

Public Comments

Deer Seasons

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk, SD

Position: other

Comment:

Nancy Hilding To Commissioners,

REDRAW DEER HUNTING BOUNDARIES AROUND BELLE FORCHE RIVER

As I remember the last Commission meeting, there was discussion of an issue related to mule deer in the area of the Belle Fourche River. As I remember it, landowners along the River are concerned about mule deer depredations and want the deer hunting increased. I thought the Department wanted to increase mule deer in the larger hunting area/district of which the Belle Forche River is a subset. The Commission discussed redrawing the boundaries of the hunting area to somehow split off the area immediately next to the River from other areas, but decided not to do it and "watch and wait". The Commission also discussed worry about making changes that had not been public noticed. The Interim Rules Review Committee, allows the Commission to make changes to a proposed rule that is based on testimony received from the public, even if the changes suggested by the public were not in the public notice. I therefore suggest that the Commission redraw the mule deer hunting districts around the Belle Fourche River to allow the Commission to set different harvest limits in the larger area or otherwise allow for different/contrasting hunting pressure on the deer along the Belle Fourche River when compared with areas beyond the River that are currently in the same hunting districts/areas. I suggest the Commission look at and consider reducing harvest limits for various types of deer hunting and deer hunting licenses to address the issue of increasing mule deer west River..

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I like to watch animals in the wild. It is rare to see mule deer in western SD. I wish for more opportunity to see mule deer. I do not want you to increase mule deer by increasing hunting of non-human predators. I want you to reduce hunting of mule deer by human predators. Please reduce human hunting of mule deer for the sake of "wildlife watchers" and photographers. When you are discussing the effect of the rule on the 3Rs please discuss the effect of mule deer hunting on wildlife watchers and photographers ability to see such.

Furbearer/Trapping Seasons

Robert Friedrichsen

Redfield SD

Position: other

Comment:

The commission also proposed no change to several seasons, finalizing the following seasons:skunk, Opossum, Jackrabbit, Fox, Raccoon and Badger Season.

I would like to see opossum restricted to certain dates and/or certain counties where there may be an overpopulation problem.

Opossum are a beneficial animal whose numbers are dwindling -- at least here in Spink County.

Steven Peterson

Ramona, Sd SD

Position: support

Comment:

I very much enjoyed my first opportunity to trap otter in South Dakota last fall. I did not harvest an otter but had a great adventure trapping a new area on the Big Sioux river. I would encourage the commission to look at expanding this and other outdoor trapping seasons in the future. The season ended very quickly which is a testament to the growing otter population and the large number of trappers in the field. Every trapper I talked to was very excited by this new season. I want to thank everyone from the GF&P that made this season possible. I have been trapping for 48 years but the excitement and joy trapping provides never diminishes for me.

Steve (Pete) Peterson

John Hopple Jr.

Black Hawk SD

Position: support

Comment:

The South Dakota Trappers Association strongly supports the continuation of the Otter season. Last year was a success and well managed by the GFP personnel. After the east river beaver season the question was asked if the incidental catch of the otter had decreased. It had not, meaning there are more otters then previously thought. This is in line with what trappers have known for years. Otters are not an animal that seeks human attention and prefer seclusion. If you see 3 or 4 on a stretch of river there are probably that many if not more you did not see. Clearly this is not an endangered species and based on the incidental catch ratio still flourishing even with a limited season. Thank You to the Commissioners who listened to the GFP EXPERTS on this.

John Hopple
SDTA President

Other

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I object to increased hunting of deer or grouse on our National Wildlife Refuges (NWR). The NWR should be managed more for the wildlife watchers. When discussing the 3 Rs and rule making please consider the competition for use of wildlife by the watcher vs. hunters.

James Cummings

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Why is it that only 100% disabled vets get free park entrance? Many of us who are just 50% disabled (and more) can't work and are living on fixed incomes. We served and we lost parts of our bodies inside and out. I think you should review these requirements. Did you serve your country? I did. Thank you

Christy Frank

Huron SD

Position: other

Comment:

Why is it that a completely disabled person who wants to buy a non resident yearly fishing license here has to pay full price for a non-resident license and why are there no ADA places to fish here in Huron ?

Haven Taluch

Oacoma SD

Position: other

Comment:

There has been one of your deer that was hit by a car and killed just east of Hutmacher drilling on old 16 between oacoma and Chamberlain, it's been there long enough to be stinking like hell. I don't suppose any GF*P employees give a crap about picking it up., please use 10 dollar habitat fee on my fishing lisc to pick it up , other wise all I get for 10 bucks is sit on shore and watch the water flow south @ it's your deer clean it up !

Upland Game Seasons

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk, SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Nancy to SDGFP

I wish to be able to see grouse when I am outdoors. I wish you to reduce the hunting pressure on sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chicken so wildlife watchers have better opportunity to see them. I object to increasing the length of the grouse hunting season in the whole state or at La Creek National Wildlife Refuge. I am concerned for the on going loss of the greater prairie chicken across it range and SD should do more to protect it, especially from exotic pheasants who compete with it. Please increase hunting of exotic pheasants in areas where they would compete with greater prairie chicken, so as to give the chickens a better future.