

Public Comments

CWD Regulations

Clayton Siegfried

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to any blanket regulation forcing hunters to drop off deer to a location no matter what. If you suspect an issue with your harvest offer a drop off location. Nothing should be mandatory we have enough regulations if west river units warrant mandatory regulation due to higher concentrations of CWD enforce that by county. How are you regulating this anyway.. Assuming it is an honor system.. Honor our time as well..

Thank You.

Peter Makowski

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The CWD proposals are not practical. The environment conditions are most likely the main determining factor in spreading this disease, these are factors that can't be controlled. This disease has most likely been around for a longer time period than we realize. It has only been in the last twenty to thirty years that that we have been testing for it and have been able to identify the disease. How do we enforce this? We are losing hunter numbers every year. Making more regulations and issuing more citations is not the way to encourage more hunters, not to mention poor public relations that will develop amongst the department and general hunting public. Good PR is essential, inform the public how this disease has developed around the country and now that disease is here what measures show be followed by the hunting public

Steven Pemble

Buffalo SD

Position: support

Comment:

Thank you for bringing this issue of carcass disposal to light. I live in Harding County and we receive several out of area hunters during the general deer seasons. Hunting is a very important activity to our local area and it brings in a significant amount economic impacts as well. However carcass disposal is a significant issue for those of us locals who access the public lands in the area year round. Our local wildlife production area known as Gardiner Lake becomes a carcass dump for many of the out of area hunters. As a fellow hunter trying to hunt for birds with my dogs it becomes extremely frustrating to try and flush a bird without your dog finding a dozen rotting carcasses because people are littering their excess hides and carcasses. I can assure that these carcasses were not from deer that were shot at the location they were found. I frequent this area and have a good understanding of the traffic there. There were approximately 8 deer carcasses that I've found just this year at our local Game production area. This area is also the communities one of the water features in the county where anglers can access. It is extremely frustrating to be walking the shoreline of our well kept area to find dead carcasses. One of the specific issues in our area is the local dump is only open 3 days a week and the out of area hunters will not abide by those dates and just dump the carcasses.

I do believe I can help provide a solution for our area and it would require three different action items. First would be signage in the area, specifically at the Gardiner Lake, to inform there is to be no dumping of carcasses. Second would be to work with the Town of Buffalo to provide a dumpster with 24 hr access during hunting season. Thirdly, GFP officers should enforce fines to the full extent of the law for violators.

Please consider the consequences that are beyond just CWD, including keeping our local areas clean for our posterity.

Thank You,

Steven Pemble

Attached is a photo approximately 100 ft from our fishing dock where a deer carcass was dumped. (one of several carcasses right in that area)

Deer Seasons

Ryan Orrock

Colome SD

Position: other

Comment:

I know I am ahead of the game and do not know what you guys are proposing for Todd County. I have hunted it the last 10 years and when I first started there was an early doe season and you could take a buck and doe with a rifle. The population never really took a hit and has been either sex for many years now. The doe population is getting out of control. In one sit where I can see about 500 yards all around me I seen about 100 deer in early December. 90 percent of them doe. The problem is that most of the ground is tribal and to be honest a lot of those hunters don't harvest doe. Please let hunters like me fill the freezer a little more and do my part on doe management.

Dillon Blaha

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the changes to the Apprentice and Mentored Deer hunting seasons. We should prioritize opportunities for youth hunters above others. Mule deer are the perfect deer for youths, they are not as skittish and more importantly they are available early in the year when the weather is nice (whitetails tend to be in standing crop fields until those fields are harvested). If mule deer harvest is a concern, I suggest adjustment be made to general deer seasons not the youth seasons.

Adam Golay

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

West river deer zone 21A should be added to the shaded area MHD-03/APD-03 to reduce harvest of antlerless mule deer in that zone for apprentice deer.

Kyle Kusser

Gettysburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a father who is trying to introduce my kids to actual hunting, not driving around looking for deer, this would greatly limit the opportunities to put my kids on deer. I try to not only teach them the ins and outs of firearm safety and hunting but spot and stock methods and camping while hunting. Being only able to shoot a white tail will take a lot of the experience out of it along the river. I just think that the youth tags could be left along. Statewide any antlerless. Give all the kids the opportunity at a mule deer or a white tail no matter where they live. You're doing a good thing with these seasons. I wish you would just leave them alone.

However, maybe it is a good thing to get these kids ready for the disappointment of not getting to hunt the seasons they want to hunt in their home state, because that is what they have to look forward to in their future as a South Dakota outdoorsman.

Justin Allen

Pierre SD

Position: other

Comment:

I'm opposed to the proposal that restricts the harvest of mule deer does by mentor hunters in the majority of SD. If GFP feels the need to reduce mule deer doe harvest I'm all for it. However, based on proposals we are placing the management/reduction of harvest on the shoulders of youth hunters. We are taking opportunities away from youth hunters while bow, archery, muzzy hunters with any deer tags are not restricted and do not help reduce mule deer doe harvest. It would be extremely easy to make Any Deer tags not valid to take a mule deer does. I 100% understand the harvest statistic by license type and season of mule deer doe harvest but if we are that worried about reducing mule doe deer harvest why not go all in instead half hearted? For GFP attempting to recruit and retain youth hunters this a step in the wrong direction. Like mentioned I have zero problem with reduction of mule deer does if the sacrifice is made across the board...as change to any deer tags. I find it extremely frustrating that my kids will not have the opportunity at the chance to harvest a mule deer doe in our backyard but Minnesota Joe has that opportunity while bow hunting for 3 months with his Any Deer tag in the exact same location. I urge you to leave the harvest of mule deer does as is for 2021 for the mentor season and go back to drawing board and figure something out were doe harvest is reduced throughout all licenses specifically bow and firearm any deer licenses.

Thank You
Justin

Justin Allen

Pierre SD

Position: other

Comment:

Dear Commissioners,

I feel like bow harvest statewide and especially specific counties is the elephant in the room that won't be addressed. Bow harvest over the last 10 years has increased nearly two folds. In 2020 10,500 deer were killed, 15% increase from 2019. 15% increase in one year. 25% increase from 2016 to 2020 and 40% increase from 2014 to 2020. Hunter success in 2020 was 35%, so argument of low success isn't much of an argument anymore. Several counties in the state have higher archery harvest then firearm. Most alarming is the Mule Deer harvest in counties along the Missouri River and Black Hills. Any deer Firearm tag allocations are heavily managed but archery is a free for all for 4 months. Archery harvest in those counties has surpassed or is close to that of the firearm season. Often these counties take a resident 4 to 7 years of preference to draw firearm any deer tag while archery gets 4 months every year. SD GFP biologists spend so much time reviewing and study data to make the right firearm tag allocations for each county but then archery is the wild west of no regulations. Archery harvest is plenty high in numerous counties to have a biological effect. Please start the discussion of limited tag archery units at least in Mule deer country. Look at moving the start date back to third Saturday in Sept. and also limiting bow licenses to only one statewide any deer tag per hunter.

Thank You for your time.

Justin

Bill Fredrick

Jones County SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposed to the proposal to limit mule deer harvest during the youth season. As a landowner with mule deer I find ridiculous my grandkids can not hunt mule deer does on my land. Find other ways to reduce doe harvest like no mule deer does with any deer tags. Our youth are the future of hunting. We should be furthering their hunting opportunities not taking them away.

Bill

Jones County Landowner

Trent Zimms

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm against the restriction of limiting youth hunters from hunting mule deer does during the mentor season unless all licenses and seasons are restricted from taking mule deer does. If youth are restricted and harvest is reduced by 30% why are we not concerned about the other 70%? If anything youth should be the last to be restricted. Can't we restrict all any deer tags from mule deer does?? Bow hunters with any deer tags killing too many mule deer in the black hills is the real problem.

Other

Matt Surrell

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

I wish South Dakota would make the mentored antelope season the same as the mentored deer season. The youth have to compete with the adults during the antelope season, and we all know how spooky and skidish they become once fired at. I have 3 girls and it's fun to take them out hunting with me, but it's difficult if I have a tag also, doesn't leave me much time for my own tag. Hope this makes it to the right ears. Sincerely Matt Surrell

Jeffrey Heaton

Elk Point SD

Position: other

Comment:

Was just curious as to when the drawing for access permits for Adams Homestead and other places will be taking place. The deadline for applications is posted and has already passed, but I can't find any information on when the drawing will take place. When I check the status of my applications it still says drawing not yet taken place. What date is the drawing?

Todd Peskey

Resident SD

Position: other

Comment:

Where do you find application deadlines, season dates, etc like you could previous years on here so a person could try to make plans? Looking for east river deer app. deadlines and can't even find east river deer!

Upland Game Seasons

Tom Yseth

Brookings SD

Position: other

Comment:

Dear Staff and Commissioners;

I would like for you to consider changing the pheasant opener dates and this is a good year to do it. Instead of being the third Saturday, start the season the Saturday closest to the 15th/16th or whatever you can agree to. The next two years would fit this time frame and get people used to a new "tradition". The 21st denies more nice day opportunities and the birds are not a lot different then they are on 14th. Of course you would have to adjust the youth and resident only seasons.

Something to think about while you are protecting the resource and providing opportunity for citizens to enjoy the outdoors. Thank you.

Former Commissioner

Tom Yseth

Brookings, SD 57006