the change implemented? The system seemed to be working fine. If it ain't broke don't fix it.

Paul Lemair
Sioux Falls SD
pdlemair@att.net

Comment:

support

Dennis Leland
Mitchell SD
dennisleland@me.com

Comment:

I have purchased a number of preference points over the years for tags in the hills and west river with plans to apply in the future. I am concerned that I will lose all of them with this proposed change.

Dennis Leland
Mitchell SD
dennisleland@me.com

Comment:

I cannot see how the proposed change will get more residents licenses. The high demand areas will still be high demand and folks who only want to hunt in one area will still only hunt in one area. If they don't draw a tag for that area they will wait till next year (just like they do now) rather than apply for a low demand area. It does appear that out of state hunters are given a better chance with the new system as they can apply in first round competing with resident hunters, this will result in residents NOT drawing their desired area more often.

Greg Hieb
Brandon SD
greg.hieb@gmail.com

Comment:

Committee members,
Stop. I urge you to just pause. Think this through. Your proposals have caused much consternation to all SD deer hunters. What is your motivation? What is your agenda?
If your honest motivation is to get more hunters afield, this new legislation fails. You have clearly failed to outline exactly how these changes will accomplish your stated goal. The bottom line is that you are in charge of allocating a very desirable limited resource of SD deer tags. This needs to be accomplished in an equitable way. The system already exists. Don't complicate it.
You cannot legislate hunters into tag prosperity. They need to buy preference points. They need to study draw statistics. They need to study the public land atlas. They need to knock on doors. They might even need to travel. They need to be open to other opportunities ie. archery, muzzleloader. If they are not passionate enough to "find a way", they are not passionate enough. Period. For "They", it is just easier to be a loud complaining minority. This is what you are catering to. The system already exists. It is not broken. It is fair. Where will it stop? What crowd are you going to placate next at another's expense?

Eric Bauer

Volga SD

ebauer40@gmail.com

Comment:

I applaud you for listening to the public. Everyone should have a chance to hunt where they'd like, but the initial proposal was far too restricting (realistically only one season per year for buck tags). Changing to two per year is a reasonable compromise in my eyes.

Josh Robertson

Minneapolis MN

herme@hotmail.com

Comment:

I would like to propose a special license draw for native sons of South Dakota. For those born and raised in the state and who got a higher education from a state university be given a drawing opportunity to receive in state hunting privileges at out of state license costs. As is done with waterfowl and other permits a drawing could be conducted to randomly draw 100 licenses per year to receive this tremendous benefit but must qualify and prove the above needs. Birth certificate and official diploma from a state university or technical school.

Tyler Henderson

Marvin SD

tyh1@msn.com

Comment:

The public is clear we don't want any changes to the structure, the preference point system works and keep this in place. This will negatively impact hunter. I have not met one person who supports this proposal. Why is the commission so insistent on changing it.

Matthew Anderson

Hartford SD

jetboatboy@hotmail.com

Comment:

Please stop trying to limit deer applications and trying to change the deer draw structure. The new and past proposals are not wanted by the people of South Dakota and serves no benefit. The proposal would chase away hunters and make the deer draw more complicated then it needs to be.

Loren Koehler

New York Mills MN

koehler123@arvig.net

Comment:

why should somebody get 5 to 8 lic an someone else cant get one lic make it so everyone can enjoy the great state of south dakota

Philip Mittleider

Watertown SD

philip_mittleider@hotmail.com

Comment:

It really just needs to be left status quo. Nothing was wrong with the current system. The first one seemed liked an underlying ploy to make sure non-residents were almost treated as resident and there were licenses left for them. I'm not opposed to the non-resident hunter, but I am opposed to forgetting the in-state resident who spends money here 12 months and not 12 days. Listen to the voices of the resident. The lottery system works, the current process works. Let's just keep working together on other pressing issues.

Greg Peterson

Clear Lake SD

petegang@itctel.com

Comment:

I appreciate the commissions good faith efforts to find a compromise on this issue. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find any information on exactly how existing preference points will be handled. Do they stay in the same units? The unfortunate thing about trying to compromise is that an already very complicated proposal keeps getting more complicated. Please consider the public input you are receiving in support of or opposed to this proposal - even if there is an opinion that "uber deer hunters" are just wrong. I trust the commission's intentions, but it seems to me that we may be fighting an uphill battle to fix something that's not broken.

Mike Norton

Rapid SD

nortonmichael1922@yahoo.com

Comment:

East river should never be allowed to hunt a week after west river prairie opens. They always come out here causing problems and blasting anything with horns a week early before their season starts. Its only fair both west river prairie tags start at the exact same time.

If i don't special buck tag? Then do i get to put in for west river as prairie as my first choice and black hills whitetail as my other first choice deer?

Demetri Sengos

Sioux Falls SD

dsengos@gmail.com

Comment:

The new hunting proposals are ridiculous, for many reasons! The changes will directly impact hunters that hunt on both sides of the river, it will take away years of family hunting trips/tradition and effect those who have worked and tried for many years to obtain hunting permission on land. Let's get real, the only reason this proposal is on the table is to draw more non-resident hunters, this will directly impact hunting access to certain areas as most private land owners will capitalize on big game hunting privileges on their land. For example, maybe I'll kick the 5 archery hunters off the land we own and advertise \$2000/person limit of five tags only archery to out of state hunters. This would be easy, 100% fill rate send them photos of past big deer taken, done! So, where do the five previous loyal hunters go? Who cares right? Wrong, it needs to be balanced and balanced is what we have in place now. These changes will only have a negative impact.

Dennis Dekraai
Arlington SD
walleye_dek@msn.com

Comment:

I feel that preference points and land owners should be the main contributors to drawing a licence. By giving licences to people that haven't tried to draw a tag for nearly as long is wrong. I think that the number of 1st choices should not matter as long as the person has accumulated enough preference points. Also paying for preference points is very expensive. To me by not allowing a person with the most preference points not to draw a tag is just a way for the GFP to make more money and cost the average hunter more. So I support the more 1st choice options.

Markus Nelson
Concord NC
Markus.Nelson@Hendrickauto.com

Comment:

This new deer licensing is very poorly thought out! You should be concentrating on getting deer populations up not if residents can have 15 deer tags and the nonresident can maybe have one! Nonresidents should be able to get extra tags at the same time as resident hunters! This is crap! Old system will always be better than this!

Larry Livingston
Fairburn SD
papalarry55@yahoo.com

Comment:

first choice deer application, I think you should have kept it at one on first draw. giving everyone a better chance at drawing their favorite location. The people that want all the multiple locations are not hunting to feed their family or enjoying the outdoors, they just want to brag about how many deer they killed and waste a lot of them

James Winkels
Rapid City SD
Winks450@msn.com

Comment:

Leave the application process alone, it's not broken.... Focus your efforts and money on saving our elk and reducing cat numbers.

Pamela Winkels
Rapid City SD
Winks450@gmail.com

Comment:

Leave the application process alone.

Megan Winkels

Rapid City SD

Meganwinkels@hotmail.com

Comment:

I oppose any changes to the current system

James Gonsor

Webster SD

Jagonsor70@hotmail.com

Comment:

In comparison, NASCAR had a perfectly good format for the points system to decide the season champion. They changed, they claim for the better, they have been constantly changing it trying to make it better, it is a joke!

It works, leave it alone! No need to try setting the field to allow out of state hunters to get in on first draw! The GF&P should concentrate on making "public" fishing areas accessible, they are either blocked by overgrowth of trees and shrubbery or so weedy that it is impossible to fish them. I have tried taking my grandchildren fishing from shore, after attempting several "public" areas with no ability to access i contacted a landowner and was granted permission to access on his private property!

Stop worrying about out of state, disrespectful people and concentrate on the youth of south dakota! Keep in mind, not every person can get access to water and not everyone owns a boat!

Grayson Bust

Kentwood MI

gtbust@gmail.com

Comment:

I am a non-resident archery hunter and would like to understand the impacts to the non-resident archery draws. The proposal does not specify any changes, which I take to mean that this only applies to rifle/gun seasons. Please clarify. Thank you.

Lloyd Pukis

De Smet SD

lloyd.pukis@gmail.com

Comment:

SD is first state I have lived in that a state resident may not receive a deer tag if he wants one. first drawing and 5th drawing and preference points makes this system much more difficult than it has to be.

For the general deer season all residents should be able to get 1 deer tag(either doe or buck) if they are eligible before anyone(land owner, archery, mussel loader) gets a second tag. Because of the size of county's in SD that criteria is just another burden that does not need to be there.

Daniel Kopitzke
Zimmerman MN
kopitzke@izoom.net

Comment:

We have a tradition of hunting SD West River as non-residents. It has already become tough to get desired tags over the past 5 years. We have adapted and hunted new zones picking up leftovers in later draws. We don't need to shoot bucks to have a great time out there, but I am afraid these changes will, in the next year or two, create a situation where we cannot draw any tag in any zone. I am afraid that will cause my core of young hunters to find something else to do or someplace else to go and effectively end our SoDak hunting all together.

Kevin C Ward
Andover MN
Kctward@comcast.net

Comment:

Please just be sure to keep nonresident in the loop the best ways you see fit so we too can keep the traditions of hunting with family and friends both of which are Residents if South Dakota and nonresidents of your great state. Supporting the good people throughout the entire state while traveling to and from our hunting destinations also enriches your local economy and if you limit nonresident too much or delegate tags for only specific limited season leftovers you may lose us as hunters/tourists/enriching the lives of your great state. Best Kevin

Bradley Olson
Dell Rapids SD
olsonranchs@outlook.com

Comment:

I strongly Oppose....We have a great system in place leave it alone.

Brian Bohlmann
Yankton SD
Bjbohlmann@outlook.com

Comment:

Leave the original draw the way it is. Why would you commissioners push this change onto the majority that do not want it? If you commissioners like controversy join Congress in DC. Leave it alone!

Andrew Mcdonald

Pierre SD

amcd627e@yahoo.com

Comment:

With the proposed changes you day will put more hunters in the field. Are you upping the number of tags? If not you are not putting any more hunters in the field than with the old system. I don't understand why the old system isn't working. With the preference system people will draw a tag when there turn comes. Everyone needs to understand that.

How do you know that the new system will guarantee hunters more opportunity? How do you know that hunters won't all apply for the same tag and end up with the same situation tour trying to get away from? SDGFP should have always put its residents first! I understand that non-residents bring revenue into the state but you can't put the people that live here in the back seat.

I can't believe you are charging our youth for a preference point. They are the future of hunting. With out them you won't exist!

James Cantalope

Eureka SD

cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

I oppose, there nothing to gain, its same, you buy your points and apply for your tag with the multiplier and you get your tag when your turn comes up, it will be no different why change it, now your forcing people into units that might not been there, and you could pickup a additional tag in same unit on third draw, leave it alone, there's not a person I talked to that wants it changed!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jim Godfrey

Brandt SD

jimg0424@gmail.com

Comment:

Your options easy river/special buck and west river /special buck...is this for special buck only tag for east and west river??

I never have understood the need for this special buck tag on private land only.

Please clarify!

If I can continue tradition of hunting west and east river season of my choice I would favor this, but only under the same way it has been for years. Deer tags have been drastically reduce east river and chance to draw is extremely difficult.

Jeremy Schroeder

Winner SD

Lazyjs97@hotmail.com

Comment:

The hunter should be a resident of the county in order to get 2 licenses they are applying in. Should not be able to receive a license in 2 different county's .

James Cantalope

Eureka SD

cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

I oppose, there nothing to gain, its same, you buy your points and apply for your tag with the multiplier and you get your tag when your turn comes up, it will be no different why change it, now your forcing people into units that might not been there, and you could pickup a additional tag in same unit on third draw, leave it alone, there's not a person I talked to that wants it changed!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Eric Nesheim

Baltic SD

eric_mesheim@yahoo.com

Comment:

As an avid hunter I apply for almost all of the deer licenses and I feel that my rights as a resident would be taken away with the new proposal.

Jason Barbee

Hartford SD

Race8dad@yahoo.com

Comment:

It's not broke, dont fix it...I've deer hunted in sd for over 30 years and my children for over a dozen. It's always been a family and friend tradition to get together and figure out what and where to apply for east and west river deer tags. We would research the public land access and quality along with out chances of drawing. Yes public land is all we have to hunt. It used to be good quality land with not so much pressure. Not the case anymore. Not saying all, but most is overrun and over grazed. It's very discouraging. I think the department should be spending more time and resources on that than a tag system that works fine for people who do their research on what tags to send in for. People who are complaining about not being able to draw the tags they want are not doing that.

James McMahon

Sioux Falls SD

Jamcmahon4029@gmail.com

Comment:

Updated deer season draw: I am in favor of the updated draw. I like the idea of being able to apply for two seasons in the first draw, and am a fan of the layout for the second and following draws. Thank you or taking comments and efforts in revam

Shawn Tyrrell
Desmet SD
styrrell@centurylink.net

Comment:

oppose

Tim Klein
Sioux Falls SD
23tlklein@gmail.com

Comment:

If I keep my preference points and can use them in the next year or 2, I can live with this change. Preference points. What happens to all the preference point that I previously purchased? I have several for west river, black hills and east river. Do I lose them?

Brock Hoagland
Pringle SD
brockh@goldenwest.net

Comment:

I support the proposed change to the deer season whereby a hunter can only apply for two seasons in the first draw.

Alex Waltman
Sioux Falls SD
alexwaltman850@gmail.com

Comment:

Even as a hunter who could potentially benefit from these changes, as I only apply for one county, I strongly oppose this change. Even though I am a one county hunter now, I won't be in the future. No one wants these changes yet you seem determined. The "results" you sent out in the mail from the focus groups (which I attended) were total and utter garbage. You had us answer multiple questions on the survey at the end of the group and then cherry picked the two or three answers that you could twist to show false approval for the direction the state wanted to go. It's obvious the state is going to force this down our throats regardless of the strong opposition and this is shown through the deceit many of us saw when these "results" were sent out in the mail. So, be that as it may, why not just grow a set and say your going to do this regardless of if we like it or not and stop lying. I expect this of government as a whole but I expected better from Game Fish and Parks.

Joel Muellner
Cottage Grove MN
j.muellner@comcast.net

Comment:

As a Minnesota resident, I completely understand the conflict of resident vs non-resident issues in regards to feeling that the game and fish of my home state belong to me the taxpayer. I have hunted in SD on family land for the last 21 years, purchasing small game licenses and leftover rifle doe tags. I am still a very happy hunter. What I have concern with is that I as a non-resident have absolutely ZERO chance of ever attaining an East River rifle buck tag. My most pressing concern however is that while SD is generous enough to allow \$10.00 rifle doe tags to my kids, they never have had the chance to pull the trigger on anything with horns in the last 4 years. My boys have ethically passed on lay up shots at 160" bucks during those years. The goal of SD game and fish is to keep people coming back, especially the recruitment of kids to the sport. Throw the kids a bone and allow them to harvest a deer with horns.

Todd Mezeske
Parker SD
Tmezeske@hgreps.com

Comment:

Doesn't seem right that residents get opportunities for multiple tags before I would get a chance at a deer tag. As a non resident I provide more that just some income for Game, Fish and Parks when I hunt in SD but for several local businesses as well.

Tyson Gau
Alexandria SD
tcgau09@ole.augie.edu

Comment:

There is nothing wrong with the tag system that is in place now. This is barely comparable to the first change that you wanted to put into place. If people want to hunt deer, there are numerous options for them to do so. All of us that draw multiple tags a year have to go through the same system that the people opposed to our current system, the only difference is that I and everyone in my hunting party aren't afraid to spend a whopping \$5 on a preference point if we are unsuccessful on our first option. If people ventured out and spent an extra \$5 for preference points they would find that it increases your option for the next year. But instead they don't do this and wonder why they can't draw a tag in a county known for nice deer. That leads me to the next thing, everyone is more worried about killing deer that go on the wall rather than enjoying the outdoors. Hunting is turning into some big competition where whoever can post a picture of the biggest deer on social media "wins." Changing our current system is not the answer if you ask me and many others. Please do the majority of our great state's hunters a favor and leave it how it is now.

Have a good one,
Tyson Gau

Paul Johnson

Buffalo MN

pjohnson0825@gmail.com

Comment:

As a non Resident hunter I'm pretty much assured a license just every 2-3 years. Making a non resident wait until the 5th draw for leftover licenses is foolish. Making me choose between a special buck and a regular west river license pretty much kills my chances for an every year license. The revenue you will lose by killing the hunting for non residents is a tremendous amount. I spend 286 or 540 dollars for a license every year plus what I put into the economy of SD when I'm there. I've been coming to SD deer hunting as a non resident since I left in 1986. I hope you rethink your decision. Thanks Paul Johnson

Paul Kruse

Brookings SD

murphykruse@gmail.com

Comment:

this is a terrible idea this there was nothing wrong with the current licensing. This only caters to the one or maybe two license deer Hunter.

Kevin Stoterau

Tea SD

kstoterau@gmail.com

Comment:

I don't understand why GFP is so strict about Black powder tags. I live in Lincoln County. I know there are allot of deer in my county. Archery tags are almost a give me. Black powder hunting, requires noise, scent, and movement control much like archery, yet I have not gotten one for years now. Regular rifle tags can be filled out beyond 500 yards. Black powder you have to be much closer, much like archery. I am career Military, Retired Army, and a disabled Veteran. I served 32.5 years in the Military and am retired now. I do allot of hunting to save money on meat at the grocery store, due to my lack of income I used to make.

I understand there are many things I don't understand or know. I would just like to know why you don't give out more Black powder tags Please? And thank you.

Respectfully,
SFC Kevin Stoterau (Ret.)U.S.Army

Paul Niederbaumer

Faulkton SD

paulniederbaumer@yahoo.com

Comment:

Making trouble for landowners. No good reason for change. Especially when adding Custer State Park in on one of the two choices. Custer state Park drawing is a miracle tag. A once in a lifetime tag. Not to mention with the limited tags to draw for you should be able to retain your preference points without applying every year or refund the hunter.

This proposal is poorly executed. We have too many hunters that have no permission to hunt on private ground using vehicles to harass deer. In Faulk county this has become a way for people to hunt. I feel the winter kill on deer will be higher because of the added vehicles that will push deer. Not to mention the stress it gives landowners who are raising their kids to hunt the correct way, having their rights be trampled.

A suggestion to law changes that need to be made is that hunters, whether land owner or otherwise cannot be driving through a field or on a no maintenance road during hunting season. Unless retrieving a dead deer. I've had 20 to 30 incidents of trespassing during deer season alone. This is because of pickups being used to hunt. I feel that nonresident and resident non landowners should have permission from a landowner before they even apply for a license. Counties should have number of licenses distributed to non resident and residents non landowner by amount of public ground that county has.

I have yet to hear anyone who feels this proposal is good. Talking with other landowners in area they have all agreed if this passes we will not work with the GFP anymore. The landowners have seen that you favor non residents for hunting pheasants and deer before the landowners who actually give permission. Landowners are tired of it and will shut down hunting county wide.

Benjamin Jones

Sioux Falls SD

Jayhawker.jones@gmail.com

Comment:

Thanks for putting kids first. Seems well laid out to me.

Spike Jorgensen

Tok AK

spikecy@gmail.com

Comment:

#1. Really like the emphasis on youth hunting and access. If anything it should be stronger so every youth that wants to hunt big game can have at least a doe tag for antelope or deer on their first draw. (Nationally we are losing hunters and over commercializing hunting. Credit should somehow be given to land owners who support free hunting for any youth.) Every youth should be able to hunt one animal before any of us get two tags for any big game species.

2. I am not a trophy hunter as such, but do enjoy hunting and taking large mature animals.

This as a part of maintaining a very viable and healthy gene pool of truly wild and not privately farmed game animals.. At one time I had taken the second largest antelope and the 10th largest Alaska Moose. And since those have taken several even larger with a bow and rifle that I have not registered. Thus I appreciate good management by professionals who understand predator and prey relationships. Wolves and lions need to be controlled and managed so our youth and humans have big game to enjoy as well. Over population of lions in the Black Hills and the threat of no controlling wolves, eagles and other predators is critical. We need to support good sustainable management of the populations we use and some managed predators, but they should not have a get home free card.

#3 As a land owner resident in the past and non resident now my properties support over 100 deer, and a few antelope and elk (20 or so). And with the help of NRCS we have very much improved the agricultural and wildlife habitat and will continue to do so.

Best wishes.

Cory Hansen

Brandon SD

idealcor@yahoo.com

Comment:

Thank You. Thank you for listening and reacting. This was a very hard and long process but I appreciate you being proactive instead of reactive. This now allows my family tradition of decades to continue, which is of utmost importance to the continuance of my children being involved in this sport.

Mark Bellum

Watertown SD

yote1963@yahoo.com

Comment:

I used to be the biggest fan of GFP. I would brag to my out of state friends about how well our game and fish were managed. Now, after watching you boondoggle the fishing situation to appease the landowners and neglect locals their legal rights to water, I'm not so sure. How can you give the Reitz family \$8000 and charge out of state fisherman pennies for a season pass?

And now I have to pay a fee to get my preference point when I apply for a tag? Poor management at its best. And now you've made getting a deer tag almost impossible. It looks like your next step is to make it even harder. There are plenty of deer out there. I've hunted pheasants in many places and always see ample deer numbers.

I don't know why you're so interested in appeasing the landowners? Most hardly let anybody hunt their land anyway. I used to have lots of private land to hunt around Watertown, and most of it has been shut down.

I beg you to go back and put the in state sportsman first.

On a positive note, I do appreciate all the public lands that are available to hunt. I use them exclusively.

Mark Bellum

Dave Vaughn

Rapid City SD

dvaughn@hughes.net

Comment:

I was in support of the original proposal where a person had to choose one first choice tag. I live in the Black Hills and hunt near home. I would just like to be able to hunt where I live. I do not have the time or resources to hunt east river and rarely would I even apply for west river. I always apply for BH and it would be nice if I could have a tag more than every 2 or 3 years. I support the compromise because it is better than nothing. I do also apply for CSP, MZ and refuge so I will use one of those tags as my second choice in the first draw. I appreciate the commission listening to public comments when making decisions.

Thank You

Dennis Jones

Siuox Falls SD

dmjones@sio.midco.net

Comment:

It seems new leadership whether in the GFP, Education, Administrative or Public Services etc. always think they need to make changes to get their name in the history book. They think they must show they are progressive. The old draw system isn't the greatest, but the new proposal is not as good and will cause a lot of the problems, many already identified. We don't need more hunters from out of state. Right now many in-state find it hard to locate a place to hunt. Bow hunters are great hunters, but are killing a large portion of the good bucks before the majority hunt in November. etc. etc. Need more money, just raise the in-state license fee \$20. Don't shoot so many does, the numbers are down, I know because I have plenty of land to tell. Good Luck.

Darrel Reinke
Ft. Pierre SD
darrel@reinkegray.com

Comment:

Two tag proposal

Thank you for now proposing a two tag deer drawing system. It is a fair compromise that I feel most of us who were opposed to the earlier proposals can accept. In the future, when such controversial ideas are thought about, I would strongly encourage the department to seek out Sportsmen and women's ideas in the beginning. Early open communication and dialogue would have gone a long way to avoiding a very contentious issue that this one evolved into. Thank you for your service.

Shannon Frericks
Ashton SD
goslinghunter@gmail.com

Comment:

Can it! Follow Kansas GF&P format and be done with it or leave it alone!

Dan Bridenstine
Lead SD
dbridenstine@live.com

Comment:

I think the one tag proposal was great. I love in the blackhills and would like a better chance of drawing a tag each year

Terry Osborn
Aberdeen SD

Comment:

As a resident that has hunted both east and west river for over 25 years I was very dissatisfied with original proposal. The compromise is a wonderful solution that addresses everybody's concerns. Great job GF&P and thanks for listening.

Mark Nelson
Boyceville WI
waywest@centurytel.net

Comment:

This proposal continues to prevent former South Dakotans, like myself, the ability to hunt East River deer with our land-owning resident family members.

Marshall Drexler
Harrisburg SD
mdrexler@vastbb.net

Comment:

If this worth the controversy it is causing. The GF&P may be trying to make it better for hunters but may be turning people away from deer hunting. I am 61 years old and am not going to keep applying multiple time for deer license. Keep it as is. Hunting don't need controversy. We have enough of that in our government know. Let it settle down.

Jordan Miller
Canton SD
Jordan@run2gun.com

Comment:

This is a joke correct? The majority of sportsman and women do not want change to the current system. You already made change to the system with our points.

Your agenda has been facsinating to watch over the past year and the "ploitical routes" you have taken to try and pass this garage.

How much tax payer money has been wasted on this?

I hope this one crashes and burns in legislation as well.

Jared Jeratowski
Parker SD
Jtowski02@hotmail.com

Comment:

Still trying to change a system that works great. Why not worry about our rights to the lakes that we played to stock that we can no longer fish. Or the fields that we pay to lease but allow the farmers to cut for there cattle and could find a mouse on after the fact because there is no cover left. Still so much more to work on and worry about but so concerned with not listening to the people of the state. It's just gonna make people start doing it in a not so legal way more often. But hey keep screwing the people that's what your good at.

Harry Mitchell
Hot Springs SD
wanesharose1@gmail.com

Comment:

I see no point in this proposal. I will lose more deer hunting tags. why have you came up with this ludicrous idea? more money? there are plenty more issues you could spend your time on, such as road hunters, I can tell you how to stop them.

Darin Ross

Aberdeen SD

darin@aberdeenchrysler.com

Comment:

It doesn't really matter what the vast majority of us hunters think, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks are going to listen to us they are only it this for a small group that will benefit from this Hunting lodges and people that shut down land for out of state hunters. Thanks again South Dakota for selling out ! It's a shame.

Bruce Lowe

Long Lake SD

twogunbruce@gmail.com

Comment:

I have emailed GFP on three different occasions to offer an alternative means to your current draw method, and I've not received a single reply. At least one of you might think outside the box, and contact me.

Terry Zolnowsky

Piedmont SD

Zolnowsky5@q.com

Comment:

Keep it simple! First choice, only one season. If someone wants more deer, let them get a tag on the second, third, or fourth drawing! Your making it too complicated!

Todd Monson

Bennett WI

Toddbmonson@yahoo.com

Comment:

I support the youth proposal, but not the rest. There are plenty of hunters afield already and the non-residents pay the freight with hard to draw tags.

Duane Hinman
Groton SD

Comment:

I believe the initial change to be able to only apply for one tag in the initial and second draw was a better option. This allows for more people to have a chance at drawing a buck/any deer tag every year, or every other year. Why do some people believe they need to draw multiple buck tags every year? This year, I was unsuccessful at my any deer tag, but did draw an another less deer tag. I applied for any deer tags in both East and West River deer units and was unsuccessful in both however, two individuals I work with drew an any deer tag in both East and West River units. With the original new deer draw, it would increase everyone's chance for at least drawing one any deer tag, so why change the rules to accommodate "entitled" individuals thinking they should be able to draw multiple any deer tags. The only option I can see is to separate the draw for any deer and any antlerless, so people could still apply, but receive no more than one any deer tag in the first two draws. Just my two cents.

Charles Wald
Rapid City SD
ca_wald@yahoo.com

Comment:

hunter should only be able to apply for one deer license on first choice

Dave Huffman
Lemmono SD
hbarbconstruction@gmail.com

Comment:

I think this is a step in the right direction. It's a bitter pill to swallow for me as a 40 year resident of Perkins county to be unsuccessful in drawing an any buck tag more years than successful and have to watch the non Perkins county residents hunt deer and antelope.

I think there should be ONE first choice drawing where you should have to pick one unit within the entire state for your first choice and NOT be able to apply for first choice for multiple regions like east & west river, black hills etc.

It's not fair to the residents of the unit that just want to hunt the unit they live in to get bumped by non residents that are just trying to gather up as many tags in different regions as possible. They should either have to draw that tag as 1st choice of all the units in the state or draw the tag as a leftover in the 2nd draw if they are trying to get multiple tags.

The current draw is not fair to the resident (of the unit, not necessarily the state) who just wants his or her home unit.

Bill Rentz
Rapid City SD
billrentz@icoud.com

Comment:

Thanks for all the hard work, now we will see if the effort actually works. If so, it will be a success, if not it will have been an enormous waste of time. Let's hope for the best.

Rick Frey
Hill City SD
deerfieldlake1@gmail.com

Comment:

opposing would simply be a waste of time!!

Gene Brockel
Mobridge SD
ebrockel@abe.midco.net

Comment:

I am a landowner in cambell county all of the hunters I have talked to in Walworth and Campbell counties are against the change

Fred Carl
Rapid City SD
fkcarl@rap.midco.net

Comment:

I supported the recent changes to the deer application process but oppose this proposed change. The idea is to get more people opportunity--not to provide more opportunity for one person. This proposed change starts to backslide towards where we were. Give the current system a chance and then evaluate

Justin Inhofer
Sturgis SD

Comment:

Leave the deer draw like it was there were no problems with it. You should of been giving the preference points to kids along time ago, they are the future of hunting in our country. I say every kid under 16 gets their first choice always if you want

Kevin Schoepf
Blackhawk SD

Comment:

Really does not matter what anyone says. Game and fish has made up there mind just like changing cow elk seasons so no one would bother bull hunters. Which came about from some gap big shots.

Jason Heintzman
Ipswich SD
daksat@valleytel.net

Comment:

The question still has not been answered, with all the proposed changes is a applicant still able to apply for double tags right away as it has always been? If you can apply for all tags first time around the options for a second tag is unknown. Please answer the question if double tags are still available.

Matthew Troyer
Farmer SD
troyerhomeworks@gmail.com

Comment:

I really like the proposal of bonus points being free for hunters 12-15 and even though this was not part of the present proposal, dropping the minimum age for mentored hunters I also strongly support.
I think the current license allocation proposal strikes a good balance between giving hunters more opportunity to get their preferred hunt but not narrowing the options too much for hunters who hunt various places across the state every year

Jeremy Lowe
Rapid City SD
Jllowe1599@gmail.com

Comment:

Thank you for making the changes in the current system. This will allow myself, kids, and family to carry on our tradition. Thanks again

Kurt Juedes
Wausau WI
Kurtjuedes@gmail.com

Comment:

I'm a nonresident and like the rule change- would also like to see a 3 point rule possibly entertained for people over the age of 18

Jim Dehaai
Keystone SD
Sodakviking@hotmail.com

Comment:

Although I supported the first proposal more where only one area could be applied for in the first draw this is probably a good compromise. I just hope with this new proposal the odds are still good to draw that same area every year. I don't need multiple areas to hunt every year, just one.

Raymond Ruff
Spearfish SD
rayruff@midco.net

Comment:

Why do we have to compromise when I think there is mostly opposition to the change. Just can't leave well enough alone. Sometimes no change is the best action

Charles Courtney
Humboldt SD
cwc.tex@gmail.com

Comment:

The number of deer that are in the state isn't represented in the allocation. This needs to be part of the process. There are many other states that you are allowed only one tag. Change is hard for all involved. The decisions need to be based on how the state wants to manage its herd. Are we going for quantity or quality?

John Walsh
Bismarck ND
Walsh@bis.midco.net

Comment:

Question for you, why is it that an out of stater can apply for a West River Special Buck Tag but not an East River one?
Currently there is no way I can get an East River Buck tag, even if these chances I would still not be able to get one.
At least allow an out of stater get in on the second draw, nothing but doe tags are left by the forth draw.

John Duffy

Oldham SD

jduffy03@hotmail.com

Comment:

I have honestly been against this change from the very beginning but I have spoke with and met with many people involved in this process and the newest proposal is their way of trying to compromise with the "serious deer hunter" that still wants to be able to hold more than 1 QUALITY firearm tag the same year (i.e. an East River and West River tag both or any combination of 2 of the firearm tags). You could have gotten leftover tags in the previous proposal starting in the 3rd drawing but weren't as likely to actually be where or what you wanted to hunt so the previous proposal was likely to only be 1 QUALITY firearm tag per year rather than a better chance at 2 QUALITY firearm tags now.

At the end of the day, some level of change is going through whether we like it or not and this is the best compromise I've seen so far. Would I still rather leave the system the way it is? Absolutely! Will it stay the same? No. Not even if 80% of us don't want it to.

The commission and GFP have good intentions with the change and this will still get roughly 1000 more people deer hunting every year. I'm willing to give up my 3rd firearm tag to make that happen. I will still be able to get a good opportunity to hunt with 2 quality tags from either ER Any Deer, WR Any Deer, or Muzzleloader Deer that I currently hunt now (or others that I dont currently apply for like BHD, CSP, RFD). Before this latest change I was going to have to pick between East River deer and West River deer. That wasn't a choice I wanted to make. Hopefully now many of us will not have to.

The commissioners and GFP have been beaten up a lot over this thing, and I was one of the people very upset at first and even upset throughout most of the process, but the more you learn about the reasons for this and the desire for some type of change (even though most of us were happy with the old system or thought some change was OK, but just not this much change) the more you understand why they felt change was necessary for hunter retention and keeping our sport alive for future generations. They are trying their best to do an impossible job; making everyone happy. Thank you to the GFP and commissioners for listening to the "more serious deer hunters" the last couple weeks with this compromise proposal (and the "less serious deer hunters" over the previous year) and coming up with some level of compromise, even if it still doesn't make most happy on Facebook it shows you are trying to listen and do what you think is best for hunting in SD long-term. People are going to complain no matter what and I'm probably one of them ! ??

Ed Nelson

Erwin SD

dakotalabs9@yahoo.com

Comment:

Non-Residents should NOT be allowed to draw ANY Permits UNTIL ALL Residents have the Drawn Their Permits !!! PERIOD !!

Roger Inman

Pierre SD

rogerinman@mncomm.com

Comment:

I preferred the original proposal that let you pick only one season in the first draw and not eligible for the 2nd. Its a step in the right direction. I have friends who have not received tags and others that get all. Those not receiving become the potential hunters that we lose. By losing hunters we are creating an opening for outside views of hunting to encroach on us that do enjoy helping with conservation/harvesting of animals. As a landowner I would have liked to have seen where landwners guests could pay a transfer fee to the GFP so friends or family from out of state could partake in a big game hunt. This could be a plus money for the dept. I as a landowner do not want the dollars but would love to be able to transfer my (conservation) tag to another so hunting can be promoted. I would attend meetings but timing never seems to be such that it is possible. Thanks for your work.

Tim Pravecsek

Winner SD

bowhunterinsd@yahoo.com

Comment:

I went to the first meeting on this change and was 100% in favor of ideas of change. The complaints about not getting multiple "Buck" tags in my opinion is a poor argument, think of the residents of my county "people living and paying taxes in our county go years without a "buck" tag, most settle for a doe tag. If you are real hunter you will try other methods if you are unsuccessful in drawing a rifle Buck tag.

Gaylord Strivens

Pickstown SD

Instrivens54@gmail.com

Comment:

why should any hunter be lucky enough to draw more than 2 deer tags when so many unlucky would draw no tags. why not limit to maximum of 2 tags?

Quincy Brech

Mitchell SD

Comment:

Why Change a program that isn't working. The lottery is fine the way it is.

Patrick Rosenbaum

Jefferson SD

a5x5hunter07@yahoo.com

Comment:

Leave the way the drawing is and just allow more tags. Plus stop waiting money on unproductive walk in ground such as cattle pastures grazed down to nothing greagory county for starters and picked fields . Stop lining pockets and start buying ground and manage it.

Jason Mitzel

Crooks SD

Comment:

This whole change is a joke. You are not doing anything that will allow people to get there perfered liscence like you said. It is just a feel good move to seem like you are. Leave the draw system that we currently have been useing in place. I only apply for one big game liscence a year but can see this is a joke so leave the system alone.

Doug Furness

Brandon SD

dwfurness@yahoo.com

Comment:

The current system works if you are not hung up on one county or hunting unit. I have never had a problem getting a tag.

Rick Hanger

Sioux Falls SD

hangfire49@sio.midco.net

Comment:

The newest deer tag proposal seems to be a fair compromise. It allows multiple tag apps while still providing more hunters a chance at a good tag. My preferred choice would still be no change, but I feel we all can live with this newest plan.

I would say, adopt this plan and see how well it works for a few years before implementing any other changes.

Richard Eisenzimmer

Hot Springs SD

Vulcan.classic@hotmail.com

Comment:

One hunter should not have several deer tags in one season. That means other people are at home not getting to hunt. Non-resident hunters should not be in a draw with resident hunters. At my age, 64, it would be nice to be able to use a cross bow.

Mark Krenn
Sturgis SD
neverswet@yahoo.com

Comment:

I was not in favor of the initial proposal but am in favor of the current proposal. Thank you for digging deeper into this very important subject.

Clark Baker
Sioux Falls SD
clarkbaker27@yahoo.com

Comment:

leave alone

Kelly Eilers
Canton SD
kjeilers89@gmail.com

Comment:

.JUST LEAVE IT ALONE It works....you get them all sold and you are not going to attract any more hunters...if they want to hunt they will apply.....dont try to fix something that isnt broken

Russ Nurnberg
Watertown SD
russnurnberg@gmail.com

Comment:

My opinon on this topic is that changing the drawing method (especially with 2 first choice seasons) will not "Increase Opportunity". I have spoken to many other hunters regarding this and almost every one has stated the same opinion. The reason people are not hunting is two fold 1) Limited public access in certain areas (private land is amost impossible to gain access to). 2) The overall cost in general has gotten to be more than some people can afford. I do think this new proposal is better than the first, but personally don't think it will achive the desired result.

Paul Eidsness
Sioux Falls SD
paul@eidsness.net

Comment:

support

Robert Whitcraft

Andover MN

bob.whitcraft@comcast.net

Comment:

Seems as if residents have long-enjoyed a strong preference in the deer draw. As in my prior comments, this proposal seems unnecessary and does not factor what the added non-resident restriction will do to overall attitudes about spending money in SD. It may be 'revenue neutral' for deer licenses only but GF&P has no way of determining broad non-resident reaction to this proposal as related to other hunting, fishing, and recreational spending.

Haar Darren

Rapid City SD

Comment:

This is a great plan. I'm sure the very avid hunters will push against this compromise again because they will want to be able to hunt all of SDs regions. However they need to remember that most of us are "casual hunters" and only apply for one zone or two. For the casual hunter it is hard to stay interested/engaged in hunting when you only draw a tag every other year or less. Over time this lack of engagement will result in the loss of hunters. Loss of hunters equals loss of support for hunting. We need to keep the big picture in mind and make sure or regulatory structure keeps people engaged in hunting and thus supporting our right to hunt.

Ross Fenske

Sioux Falls SD

fenske87@gmail.com

Comment:

support

Gary Geiken

Lennox SD

gkgeiken@gmail.com

Comment:

This proposal still is not fair. We are 1 state not east river, west river. While myself and other family members go 2-3 years between licenses, others are getting 1-3 tags almost every year. We are not encouraging our grandkids to start deer hunting due to this set up.

Keith Christianson

Volga SD

walleye621@outlook.com

Comment:

I prefer the proposal for 1 tag draw in the first draw. I believe I would have a better chance of drawing my buck tag. If I want a second deer I will apply in the 3 draw for a doe tag. Please leave as it is.

Darcy Kuyper

Platte SD

Comment:

I think the new proposal is great !

Kim Geiken

Lennox SD

gkgeiken@gmail.com

Comment:

I have never understood how I have to wait 2-3 years to get a tag when many others I know get a couple tags every year.

Shawn Baker

Sturgis SD

sbbowhunter71@gmail.com

Comment:

I liked the system the way it was , I grew up hunting in Wisconsin and my last 10 years I lived in WI I didn't hunt at all because there were so many people . It was an army of hunters all over public land . It was not even fun because people would

Gary Hendrickson
Belle Fourche SD
ragary@rushmore.com

Comment:

I believe the initial proposal by GFP should be kept in place. The concern was getting hunters their first choice unit. This current proposal does not increase the odds of a hunter wanting to apply for the one unit they prefer. Lets take a BHD applicant and that is all they want is BHD. This proposal still allows multiple applicants to compete with that BHD applicant really not increasing their odds to obtain a BHD lic. I know there are ERD applicants that are the same only wanting their home county. After the first draw all hunters will have a opportunity to compete for leftover units. Obtaining that first unit choice is important to more hunters then you think and the vocal ones opposing the initial proposal are being selfish in obtaining as many tags as they can. another thing to look at is limiting buck licenses to 2 per person. If you have ample opportunities to harvest 2 buck it should be a rewarding season and if you want more deer for meat then buy doe tags. I understand this is a difficult situation and you will never please everyone but you started out with trying to increase hunters odds of obtaining their first choice lic. and now you have compromised that. Pick a topic you have a chance of being most successful on and stick to it. Trying to piece meal a system will only hurt your results in the long run.
Gary

Shawn Baker
Sturgis SD
sbbowhunter71@gmail.com

Comment:

I liked the system the way it was , I grew up hunting in Wisconsin and my last 10 years I lived in WI I didn't hunt at all because there were so many people . It was an army of hunters all over public land . It was not even fun because people would

Shawn Beck
Castlewood SD
sjbeck_75@yahoo.com

Comment:

I think everyone should be able to apply for multiple seasons if they wish. I also think the whole purpose of the points was to keep it fair and by charging for points, I believe it undermines the purpose. I think points should be given as they used to be and if gfp isn't making enough money than the price of the tags should've gone up instead of charging us 'to be fair'.

Bob Roth
Aberdeen SD
Rothbo@abe.midco.net

Comment:

Why don't you make it if you apply for west river on first choice then you can't apply for east river on the first round and vice versa. Then you could also apply for any of the others on the first round. There are to many hunters that only apply for just one unit whether it be east or west that don't get a license because a lot of hunters think they are entitled to both???

Vaughn Sudrala
Rapid Cuty SD
Vsudrala@gmail.com

Comment:

Maybe consider a special FLINTLOCK muzzle loader season for a week during the end of archery season. Hunters that draw a muzzle loader tag could hunt at that time. Flintlock only at that time. I think this was the intention of the muzzle loader season in the first place. With the new inline muzzle loaders it is not really a traditional hunt anymore.

Corey Hokanson
Huron SD
C.hokanson@hotmail.com

Comment:

Ppl should only be able to apply for one in the first draw not 2 and I think u should take some of the land owner tags away to or only let the direct land owner be able to claim that not distant relatives like ppl are doing now that would leave more for the general public

Douglas Eoute
Stillwater MN
deoute@hotmail.com

Comment:

As a long time nonresident hunter, I respectfully submit that we as non-residents are not getting a fair chance in drawings for deed tags at only 8% of tags allowed. And having to wait for 3rd round for leftover tags unfairly regulates nonresidents to second class citizens. Give us an reasonable chance at drawing success. Thanks

Curtis Roeszler
Marysville CA
roeszler@comcast.net

Comment:

originally from south dakota but living in california for 45 years. applied first time non-resident in 2018. Have to say that south dakota has always managed deer herds better than california. That said I am not a trophy hunter so have always hunted for the meat not the glory. califonia does not allow doe hunting so we had a good hunt in 2018. so not for or against and can surely understand resident concerns. Your field office was very helpful for east river for 2018 so will leave it to South Dakota wisdom to do what's right since California has no wisdom any more. and plan on moving back home to south dakota to retire in couple years so will be resident hunter in a couple years anyway. and no doubt you are seeing more non resident applications because of conditions and regs from the western states with low success rates. even though non residents move from 3rd draw to 5th draw I am still confident that S.D. will do what's right for all concerned.

Robert Salazar

Rapid City SD

bsalazar@rushmore.com

Comment:

You guys make it sound like if you only have these limited number draw that every one whoe puts in for a tag will get one and that's not it at all..your still giving out a limited number of tags and poor joe blow over here thinks he and his family are all going to get tags because of this....you guys are really wanting people to buy preference points so you don't have to give out tags and your still getting money ..i have been hunting along time since 1981 and my boys all hunt and ive gotten a lot of people into it and some even back into it..but you guys are turning it into a rich mans sport buy charging 40 dallars a tag and you usall have at least 2 tears preference befor you get that tag...and when was the last time there were any leftovers in the black hills unit..and prairie any deer tags other than whitail and then you have to have private land to h7nt or your screwed....i love hunting with my family to but we all understand the luck of the draw system.and your trying to cater to a few that don't understand it and your going to start losing a lot of hunters because of it....i remember the day you went to knart bought your tag.over the counter for 12 bucks and hunted...the deer aint bigger and you don't get any more meat off them. I waited six years to get a black powder tag so im pretty mutch done with that and so far I got two years preferences for the hills..so im thinking its almost not worth it....hope you guys get it figured out soon ..thank you for reading ...if you do....thanks again

James Theis

Rapid City SD

wjtjm@centurylink.net

Comment:

After being unsuccessful in drawing a Black Hills deer tag for the past 5 years, I believe this proposal will give me a far better chance to draw one for the upcoming season.

Chris Solum

Sioux Falls SD

csolum@hotmail.com

Comment:

This is a great idea and will give me and my family a better chance to get tags to hunt our private land

Kim Wagenman

Spearfish SD

kwag@rushmore.com

Comment:

I think your statistics show the vast majority either moderately or strongly support the goal of providing a system that gives the best chance for every applicant to get their tag or their first choice. I think its giving in to a small group that still want two first choice tags which will mean more folks will be denied their one choice. Also just makes a complicated system even more complex.

Mark Perry

Sioux Falls SD

mlperry44@sio.midco.net

Comment:

You have listed that first time youth hunters would get a bonus point the first time they apply. Please think about that. My son has applied for west river, east river and black hills for 2 straight years without attaining a buck tag. By allowing First time youth to have the extra points you are placing them ahead of or at the same level as youth that have already been in the system. You should address the group of youth that have been left out the past few years and that have never attained a buck tag. Many people also do not realize that a youth can attain points before they actual turn 12 and draw a tag. We didn't realize that and I have hunted for over 50 years. Please make this fair for the youth. My son has continually lost interest in hunting deer since he has not had the opportunity to get a buck tag. Please keep it fair for all.

Please revise to the following.

"First time youth hunters and those youth hunters that have never attained an any deer or buck tag would receive a bonus preference point"..for the 2019 season.

Also the system is more complicated then ever. What was wrong with the first proposal? Everyone would have had an opportunity to get one of the 5 main deer licenses, ERD,WRD, BH, or SB or muzzleloader? ...correct...

This makes sense. I typically do not have time to hunt multiple units and if I was given the option for a quality hunt in one of those 5 deer license categories (each year) I would be very satisfied with the system. These proposals seem to be driven by those individuals that what to "hog=up" as many tags as they can get and shoot as many bucks as they can everywhere. I believe most people would be happy with one quality tag a year and then if there are left over tags after everyone has had a chance to get one, the people that want multiple tags can have at it.....seems much easier. The youth should be placed ahead of these individuals that get multiple tags. The youth are the future of hunting and without them our sport will die.

Also, more explanation needs to be given and more examples of how the system would work. Please post some scenarios for all of us to look at...."what ifs"

This issue is a big deal for those of us that go 2 years without attaining a buck tag and those of us that only have public land to hunt on. When you hunt public land your not guaranteed anything but the opportunity. Thank you,

Cary Goodman

Rapid City SD

carygoodman@hotmail.com

Comment:

I approve of this proposal

Justin Whitehead

Mitchell SD

jstnwhitehead@yahoo.com

Comment:

How will preference point accumulation work? Will there still be preference points for each season separately? Will preference points only be gained if unsuccessful in the first draw?

Russell Deneui
Chancellor SD
rdeneui@ymail.com

Comment:

Focus on youth and residents most important . Agree with giving more hunters an opportunity .

Tyler Spomer
Pierre SD
Tspomer@midco.net

Comment:

For the most part I support the changes being made. However I would like to see consideration for non-resident operators. While technically still a resident of SD, we are moving to ND. My wife's family owns and operates 1600 acres in Campbell County. My wife is the farm manager, making the day to day decisions concerning the farm. We both regularly work on the farm. We feed and manage more than 95 cow calf pairs. We routinely are involved in haying, fencing, weed control, etc... on the farm. Because we will be moving to ND we are no longer able to hunt on our land. I feel we should be able to get landowner licenses so we can hunt only our own land. I don't care about hunting anywhere else in the county. The number of non-resident landowner operators has to be small. If this wouldn't work then I would propose a "come home to hunt" option for former residents. I love SD and it always be home but the options for me to hunt deer appear to be limited at best. Thanks!

Bill Mcgrath
Spearfish SD
z7billm@gmail.com

Comment:

I was all in favor of having one preference for first draw and that is what was proposed. Now we are moving back to where we were by being able to apply fro two first draw. The people like myself who live in the Black Hills generally what to hunt the hills. It would appear you are trying to appease the people who want to be able to hunt there back yard and still take a trip to the hills where we have a huge amount of public land available for all. I believe you were headed in the right direction but now I have lost all faith in the process once again. Again I will be limited to the years I wil draw a tag for the Black Hills where I have lived and hunted my entire life.

Bill McGrath
Spearfish

Riley Gilbertson
Waubay SD
rileyfirelord@gmail.com

Comment:

I see nothing wrong with the system in place. I feel like if nothing is wrong do not try to fix it. I feel like GFP is trying to get more out of state hunters in and for deer hunting I do not support that.

Bryan Tweedy
Piedmont SD
btweedy@hotmail.com

Comment:

Change the archery deer start date back to late September. It doesn't help the deer. Also, start some type of limited draw for non residents for archery. This would provide overall better opportunities and is the right thing to do.

David Park
Howell MI

Comment:

This ultimately hurts the LandOwner that leases hunting privilege to non-residents. If I don't draw a license I don't go and don't pay the lease. The residents in the area are unwilling or unable to pay the lease fee. This year I saw more deer than ever before.

Barc Smith
Marion SD
Barcsmith1959@gmail.com

Comment:

The second proposal is much better than the initial proposal. Good job and thanks for all your time on the commission

Richard Edenstrom
Aberdeen SD
dickeden1@yahoo.com

Comment:

Perhaps the commission should consider awarding "bonus" preference points to "senior citizens".

Richard Hyronimus
Beresford SD
rhyro@live.com

Comment:

This will increase the apps for special buck license and encourage preference point sales both revenue positive.

Darin Pekkala

Bryant SD

familyseven10@gmail.com

Comment:

Two of my boys and I did not draw buck deer rifle tags this year, it's the fifth time I haven't drawn in 20 years. That's the only problem I've had with hunting here . I don't think you should have to buy a preference point to guarantee a tag. I have 8 kids and we are big hunters I don't want them to get disgusted with these rules and lose interest. There's a lot of unnecessary changes being made. P

Rob Heisinger

Parkston SD

Comment:

I honestly think you are trying to fix something that isn't broken. It is almost impossible to find ground to hunt West River and unless it is public. More hunters saturating public hunting is only going to lead to less success and more frustration. In the long run you will end up with less hunters in the field.

Raymond Oyen

Lead SD

rayoyen@hotmail.com

Comment:

If you allow 2 choices first draw I still won't be able to get my Hills license and that's all I want

Josh Olson

Lemmon SD

Comment:

The one draw system is the only way to correct the problem we have. Double dipping will not increase odds but by a very small amount. Get it Changed ONCE so you don't have to go through this again. There is absolutely no reason someone should possess more than 1 buck license until left overs. South Dakota is SOUTH DAKOTA. Stop segregating east west and black hills. One draw per unit of choice. Every other state is that way. It's time we get with the change. I will settle for nothing less than 1 draw. And I speak loudly for everyone out west. If it don't change expect more land to be locked out and miss managed.

Joel Farnham

White Rock NM

jefarnham@comcast.net

Comment:

How much difference is it going to make pushing the non-resident opportunity for leftover licenses to the 5th draw? This proposal is less welcoming to me as a non-resident deer hunter.

Greg Schweiss
Rapid City SD
schweissrc@aol.com

Comment:

I think the change to allow hunters to apply for two licenses in the first drawing is a significant improvement from the original proposal. While I still prefer the current system, I could now support the proposed changes, whereas I was strongly opposed to the initial proposal. The new proposal would now allow my kids and I to participate in our annual Family west river deer hunt, while still having a chance to occasionally draw a Black Hills Deer tag.

Derrick Reifenrath
Custer SD

Comment:

oppose

Russell Brown
Watertown SD
maclover@wat.midco.net

Comment:

This sounds like a good proposal. Keep in mind more importantly is the number of deer in each county. With the destruction of habitat by farmers on a continuous basis, by tiling, filling in low lands, and removing tree claims in grant, deuel and codington counties Has significantly impacted the number of deer we see during hunting season. As the DNR you need to address these issues immediately, To ensure quality deer hunting opportunities for our children and their's.

Jason Lee
Cresbard SD
jlee@venturecomm.net

Comment:

2 opportunities in the 1st draw seems to be fair enough. Only 1 would be absolutely unacceptable. Thanks for listening to the residents of SD who hunt.

Bruce Jones
Rapid City SD
BJONESSD@AOL.COM

Comment:

IF YOU WANT MORE HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES. GO BACK TO ORIGINAL PROPOSAL OF ONE PREFERED LICENSE AREA.

Adam Boomgarden
Hurley SD
Adamboom1@gmail.com

Comment:

Changing the drawing system is dumb and must only be for a few people that are unhappy that they don't get the tag they always want.

Chris Nelson
Pierre SD
Chrisbinsd@yahoo.com

Comment:

I oppose the current proposal and support the original as proposed by GFP staff. Many hunters want more opportunities and to increase youth participation. The original proposal may do this. My opinion is that it is worth a try. If it doesn't work, then alternatives giving multi-first-pick choices can be reinstated.

Gary Lueth
Blooming Prairie MN
garylueth@gmail.com

Comment:

Recognition of Lanowners rights HAS to be part of any licensing system. It doesn't matter how many tags the Sioux Falls residents get if they don't have private land to hunt. Landowner tags now or the no hunting signs go up and the Sioux Falls crowd. The farmers and ranchers are very angry they don't have a voice. Wake up or you will have a serious issue.

Don Weber
Milbank SD
cdweb@wat.midco.net

Comment:

The proposal that would allow a hunter to apply for two of the six deer seasons in the first draw is already a compromise. When will the compromising end?

Aj Pollock
Gregory SD

Comment:

Keep the lottery drawing system. It works just fine. One motive for the proposal is to put more hunters in the field. How do you do that AND give out the same amount of tags? Public land is already crowded, hunters walk over hunters every time.

Eric Lie
Spearfish SD
doerlie@hotmail.com

Comment:

one first choice is enough-many seasons overlap - Better odds of getting a first choice instead of no license at all.

Lynn Voss
Sioux Falls SD
lynn22@sio.midco.net

Comment:

The system how is working just fine, leave it the way it is.

Mitch Munneke
Corsica SD
Sara.mitch@hotmail.com

Comment:

I really dont think you are going to get many extra people into the field also the people of South Dakota have spokenwe do NOT Want change!!!! Listen to us!!!!!!

Brian Cotten
Watertown SD
Cottenb@hotmail.cim

Comment:

I really wish you would leave refuge draw out of this and have it on its own. This tag is very difficult to draw the way it is and is extremely limited. Please do not include refuge draw into this application!

Richard Hartland
Winner SD
rkhartland@yahoo.com

Comment:

I feel it works fine the way it is, but if you staggered the draw dates, we would regulate ourselves on how many tags we apply for, we all know we only have so much time. I applied for Hills license this year black powder license this year and special Buck license this year, I was unable to draw any of them, I have 15 points in the black hills area, so I understand what it's like not to draw a tag, But at least I always have chance for one of three, so my support is for leaving it alone,
thank you.

Brian Parsons
Harrisburg SD
brparsons@midco.net

Comment:

This proposal will have just the opposite affect and reduce the number of hunters in the field by restricting them to fewer tages in areas they prefer to hunt.
I most definitely appose opening buck tags in the first draw to non resident hunters. All this will accomplish is turning our resident deer hunting into all paid deer hunting. If it would pass I would start a petition to stop this action.

Rodney Heinrich
Rapid City SD
rrheinrich@midco.net

Comment:

there are those of us that only have the hills to hunt and we can go years without a tag. I went two years a friend went five years. applying for one tag in first drawing will give us a better chance of getting a tag on a regular basis

Scott Olson
Mission Hill SD
scott.olson@mtmc.edu

Comment:

The system that is in place now is better than what is being proposed I think. The youth already have numerous opportunities to get started hunting. We need to be able to apply for all seasons as in the past.

Robert Winter
Yankton SD
bcwinter@vyn.midco.net

Comment:

I do not think the special buck should be included with east/west river first draw.

Dennis Engel
Sioux Falls SD
marcia,denny@hotmail.com

Comment:

how would this help you get a license, if there are like only one or two hundred licenses in a popular area ?

Pat Malcomb

Sioux Falls SD

pmalcomb@sio.midco.net

Comment:

Leave as is, this is not needed. why aren't bowhunters included in this they automatically get two buck tags and a few doe tags. If you are going to limit rifle hunters this is only fair. I say again leave as is.

Brian Garbisch

Summerset SD

brian.garbisch280@gmail.com

Comment:

This proposal still does not address the underlying issue of the "preference point" system that the department has tried to fix with the gimmick of cubing points. I find it hard to believe that hunters will have a better opportunity to draw their desired license, especially for people who desire to hunt West River including the Black Hills. The Black Hills is only one unit and West River deer is multiple units. But not all West River units are equally desired. Until the department installs a true preference point system, it seems that you are giving false hope of actually drawing a preferred license. This includes all species and licenses in which preference points are accumulated.

I would agree with having a small percentage of licenses for available for people with no preference points, even if you just restrict that percentage to youth. But by having everyone in the same draw pool, no matter the preference points, isn't working. Example, no one with less than 5 preference points should draw a tag before someone with 15+ years, period. The Wyoming nonresident system may not be perfect but at least a person knows when they have a good or absolute chance of drawing.

Looking at the age distribution of who submits multiple applications, you can see that the age groups that do are the groups that potential have the knowledge, physical capability and financial means to hunt multiple areas and seasons. This also means that they are traveling around and contributing more to the economy throughout the state. I am all for providing more hunting opportunities for youth, which can be accomplished by my previous statement of setting aside a percentage of licenses for them. Also, the older folks that don't necessarily want to travel very far or only want to do one hunt, a portion could be set aside for them in which to apply.

I would rather you address this issue by actually fixing the draw system for all species in a way that is straight forward and fair. I would think that more people would be satisfied with actually knowing how many years it may take them to draw their desired area license than hoping that a new random draw system will work.

Thank you for your time.

David Herrboldt

Menno SD

Comment:

I am in favor of applying for 2 of the 6 deer seasons on the first draw.

Shane Stanley

Hot Springs SD

hunterfan_31@yahoo.com

Comment:

This is very stupid.your taking our choices away and chances to get a tag for the unit you want as a 2 ND choice

Jim Larsen

Hot Springs SD

jimlarsen433@yahoo.com

Comment:

If for instance I received a tag for both first choice license, the way it is explained is that I am allowed only 1 more tag in any second drawing. I would hope this is not the case.

Jason Haskell

Aberdeen SD

j.kr@nrctv.com

Comment:

I am mostly for the proposal, but oppose the Muzzleloader. I'm not exactly sure how the SDGF&P views/manages the ML hunt. As a primitive weapon I feel that it is wrong to make it so hard to draw and to run it after rifle. I do like that it is a longer season, but feel that there should be a window after archery, but before rifle that begins the ML season. It can then run congruent with rifle and possibly extend beyond also. I also feel we would benefit from delaying the rifle season a week. It always hits too close to the rut. We would have better quality statewide if we allowed those buck to breed in peace before the season starts. Just a couple of my thoughts. Thanks for listening.

Jason Jones

Covington VA

ibejay2982@aol.com

Comment:

So how are preference points going be used? Are previous points still valid? Everything separate or all points grouped together?

Jason Collins

East Grand Rapids MI

jdcollins43@gmail.com

Comment:

The changes you propose for deer hunting will probably make it more difficult for me to draw a non-resident tag. For that, I'm sad and ask you to reconsider. I've been "vacationing" in S. Dakota during the fall for 20+ years and during that time I've made friends, spent money and I've even gained a rooting interest in your high school football playoffs that grace the TV in every bar during November. As you make these changes please consider the timing of your draw to be before or close to other states that have good deer hunting. That will allow me to better plan my fall. I want to continue my non-resident tradition of hunting S. Dakota, and I'd hate to see you have a "late" in the calendar year drawing, and I forego your tag because I've already drawn (and purchased) an alternate tag for a different state.

I love hunting your state because of your rich resources, quality management, and the strong hunting heritage carried on by your residents. Keep it strong and I'll be there as often as I can so I can continue my out of state tradition. Thanks for the hospitality South Dakota.

Curtis Gustafson

Huron SD

crtgustafson@gmail.com

Comment:

I am assuming I could apply for East River Deer and West River deer in the first drawing.

Mary Hershberger

Blackfoot ID

ghersh@ida.net

Comment:

We have hunted SD for the past 20 years but will no longer hunt your state or stay in your motels or eat at you restaurants. Due to our slim chance of drawing in we will not be back to hunt.

Robert Vansickle

Watertown SD

rvansickle57@gmail.com

Comment:

deer tag allocation changes.....this new plan will give me less opportunity to put deer meat in my freezer...its not about trophies for me I live for the hunt and the meat provided!! This new deer tag allocation is rediculous...im in it for the hunt and the meat and appreciate living in SD....and having the opportunity to feed my family on venison!!! With your new plan it will restrict my ability to get 3 or more tags !!! Not sure what you are trying to accomplish w this !!

Julio Medeiros

Natrona Heights PA

Jfmedeiros939@gmail.com

Comment:

I am commenting on the proposed changes for deer hunting license. While I am in favor of a fair process for all, it seems that this new procedure would further limit non-resident chances to obtain deer tags. Having been a resident and now a non-res

Gerald Anderson

Owatonna MN

Grandy74@gmail.com

Comment:

11 resident tags while many in our party go without...the land we lease will never be open to locals. Too many have abused it. I'm sure this is the case in many places. So a 25 year tradition will be lost, the ranchers will lose revenue. But some residents will have 11 tags!!

David Del Soldato

Rapid City SD

sheyanne97@yahoo.com

Comment:

this will not get you more people hunting it is good just as it already is done I think you will just anger your base of hunters maybe that's what you want

Daniel Wittrock

Sioux Falls SD

innerarms06@gmail.com

Comment:

I THINK A LOT BETTER THE FIRST PROPOSAL OF ALLOWING ONLY ONE OF THE SIX SEASON

Ronald Tobin

Gettysburg SD

Ronniedtobin@yahoo.com

Comment:

The general public is not in favor of these changes fish and game needs to stop asking our opinion because you will do what ever you want. Stop

James Strachan

Chancellor SD

jamesstrachan2105@gmail.com

Comment:

I do believe that as when I grew up that deer hunting was a family tradition. It's sort of like christmass. It was a family affair. I personally could care less if I killed another deer but it is important to kids. In today atmosphere I believe that most parents unless they get some kind of license won't participate. I do and I'm not even a parent, I take a week off. And take some kids hunting. My suggestion is to combine a traditional muzzle loader season with gun season (notice I said traditional muzzle loader ,round balls ,no scopes, make it flint lock if you must,) just issue buck licenses for it, I've hunted with them for years there effective range is about equal to these new bows. Everybody gets a license you get more money, and has little if any impact on deer populations. Cant attest to the rest of the state but deer herd is up in southeast SD compared to previous years about back to normal a little short but close, didn't find any dead deer along creeks this year, cut down on doe licenses a few more years and it will be back to normal. Lots of little bucks that will amount to nothing and the 4 or 5 monsters would be a good idea to thin out the little bucks. You've got deer but I really dont understand your philosophy on growing the herd. You are not going to kill all the bucks in 2 weeks. Better to take your kid hunting than hunt your kid!

Sue Crooks

Astoria SD

sue.crooks1985@gmail.com

Comment:

Bottom line as a land owner, there are way to high of a deer population and its needs to be cut in half!! I allow any mentoring/youth that ask to hunt as long as they follow our rules for how they act/proceed on our land and several town people that like to hunt. SO don't make your first reply to me to "let people hunt your land", we allow deer/geese/and trapping to several individuals. This holding back and decreasing tags in eastern South Dakota and stating population is down due to disease is not good enough. I have too much deer and geese damage on my land as the population is just too high. Double or even triple the ones you are issuing now since you have cut the numbers so much the last few years and to me, that is still not enough. They numbers in the herds I see in a 40 mile radius as I travel is incredible. There are so many, they aren't even scared to bed down in my yard. I want to see the number of tags/licenses increase for residents and non-residents both.

Ivan Umberger

Lower Brule SD

Lowerbruleroads@hotmail.com

Comment:

I would like to see west river resident have first chose on west river season before every one get to throw their hats in. I've lived and still hunt in Gregoy Co, with all the good walk in hunting we have lots of east river hunters making it more difficult to draw on low license years. Most hunters don't like not being drawled in your own back yard while many stranger hunt there, thanks

Arlyn Abrams
Beresford SD
AJABRAMS@BMTC.NET

Comment:

support

James Lietz
Brookings SD
jblietz@brookings.net

Comment:

Looks like the old under the table dealings. You are not providing me with more hunting opportunity. giving more out of state hunters to come and make individuals who charge for out of hunters more money. ruining south dakota state residents family traditions. All for the almighty dollar. How many pieces of silver do you need.

Ken Grosch
Sturgis SD
Kenegrosch@yahoo.com

Comment:

support

James Stengle
Yankton SD
jbstengle@gmail.com

Comment:

As a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB) and long-time hunter, I am concerned that your plan discriminates against a small but important segment of the hunting population. That would be East River Non-Resident (NR) LANDOWNERS. Under the present and proposed system, any NR can apply for East River (rifle) tags only if there are any leftover from the last drawing. There is no other options for NR Landowners. This seems terribly unfair to those NR Landowners that want to hunt on their own property but seldom, if ever, get the opportunity to even APPLY for a tag because there are none available. Those NR Landowners pay considerable taxes on their land. Their lands support wildlife and wildlife habitat. Even though they own the land, pay taxes on their property, and support wildlife/wildlife habitat on those properties, they are discriminated against by the system. That is a terrible system that does not allow a landowner to hunt on their own property. The number of NR landowners is small in comparison with resident landowners. A portion of the overall tags could easily be allocated to NR landowners. If they are not purchased by the landowner to hunt on their own property, the tags could then be included in the leftover draw and opened to anyone. Just saying because discrimination is wrong. A tag allocation for NR Landowners should be developed so that at the least they have an opportunity to apply for a tag to hunt their own property!

Bob Lee
Watertown SD
Bl@wat.midco.net

Comment:

Two any deer tags is enough people are spoiled in South Dakota they think they should have all they can get for any deer the two is great plenty thank you for doing this.

John Wilson
Rapid City SD
jkw4002@gmail.com

Comment:

I see people that will put in for bh and wr deer and only receive 1 deer permit any way. so what is the difference in putting for SB/ WR or SB/ HD what is the deal with the SB permit. I never put in for that permit. You are just look out that trophy hunters. Just like when you upped the size limit on trout a few years ago. You were looking out for the fly fisher-man that had a hard time catching big trout. Joke

Thomas Larson
Parker SD

Comment:

Nothing wrong with how the draw system is now. Drawings should remain separate. Most the people that say they never get a tag forget to send in or don't understand the preference system.

Scott Olson
Custer SD
sdolson092404@gmail.com

Comment:

support

Ron Schuch
Rapid City SD
rscchuchs4@gmail.com

Comment:

Having grown up in east river I hunt both east and west river seasons. I will now have to choose between both seasons. The county that I hunt east river NEVER has left over tags for an any deer license. This would mean having to choose between east or west river seasons and never hunting one or the other again. This doesn't work for me.

Wayne Shanks

Colton SD

Wshanks56@hotmail.com

Comment:

I support the new deer license proposal with one exception. As a land owner in Minnehaha co I highly suggest going to slug only and eliminate rifle in the entire county. Minnehaha county rural is becoming very populated. Both me and my newborn have had close calls from rifle bullets. Hole in barn and bullet hit close to my feet. To a point I don't want my grandkids outside during season. Please consider request. I'm an avid hunter that is concerned for safety. Don't wait until someone is seriously injured.

Bobby Pudwill

Milbank SD

Bobby.pudwill@gmail.com

Comment:

This compromise approach and the expected results is a significant improvement over the original proposal. I would recommend however that this proposal is given a two year trial prior to becoming a permanent solution.

Jeff Whillock

Ab SD

jwhillock@abe.midc

Comment:

This compromise makes very good sense to me. I appreciate the opportunities that this will provide -- for both more hunters to have opportunities and also those who want to hunt more than one area to be able to apply for two on first draw. Well done! Thank you for the collaboration and listening.

Bryan Schnell

Rapid City SD

pir@rap.midco.net

Comment:

I have tried to - and believe I have- read everything you have distributed about this proposal, both from your website & media stories. I have called the GFP Chairman & Kevin Robling . My question is:What about my existing preference points that me and my active duty military/law enforcement sons (all SD residents) have been accumulating for many years? Mr. Robling assured me they would not be lost, and stated that they needed to get the word out better about that, indicated he was going to do so (2+ months ago) and still no definitive written word. WILL WE LOSE OUR PRE-EXISTING PREFERENCE POINTS OR NOT? Is it yes; no; or maybe? The fact that you have never addressed this outright -that I have seen, maybe I missed it- makes me very concerned about the forthright motivations behind this deal. I am not a conspiracy guy....but I just want a straight answer, in writing, on the record. Can you please answer the question that many hunters and I have discussed, with NO ONE having seen a published answer. Thank you for your answer or directing me to the previously published written public citation clarifying this aspect. Respectfully, BHS

Jeremy Nettifee
Sioux Falls SD
jerenet1341@live.com

Comment:

Please leave the current system in place. There is nothing wrong with it.

Lee Whitcraft
Webster WI
leew@schooltechbiz.com

Comment:

I have hunted or applied to hunt in South Dakota the past few years. I continue to accumulate preference points for West River rifle and always seem to be fighting a moving target that gives much more opportunity to resident hunters.

I understand you want to retain and increase resident hunter applications but you are discouraging us non-residents.

I hope you reconsider your stance on limiting non resident hunter opportunities.

Justin Smith
De Smet SD
justinsmith_99@hotmail.com

Comment:

I like this far better than the original version having said that I still feel you are trying to fix something that isn't broken! I suggest adding the preference point benefits for kids that you've added to your proposal to the current draw system

Randal Turbak
Rapid City SD
randy.turb@gmail.com

Comment:

The Compromise Proposal for deer hunting licenses is much better than the original proposal that mandated an applicant choose only one hunting season. I approve of this.

Ted Judd
Fowlerville MI
mjbldrs@gmail.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose this proposal. As a non resident deer hunter of 25 years I have hunted a few different west river units but have spent most years on a ranch in Jackson county. The time I have spent there has been wonderful for me but beneficial for the ranch as well. Every year along with a lease fee I take on projects to help out around the ranch. Making it more difficult for non residents to hunt in SD would likely have many negative affects that may easily overlooked. I hope many of the ranchers that count on the non resident leases are aware of what is going on before it is too late for there voice to be heard.

Matt Stephens
Rapid City SD
Royko68@rushmore.com

Comment:

I thought the prior proposal was a better approach to getting more hunters in the field. With this new proposal, we Hills hunters will still be squeezed out by those hunters applying for both Hills and WR.

Joseph Bowman
Piedmont SD
damnidanyway@protonmail.com

Comment:

I feel and have always felt that the single first choice allocation originally introduced is a fair and balanced method of license allocation. The people that are complaining of it not being fair are the ones that draw multiple tags yearly at the expense of other preference point holders. If this was to be a truly fair allocation, archery would be included in the first choice allocation. It is ridiculous that with the modern advancements in archery weapons that this season continues to have licenses provided on an unlimited basis.

Gaylord Evans
Hot Springs SD
max.evans8@aol.com

Comment:

You guys are doing a Great job keep it up.You are doing what is best for now and the future generations .

Tom Riddle
Mitchell SD
Riddleandsons@gmail.com

Comment:

Leave Deer season apps alone,I not sure why this commission is so possessed on changing the season apps. Listen to the hunters they want it left alone

Clint Peterson
Box Elder SD

Comment:

You need to start limiting the non-resident tags before you limit the resident. Non-resident can get East River and West River Archery tag, Black hills tag and West River tag all in one year. They should at the least be limited to one archery tag.

Ernest Getty
Rapid City SD
gettyec1948@gmail.com

Comment:

In the past 5 decades I have had the opportunity to apply for numerous any,or buck, deer tags in the first drawing. Odds being what they were I could usually draw 1 or, sometimes,2 buck tags in that first draw usually with the help of preference points.

I fear if I am unsuccessful now with only two deer season choises that most, if not all, buck deer tags will be gone for the second draw period.

Thank you.

Ernest Getty
Rapid City SD
gettyec1948@gmail.com

Comment:

I do not support limiting the deer application process to 2 choises.

My concern is, what happens to my preference points in the other seasons that I can not apply for in the first drawing ?

If there are no buck-deer tags left in the second draw in the seasons I was not allow to put in for in the first draw because of the 2-season limit do those "other" second season preference points just sit there?

Will I be able to buy a preference point in the second draw if there are no buck tags left ,and, I don't apply for a doe ?

Will I be able to use all of my accumulated deer seasons preference point for the season, or two, I do put in for in the first draw ?

Thank you.

Dennis Winters

Pierre SD

dwinters22@pie.midco.net

Comment:

I am in favor of the original proposal to allow only one application in the first draw in the hunting season of your choice.

Dan Snyder

Pierre SD

Shunkaska57501@yahoo.com

Comment:

Starting this summer my opinion has not changed in leaving the system alone. I help a rancher, over 100's of hours donated labor for the right to hunt on his property, your data showed only a 6% increase in a chance of a draw, I have 1 year of preference. East River West Sully any deer I have 5 yrs of preference were there are only 100 licenses of any deer, and half go to land owners. Land owners feed the deer all yr I have no problem but again in this unit my odds wouldn't increase much. Than with 3 yrs of preference with muzzle loader I am about to draw again. If I can only apply for 2 with no guarantee, why not leave it be, my chances to get west sully and muzzle loader will be good this coming year because I have patiently waited my turn, if not than maybe next year. As a teacher today kids in Pierre are very active, fishing, hunting its Ok for them to also wait their turn, its something taught at home.

Daniel Conrad

Rapid Ciry SD

d_boone71@hotmail.com

Comment:

I would like to keep it the same. 50% wanted change but 50% where happy. Don't change just to change. Change if it is right. Youth shouldn't have an advantage over older hunters. I have paid my dues and deserve tags that I never got when I was young. I am the one paying the money!!!!

Shaun Thomas

Tyler MN

sthomaselectric@hotmail.com

Comment:

As a nonresident, with family that owns land east river I am not able to ever get a rifle buck tag. I pay about 9 times more then a resident and am willing to pay that. It is not right that I can't even have a chance at a tag. The land is in Hughes. County. Or make a land owners tag transferable for a price

Stephen Turner
Rapid City SD
smturner60@rap.midco.net

Comment:

Look @landowner tags also,are they only too hunt there land for the depradation?Seen there's a group 7 them that dont,also trying to get archery servay too down load. It doesn't work, thanks

Michael Bowman
Rapid City SD

Comment:

You started out to spread out the deer licenses and make it easier to get the ONE you prefer. You say you lost support but that is untrue--only the people who were getting multiple tags are upset. Now you are back to square one. Basically GFP caters to archery and east river deer hunters. End of story.

Mitchell Bradley
Rapid City SD

Comment:

Resident hunters should be given priority over nonresidents. Each hunter should only be allowed one buck tag per year. There are too many tags given out. Every public area is overcrowded, it is not safe.

Kyle Couchey
Mina SD
sdcouchey@gmail.com

Comment:

Stop changing what is not broken!!! This goes for every other change you guys keep trying to do.

Chad Blodgett
Black Hawk SD
Jerx0313@gmail.com

Comment:

Just leave it the way it is. I haven't talked to any one that supports the new proposal. If you wanna change something, how about you do more for veterans like other states do!

Donald Hinson
Jacksonville FL
dphinson@comcast.net

Comment:

have commented before. own 1400 acres in west river. pay taxes and invest in community farming and ranching same but cannot get landowner tags due to not being resident. would like to see landowner tags allowed for non-residents if they own 1000+ acres or some other way such as increased preference points for non resident landowners.

Steven Frooman
Rapid City SD
sfrooman@gmail.com

Comment:

I opposed the rifle deer license allocation proposal the Commission approved in November 2018. While I remain unconvinced of the need for any changes*, the proposed structure as of the end of the January 2019 meeting does not have the same flaws I objected to. Accordingly, as long as nothing changes from the proposal as presented on the GFP website 1/19/2019, I support its adoption and finalization at the Commission's February 28/March 1st 2019 meeting.

* As long as any rifle deer tags are available as leftovers following all the drawings, I believe it is misleading at best to say that people are unable to hunt because they "couldn't get a tag". No, they couldn't get as good a tag as they wanted. Big deal. And for what it's worth, I know from personal experience that a satisfying hunt can be had with leftover tags. My 2017 hunt was with a 35C13 tag I bought as a leftover and I had a great time with plenty of opportunities to fill the tag.

Rob Flannery
Yankton SD

Comment:

Looks like a, swims like a, and quacks like a duck, its probably a Deer.
The "why" has not been addressed for the catalyst and reason for change.

Robert Hettinger
Pierre SD
bobbyhettinger@hotmail.com

Comment:

What's going to happen to the already low deer populations when everybody gets their tags? Will tag number still be regulated?

Doug Baltzer

Mitchell SD

douglinda_b@centurylink.net

Comment:

The revised format is an improvement over the first drawing change proposed but I still do not want to have to chose a preferred license in the first two drawings. I would rather the system stay as it currently is.

Louis Vaughn

Rapid City SD

Invaughn@rap.midco.net

Comment:

There is nothing wrong with the current process. Leave it as it is!

Marty McClure

Martin TN

martymcclure161@gmail.com

Comment:

I have family in South Dakota and its very hard to impossible for me to get a tag.. the 8% is not enough! Non residents bring in a lot more money to your state and should be given a better chance to get tags, not put dead last. If it wasn't for non-residents sending money to hunt your state you would have a hard time founding any of your projects and to give us only 8% and put us dead last in the options is a slap in our face!!!

William Jennings

Etta MS

wcjsrj@yahoo.com

Comment:

I myself personally grew up in South Dakota and I want to start by saying I love what you have done to manage and grow quality bucks. However I am a little irritated that there is only 8% of the tags allocated to non-residents. I feel when we (non-residents) come we are helping the local economy. We stay in a cabin at Mountain Meadows resort in the black hills. We eat out in Hill City, Deadwood. I do not see where that non-resident number could not be raised to 15%. We generally draw a tag about every 4 years now. It use to be every other year. I can only assume more hunters are applying is why the time lapse has changed on our successful drawing of a deer tag.

Mike Taylor

Comins MI

manmtaylor@gmail.com

Comment:

you are making it harder and harder for nonresidents to get tags ? must be you don' want our business

Thad Nafzuger

Pierre SD

Thadnafziger@yahoo.com

Comment:

While I feel no changes were necessary to the drawing system to begin with, I know many felt the same way I did through various forms of communication, social media, etc. The powers that be (commission) surely seemed bent on pushing this proposed change, regardless of the public outcry (that evidently was loud enough to put the brakes on the original proposal) & believe me I spoke to many, & was an attendee at one of the original focus groups-it seemed that nobody wanted this change. Now we have a revised addition to this plan that albeit is slightly more favorable in my & many's eyes, it is still a fix to a non-problem that wasn't broken. For once at least enough harping & clamoring from "the people that pay your salaries" (if you are truly license dollars funded-doubtful) stopped or at the very least amended yet another unnecessary change, that would appear to be driven by the need to continually change & tinker with things for a couple reasons, & one of them being, in my opinion, to justify an entirely over staffed with unnecessary positions-department of game fish & parks, & to follow recommendations from a commission that has entirely too much power, does not represent the everyday sportsman/woman of this state, & needs to be reigned in, either disbanded or at the very least be held accountable by making entrance to this commission solely through a vote of the resident voting population of this state, then & only then would I be in favor of this commission & any recommendations they would make. At the rate of sounding petty, congratulations (and only with a heck of a lot of upset sportsmen/women expressing their concern on this issue) on making a compromise that was at least a little palatable & representative for & of the people you folks are supposed to represent

Branden Abeln

Groton SD

Comment:

Focusing on the youth I definitely agree with. As far as the other changes in the draw structure I'm very skeptical. Some of us live for deer season to put meat in the freezer and try to shoot bucks. If the buck part is getting reduced a guy will have to start going out of state to get them.

Kenneth Nigg

Watertown SD

kjnigg@midco.net

Comment:

I have a lot of family land in Roberts County that I can Deer Hunt. When I was younger I would get a tag for Roberts everytime I applied. Now I am lucky to get one every 2 to 3 years. This adds a lot of expense and travel for my Son and I. When I have to drive a long distance and stay in a Motel. I have to leave a lot earlier. Then before opener I have to go scout just to have an out of state pheasant hunter park next to me, knowing someone is in this spot hunting, and walk with their dog thru my hunt. This happened 3 times last year. It is just frustrating knowing I have a couple 1000 acres of private family land that I am the only one that hunts, when I can get a tag. Something needs to change.

Patrick Rosenbaum
Jefferson SD
a5x5hunter07@yahoo.com

Comment:

Do away with the drawing of deer tags for the black hills and go back to buying over the counter and do away with the buying preference points and allow more tags in every unit

Bret Brown
Sioux Falls SD
bbrown68@me.com

Comment:

Once again I can hardly understand the season proposal. I feel that until the deer population is back to where we want it that people should only have access to one tag per year, and one drawing per person with two choices and a second drawing for leftover tags. This would allow everyone the same chance until the population is back to the point where we could have multiple tags.

Another thing that I would like to see is one tag for all seasons. What I mean by that is, a single tag that could be used for archery, firearm, and muzzleloader seasons. This would help hunters actually have the ability to hunt when they had time. As a seasonal worker I barely had time to hunt during the firearms season due to the nice weather, and subsequently did not have many opportunities to fill a tag that I had finally acquired after many years of applying. I would have liked to be able to take that tag into muzzleloader season as well.

Speaking of muzzleloader season, I don't understand the idea that we cannot use a scope on a weapon that is already inferior to regular firearms. I feel that this rule should be changed to allow hunters the best chance to not leave a wounded deer in the field.

Thank you for your time and the wonderful job everyone does for our state resources.

Sincerely,
Bret Brown

William Locken
Lead SD
wjlocken@gmail.com

Comment:

I see you gave in to those greedy people who think they have to have more than one buck tag to be happy. Meanwhile we still have hunters who can't get their preferred tag just so someone can have more than one tag.

Scott Peterson
Sioux Falls SD
north2dakota@sio.midco.net

Comment:

This appears to be a good compromise, time will tell. I work in the sporting goods field and I hear hunters bragging how they received 5 - 9 tags and then filled two with no intentions of filling the other tags. The next hunter I speak with tells me they didn't get a tag or they only got one and are upset. A change is needed and this is a step.

Bob Schneider
Sioux Falls SD
rjs5555@yahoo.com

Comment:

If I'm reading the current proposal correctly, ONLY landowners will have ability to apply for 2 licenses within the 1st draw (i.e.: need authorization for "Special Buck" licenses). Is that correct? FEW hunters are landowners! if that's the case, in my opinion, this "compromise" is a joke!

Gordon Pierson
Columbia SD
e

Comment:

why is one person allowed to get so many licenses , one person does not need over 2 or 4 not 10 plus , why don't you address this problem , there is not many deer to start with then you let the slob hunters run wild

Scott Engle
Independence MN
scott.engle@mchsi.com

Comment:

I have hunted in South Dakota for 20 years and have enjoyed many enjoyable deer and antelope hunts. With this new proposal, I see deer hunting in South Dakota becoming an every 5 year experience (if even that often). Being left to the final draw leaves few options and it has taken a minimum of 2-3 pref points to draw in my area. When in state, I spend over \$1000 per trip in your state, plus license fee (\$280). This is money your state and its businesses will forgo and drive me to other states in the interim years. This proposal is a bad idea for the economic development of South Dakota's tourism industry.

Jerry Travis
Brandon SD

Comment:

I have always hunted east and west with family and would hate to see that tradition end

Christopher Hannah
Hill City SD
mtcity1878@yahoo.com

Comment:

For my family these tags supplement our food for the year. Last year we didn't receive any tags due to people outside of our region getting them. We cannot afford to go anywhere else to hunt. By adding additional seasons to the first draw, my family has a reduced chance to get a tag at home. I believe if you want a tag from where you live, it should be your first choice. there shouldn't be two first choices, it just doesn't make sense. If you want to go into someone else's territory, your territory should be sacrificed. this shouldn't be about money, but be about what's right.

Rick White
Summerset SD
Whiterick43@gmail.com

Comment:

Why must we change anything? I feel residents would be happier if the only change made was to lessen the number of nonresident tags while keeping the draw system the same

Bill Berry
Rapid City SD
Bill.berry81@yahoo.com

Comment:

How come all the changes being made are tailored towards east river hunters. A simple fix would be to have the east/west river rifle seasons to open/close at the same time.

Arlan Smedsrud
Chancellor SD
smedsrudarlan@yahoo.com

Comment:

I don't think Custer Park and Refuge should be included in the draw proposal. I believe you should limit landowner preference to one choice. I don't want any nonresident hunters. This seems like an effort to maintain the current GFP budget after the loss of many non-resident pheasant hunters. Why are we always trying to sell everything that the residents of this state love. I live here because of the opportunities that are here, stop trying to squeeze every cent out of this state. Make budget cuts.

David Mines

Yankton SD

davidmines4831@gmail.com

Comment:

Why won't you listen to the sportsman of this state? Your last terrible proposal generated 84 pages of comments. Roughly 262 comments with only 19 in favor. So about 7% of those who care enough to comment like your new plan yet you keep pushing forward with these changes. Our system works fine now. Adopt some of the ideas like the points for youth and let us accumulate points and apply for what ever season we want.

Alex Whitcraft

Saint Paul MN

Comment:

As a non-resident who applies yearly in order to have an opportunity to hunt species of deer not available in our state, I find this a decision that can only lead to negative consequences. It's a decision that will haunt SDGFP for years to come. Not only will you drive out non-resident hunters, you are going to be the reason why the number of sportsman continue to decline. These proposed regulations don't promote ethical hunters, they encourage road-side, flashlight, and illegal hunting. For those of you that hunt out of state and go through the preference point process year in and year out, does it make sense to increase restrictions??? By doing so, you're significantly reducing state income that would otherwise be there. If you want to promote hunting and hunter safety, you need to allow everyone an opportunity to share in the experiences.

Cherril Brown

Rapid City SD

cd.brown@rap.midco.net

Comment:

I think the latest proposal of SD residents being able to apply for 2 of the deer seasons at application time certainly would get my vote and my spouse's vote as well. Thanks.

Dan Kaup

Mitchell SD

dskaup@gmail.com

Comment:

The new proposal is an improvement over past practices as more individuals have the opportunity to hunt. It was nice to be able to apply for so many permits, but not necessary, especially when so many apply and so many are turned down. Some are complaining that they can't enjoy family activities, but I don't see why not...they can still go but just can't shoot. Not a problem.

Wade Gubrud

Gary SD

wade.gubrud@pioneer.com

Comment:

More non-landowners need an opportunity to draw a license. It took me 9 years to draw a statewide muzzleloader tag. I can buy a non-resident tag over the counter in MN. My family and I will be doing more deer hunting in MN in the future. Moved to SD 25 years ago looking forward to the hunting experiences and have watched my deer hunting opportunities get worse every year especially east river.

Darrel Knutson

Rapid City SD

knutsondak@rushmore.com

Comment:

I think your first idea of applying for 1 choice out of 6 was the way to go.

Douglas Kindelspire

**Leola (Mailing Address Is Forbes,
Nd) Live In Sd SD**

dkindelspire@valleytel.net

Comment:

support

Doug Nelson

Chamberlain SD

dn1stop@hotmail.com

Comment:

New system will be a joke. Just have to go out of state to get my hunting in

Michael Fuhrmann

Shakopee MN

Michael.fuhrmann23@gmail.com

Comment:

I get where you want more hunters, but also making it harder for non residents to get a license isnt going to make anything better. You will lose alot of hunters to nebraska and wyoming. We spend alot of money as alot of others from out of state do. I think you will have a drop in non resident applications. And a drop in these small towns getting money from non resident hunters staying there .

Brendan Matthew

Sturgis SD

bub0452@yahoo.com

Comment:

Does this new proposal allow a hunter to apply for two tags in the first draw, and still apply for preference points for other license. For example, if I apply for West River Deer, and Black Hills Deer in the first draw, will I have the opportunity to apply for a preference point for Muzzle loader? If this is not the case, then I probable will never hunt with a muzzleloader again in the state as you will be forcing me to choose between applying for it (to accumulate preference points to eventually draw the tag) and the one of the other hunts I have been doing for 40 years! Sure, the guy who like to hunt with muzzle loader only will love this, as he will get the tag more often, but in the end, you upset one group of hunters to make another group happy. You have even said you do not expect to really see any more tags. Long story to just say please let us continue to accumlate preference points for the hard to get hunts. I am prefectly happy not hunting the hills or west river for a year if it is replaced by the oppurtinity to get the muzzle loader tag.

Robert Lewis

Trent SD

buckangyla@yahoo.com

Comment:

Not only are whatever these changes are totally confusing to me, but what was wrong with the previous way of applying. I saw nothing wrong with it...

James Buteyn

Sioux Falls SD

jnbuteyn@gmail.com

Comment:

Would you be in favor of increase chances, Of course I'd like to have the Vikings in the superbowl every year as well. It is a poorly written question to elicit a prescribed response. This is flawed from the start.

Black Hills was geared only to one group but expanded to all (again flawed.)

First choice has decreased as Blue tongue went through. Antelope odds decreased as well. I went from multiple tags to one every other.

3. One application means EAST river. the majority live there and don't want to travel. So why change it for the whole state?

14. You have hunters that applied for 9,604 licenses that can no longer submit those. Those hunters are not being treated fairly. There are plenty of tags if you want to shoot a deer, you just have to find a new part of the state.

20. There will not be additional hunters, it will be the same pool. I just can't submit 4 tags across the state. I will be further down the list for East River, and never hunt close to home.

This has been shot down after GFP refused to listen to hunters. It went to the State and got kicked back.

Please leave this alone. Deer numbers cycle and this only serves to export tags for non-resident. they could not apply east river before and now will be eligible. The only increase will be non-resident. Please listen to those who have asked you to leave it alone. You are doing fine, don't change anything.

Brig Knott

Hudson WI

bknott@mmm.com

Comment:

A portion of your logic is to continue the tradition of families being able to hunt together. You are not factoring in SD families where kids have moved out of state. Your current license proposals makes it almost impossible to plan family deer hunts west river when non-resident licenses are 8% of total and you rely on a point system to eventually get drawn.

Raymond Powers

Kimball SD

raymondpowers@live.com

Comment:

the old system has worked for years. leave it the way it is.

James Cantalope

Eureka SD

cantajam@yahoo.com

Comment:

Your still applying within the unit (season) of your choice, there is no difference!!!!!!! Why change it

Brett Andrews

Aberdeen SD

brett@huffconstructioninc.com

Comment:

There are no issues with the current system. I feel that this subject has been drug out far too long. The new deer draw proposal is almost unanimously opposed by SD hunters yet it continues to be pursued by the commission. If non-resident money is driving this, increase non-resident fees. I apply to many western states and SD has one of if not the cheapest Non-resident fees. Please listen to your resident hunters and voters, do not pass the new deer draw proposal. Focus your time and efforts on matters for conservation, habitat restoration, and programs to get more volunteers and youth into the great outdoors. Do what is best for South Dakota, make it a better state.

Paul Maassen

Watertown SD

paul.maassen@bpi.build

Comment:

Something should change, I grew up on a farm in SD and am to the point of not even applying anymore. I've shot two deer in the last decade and only because it takes 4 sometimes 5 years to get a license. I think that's deterring a lot of people from choosing to hunt in South Dakota.

Jim Sasse
Aberdeen SD
wisesasse@gmail.com

Comment:

affect this will have on preference points and if I have two buck tags am I still allowed to purchase a doe tag

Chad Vetter
Frederick SD
cwvetter@nvc.net

Comment:

I have been hunting deer in SD for over 30 years now and would have to say that the number one issue at this time is the health of SD deer population. SD continues to oversell its applications for revenue purposes "my opinion" and not so much based on the deer population. I tell my kids stories of all the deer that used to be around and how much fun it was able to go out and stalk deer into a slough and usually on the first day of deer hunting one would be successful. Them days are long past SDGFP. I'm not prepared to support additional changes that limit SD resident hunters and the youth of this state. I saw the first proposal as an attempt to limit resident hunters and allow nonresident hunters an increased number of applications because lets face it as the rural population decreases there are less and less resident hunters applying for those applications. Before I would support addition nonresident hunting I would like to see an effort of SDGFP or this darn State put some effort in getting urban hunters into the fields.

David Carda
Yankton SD
davidcarda@kolbergpioneer.com

Comment:

I like it the way it is with the current system. Please leave it as is.

Joseph Gregory
Rapid City SD
mickey@q.com

Comment:

One person does not deserve more than one license per year for an antlered deer when I can only get a license every three years. Several national hunting magazines have recently published in-depth stories about the decline in the numbers of hunters in the field annually. Only being able to hunt every three years is hardly worth the effort. If a hunter wants more than one license the second license should be only unantlered. I have seen too much wanton waste from people with more than one license.

Todd Rhew

Hot Springs SD

trhew2@goldenwest.net

Comment:

You are implementing this system against the wishes of almost ALL sportsman, statewide. When are the people whom this effects going to get a say in this? As far as Non-residents are concerned, as long as there is ONE resident hunter that doesn't draw his preferred tag, then there should be NO non-resident hunters even considered. This is where people are convinced that you are considering non-residents over tax paying residents. Many times I have been passed over on Black Hills tags, my home area, and plenty of deer, only to see out of state tags hunting in this area. Frustrating to say the least. Leave the system alone, make all preference points free(as they should be), and put tax paying residents first, not last.

James Whelan

Cadillac MI

jwhelan@mhc.net

Comment:

Please clarify dates in table. Also, I support the initiative. Aggressive management is the only option to halt CWD. Also please consider making landowner permits transferable.

Michael Keeton

Pierre SD

michaelkeeton10@hotmail.com

Comment:

Don't change the way it is. The youth portion of the new proposal is the only thing worth keeping.

Mark Peppel

Pierre SD

Markpeppel@gmail.com

Comment:

I am not in favor to the change to the original proposal. I wish it would have been left alone and everyone only gets one first choice in the first drawing as originally proposed. Very disappointed. Sure some people would have had to change where they hunt but the way the system is now makes it extremely difficult for people who do not have a place to hunt to start a tradition with their friends and family.

Brad Day

Maple Grove MN

brady@firstclasscorp.com

Comment:

Please provide opportunity for non residents to purchase a buck tag on land they have ownership in. Non Residents currently have very few opportunities to purchase and receive a buck tag East River. This proposal sounds like it will make it even harder for a Non REsident to get a buck tag. I own land in SD and it is hard for me to hunt on my own

Travis Hansen

Worthing SD

thansen87@yahoo.com

Comment:

The system we have is not broken. People need to realize that certain counties will not have enough tags to please everyone. No one I have spoken with supports the changes.

Matt Field

Brookings SD

matthewjfield78@gmail.com

Comment:

Will having a archery tag limit a hunter to 1 tag in the first 2 draws? Or will can you have a archery tag, and 2 additional tags in the first two draws?

Randy Malterud

Lead SD

Comment:

I highly support changing the deer drawing to 1 tag in the first drawing vs the current proposal of 2. The current compromise of 2 is not a significant enough change to make a difference. If you want to recruit/retain hunters, they need to be able to draw a preferred tag frequently to keep them interested. Why should a person be able to get 2 preferred tags before another person gets 1? Those people who want the 2 preferred tags because of "tradition" are greedy. They still can have both hunts most years, but may be limited to shooting does on 1 of the hunts. It should not eliminate the hunt for them. Have the courage to make this right for all hunters and limit first drawing tags to 1.

Justin Schwarz

Ankeny IA

jschwarz@hanifentowing.com

Comment:

What happens to all the preference points nonresidents had before this change? Did we just donate our money/points and kicked to the curb? I've read this proposal a million times over and in the East River county I hunt in with my resident family, I'll never have a shot at getting a buck tag. Very disappointing. North Dakota will be getting my money from now on.

Kurt Schweiss

Rapid City SD

kschweiss@fmgengineering.com

Comment:

I believe that the vast majority of hunters who apply for more than one deer tag in the first drawing don't apply for more than two. Therefore this decision by the SDGF&P won't change much of anything. It was a political move designed to look like a compromise.

Several years ago I purchased a small piece of land (80 acres) just for hunting. I get my first choice deer tag every other year. I can't do much hunting anyway, because I have to spend all of my time chasing off trespassers. I wonder how many of them have multiple first choice tags in their pockets while I'm hunting on my own land in the middle of rugged-river-break-mule deer country with a leftover whitetail tag in my pocket. Because of this I may never purchase or apply for a hunting license of any kind in the state of South Dakota again. I am seriously considering selling my land, putting the money in an account and using it to do all of my hunting out of state. I won't give the state of South Dakota any more of my money than I absolutely have to. By the way, the only people who think that one person getting two first choice tags while the next person gets zero is fair, are the people getting two (#SELFISH!!!!!!!). Subtract one hunter from the field.

James Suedkamp

Pierre SD

moriverseeds@mncomm.com

Comment:

Its Ridiculous that GFP plays to a few disgruntled high society hunters who will require the rest of us real hunters to abide by their requirements. Its terrible that GFP staff can't even explain this new negative direction!

Torrey Wahl

Selby SD

twahl@webwater.org

Comment:

Why are you trying so hard to change something that works fine the way it is, my guess is there is an agenda to figure out some way to allow the GFP the ability to sell more deer tags to nonresidents and commercialize big game hunting just like pheasant hunting, just leave the tag situation alone.

Christopher Gruenwald

Redfield SD

christophergruenwald@gmail.com

Comment:

It's a better idea than the original to only allow 1 application. A buddy and I try every year to go out west river as well as hunt east river. Sometimes we draw tags and sometimes we don't and we pick up some leftovers instead, but at least we had to opportunity to apply for the seasons. One year we even got lucky enough to draw tags for black hills, west river and east river. I don't feel getting a deer tag is all that difficult with the original system we had in place. Elk tags area completely different story, but we have a limited resource of elk.

Steve Moses

Rapid City SD

Jdslr@rushmore.com

Comment:

I do NOT want a change but I can see you are going to shove this down our throat anyway just like rapid city you can vote it out but if they want it they just do it any way but take muzzle loader and custer state park

Steve Moses

Rapid City SD

Jdslr@rushmore.com

Comment:

DUPLICATE

I do NOT want a change but I can see you are going to shove this down our throat anyway just like rapid city you can vote it out but if they want it they just do it any way but take muzzle loader and custer state park

Jaret Biel

Aberdeen SD

jaretbiel@hotmail.com

Comment:

Still disagree with the attempt in compromise since the majority is not in favor of any changes being made. We should not lose the option to apply for multiple tags. For you to include Black Hills, Muzzleloader, Refuge and Custer State Park is just wrong. You need to listen to the public and leave the system alone. Anyone that is an avid hunter does not want this change as it is not benefiting the hunter.

Keith Geiken

Lennox SD

Comment:

The new deer license draw. East river and west river rifle should be one draw. This is all one state, not two states. A lot more people would get a license, if you could only apply for one rifle license. If there are left over tags, then a person

Craig Niemann

Volga SD

craigniemann2018@gmail.com

Comment:

2013 GFP sold 159,117 total tags on 109,857 licenses

2017 GFP sold 117,030 total tags on 103,388 licenses

This represents a 36% decrease in Tags from 2013-2017.

This represents a 6% decrease in Licenses from 2013-2017.

I compiled the data on the SD 2018 Deer Draw results for both ER and WR. The data set represents the "01" or "any deer" tags for the tag units that require at least 1+ preference point. These tags could also be referred to as the "PREFERRED TAG" Also included is the ER and WR Special Buck Statistics. The percentage represents the percentage of people with those points that were successful in drawing. Not included are limited issue draw units. All other deer tags not on this list you can draw with 0 preference points.

ER 2+ pts

Tag Percentage

05a01 93

12a01 69

16a01 100

17a01 35

59a01 27

61a01 41

63a01 78

ER 1pts

Tag Percentage

01a01 85

06a01 49

07a01 3

13a01 16

19a01 88

22a01 96

23a01 98

29a01 25

33a01 13

36a01 72

38a01 22

43a01 35

44a01 6

46a01 58

55a01 96

62a01 58

WR 2+ pts

Tag Percentage

15a01 90
20a01 50
21a01 29
27a01 38
30a01 22
30b01 43
35c01 56
45a01 100
45b01 44
58a01 37

WR 1pts

Tag Percentage

02c01 4
21b01 98
24a01 67
27b01 24
35a01 51
39a01 85
53a01 35
60a01 61

WR Special Buck 1pt

Tag Percentage

WR101 93

ER Special Buck 1pt

Tag Percentage

ER101 96

Look at the data. If it takes you 4+ years to draw a tag like I've seen mentioned I ask what tag are you applying for? If it is on my list attached then talk to your commissioners about doing away with the lottery draw and go to a true preference point system so you can at least draw the tag every 1-2 years. If it's not on this list then you are applying for a limited issue area.

THE ONLY WAY YOU ARE UN-SUCCESSFUL IN THE CURRENT SD GFP DRAW SYSTEM IS BY APPLYING FOR ONLY 1 TAG.

For the past 5 years I've received 4-5 any deer tags in SD. 2018 I received 5 tags with my muzzleloader tag, which took me 6 years to draw. Guaranteed Archery ER and WR. Lottery draw for rifle ER and WR. I utilize the special buck for both ER and WR every other year. I apply for the county tag every other year. The counties I apply for are 1+pt preference counties. Meaning you will only draw that tag 1x/every other year. I have never applied for a Custer or Black Hills tag. Every year I apply for ER, WR, Refuge, and Muzzleloader. Always get my ER and WR tags.

Special Buck tags up to 2017 were 100% guaranteed with 1pt. Now they are just under 100%. I have my preference points set up so I can draw an ER and WR rifle tag every single year on my first choice tag. This doesn't include my 2nd choice WR tag which I always draw, this is typically an "any whitetail only tag".

One thing I want to make very clear. The new proposal doesn't guarantee you a tag for ER and WR; it doesn't even guarantee an ER or WR tag. It does guarantee you the opportunity to apply and possibly draw an ER and/or WR deer tag.

The state gfp anticipate 1,000 more hunters will have a tag with this 2nd proposal. That represents less than a 2% increase across the state. I personally don't think they will achieve this number. Look at the draw results and how many people applied for tags without a chance of getting them. Every tag I listed above had people applying for it with zero preference points. Guaranteed not to get a tag. They should have applied for a different tag if they wanted to hunt a deer. There are plenty of first choice tags you can draw with 0 preference points. This shows that these people don't understand the current allocation system or they only want to hunt a specific tag.

The reality is this: Many deer hunters want to hunt certain counties/tags only. Which means the amount of applicants will stay the same or increase for those tags. 80% of applicants that are unsuccessful on draw #1 don't even apply for draw #2. Why or how does this new proposal address that problem?

This would be my proposal to make a change if the state is so hard headed and committed to making a change:

- 1: Give every landowner as many tags as he or she wants for herd management on THEIR LAND ONLY. This does not include leased/rented ground. Only owned ground or land in a family trust. The amount of money and time they sacrifice to maintain a deer herd should allow them as many tags as they want.
- 2: That landowner can donate the tag/tags or he can use them himself.
- 3: Do away with "landowner preference tags" and allocate those tags to everyone. This should open up more tags for non landowner applicants. If a landowner wants to hunt public or private land other than their own, they can apply and will be included in the draw just like a non land owner.
- 4: Leave the 6 individual draw applications just as they are.

Last but not least:

- 1: The state needs to do a better job at making land-locked public ground available to the public hunter. Either through land swaps or access easements.
- 2: The state needs to do a better job at allocating financial resources for public land. There is a lot of public "Walk in" land that is extremely small and holds no wildlife, over grazed/hayed and holds no wildlife, or is a bean field that holds no wildlife. Spend the money on better land.
- 3: Game Production areas can be managed much better. Many GPA areas have no food plots and if they do most are not managed properly. ie: not fertilized, not sprayed for weeds, etc
- 4: Stop grazing GPA ground to the dirt. If you want to take the grass off then burn it, hay it, or graze it after nesting is over. Aggressive spring grazing does the wildlife nothing.

I'm all about spreading the wealth and getting more people in the outdoors. People need to experience getting close to wild animals. I just feel that all this time, 3+years, and all this money is a waste if it is only going to result in maybe 1,000 more people or 1.5% more deer hunters.

2013 GFP sold 159,117 total tags on 109,857 licenses
2017 GFP sold 117,030 total tags on 103,388 licenses
This represents a 36% decrease in Tags from 2013-2017.

If you want more people to have an opportunity to experience deer hunting then do a better job at managing the natural resources and increase the deer herd. That is money and time better spent than trying to get a tag in another 1,000 peoples hands while pissing off 90% of the hunting population and deflating the faith they have in our SD GFP.

Wayne Thuen
Rapid City SD
wayne.thuen@midco.com

Comment:

I liked the first proposal of trying to make it much easier to draw a preferred tag in the area wanted. I strongly support your efforts to make drawing a tag in a preferred unit of choice and increasing our odds of drawing a tag.

James Zeck

Sioux Falls SD

jzeck2@sio.midco.net

Comment:

I would prefer that you leave the deer application as it is. I feel the changes being proposed will harm resident hunters in favor of non-resident hunters.

Darren Swenson

Madison SD

Comment:

Leave the system as it is now.

Robert Coyle

Summerset SD

clintcoyle50@gmail.com

Comment:

This about tags, your really going to hurt those that live on wild game, why mess with something that's not broke, it just like when you changed the hunting atlas map now I can't even use it. It was perfect before you changed it, if it's not broke

Todd Brown

San Diego CA

TCBROWNIE@GMAIL.COM

Comment:

It's unclear to us how the proposed changes will affect our ability to secure a non-resident bow hunting license moving forward? My friends and I have been hunting deer/pheasant and waterfowl for the last 10 yrs and look forward to that continuing. We spend plenty of money in SD with licenses, even more in the local communities when we get there on lodging, food and other fun supplies! Without that deer tag we won't do the trip. Hope you all understand the implications of not just the monetary side but the ability to showcase your beautiful state to avid hunters across the country. We live in San Diego and look forward to our trip all year. It's understandable to prioritize the opportunities of SD residents, we just hope you all understand the value that non-resident hunters bring in the overall scheme of things. Thank you.

Thomas Whitley

Doland SD

Twhit0889@gmail.com

Comment:

I do support the change in many ways, but some of the things I don't understand is why do the out of state hunter's get 8% over the resident in West River Black Hills and Reservation area's has it always been this way or just this way now? I also believe as residents we should have the ability to half of the seasons so 3 out of the 6 instead of 2 out of the 6! I like how we are capable to get more tags in the later drawings! Many families including my own hunt to feed not only ours but others in the communities!

Tim Weigel

Aberdeen SD

dexterweigel@gmail.com

Comment:

In an effort to make license more available the landowner preference should be eliminated. Can still use landowner tag (on their own ground). But not reduce odds for non-landowners. Every one in the same bucket. Should also go to a true preference point system. A small portion of license would still be available in random draw. This would allow sportspersons to plan and schedule for the different units they may like to hunt. This drawing odds/ results in this should also be available to view.

Rob Brooks

Dakota Dunes SD

robb@siouxcityford.com

Comment:

I feel it is stupid to change the current application process for deer hunters. If people don't know how to work the current system in their favor through preference points, that is their fault. Don't ruin it for rest of us.

John Evenson

Springfield SD

johnevenson3885@gmail.com

Comment:

I think it was fine the way it was.

Eric Grenz

Rapid City SD

egrenz@hotmail.com

Comment:

I support putting all 6 license types in one draw and allowing 2 apps. I like the free points for youth hunters.

Brian Wherry
Herreid SD
brian.wherry@k12.sd.us

Comment:

It is absolutely ridiculous to put muzzleloader into the same draw against rifle seasons. They are different weapons and after the rifle seasons. Makes no sense. It is already a disadvantage shooting primitive and after rifle seasons are done. Pull that out of the proposals!! In fact, don't change a thing!! Get youth involved if you want more hunters.

Christian Freeman
Sioux Falls SD
Freemo51@outlook.com

Comment:

Your giving a bonus point to kid which i dont like because your teaching them to only shoot bucks there is nothing wrong with shooting a doe! I do like that its free for them! But to me to pick up extra money you should raise prices on elk and deer if you check other states its alot higher and our out of state tags are way to cheap! Montana is way higher and so are the other boardering states! Also your not soloving the real problem is there are to many hunters in to little public land. I have a hard time off getting off the road (close the designated roads! And add more walk in programs)!

Steve Wiege
Rapid City SD
stwig1347@gmail.com

Comment:

Although I was against any changes to the current draw, I would support this new proposal over all the others that hv been proposed thus far.

Roger Heintzman
Aberdeen SD
r_heintzman@hotmail.com

Comment:

I could loose 2/3 of my hunting opportunities with the proposal.
Now you are using under 15 youth as pawns just to pass your pathetic proposal.
How stayed awake at night to come up with such a unwanted change.
Leave well enough alone.

Ryan Patterson

Aberdeen SD

ryan3290@hotmail.com

Comment:

Hello I am writing you tell you I am opposed to the deer allocation. The only benefit to this is to help kids get out into the field. No way does this new proposal help the deer population and it bad for South Dakota sportsman as there will be some sportsman go along with it because we all see the writing on the wall. We see that no matter how many sportsman speak up against the deer allocation are still going to make a change. The current "old" system we have works and there's no need to change it. Leave it as it is and if you want to try and get kids into hunting then go a head and pass the part for the kids but leave the rest as it is now.

Douglas Kingsbury

Lawton IA

Loesshillsbow@aol.com

Comment:

Need way more non resident west river deer rifle and antelope tags.

John Brockmueller

Irene SD

Jd.brockmueller@plantpioneer.com

Comment:

I think you should have stayed with your original proposal where they had to apply for 1 license in first drawing. Otherwise I support this current change.

Merris Miller

Lennox SD

coyotedoc3@hotmail.com

Comment:

Although it is disappointing that politicians kill an idea that most people are in favor of, at least GFP has continued to improve things with this compromise approach. Hopefully, this will pass. I hope with the passing of this, the GFP will work on the next issue that needs fixed with deer seasons in SD.....Landowner Preference tags. Anyone with a landowner preference tag, should be required to hunt on their own land. At the very least, they should not be able to hunt public land! This is an issue, and should be fixed. Thank you.

Brad Waage

Vermillion SD

brad.waage@usd.edu

Comment:

Why do non resident hunters only get to apply for West river tags. There is no East river tags on the first draw.

Travis Hendricks

Vivian SD

sdpheasanthunt@yahoo.com

Comment:

support

Dusty Waldron

Pierre SD

Comment:

oppose

Jack Dokken

Pierre SD

Comment:

oppose

Ray Konz

Brandon SD

ray@adrianstatebank.com

Comment:

i see no reason to change to a new program.
please leave it as it has been.

Craig Ellman

Salem SD

crellman@hotmail.com

Comment:

Changes do not address greatest problem with current system. Rich Landowner special advantage set at 160 acres. See article 6 of state constitution. Every year,"out of county and out of state" hunters get licenses that in (county resident) hunters are denied.

Jason Van'T Hul

Harrisburg SD

Jvanthul@outlook.com

Comment:

As a hunter in the state of South Dakota, it takes me 4 years to Draw a rifle tag under current rules. I only hunt public ground, so areas where large amounts of public ground exist get to be many hunters first choice.

I support the new allocation plan. I would even support those that what to buck hunt with additional tags can enter more then twice, but the cost of the additional tag is at non resident rates. Use th excess tag revenue to provide additional walk in areas in the state. I also suggest gfp increase tag costs across the board.

I realize people will complain about the cost of the tag, but no one complains about the \$200 sika pants and \$200 sika shirt and \$150 danner boots they bought to hunt with.

Good luck. GFP does a good job. I appreciate you listening to the public.

Robert Watts

Rapid City SD

robert.watts@state.sd.us

Comment:

1 Still dumps excess hunters in areas where locals can't get a tag in the unit they live in. 2 Still puts the burden of nonresident hunters in the BH's unit and west river units ,when are the east river hunters going to have to be burdened likewise.3 left over tag sales to people who all ready have multiple tags just crowds more hunters on what little public land there is.4 Whether anyone at the GFP thinks so or not it just makes them look like they don't care about anything but selling tags. 5 Mentor tags to teach kids to hunt without the pressure of competition is good for our kids but why sell these tags for \$10 to nonresidents for their kids, if they can come from Minnesota to hunt expense wise they can pay \$100 for the tag period.

David Jorgensen

Wagner SD

Comment:

Since you feel that you have gotten enough input that you feel the need change the current application process. I find the current proposal of applying for two tags in the initial drawing far more acceptable than your original proposal. I know you have gotten input on both sides of this, so if there is a need to change this is a decent compromise.

Bo Moysis

Utica SD

Bo_moysis@hotmail.com

Comment:

Why fix something that's not broken! Leave tag drawings the way they are! Thanks have a good day

Gary Larson

Deadwood SD

glarson@safordlab.org

Comment:

Keeping traditions on Family hunting kind of left along time ago when the draw started

Randell Kenner

Piedmont SD

Comment:

I am submitting my support for the GFP Commission proposal passed on 1/11/19. Allowing hunter to apply for two of the six deer seasons in the first drawing is an excellent compromise. Thank you.

James Bencoter

Parkston SD

dmbencoter@yahoo.com

Comment:

I feel there should be no preference points so that everyone every year has a chance for a deer license. a game warden said that it costs more to keep track of preference points then the money you receive so why have it.

Harold Bartsch

Owatonna MN

bartscha@yahoo.com

Comment:

My hunting partner and I have applied to hunt deer in West River zones for over twenty years, and seldom get picked on the first draw even with multiple preference points.
We pay full price for leftover licenses just to see our Ranching friends, but this change almost nullifies our chances of getting drawn.
Since my hunting partner will be 80 and I will be 79 this year, our chances of getting to use our preference points will be close to zero.

Steve Moses

Rapid City SD

jdslr@rushmore.com

Comment:

Also have non residents archery start October 1 give residents a month to hunt with out getting ran over by non residents

Jerome Gau
Rapid City SD
gaujerome1@gmail.comD

Comment:

I was in agreement with the original proposal. Increasing the first draw to two applications will not improve the odds for Black Hills hunters. With the decline in the numbers of hunters, its important to allow as many hunters as possible to obtain a license. For Black Hills hunters I believe the odds will remain at about 3 years to draw a license. Also since the wild game belongs to the state, as many hunters as possible should be allowed to harvest at least one animal.

Jerod Hudelson
Sturgis SD
JEROD@RUSHMORE.COM

Comment:

I am against any changes to the deer allocation process. This process that GFP is doing on this proposal is the biggest mess I have ever seen.

Trent Neu
Sioux Falls SD
neumoose@hotmail.com

Comment:

Seems like this is a better option than choosing just 1 season. Multiple reminders(emails) to apply before the deadlines would be appreciated. I like the current system that is in place, however I can understand how this will increase odds for success in some areas. It will be interesting to see how it is viewed in 2022 when it is reviewed. I still believe if you have 3,4,5 plus preference points you should be in a different bracket instead of just cubing the preference points. Each point increase in preference should be a different grouping. Someone with 2 points should not be in the same grouping as someone with 3. 3 shouldn't be with 4's etc. Thx Example the muzzleloader tag this past year.

Mark Clausen
Pierre SD
mark.clausen@dot.gov

Comment:

I would like to be given an explanation of how I will be able to use my existing preference points with the new system. Currently I have 4 preference points for WR deer and 3 preference points for ER deer. Can I only use them for the deer season I acquired them in, or would I be able to use them in different seasons (Ex. - say use 7 preference for ER deer)??

Bradley Beavers

Jefferson SD

brad@dakotamechanical.com

Comment:

This is more of a question than a comment. I am an East(Union Co.) and West(Gregory Co.) river landowner. I am also a part in a west river hunting lease in Butte county. Will I be able to get a Butte county tag and also get a landowner tag for Union and Gregory County. I do not see anything in the structure to address this. Thank You

Donn De Boer

Chamberlain SD

Comment:

The current system has worked well for years. No need to change something that is not broke.

Jim Detoy

Rapid City SD

jsdetoy@yahoo.com

Comment:

Have quit deer hunting in SD after not getting a license in 3 years. Put it back to what it was .Paying for a point is not for me.

Louie Genzler

Aberdeen SD

louiegenzler@gmail.com

Comment:

There are no deer on public hunting ground , and to get farmers and ranchers to give permission is next to impossible! I hunt in Potter county

Scott Nielsen

Sioux Falls SD

sniel732998@hotmail.com

Comment:

to many licenses sold for the number of deer in units as it is

Gerald Bobzin
Hill City SD
bobzinklan@msn.com

Comment:

I want the tag system to stay the same. But if you are going to change it don't put Custer state park, and muzzleloader in the new system.

Daron Peterson
Humboldt SD

Comment:

I would like to see you leave it the same as it's always been

Phillip Eide
Centerville SD
phillip.eide@iw.net

Comment:

i just don't understand the benefit of changing the current system.

Joel Reil
Rapid City SD
1fuzzie54@gmail.com

Comment:

You are loosening residents because the cost versus the wages paid in South Dakota!!! Maybe all we need is nonresident tages make the game an fish happy! What a bunch of BS on your new proposals on tags for South Dakotans. Bad bad bad

Todd Dathe
Brandon SD
Todddathe99@yahoo.com

Comment:

I believe the fairest way to allocate the licenses is to create a system where everyone has to pick the license they would most like to have as their first choice. The current system results in some people getting several of their first choices and others getting none. Making the first drawing a true first choice drawing ensures that each hunter can target the season that is most important to them. Yes this will result in change for some, however, in order to make the system more fair there will have to be change. I view the changes to the elk draw as positive for the same reasons. Hunting should be something that is open to all not just the few who have the most influence. Please try to consider the average person that has limited financial resources in your decisions

Dalton Mcnutt
Doland SD

Comment:

Still have no idea why we are trying to fix a system that isn't broken? Okay the lottery like everyone else! I feel habitat is a bigger focus than this yet you do nothing about it. What a joke, I'll be hunting in other states

Kevin Forrester
Sturgis SD
k4ester@yahoo.com

Comment:

The original proposed changes actually provided opportunity for youth hunters to draw a Black Hills buck license because hunters would have to prioritize their first draw preference. The changes now proposed still allow for application for their favorite East/West River Deer and still be in on BH Deer draw. Based on the published draw statistics the only thing this proposal does is make youth preference points free. It will not change the timeline to actually draw a license. I know my kids have soured to hunting because the only license they can get are antlerless.

Brian Frybarger
Rapid City SD
bafman59@gmail.com

Comment:

This proposal offers plenty of opportunities for hunters to obtain tags while preventing certain parties from stock piling tags, either for themselves or to "pass along" (sell) to their friends, guests, etc. This should ensure tags are actually being used by ethical hunters, not for those seeking to profit from deer licenses. To determine success of this program, implement a mandatory post-season reporting system on deer taken, day hunted, locations, and so on.

Terry Mixell
Brandon SD
mix007@alliancecom.net

Comment:

I support this proposal however I was in favor of the first proposal limiting a person to their first choice. Since that was shot down I feel this is a good compromise but again reduces a persons chance of getting their first and preferred choice. Thank you for your time.

Bruce Evans
Rapid City SD
BSE36@HOTMAIL.COM

Comment:

It sure looks like more fortunate individuals who have access to private land want to be able to apply for East or West River and Hills Deer are dictating policy. Initially you were going to require a person to choose one deer application in the first drawing, that would be more fair to public land hunters who rely on the Hills as their main deer hunt. Once again those of us who live in the Hills area and had traditional deer camps with friends and family for years will again be forced to take a back seat to hunters who aren't willing to give up their East or West River tag for a chance to hunt the Hills.

Steven Ahrendt
Sioux Falls SD
rosemariea@sio.midco.net

Comment:

I believe your original proposal to limit hunters to one tag on the first draw is the correct approach, if in fact, your goal is to get more hunters an opportunity to deer hunt. The comments (objections) you posted would be the selfish, me first ones one would expect. Hunting tradition is not based on how many tags one draws, but on one's ability to hunt. Your proposal is not complicated and if it can't be understood by an individual, then maybe they are too dumb to have a rifle in their hands. As a Hunt Safe Instructor, we often hear that the opportunity to hunt is not available for a variety of reasons. Preference points are great but they aren't the same as drawing a tag. Don't compromise – there is no reason too.

Doug Sippel
Groton SD
douglas.sippel.68@gmail.com

Comment:

There is nothing wrong with the way it is. Everyone has the same chance for getting a tag. You are penalizing the the hunters who like to hunt different seasons by not letting them at least have chance of getting an any deer tag in each season. I don't mind shooting does but I at least want a chance at a buck tag. If this goes through my kids and I will only send in for two tags instead of four each. We will also quit buying preferences. If people are whining about not getting their favorite tag then maybe they need to expand their ways of hunting deer and enjoy other ways of pursuing.

Adam Golay
Sioux Falls SD
adamgolay@yahoo.com

Comment:

Even though letting people still hunt both east river & west river in the same year for bucks is better than the original proposal it still is not better than what we already have. We have a system that works that never needed to be fixed in the first place. It was never broken. Hunters need to take advantage of the preference point system that South Dakota has to offer if they want to draw their preferred deer license. I still to this day have yet to meet 1 person that is in favor of changing the deer license structure that we already have. I know people that hunt 1 season per year & they don't even want it changed because they might want to hunt 3 or more seasons at some point. My concern at this point is that this new proposal will affect my ability to buy preference points for west river the same year that I draw a west river special buck & vise versa if I draw a special buck WR then I won't be able to buy a preference point for west river deer that same year. I would like to know if I can still do this as I can on the current allocation where you can hunt all 6 seasons. I am all for GFP making money but this might threaten their preference point system & bring in less money for preference points as I buy them a lot & so do all my hunting family & friends.

Randy Campbell
Flandreau SD

Comment:

If this has worked fine for as long as I've been applying. Why is there a need to change. Everybody has the same chance of drawing a license as I do.

Jarrett Perry
Rapid City SD

Comment:

support

David Dolan
Hermosa SD
ddreferee@hotmail.com

Comment:

Now that you are allowing a hunter to apply for 2 deer applications I can support that. I for the first time in many years did not draw any tags. I was disappointed but I enjoy hunting with my son and friends both east and west river. Not drawing this year is part of the process. I encourage you to allow the current compromise.

Tyler Henderson

Marvin SD

tyh1@msn.com

Comment:

I do not support the measure, the majority are not in favor of change, why does this need to be pushed through. No changes are required, the system works.

Nathan Fossell

Sioux Falls SD

fosselln@hotmail.com

Comment:

As I look at this, I like it a lot more. I would like to see muzzleloader excluded from this as it is a different weapon of choice. I'd also like Custer removed as it is a quite unique ecosystem. Other than that, I appreciate you working with us

Michael Hughes

Mound City KS

michael_h_66103@yahoo.com

Comment:

I am a non resident hunter and have hunted west river deer season for over 20 years and i have seen tag draws become more and more limited. I would like to see more tags available and possibly elk tags included.

Doug Alvine

Watertown SD

dougalvine@hotmail.com

Comment:

By changing the proposal to allowing hunters to put down 2 deer seasons as a first choice, you might as well leave the deer allocation process the way it was. West River Deer is the most competitive season with East River Deer, so now hunters will put down both as a first choice, which will not help hunters get one or the other, which is what we have now. I mainly hunt East River and get a license every 2-3 years. I thought by hunters having to choose one season as their first choice, it might help me get a license more often. With the compromise, I don't think it will help much at all and makes it a wasted effort. Stick with picking one as a first choice, not two. Thanks.

Butch Funke

Brandon SD

b.funke51@gmail.com

Comment:

As a landowner and wildlife advocate ,I feel we are being left out and not represented in our State. Our current Governor (Noem) has not given any thought toward land owners and what we give to wild life in our state!also being a one party (republican) State. We have lost all Democratic government in SD!it is a one party rule....

Aric Craven

Winner SD

ariccraven@yahoo.com

Comment:

Original option was a much better option. Make people choose between an east river tag and the west river tag for their primary choice. The new option again East River hunters can have their cake and eat it too. Need to make the East river and west river seasons the same time. Then one does not get to go to West River shoot whatever runs in front of them then go back to East River and trophy hunt. Just like you put it in your own words people want to come out to West River and enjoy then also go back to East River and do it again. I have a 12-year-old daughter that didn't even draw West River tag on her first deer season last year because there wasn't enough tags, this isn't right and if there was a few less east river hunters Double dipping I'm sure she would've drawn one just fine.

Bryan Parks

Rapid City SD

bnparks@rap.midco.net

Comment:

East river deer tags should also be subject to the same amount of out of state licences as west river and black hills.

If the draw dates were the same for all of the mentioned seasons (which they now will be) AND if all of the season dates were the same for all of the mentioned seasons, this entire back and forth about licence allocation would probably be self regulating.

Jared Pearson

Summerset SD

docjcpearson@gmail.com

Comment:

I don't feel the system needs to be changed. There are plenty of opportunities to obtain licenses in SD.

Larry Gadbois
Sioux Falls SD
LGAD361859@AOL.COM

Comment:

My family and I have been hunting deer in South Dakota for the past 60 years. We have enjoyed the application system throughout the years. Please do not change the drawing system. Why change something that is not broken? thank you for listening to us hunters.

Paul Van Bockern
Sioux Falls SD
Pvb@midco.net

Comment:

It's a good compromise. A way to advocate for young hunters, gives more resident hunter an opportunity to draw a tag yet does allow for a reasonable number of nonresident tags.

David Hodina
Rapid City, Sd SD
hodinadc@rap.midco.net

Comment:

I hunt the black hills only. People that hunt only one season still have to share the tags with local prairie hunters. I thought this new system was to help everyone get their first choice. Now it is choices.

Jeff Carlton
Hill City SD
Wildcatroad@yahoo.com

Comment:

Deer tag changes: I don't think you ever explained why changes in the old system was necessary.

Shawn Pliska
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

The current deer allotment for tags in place is fair, it gives everybody the same opportunity to choose what they want to do. At no time has sportsmen and or women of South Dakota want this proposal in any form it has been shown. 86% opposed this proposal from the last commission meeting in January. Any lost opportunities are detrimental to the people of South Dakota.

There is no compromise as far as I am concerned on this proposal. The majority should always rule how any issues are resolved that concern the public.

Please stop pushing this onto us. Put your focus on something else, like Predator control.

What we all want is to leave something behind, we want to keep South Dakota traditions the same for hunters now and future generations.

Thank you for your time.

Josh Hagemann
Mission Hill SD
jghagemann@hotmail.com

Comment:

Dear Members of the Commission,

I still disagree that a change needs to be made. I also disagree with the way the "research" was conducted and presented.

I also understand that the Commission is dead-set on making a change. You want to cater to the few people that were upset that they couldn't draw their one favorite tag every year.

That being said, I believe the latest iteration of the deer licensing proposal is a fair and true attempt at compromise.

The only change I would make is to let nonresidents apply for additional tags (beyond the 8%) in the 4th draw. I've never had a problem with nonresidents getting a chance to hunt, especially when they are getting a chance at tags that are clearly not in high demand.

Thank you,

Josh Hagemann

Alan Gibson

Dulac LA

Ajgibson@charter.net

Comment:

To my knowledge South Dakota has more private land than public and one factor I see missing in the new proposal for nonresidents would require a nonresident to obtain a signature of a land owner as to apply in draws . I have seen an increase in out of state guides having clients get licenses and landowner's .nonresident family and friends being unable to draw causing landowners to end up with no hunters and out of state guides offering landowners less than fair values to hunt deer on the resident landowners lands.

Without the resident landowners participation there would be less deer and thus less opportunity for all hunters resident and nonresident . Any questions please feel free to contact me . Thanks for allowing my comments.
Alan Gibson

John Meyen

Rosholt SD

rosholtinsurance@yahoo.com

Comment:

First leave the deer license drawings as they are. The current system works, and let's see what effect cubing has before you change anything else. Also the youth don't need free preference points and they can wait until they are old enough to apply. We already do too much for them. Do you really think they'll keep hunting after they have to play by the same rules as the adults? I doubt it! I have some friends from Michigan that said their state has done this and all it does is ruin hunting for the adults and once the youth have to play by the adult rules, they quit hunting. Raise your nonresident license fees.

David Miller

Ovid SD

Dlmiller5@yahoo.com

Comment:

I am a mon resident hunter. I believe you are making it harder for me to hunt and vist your state. I have hunted the perkins county srea for yersrs and I'm afraid you are deny me that opportunity with your changes

Christopher Baldwin
Belvidere SD
sdbeguy@gmail.com

Comment:

I attended the South Dakota Stockgrowers meeting in Rapid City last Fall. I heard the presentation given by GFP reps. I felt that was a fair plan.

I feel now like the Commission has caved to the influence of the most advantaged segment of the deer hunting population. Many hunters with less time and resources, can not take the time and money to travel to other parts of the state to hunt different seasons.

Myself as an example. I hunt West River deer only. I have four different WRD Units within 10 miles of my home. In the past, I have gotten a tag in the first WRD drawing, then applied for a second tag in the third drawing, again WRD. My family will eat two deer a year.

I understand that under the latest plan, I could still do the same in the fourth drawing. My objection is: I thought the idea or goal of changing the draw procedure was to give people who were not drawing tags regularly in their preferred unit/season a better chance to draw. I am all for that. But what I see now, is a more advantaged (rich) person can obtain 3 licenses in 3 different seasons through the third drawing, while a local less advantaged, locally hunting, person can only obtain one. Fair?

The advantaged person is taking license opportunity away from others. How is this fair? Again, I thought the GFP plan I heard last Fall was fair. The subsequent ones, no.
Thanks for the opportunity to express myself.

Steve Greenfield
Watertown SD
s_j_green2002@yahoo.com

Comment:

You had a solid plan that would have helped thousands of hunters get deer tags more often, but for some reason you caved to the vocal minority of hunters. I was hoping to have a chance to get a tag more than every 2nd or 3rd year. By allowing hunters to apply for both east and west river deer in the first draw you destroyed any benefit of the new system. The point was to get more people one tag and less people several tags. I do not approve of the "compromise" and feel it is barely different than the current draw system.

Brooks Gehring
Bozeman MT
bkg132@gmail.com

Comment:

I am most proud to say I grew up in South Dakota, but your opportunities for non resident east river deer rifle hunting are pathetic.

I have been a Montana resident for 35 years and would love to come back to the farm to hunt deer with family members, but the opportunities are ZERO.

How about putting up 1-5% of any given deer license available to nonresidents. Let us buy preference points. Charge a substantial amount for the coveted nonresident license if you must (that's what MT, WY, and CO do). Make some substantial extra revenue for the state with a minimal sacrifice to residents. At least consider making it available to former residents with family still residing in SD (sponsor type set up like AK). Pheasants may be king in SD (and yes, I do come back to hunt pheasants), but I strongly believe you are losing easy revenue and denying potential awesome family time for those of us with ties to South Dakota.

Daniel Scherer

Rapid City SD

DANIEL.H.SCHERER@GMAIL.COM

Comment:

I preferred the version prior to the most recent amendments, yet still believe this to be better than the allocation method that has been in place.

Brent Reilly

Hartford SD

brent.reilly@yahoo.com

Comment:

I'll start on a positive note; I truly LOVE the recommendation to enhance the odds of our young hunters to draw deer tags sooner. This is fantastic and something all SD deer hunters can rally around. That said, I find it troubling based on the timing that it was clearly added as a sweetener to get this proposal in an attempt to push it through the legislative review process. This enhancement can be added at any point and does not need to be attached to this radical change to the deer draw.

This is yet another example of what has become the key issue in the eyes of many sportsmen and sportswomen which is a lack of trust and confidence in GF&P leadership and the GF&P commission. Here we are again, with the commission forcing through a change to the deer tag process. The fate of this change seems to have been long ago decided by the GF&P leadership and now in the face of immense public opposition you have turned to desperate tactics. Listening to the meetings, the commission talks openly about massaging the name of the proposal to "deer tag process" because it's less authoritarian sounding than "deer tag allocation". Absolutely bizarre, call it whatever you want, it is what it is. These are nothing more than Washington, DC style pork barrel politics, whatever it takes to get it passed.

Unaddressed Items

- The commission members should disclose during the Conflict of Interest discussion what deer seasons they and their family have applied for or hunted in the past two seasons. If the commissioners and those closest to them will benefit from the proposed changes by improving their draw odds it obviously should be disclosed. To my knowledge no such disclosures have taken place.
- It appears from a webpage and video for River View Lodge that Commissioner Phillips has a commercial deer hunting business on what is stated to be a 20,000 acre ranch near New Underwood, SD. The website also states they get \$6,000 for any deer hunts versus \$3,900 for whitetail only hunts. By the GF&P's own data, the proposed changes to the draw process would improve a client's odds of drawing an any deer tag. Has this conflict been disclosed? Do any of the other commissioners own or benefit from commercial deer hunting operations? Has the GF&P studied the impact the proposal will have on growing commercial deer hunting in SD? What safeguards can be put in place to prevent transferable licensing down the road? When you get to the core of these changes and who is pushing so hard for them that is the next logical step. I first saw this rough framework for the tag drawing process in SD about 5 years ago in a 30 minute You Tube video. The presenter was a deer hunting outfitter in SD and WY. Interesting how we got from there to here. Can the commission explain to the state's deer hunters how this is apparently a random coincidence?
- Positions on the GF&P Commission are appointed which cutting to the chase means you need to be a sizable political donor and/or politically well-connected to be asked on the commission by the Governor. I could be wrong but it doesn't appear there is a random working class type person on the commission but rather it is filled with large landowners, CEO's, attorneys and others that tend not to reflect the masses. I'm not naïve; it's the nature of Governor appointed commissions. However, when these types of coincidences with ties to commercial deer hunting come to light, especially given that this topic has faced significant public push-back; add in the fact that the conflict of interest disclosures have been weak or non-existent it doesn't lead SD deer hunters to have a lot of confidence in the process given we have zero recourse.
- Has the commission considered putting the same restrictions on landowners as it does on non-landowners by limiting them to one tag including the own land tags? There is nothing in this proposal to keep a land owner from getting an ER and/or WR own land tag but still being able to apply for 1st draw 1st choice muzzleloader in

the regular draw. Surely this isn't the intent of the commission...is it? If unaddressed that is a large portion of the tags that won't go to new, unique hunters which has been sold as the reason for this change.

- How many of the commissioners and their family members are landowners or benefit annually from the land operator exemption to apply for landowner preference? One curious thing about the entire process is that any changes to the landowner advantages have gone unaddressed. I believe firmly in landowner rights but the current set-up is over the top in favor of landowners in their ability to double dip via the regular draw and having access to own land deer tags. One has to question why and I think it has a lot to do with the make-up of the commission given it's disproportionately made up of folks from areas more likely to be biased toward landowners.
- Why don't you get the unbiased input from all SD deer hunters on the exact proposal by way of a hunter survey now given this topic is front and center. Make the survey questions fair and not leading and see what the hunters have to say. These can be done quickly if you only wanted to listen to the feedback. If the GF&P is so confident in its proposal and that it only negatively impacts about 30% of deer hunters why doesn't it do a survey now addressing the exact issue in its final form? The GF&P claims that a vocal minority is raising a fuss, prove it instead of relying on 2010 and 2014 survey questions that marginally relate to the final proposal.
- Did the commission consider sun setting these changes to end after 3 years? There is a written statement that the commission will continually address any needed changes but the commission will continue to turn over in this period of time. The commission has probably learned how hard it is change something once it is in place.

Predictions Based on Proposal Passing

- Dramatic increase in commercialized deer hunting in SD. There will be more outfitter type hunts but also the exclusive hunting rights on more land will be leased up.
- A strong majority of the muzzleloader tags will go to landowners who will also get an own land rifle tag to hunt the exact same ground. I strongly suspect this is where the vast majority of the muzzleloader tags will go unless addressed as most non-landowner hunters will first try to pull the rifle tag and if unsuccessful switch to muzzleloader for their 2nd choice but the tags will be gone.
- Loss of quality Walk-In Program land that the state leases because individual hunting groups will pay more for exclusive access to it. This will further stress the public hunting opportunities available which will lead to less quality public hunting and more regular folks leaving hunting.
- The GF&P will continue to ignore the increasing numbers of non-resident archery deer hunters that come in and pressure the quality public hunting areas before the rifle seasons. Once the commercialized deer hunting operations get established it will pull even more non-resident archery hunters in. The GF&P can't shut it off or slow it down because they will need the tag money due to lower preference point revenue.
- There will be even more manipulation of sham share cropping arrangements so hunters can gain advantages in the landowner draw processes.
- Humans are smart and they will adapt their license application preferences which will throw off all the GF&P's projections. The new unique hunter projections will prove to be overstated and even the people now supporting the change will become increasingly frustrated. Then no one is happy.
- The ultimate losers are two-fold. The regular, non-landowning SD deer hunter that has hunted for years with family and friends in multiple SD deer seasons. The second loser is the small SD towns and Black Hills towns that make some decent money from out of town SD deer hunters every November. With these changes, there will be a bias for current multi-season hunters to hunt the season closer to home and not make that cross-state trip and all the spending that goes with it.

I believe the GF&P and the commission should reconsider this issue. I'm not saying the deer draw can't be improved, it probably can and some great ideas have come up in the process. But I believe it's wrong with a change this big to not have all stakeholders have to give something up, it's all coming from multi-season deer hunters. The way the entire process has played out I believe the decision was long ago decided and the public meetings etc. are simply check the box procedural issues. The only check and balance for the voters is the legislative review process and thankfully some of them had the nerve to question why the hunting public is so against this yet the GF&P leadership seems so intent in trying to pound this through.

One commissioner has brought up numerous times a young hunter that came up to them and said it's not fair some guy gets 3 buck tags and I didn't get one. My first thought is that is a very precocious teenager to be focused and studying the deer draw tables like they apparently are, wow! Second, using the GF&P's own data 256 hunters drew 3 buck tags in 2017, this is ~ 0.5% of deer hunters and one would need A LOT of built up preference points to draw that many buck tags. Fact - no hunters are drawing 3 buck tags year after year in the first draw as is being insinuated and only folks that hunt less demanded units draw even 2 buck tags with any consistency. Perhaps I'm missing it but I don't see the outrage in this situation. Fact is I'm not aware of any state where residents are guaranteed to draw a high demand firearm buck tag every year in their preferred hunting unit.

If the change is adopted, there will be many children now that are part of deer hunting groups that will fall apart that won't be deer hunting moving forward. There will also be young hunters in split families that will get to pick their "preferred" deer tag which for them means picking between hunting with mom's side or dad's side of the family. Who in this process has been a voice for them?

It would be refreshing if the GF&P leadership would spend its time focusing on important issues that unite deer hunters instead trying to fix something that isn't broken. The biggest threats to hunter participation aren't the current draw system but rather the continuing decline in quality access as farms and ranches continue to get bigger in much of our state. Also, what is being looked at with CWD as that noose continues to tighten around our state from our neighbors and the SW corner of our state which threatens all deer hunting? Point being, we have real issues to address that are going to require the help and unification of all stake holders in the deer hunting equation. The leadership of the GF&P should be focused on how to pull deer hunters together instead of tearing us apart. Instead of doing that, the commission has again repackaged the proposal and my guess is will attempt to lean on new members of the legislative review process now that we have some new legislators in Pierre and attempt to handle it that way.

Mike Dosch

Wolsey SD

mbdosch@hotmail.com

Comment:

Leave the way deer applicants are submitted alone, this has worked for years the way it has been working , why ruin something that has worked for all these years...

Jason Fischer

Cottonwood MN

Jasonfischer@charter.net

Comment:

I think it is absolutely insane to allow a person to draw several tags from one area before allowing a person who wants one to not get it. I have a son that has been applying for a nonresident west river deer drag for two years. He has not been drawn but we hunt with people in our group that are non residents that hold 7 deer tags. One anydeer and 6 whitetail any deer tags. My son cannot even get a any whitetail tag. This is insane. I understand you want to protect your residents but really. I also had 4 other non residents in our group that did not get a tag. I have hunted in 8 states and no one does anything like this.

Richard King

Oak Hill VA

rking@wbbinc.com

Comment:

Your "compromised approach" remains unfair to non-residents, and South Dakota is forgoing a lot of revenue for the department and the local economies.

Did you mean to say "COMPROMISED" ("accept standards that are lower than desirable") or "COMPROMISE" ("an agreement that is reached by both sided making concessions") APPROACH.? "Compromise" seems most correct"

Marty Muchow

Aberdeen Proving Ground MD

marty.l.muchow.mil@mail.mil

Comment:

As a SD resident on active duty in the Army, I was concerned under the previously proposed draw structure I would only be eligible for 1 tag. I support the current proposal as it will give me the opportunity to continue to be issued tags for both East and West River deer.

Marlys Hanten

Hartford SD

marlyshanten@gmail.com

Comment:

I like the compromise allowing 2 licenses. One of my largest concerns are something that gfp has no control over. It is: there are numerous hunters that apply for any deer tags year & again whom don't shoot a mule deer. So why do they apply for Any Deer? I want the mule deer and can't get any deer tags.

Other

Leslie Larson

Miller SD

anncecilia93@hotmail.com

Comment:

So many of these areas have absolutely no true habitat that will attract pheasants. So there should be criteria that the farmer has to produce to qualify before it is accepted!!!! No pheasants no pay!!!

William Podoll

Aberdeen SD

Comment:

There is no need to make changes every year. Personally I can't keep up with them. Just because one group hollowed you people seem to jump.

David Prater
Lexington KY
dprater@email.uky.edu

Comment:

I am 76 years old and have hunted SD since 1969. My son now joins me to hunt pheasants each year. I really appreciate your concern for conservation and efforts to maintain all wildlife populations. In over 40 years of hunting, this was first year to be able to duck hunt. Hope you can improve those chances for out of state hunters annually.

Thanks
DP

Jon Colw
Lake City MN
Jonkathcole@gmail.com

Comment:

Please consider allowing nonresident duck hunters to choose 2-7 day periods to hunt within their zone. It is not practical to have to hunt 10 straight days. Or allow 2-5 day periods similar to your pheasant season. Thank you

Don Tooley
Rapid City SD
ferret54@outlook.com

Comment:

I called GFP to let you know I saw a deer with a broken leg. I was told they would just leave the deer alone. (suffering, and hobbling on 3 legs) If you wanna kill deer so bad.. Please put this miserable animal out of it's suffering.

Bob Koscak
Rapid City SD
bobbyk@rap.midco.net

Comment:

Immediately STOP the tripling of preference points that you initiated last year! You are trying by this latest action to help young hunters into the game by giving them early preference points, thereby acknowledging and trying to correct your past decision. Do what's right; get rid of the tripling of existing preference points! You can still give young hunters these extra points you are proposing, although it does nothing for new hunters who are a bit older. Be fair to them too; STOP THE TRIPLING!

William Reiser
Wagner SD
areiser@hcinet.net

Comment:

on the revenue aspect, why do I have to pay an agent fee when I purchase my license on my home computer.

Justin Murphy
Lyons SD
justintmurphy@outlook.com

Comment:

I strongly support the Super Tag proposal. These tags can generate a good amount of revenue for habitat. Habitat is lacking and continues to disappear from the landscape. Getting out ahead of this issue will make huge impacts for future generations of sportsmen in South Dakota. As a resident of this great state I enjoy the many opportunities available to me. Like it or not those same opportunities should be available to nonresidents as well (obviously in moderation). I enjoy being able to elk hunt the western states and one day hope to hunt Alaska. If nonresident opportunities weren't available I would never get to enjoy those hunts.

My personal thoughts on how to work the Super Tags.

1. Open to both resident and nonresident for all tags available
2. Tags offered: Elk, Bison, Deer, Antelope, Turkey
3. \$10 per entry with unlimited entries. Same price for everyone
4. Do not offer a Super Tag bundle. Raffle the tags separately
5. Closely monitor how the raised revenue is being spent
6. Raffle the tags early in the year so people can properly plan there fall

Justin Murphy
Lyons, SD

Louie Genzler
Aberdeen SD
louiegenzler@gmail.com

Comment:

Why do disabled Vets have to be 100% disabilities to get free camping at State Parks in SD, starting at 10% would be good?

Kevin Forrester

Sturgis SD

k4ester@BlackHillsTrails.org

Comment:

RTP Motorized/Non-motorized monies being spent for Snowmobile Trail Groomers when non-motorized uses are specifically excluded from use. Research through the Federal Highway Administration has shown that the SD GFP who is the administrator of the SD Recreation Trails Program have awarded themselves significant amounts over multiple years to purchase groomers for the Snowmobile Trail System. The funds came from the allocation set aside for Motorized and Non-motorized combined. Since the groomers are for the Snowmobile Trail System and Non-motorized users are excluded from using the system the award of funds for mixed use is questionable at best.

Don Cain

Arlington SD

dc57212@gmail.com

Comment:

Just received the "GFP News: Game, Fish and Parks Fisheries Plans" and was shocked and very disappointed to see where you have taken it upon yourselves without any contact with me, to reclassify my privately owned farm to a "Managed Fishery" with "Public Fishing Access". I'm referring to your new "Highway 81 Northeast" pond as you call it.

This also is known as Brookings County, Bangor Township, Section 30-110-52 based on my tax records.

Your web site lists it as a "Managed Fishery" When did this take place without me knowing about it?

Your web site lists it as "Public Fishing Access".

How is that possible without crossing over private land which is also known as trespassing, in order to gain access.

Is this your new way of working with landowners?

Angela Dixon

Poplarville MS

angelafd61@gmail.com

Comment:

Can you tell me when WLF&G is going to make PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THERE actions when KILLING ANIMALS THAT THEY SHOULDN'T? Such as the Female greywolf killed on 01/09/2019. There guns SHOULD be taken away, permits revoked/lifetime & a hefty fine. Th Gaming MUST DO something. She was to far out. If he COULDN'T SEE DON'T KILL.

Lee Cooper
Council Bluffs IA
cbcoopers@cox.net

Comment:

I see that you are removing the past restrictions on bass on Roy Lake. I believe this is a very poor decision. My bass club has come to Roy and region every year since 2002. I have also had my sibling and spouses up there 5/6 times for a week. Roy is the only lake my club agrees to come to every year. We drive the 5-6 hours because of the quality of the fish there. We can go elsewhere to fish numbers, but Roy has been a great lake for the quality of the fish we catch. I believe this change will harm that quality. Bass fishermen believe in catch and release. We are also aware that many of the walleye fishermen there see them as trash fish and will keep many of them. Tourists will keep and eat many also and the size of the average fish will shrink. If that happens, then Roy becomes just another lake, pretty, but 5-6 hours away. I believe the amount of money coming to area will severely decline, as I have talked to several bass men who generally agree. We see it as a chance for a trophy smallmouth, or at least a number of really good fish. I would regret not coming to the Roy Lake area. I enjoy it a lot, but my funds are limited. I'll go where the club goes.

Jim Ivers

Crooks SD

a.herefishyfishies@yahoo.com

Comment:

Please note that I have well over 15 years experience spearfishing in fresh and salt water while freediving and using scuba. Please note that freedive spearfishing is considered one of the worlds most dangerous sports due to something called shallow water blackout. Despite this, it is very rewarding and challenging to confront fish on their own terms without a lot of bulky equipment.

Per current SD regulations, the spear must be rigidly attached to what is known as a 'gun line' on the speargun, not to exceed 20 feet in length. Despite the ease with which someone can reel in a large walleye from the boat, some fish, especially large carp, are far more powerful than a diver underwater. Trust my experience on this, a large fish not 'stoned' by a head or spine shot is fully capable of pulling the diver down at will. A freediver is therefore left with the choice of following the fish down, or letting go/losing a \$600 or \$700 speargun. At depth, the pressure in the diver's lungs magnifies the available oxygen. At 33 feet, there is double the available oxygen. Thus the diver feels comfortable hanging onto the speargun for too long. As the diver surfaces, oxygen levels in the lungs drop precipitously and the diver can black out near or at the surface. This results in almost certain death, even if a buddy is available. This happens all the time on the coast where spearfishing is common. On scuba, spearing a fish late in the dive that drags the diver down can result in excess nitrogen built up in the blood. Upon surfacing without sufficient air left in the scuba tank to decompress, the nitrogen fizzes like in a soda can, the blood forms clots around the bubbles, and significant joint and neurological damage occurs (the 'bends'). Some of our lakes here are two or three hundred feet deep (by actual depthfinder measurement). A diver dragged deep can easily become disoriented, and cannot read the depth gauge or compass easily holding a speargun. Another issue is that scuba divers use a 'buoyancy compensator' (BC) filled with air to achieve neutral buoyancy at depth. If dragged down by a fish, the air in the BC becomes compressed, the diver becomes negatively buoyant, and starts to sink rapidly. Trying to fight a fish, determine the depth, and adjust buoyancy under these conditions is very difficult even for experienced divers. Thus the diver cannot determine the maximum depth nor control the ascent rate. Both of these are required to prevent the bends.

I am not really sure why the 20' gun line restriction is in place. If you fire a bullet into the water, it will only go a couple feet before sinking to the bottom. If you fire a speargun from common equipment used, 20' is farther than the effective lethal range. You should try it sometime. Go to some body of water and fire a speargun at a target with a 20' gun line and see what the penetration is. Thus I don't consider a fixed gun line to be a safety device, more like a device destined to kill a diver.

If you are worried about a speargun being fired in the air, the recoil is substantially more than a rifle due to the mass of the spear, and can severely injure the spearfisher. My guess is the spear would break the gunline anyway. Finally, archery gear is allowed and has far more range in air than any speargun.

Therefore worldwide there are two common solutions to the problem. Gun lines are still used, but instead of being rigidly attached to the speargun, they are attached to a spear mounted reel or breakaway float line. Thus after the fish is speared, the diver can return to the surface safely and 'play' the fish as in rod and reel fishing. A floatline is safer than a reel BTW, and also serves to mark the diver's location.

Therefore I consider the 20' fixed gun line rule to be far more hazardous than any imagined danger of a spear going across a reservoir and hitting a swimmer.

Therefore I would like to suggest modifying the rules to require a 20' max gun line, but to allow a reel or breakaway float line to be used for safely retrieving the fish.

James Pease

Bend OR

pease.jim@gmail.com

Comment:

As a frequent non-resident bird hunter in S.D. I would prefer season licenses in place of your short term ones. Seven days is not helpful to non residents who plan a longer stay. And trying to figure out dates is a pain. So how about a reasonable price for a season bird license?

Resident Nonresident

Steve Cherkas

Edgemont SD

sacherkas@msn.com

Comment:

As a resident landowner (233 acres) in fall river county I would like to see the ability for my family (son, daughters, nephews, nieces, brother in law, etc) from other states to be able to come hunt my land only (not hunt unit in general) where they do not have to go thru a draw. Similar to how the landowner resident deer license where it is cheaper than full hunt unit access.

James Kinser

Denver CO

jkinseriii@gmail.com

Comment:

If you want non resident input, then email out surveys that solicit non resident opinions. We aren't going to drive to SD for a meeting. My input is that SD is no longer worth driving to for pheasant hunting. Licenses are too expensive, the merchants gouge us knowing it's pheasant hunting bringing us there, the hunting limits are too low and the quality of hunting has been mediocre at best for the last 10 years. I won't be back.

Charles Crowell

Conway Springs KS

ccrowell@txtav.com

Comment:

My family have been coming to South Dakota to pheasant hunt for at least 20 years and after last year we have decided we will not longer return. The people are rude and do not want hunters there and we haven't had much luck the last few years with getting many birds so we have decided to hunt in Nebraska. We hunted there this year on our way back from south Dakota and had much better luck, the people were friendly and helpful and the license's were cheaper. I am taking the time to write you this so maybe you will understand that yes the state wants out of state hunters to come up and spend money and hunt but the residents do not want us there and we as a family are tired of traveling to south Dakota and spending a lot of money for few birds and deal with rude unfriendly people. The residents/farmers are not buying into wanting hunters in their state and until you can change that I fear you will lose more hunters. Thanks for your time and happy hunting. Chuck

Joe Gonzalez

Easton PA

joeg@thechildrenshome.org

Comment:

I wanted to comment prior to the upcoming hearings involving the opportunities for non-resident hunters. I have memories of hunting your beautiful, well managed state on a few occasions. I have an active application to hunt deer this fall as I write this commentary. My thoughts are as follows: I am hopeful that you decide to allow a certain number of non resident hunters to pursue big game as you have had in the past years. I have noticed that the bulk of the deer permits allocated are for resident hunters and rightfully so. That being said, I have cherished the opportunity to hunt S.D. and certainly do not mind waiting my turn to be drawn. I do realize the revenue that out of state hunters bring in, the folks that rely on that income yet recognize your need for some balance for all involved. I am hopeful that the results of your hearings will still include some options for old, N. R. hunters like me to pursue deer in your fine state. I look forward to that trip every two/three years and really at this stage do not want to go elsewhere. Also, I would hope that you discuss a crossbow season and that impact for both resident and nonresident hunters as it would generate income, allow more options and provide varied management results of the deer herd (depends who you talk to) and possibilities afield. Thank you for allowing me to voice my thoughts. I have never done this sort of thing before anywhere but wanted you to know how important your decisions made from these hearings will be on nonresident hunters as well. Thank you, Joe G.

Nicholas Hluchy

Baton Rouge LA

Nicholas.Hluchy@brrehab.com

Comment:

I would like to offer input on the topic of Resident/Nonresident opportunities. I was born and raised in South Dakota and following graduate school, opportunity led me away from South Dakota. I return regularly to visit family and friends and routinely make it a point to either hunt or fish. Since I have been away, I have been able to experience some things other states have been doing to encourage a lifetime of continued support outdoor activities. I would suggest that the Commission consider discussing lifetime licenses and/or native son/daughter options. Both encourage greater participation in the outdoors and would increase the opportunity for men and women to visit South Dakota for outdoor activities.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate the opportunity to offer input

Bob Anderson

Bismarck ND

andersonbob504@gmail.com

Comment:

I read with great interest the minutes of the past meeting and as a former resident, who pheasant hunts in the Pierre area and fishes in the Mobridge area, I would like to offer the following for your consideration.

Comparing non-resident fishing vs. non-resident is difficult at best because you can park a camper or tent, use a 14' Lund and fish 80% of the lakes in eastern South Dakota. The fishing license is annual with lake access being unlimited. The resource is managed by the GF&P, with landowner participation at a minimum.

Non-residents using a "commercial hunting" guide service or game farm are not the cause of the heartburn & and hard feelings experienced by the residents. This is caused when the residents must compete with non-residents using public shooting areas, walk-in's & road ditches. Back in the 70 and 80's, people from Sioux Falls & Rapid City were considered non-residents by the locals when they hunted at Winner & Presho. Times have changed.

I would suggest the following:

1. Have an option available for non-residents for three 3-day hunts vs the current two 5-day hunts. This would allow the multiple trips with young hunters.
2. The SD GF&P will need to take an active role in providing food plots and in some cases (releasing pheasants) in the public shooting/walk in areas as the guide services are presently providing their clients. This needs to be done thru out the season.
3. The guide service/game farm will become a dying business model due to the IRS not allowing entertainment expenses to be deducted by businesses in 2018. Companies will not host client events or weekends where the costs are \$1500/customer. This will affect local motels, restaurants, convenience stores and bars. Future sales tax income will be noticeable.
4. There are several middle & high school students joining trap/shooting clubs within the school system (I would market this group as the next generation of hunters) both out of state & local.

The South Dakota department of GF&P has a reputation of being fair to sportsman, but I am not sure this is the case with US Fish & Wildlife service. Commercial goose hunting along the Missouri River is almost non-existent compared to previous years due to some of the rules by the Fish & Wildlife.

The same is true with the wildlife refuges such as the Sand Lake Refuge where hunting would improve if a management "burn program" was instituted. This would result in improved relationships with adjoining landowners.

Good luck with your decision making, there are instances where some problems do not have a fix when you need to have someone (landowners & residents) sacrifice to benefit (non-residents & out of towners).

Milton Eisiminger

Pensacola FL

jimeisiminger@sio.midco.net

Comment:

Was a resident of SD 1983-2017.

Would like to continue to hunt/fish in the state.

Would like to see habitat preservation emphasized rather than further marginalization of non-resident sportsmen.

Chris Erickson

White Bear Lake MN

zcamp3@gmail.com

Comment:

Background... For years the SD non-resident hunting requirements have been, "...The small game lines or youth small game license is valid for two periods of five consecutive days..."

The Issue... I totally understand and accept the thought that the state of SD would like to limit out of state hunting for 10 days which I accept... Yet, for out of state residents like myself that would like to hunt SD three times or more the requirement to purchase a second license for \$130 +/- is a deterrent and in some cases will limit the number of visits that out of state residents will make to SD...

My proposal... My recommendation would be for the state of SD to continue the 10 day day limitation for out of state hunters, BUT let them choose the 10 days in which they want to hunt. It could be for 10 Saturdays, a 5, 3 and 2 day period or for an 8 day and a 2 day period... It doesn't really matter it simply is 10 for a total of 10 days....

The Cost... The current system is set up for 2 five periods, yet I have to believe that that cost of simply changing the programming of the license system would be minimal... A simple pick list from a calendar in which you select 10 days shouldn't be that hard...

The Benefit... With less of a deterrent, I believe SD will have more hunters, more \$\$ spent on gas, groceries, hotels, restaurants, etc... SD is well aware of the huge economic impact of hunting, why not try to eliminate the deterrent as a result of the 2 five day license periods..

If this is an issue in which any of the state legislative or Commission would like to take up, I think it would be greatly beneficial... Additionally, I believe the waterfowl license is for one 10 day period.... This is also certainly something worth exploring...

Thanks for bring this to the attention of the applicable commission and or legislative members...

Kevin Taft

Port Orchard WA

k_taft@hotmail.com

Comment:

Hello, I have been on both sides of the Resident/ Nonresident licensing requirements in South Dakota. I grew up in SD and graduated from Custer High School in 1996, I joined the Navy that same year. I did enjoy the benefits being an Active duty service member gave me being able to acquire hunting and fishing licenses. However I retired in 2016, and lost all of those benefits. I now purchase my non resident small game licence to hunt pheasants. I would like there to be some sort of program for retired veterans, or disabled vets. I have 60% disability. Montana has a program called "Come Home to Hunt" where they give Vets that were once residents of the state resident pricing so they will come back and hunt. I would like to see SD do something similar. I would like to be able to hunt some big game. I had 4 points in the elk draw that I lost. Can SD come up with a Program for Vets that enlisted from SD and retired else where to be able to Come back and hunt for resident prices? Thank you.

Justin Faris
Cincinnati OH
Justinfaris05@gmail.com

Comment:

I love that you guys are trying to invigorate the hunting community. It's so important to carry on traditions. One thing that concerns me is that I was born in South Dakota and my family has kept land in Lyman county for over 100 years. I grew up running around that land and have hunted since I can barely remember. There is nothing in place to give someone like myself a edge over a traditional non resident. Every year I am in a draw that gives me less than a 50 % chance to hunt on my own families land. I would love to see this addressed so I can share my love of hunting with my 11 yr old as he grows up, on the land that has been a part of our family for so long. Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Ryan Campbell
Sioux Falls SD
rkcampbell90@gmail.com

Comment:

As you gather this February to discuss how to allocate our state resources to out of state hunters, I would encourage you to think about what the goal is in regards to big game in South Dakota. With such a limited resource and your stated goal of getting more South Dakotans either into hunting or back into hunting I don't understand why we allow any out of state hunters to obtain a big game hunting license. I am old enough to remember the good old days, when we had plenty of deer and could get a tag for east river, west river and the black hills almost every year. You could buy your black hills deer at the local gas station. Now, it takes several years to get a tag to hunt deer in this state for many units. I have 3 young kids that like to hunt, but like most of us, they want the chance to hunt bucks with their dads, uncles and grand dad. There should be NO out of state big game licenses until the 4th round of drawing so South Dakotans have the chance to get tags before out of staters. Protect our hunting tradition in South Dakota!!

Bryce Schoulte
Presho SD
Bschoulte@gmail.com

Comment:

I believe it's unfair to "nonresidents" like myself.I currently live out of state but I still spend a lot time on the family farm.I look forward to hunting season every year but it's very hard to get tags.

Joseph Peschel
Phillips NE
jwp@hamilton.net

Comment:

Why aren't nonresident landowners allowed landowner deer tags----they still feed the deer on their land and pay S.D. property taxes.

Brandon Jadwin
Rochester MN

Comment:

Why are you making it more difficult for NR to hunt your great state?

James Delker
Soldotna AK
jddelker@aol.com

Comment:

I was born and raised in South Dakota and graduated from SDSU and spent the majority of the first 30 years of my life as a resident of the state during which time I enjoyed a plethora of hunting and fishing opportunities in this great state. My career path pulled me out of state and I have been in Alaska for the past 15 years. I have tried to return almost yearly to hunt with my family and friends and have not complained once about the fees to access game. I expect to pay more for same opportunity afforded to the residents of the state. That being said I have been frustrated with the NR license opportunities being so restrictive. In particular the NR waterfowl license is a crap shoot at best. The northern flight is unpredictable and scheduling a trip home to "time the flight" is nearly impossible. It seems like more birds are holding longer to the north in Canada and North Dakota and the blowing through SD more quickly than the past. Having only 10 days (not divided) to attempt to hunt is stupid and truly limits potential access for non-residents to hunt throughout the season.

More of concern to me is the lack of access to Deer tags. I truly feel residents should be given preference over NR hunters, but not to the exclusion of NR hunters entirely. Despite having relatives with acres of private land, I have not even had the opportunity to draw a buck tag East River in over 15 years. Personally I think this is ludicrous. As much as I appreciate eating good doe meat, I cannot believe I will essentially never have access to another SD buck license as long as I live here in Alaska.

I am part owner of a residence in in our hometown SD that my family owns (some residents/some non-residents) W use the basecamp "lodge" where we congregate various times each fall. We had hoped to invest in crop ground nearby to keep our family hunting traditions intact for all our family, living both near and far. We had recently made an offer to purchase a large section of land and we were looking at ground that was a combination of crop ground and wildlife habitat. In the end the deal fell apart as it made little sense to invest in land in SD. I elected to invest that money in a property in another state where hunting restrictions did not preclude me from hunting on my own property. How dumb is it that I can own land, manage it for abundant wildlife, and yet not be able to hunt that same land for well populated species of game?-- just because my residency lies elsewhere?? Your regulations are discouraging investment in SD and forcing NR hunters to look elsewhere for their opportunities.

As much as I would like to return home to hunt next fall, I am planning my deer hunt somewhere other than SD.

I am exploring an opportunity to hunt on private ground in Colorado where NR hunters have a good chance to draw all types of deer tags despite their residency. As you push former residents away from their heritage and family hunting opportunities, consider all of the lost income for SD businesses that you have sent to other states that do provide NR's with hunting opportunities.

I have heard at least one state offers a return "home to hunt" licenses, where former residents who have family still in the state can obtain licenses as if they were residents. I'm not sure how the logistics and parameters work for this program but just find sad that my "home state" is essentially precluding me from hunting opportunities-- on family ground we have hunted for generations. I understand the pressure to protect opportunities for residents, but it is BS when I have hunted alongside residents who legally shot multiple bucks in the same year with archery, east river, west river, muzzle loader tags, etc ...when I can't even get a buck tag every 3rd or 4th year??. Regardless of your intent to protect opportunities for residents your lack of empathy and concern for NR hunters is saddening...at least to this former resident.

Jim Delker DVM

David Fraim

Davison MI

dfraim70@charter.net

Comment:

As a long time out of state hunter, I believe it should be easier for out of state hunters, not harder. I believe property owners should have licenses to issue to their hunters compared to how much property they own. It costs them alot of money if out of state hunters are unsuccessful in the draw.

Spring Turkey Hunting Seasons

Ronald Stephenson

Oklahoma OK

Ron@gsaokc.com

Comment:

Several of our annual Pheasant party have dropped out of going because they no longer are able to pursue A Turkey on the opening for the last 4 years.

Bret Brown

Sioux Falls SD

bbrown68@me.com

Comment:

It is nice that u are considering changing this law as it would still be hard to get away with poaching if the beard and feet were required to accompany the carcass.

I would however like to caution the eagerness to keep introducing populations into areas that don't have them. Turkey are very territorial and will drive Pheasants out of areas that they take over.

Don't believe me? Ask residents in Michigan that watched a flourishing population of pheasants disappear as the turkey population exploded to the point that they are out of control and the pheasants are gone. I saw it first hand as I moved there for awhile for work in the 2002-2011 time frame. If you would like to see an example of it locally, just drive out to the Sioux Falls water treatment area on Sycamore St. I've counted nearly 100 birds in that area at the same time during the spring. Coincidentally, I rarely see pheasants in that area anymore.

Like I said earlier.....just a cautionary tale that I have experienced and am experiencing again, and as a hunter I would much rather have the pheasants than the turkeys in my pheasant areas.

Thanks again,
Bret Brown

Turkey Transportation Requirements

Steve Griffith

Brandon SD

Pringrif@alliancecom.net

Comment:

the proposed changes for the transportation of turkeys for hunters is much needed and overdue! I am in favor of making these proposed changes.

Lawrence Webinger
Lacrescent MN
webinger@acegroup.cc

Comment:

Yes finally a good idea long in the making. Making it easier for non residents to transport their bird home .

Gary Gilbertson
Saint Peter MN
oakleaf@hickorytech.net

Comment:

Just trying to have a dialog about crossbow hunting during the archery season for seniors. A number of states are now allowing the crossbow for the archery season for seniors who have difficulty pulling back a bow. Thanks for your consideration.

Jams Wipperfurth
Sauk City WI
jwipp4@gmail.com

Comment:

I come from Wisconsin to hunt turkeys. The proposed rule change would make it much easier to transport turkeys back home and allow me to conform to the law.

Martin Wiernusz
Ossian IA
DOCMARTY@ACEGROUP.CC

Comment:

Very logical. As a hunter from Iowa this really helps us out. Thanks.

Richard Nelson
Apple Valley MN
rcnelson@arthurchapman.com

Comment:

As an out-of-state hunter, this would be a very welcome change. It is hard transporting the entire bird when getting home.

George Wilkes
Grand Marais MN
gwilkes@boreal.org

Comment:

This would be a huge improvement ! It is very difficult on a long hunting trip to keep the meat fresh while keeping the foot and beard attached. So much better to allow separation of those parts, and I can't see a lot of violations occurring because of this change.

Donald Wojciechowski
Rapid City SD
don.woj@gmail.com

Comment:

ALSO, please consider adding a fall archery only turkey season beginning around mid Sept or 01-Oct. It is unfair to archery hunters they must hunt fall turkey only during gun deer seasons.

Donna Bares
Sturgis SD
jbares@rushmore.com

Comment:

I support this change as I would prefer to be able to bone out the parts we keep and place on ice as soon as possible after the kill rather than having to wait until getting to a domicile as I usually have other family hunting and it is 60 miles to my domicile

Donald Holznagel
Mora MN
Mrdsbp@hotmail.com

Comment:

I always skin my wild turkeys and to be able to debone my bird and freeze it in individual quart bags along with the beard and spurs would be a great improvement as far as maintaining the palatability of the meat

Levi Muhl
Hastings MN

Comment:

Hunting turkeys in SD is a yearly tradition. However traveling over 10 hours and harvesting a Turkey early in the trip can be quite difficult to cool and preserve the Turkey through our trip and the way home. I support the current proposal as this will help with our travel logistics.

Robert Winter

Yankton SD

bcwinter@vyn.midco.net

Comment:

This is an excellent proposal. Not only for those traveling a distance, but also for when a turkey is taken in hot weather.

John Dunn

Eau Claire WI

dunnjc@charter.net

Comment:

Last spring I shot a beautiful Merriams on the 2nd day of a 7 day hunt. We were tent camping and had no easy way of keeping the carcass cold. Luckily, the weather was cold enough to keep the whole turkey from spoiling. It would have been much easier to cut up the turkey and keep the required parts in a cooler.

Janet Schultz

Minnetrissa MN

janetcschultz@gmail.com

Comment:

support

Edward Mcgee

Keystone SD

mcgeehfactor@hotmail.com

Comment:

support

Mike Kervin

Brookings SD

Cmkervin@hotmail.com

Comment:

Great idea and makes a lot of sense. Also, thank you for your part of stopping rifle hunting of turkeys. The sport is so much safer without long shots .

Marv Rooney

Stillwater MN

ml_rooney@msn.com

Comment:

New reg proposal makes sense. Also strongly favor requirement to have a phone in registration procedure

Craig Sinclair

Waconia MN

craig1outdoors@gmail.com

Comment:

Thank You!

Lawrence Webinger

Lacrescent MN

webinger@acegroup.cc

Comment:

Very good idea should not be an enforcement problem.