

Public Comments

Other

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Nancy Hilding
6300 West Elm
Black Hawk, SD
Sept 27th, 2020

To the Game, Fish and Parks Commission.

I oppose the public petition to get a variance on submission of the bobcat carcasses to SDGFP staff for inspection and tags within 5 days of kill. At the July Commission meeting we were shown charts indicating that SDGFP does population abundance estimates for bobcats, but there was no discussion of the data used to create those abundance estimates. Perhaps some of the data comes from the carcasses? Please provide discussion of the data used to create bobcat population abundance estimates at the October meeting . This is the year you have expanded the hunt to much more of east river, so you probably don't have as much data on the condition of bobcat's and the population east river as you do west river. I suspect those east river carcasses will provide you with useful information about east river bobcats, that you have not yet collected.

I also want you to collect information on whether the bobcat was killed by trapping, boot hunt or hound hunt, which you might be able to guess at via carcass. It is also illegal to kill animals except with bullet or arrows..that is in state law. So you need to inspect carcasses for the bullet and/or arrow mark to see if the kill was legal, especially when people used traps or hunt with dogs in areas of SD without trees for the bobcats to climb up to avoid the dogs.

Julie Anderson

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Finalization of not bringing in a bobcat carcass within 5 days.

This is especially troubling as 1 person wants a rule change because it is "hard for him to bring in a carcass within a 5 day period". The bobcat hunting season has been expanded also due to one person who wants to trap more bobcats. However, at the last GF&P meeting, the majority of comments expanding the bobcat season were against it. Yet these rules and regulations continue to get approval with only 1 person's action to petition. Chipping away at hunting and trapping regulations is now the norm, and is the result of certain board member's and the current state administration's agenda to promote to trapping. It is a conflict of interest and no one on this board should have carte blanche to ignore science and majority opinion in order to advance their own pet project. Trapping is extremely cruel, yet this board won't even require a 24 hour trap check, identification of traps, and now is considering lifting a requirement of a 5 day carcass inspection. There is only one way to look at this latest amendment and it is abuse of power. Deny this petition.

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk, SD

Position: other

Comment:

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
Sept 27th, 2020

Dear SD Game, Fish and Parks Commission,

I write to ask you when the document called alternately - the "Biennial Commission Review of SD Threatened and Endangered Species List" and the "State Threatened and Endangered Species Status Review" - will be released for public comment.

It was listed on the agenda of the July and September Commission meeting as the "State Threatened & Endangered Species Status Review" (It was not listed as the Biennial Review) and it was listed in the information section, not the action section.

The Commission in September listened to staff presentation, but made no action to approve the document and made no action to set up a public comment period.

Folks can only find it, by downloading the respective July and September Commission Books. I have never been able to find the 2020 Review draft on-line, except in the Commission book and I think the 2018 Review version has been removed from it's former on-line spot, as I can no longer find it (except in old Commission books).

I attach an e-mail from Jon Kotilnek, sent to me before the September meeting in response to our e-mail (that we sent on August 19th), saying he thought there would be a comment period on the T & E Status Review. We did not comment on this T & E Status Review prior to and at the September Commission meeting, nor advise our members to do so, as we expected a future comment period to be established.

When the Commission took no action on the Status/Biennial Review at the Sept meeting on Sept 10th we sent an e-mail seeking clarification. I did not get a reply to my September 10th, 2020 e-mail request for clarification on a comment period, till I called Jon Kotilnek up on Friday 25th of September. He seems to think now that there will be no comment period on the Status/Biennial Review and GFP is working on some document/policy about how to handle public endangered and threatened species petitions (if I understood the conversation correctly).

We believe that not having a comment period is inappropriate. Hopefully you remember the controversy over the otter de-listing. The public who cares about T & E species has - we hope all have learned - that we have to read and comment on the T & E Status Review de-listing criteria for species we care about. We suspect that the interior least tern may be de-listed or down-listed by the USFWS in 2020 or 2021, which may put it in the SD T&E spotlight next year.

We are also concerned, as we believe you did not do biennial reviews of threatened and endangered species for a long time. We suggest you ask your staff for a timeline of when the staff submitted to you, de-listing, down-listing, up-listing and listing proposals. Were all the T & E species added to the list long ago?

You started up with "biennial reviews", with the release of a draft T & E Status Review in fall of 2017, which the Commission adopted in spring of 2018. As far as we know the last time your staff submitted a listing proposal was for the Dakota skipper, which proposal the SDGFP Commission denied a long time ago - but the USFWS approved listing it federally, for the entire nation, so it got better protection.

We think you need to examine why your staff is not submitting listing proposals, just de-listing, down-listing or up-listing proposals .

We think you should examine the criteria they use for rare species - such as the frigid amber snail which is G1 and S1. - why is staff not proposing that species for listing? Why is what staff proposing to you is just shifting species about on the list or de-listing them and not proposing to add them.

We are very concerned about the delay in listing the lake chub. Why did it take a public petition to list to get the

staff to study it, when it disappeared from Deerfield Lake in 2007, after 6 years of declining sample numbers of fish - with samples for 6 years all below 10 fish sampled (we included that chart showing declining samples in our powerpoint & petition to list). Why did GFP staff not start looking for lake chub in the Black Hills 20 years ago and either find it in enough streams or recommend it for listing -- years ago? Does SD GFP not care about native fish that are too small to fish for? We think preventing species from being extirpated from SD is one of your most sacred duties.

Before reintroducing species to the Black Hills, species that have been isolated , in the Black Hills for a long time, we hope you will do DNA testing on the species, to make sure they have not developed into a subspecies, or are working towards becoming a sub-species. This genetic isolation has been part of the justification for 4 federal listing petitions submitted to the USFWS for isolated Black Hills Species (all petitions denied, with the USFWS wanting more genetic/taxonomy information). If unique genetics exists in the Black Hills due to isolation, GFP should fund more genetic/taxonomy study and think twice before reintroducing from outside sources for rare isolated species.

Thanks,

Nancy Hilding

1 attachment

Tim Gunsell

Godley TX

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am an out of stater and oppose the hunting season extension and bag limit increase. I have been coming there one to two times a year for the last ten years and love it. I from Kansas and they have ruined the hunting in that state.

Cody Warren

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

i know I'm late to the game here , but to increase the camping cabins by 90% in 2 years is ridiculous. I was paying \$45 a night in 2019, \$55 a night in 2020 and now to increase to \$85 a night in 2021. This will not attract people to stay for a longer camping season as you are hoping. I for one wont be using them anymore at that price. Im glad that motels are close to where I like to camp as they are the same price or now CHEAPER than staying in a cabin without a bathroom, water or comfortable bed. I'm sure someone will rent them. I hope you get what you're looking for out of this price increase. You have lost one family from renting in your parks.

From: Kotilnek, Jon Jon.Kotilnek@state.sd.us 
Subject: FW: What is protocol for commenting on the T&E Status (or Biennial) Review?
Date: August 20, 2020 at 11:56 AM
To: Nancy Hilding nhilshat@rapidnet.com
Cc: Dowd Stukel, Eileen Eileen.DowdStukel@state.sd.us, Comes, Rachel Rachel.Comes@state.sd.us

Nancy,

I will address your questions in order.

1. What is protocol for commenting on the T&E Status Review (or T & E Biennial Review)?
 - a. The process for comment submission will be addressed at the September meeting. There will likely be a specific email as in the past to submit comments and suggestions.
2. Will the Commission adopt it by resolution and if so when....on Sept 2nd/3rd or in October?
 - a. The T&E Status Review will be discussed at the Commission at the September 2-3 meeting. The Commission will likely be briefed again at the November meeting with regard to comments submitted by the public.
3. How do average people find and download a copy of it, so they can comment on it?
 - a. The T&E Status Review Document will be available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/information/>
4. Is there a notice or press release some place explaining how to comment on it?
 - a. See answer to question 1 above.
5. Or do we send comments to Eileen or to Rachel?
 - a. See answer to question 1 above.
6. Have you send notice to the papers on comment opportunity or creation of the Status Review (Biennial Review)?
 - a. There is no requirement to submit a "public notice" to the newspapers. Our Communication team will be responsible for news stories and media blasts.
7. Is there an e-mail to send comments to?
 - a. See answer to question 1 above.
8. if it is at a Commission meeting in September as an information, if so when is to be adopted by resolution and then people can testify on it during the "open forum".
 - a. The open forum is reserved for anyone to discuss an issue that is not related to Commission finalization. The public can testify at the open forum regarding the T&E Status Review.
9. So can a "biennial review" be just a review of a report?
 - a. That's going to be addressed at Commission – see answer to question 1 above.

Thank you for your interest and concern in the process.

Very Respectfully,

Jon Kotilnek

Jon Kotilnek | *Senior Staff Attorney*
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
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From: Nancy Hilding <nhilshat@rapidnet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 3:32 PM
To: Dowd Stukel, Eileen <Eileen.DowdStukel@state.sd.us>; Comes, Rachel <Rachel.Comes@state.sd.us>; Kotilnek, Jon <Jon.Kotilnek@state.sd.us>; Kirschenmann, Tom <Tom.Kirschenmann@state.sd.us>
Cc: jim petersen <nfearndesire@gmail.com>; Erik Molvar <emolvar@westernwatersheds.org>; Nancy Hilding <nhilding@rapidnet.com>
Subject: [EXT] What is protocol for commenting on the T&E Status (or Biennial) Review?

Nancy Hilding
President
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6300 West Elm
Black Hawk, SD 57718

SD Game, Fish and Parks
Pierre, SD 57501

To Various SDGFP Staff

What is protocol for commenting on the T&E Status Review (or T & E Biennial Review)? It was on the agenda in July as an information item, not an action item. Will the Commission adopt it by resolution and if so when....on Sept 2nd/3rd or in October?

I have a copy and I think I separated it out of the July Commission Book using Adobe Professional software. How do average people find and download a copy of it, so they can comment on it? I can't find a message about it on the GFP Threatened and Endangered Species web page or the Management Plan web page. Is there a notice or press release some place explaining how to comment on it? Or do we send comments to Eileen or to Rachel? Have you send notice to the papers on comment opportunity or creation of the Status Review (Biennial Review)?

Is there an e-mail to send comments to? In late fall 2017, the e-mail was StatusReviews@state.sd.us.

I mean to send out an "enviro events" type of warning about this document and I need the protocol for how to comment, instructions on how to download it and when the action will take place (i.e. deadlines). if it is at a Commission meeting in September as an information, if so when is to be adopted by resolution and then people can testify on it during the "open forum".

It makes a significant difference if it is a biennial review or a "status review" as comments on a biennial review could include requests on species that need to be added, as well as what to do about the currently listed species - so can a "biennial review" be just a review of a report?

cc Jim Petersen, PHAS vice president, Erik Molvar, Western Watersheds Project..

=====

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