

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS**

A Public Hearing will be held at the Watertown Convention Center, 1901 9th Avenue SW, Watertown, South Dakota, on June 2, 2016, at 2:00 o'clock P.M. (CDT) to consider adoption, amendment and repeal of Rules pertaining to:

1. ARSD 41:06:01 – Application for License.

Effect: The proposed amendments would repeal current language in ARSD 41:06:01:13 which (a) limits issuing antlerless licenses authorized by SDCL 41-6-19.8 to qualifying farmers and ranchers for use in the designated deer hunting units where at least one antlerless deer tag is available after the second lottery drawing from the previous year and (b) provides that free antlerless licenses are invalid in counties where antlerless archery and muzzleloader licenses are restricted; and make “antlerless whitetail deer” licenses available to those eligible landowners in hunting units which offer a deer license with multiple tags for antlerless deer in the lottery drawing for the East River and West River deer seasons.

Reason: The proposed changes will allow the Department to make free antlerless deer licenses available to qualifying farmers and ranchers in designated areas in accordance with current harvest management objectives.

2. ARSD 41:06:19 – Black Hills Deer Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would offer 400 more resident “antlerless whitetail” deer licenses and 32 more nonresident “antlerless whitetail” deer licenses; modify the number of Black Hills antlerless management units from four units to two units; and remove language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

3. ARSD 41:06:20 – West River Prairie Deer Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would adjust resident license numbers by decreasing one-tag licenses by 2,095 licenses and increasing two-tag licenses by 3,800 licenses (7,600 tags) compared to 2015; adjust nonresident license numbers by decreasing one-tag licenses by 168 licenses and increasing two-tag licenses by 304 licenses (608 tags) compared to 2015; and remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

4. ARSD 41:06:21 – East River Deer Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would adjust license numbers by offering 4,220 less one-tag licenses, 5,075 more two-tag licenses (10,150 tags), and 1,400 more 3-tag licenses (4,200 tags) compared to 2015; establish an antlerless deer unit within Bon Homme County described as that portion of Bon Homme County south of SD Highway 50 and east of SD Highway 37; and remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

5. ARSD 41:06:22 – Archery Deer Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would close hunting units 39A (Jackson County) and 45B (portions of Lyman County), and open units 01A (Minnehaha County), 06A (Brookings County), 07B (portions of Yankton County), 12B (portions of Bon Homme County), 17A (Charles Mix County), 25A (Douglas County), 27B (portions of Fall River County), 35A and 35C (portions of Harding County), 43A (Lake County), 44A (north of 273rd Street) (Lincoln County), 46A (McCook County), 49A and 49B (portions of Meade County), 52A (Moody County) and 53A (Perkins County), all in Unit ARD-LM1, and Black Hills Units BD1 and BD2; increase the number of “antlerless whitetail” deer archery access

permits from 20 to 25 for the Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve; and remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit and the number of access permits from each designated area.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

6. ARSD 41:06:36 – National Wildlife Refuge Deer Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would offer 10 less resident and 1 less nonresident “any deer” licenses for Unit RFD-LC1 in Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge; and remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

7. ARSD 41:06:41 – Custer State Park Deer Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would offer 10 more “antlerless whitetail” deer muzzleloader licenses; remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit; and repeal Unit CUD-ZZ1.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

8. ARSD 41:06:45 – General Muzzleloading Deer Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would close hunting units 39A (Jackson County) and 45B (portions of Lyman County), and open units 01A (Minnehaha County), 06A (Brookings County), 07B (portions of Yankton County), 12B (portions of Bon Homme County), 17A (Charles Mix County), 25A (Douglas County), 27B (portions of Fall River County), 35A and 35C (portions of Harding County), 43A (Lake County), 46A (McCook County), 49A and 49B (portions of Meade County), 52A (Moody County) and 53A (Perkins County), all in Unit ARD-LM1, and Black Hills Units BD1 and BD2; and remove the language in administrative rule depicting the license type and number of licenses from each hunting unit.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

The above rule proposals may be modified or amended following receipt of public comment at the hearing to include or exclude matters that are described in this Notice of Hearing. The hearing may be continued from time to time until its business has been completed and may be rescheduled.

Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit data, opinions, arguments, and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) at the hearing. Persons unable to attend the hearing may mail data, opinions, arguments, and their views to the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, or transmit by email to either wildinfo@state.sd.us or gfpadminrules@state.sd.us. All persons who desire to submit written data, opinions, arguments, and their views by mail or email are encouraged to mail or transmit the same in sufficient time so that it is received by and in the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks on or before 12:00 o'clock P.M. on the date of the hearing. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit data, opinions, arguments and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) to the Commission for their consideration. All written and email comments must include the name, home town/city, and state of the person submitting the comments.

The above rule proposals are available for review on the internet by going to <https://rules.sd.gov/> and copies of the proposed rules may be requested from the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. Notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that this hearing is being held in a physically accessible place. Any individuals with disabilities who will require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the hearing should submit a request to the undersigned at 605.773.3718 or 605.223.7684 (Telecommunication

Device for the Deaf).



Date this 9th day of May, 2016.

Kelly R Hepler

Kelly R. Hepler, Secretary

Notice of Public Hearing is published at the approximate cost of \$ _____.