

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Friday, March 04, 2016 7:42 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: GFP News: Additional Elk Hunting Opportunities Available in 2016

**From:** Daniel Schweigert [mailto:daniel.e.schweigert@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2016 7:58 PM  
**To:** SDGFPINFO  
**Subject:** Re: GFP News: Additional Elk Hunting Opportunities Available in 2016

that's great. Now lets get the Mt Goat and Bighorn Sheep increased. Dan Schweigert

On Thu, Mar 3, 2016 at 4:42 PM, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks <[sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us)> wrote:

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 3, 2016  
**CONTACT:** Emily Kiel at [Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us](mailto:Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us)

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### **Additional Elk Hunting Opportunities Available in 2016**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – Additional elk hunting opportunities will be available to hunters in the Black Hills and Custer State Park in the fall of 2016. Based on current elk population growth, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission proposed an increase in elk hunting licenses Thursday at their March meeting in Pierre.

“Back in April 2015, the five year elk management plan was formally adopted by the Commission,” stated Cathy Peterson, chair of the GFP Commission. “The five year plan serves as the guiding document for decision making and implementation of actions to ensure elk populations and their habitats are managed appropriately, addressing both biological and social tolerances, while considering the needs of all stakeholders.”

The Black Hills population goal (excluding Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park) is 7,000 elk, ranging from 6,000 to 8,000 depending on habitat conditions. The current population estimate from recent aerial surveys is at 7,200. Population models used to assess elk in the Black Hills indicate a growing population with a projection of 7,400 elk in the winter of 2017.

In some units of the Black Hills, the objective is to increase elk while in other units, while in others the objective is to decrease elk. The Commission proposed to adjust the number of licenses available from 430 any elk and 500 antlerless elk licenses (total of 930 licenses) to 443 any elk and 1,255 antlerless elk licenses (total of 1,698 licenses). This is an overall increase of 13 any elk licenses and 755 antlerless elk licenses; with the majority of increased antlerless licenses residing in Unit 2 and 3.

The Custer State Park population goal is 800, ranging from 700 to 900 elk. Projection models estimate a stable population with approximately 450 elk in the winter of 2017. The Custer State Park elk hunting season was also proposed and would allow for 20 antlerless elk licenses in two separate time frames in an attempt to better distribute the elk north throughout the park.

“Current population goals were developed after thorough analyses of elk population data, available habitat resources on public land, private land depredation issues, and substantial input from individuals with an interest in elk management in South Dakota,” concluded Kelly Hepler, Secretary of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. “The foundation of the decisions to allow for additional harvest of elk stems from the elk management plan. Since we have met the population objective, we are pleased to announce that there will be more opportunities to hunt elk in South Dakota this fall.”

For more information on the elk management plan, visit <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/big-game/elk/default.aspx>. For more information on the 2016 elk hunting season proposals, visit <http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/default.aspx>.

**Media Contacts for Interviews:**

John Kanta at [John.Kanta@state.sd.us](mailto:John.Kanta@state.sd.us) or [605.394.2391](tel:605.394.2391)

Andy Lindbloom at [Andy.Lindbloom@state.sd.us](mailto:Andy.Lindbloom@state.sd.us) or [605.223.7652](tel:605.223.7652)

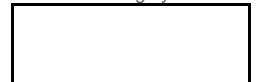
-GFP-

This message was sent to [DANIEL.E.SCHWEIGERT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DANIEL.E.SCHWEIGERT@GMAIL.COM) from:

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks | [sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us) | South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks | 523 E. Capitol Ave | Pierre, SD 57501

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## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:50 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Minnesota Lifetime Licenses

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**From:** Mark Goodwin [mailto:mgoodwin@rap.midco.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:47 AM  
**To:** SDGFPINFO  
**Subject:** Minnesota Lifetime Licenses

Dear Sirs

I would like to recommend South Dakota have a lifetime Fishing license available like Wyoming, Minnesota and other states???

As we get older and retire our income is not as plentiful as when we are working. It would be nice to buy an lifetime license early so we can have more disposable income later.

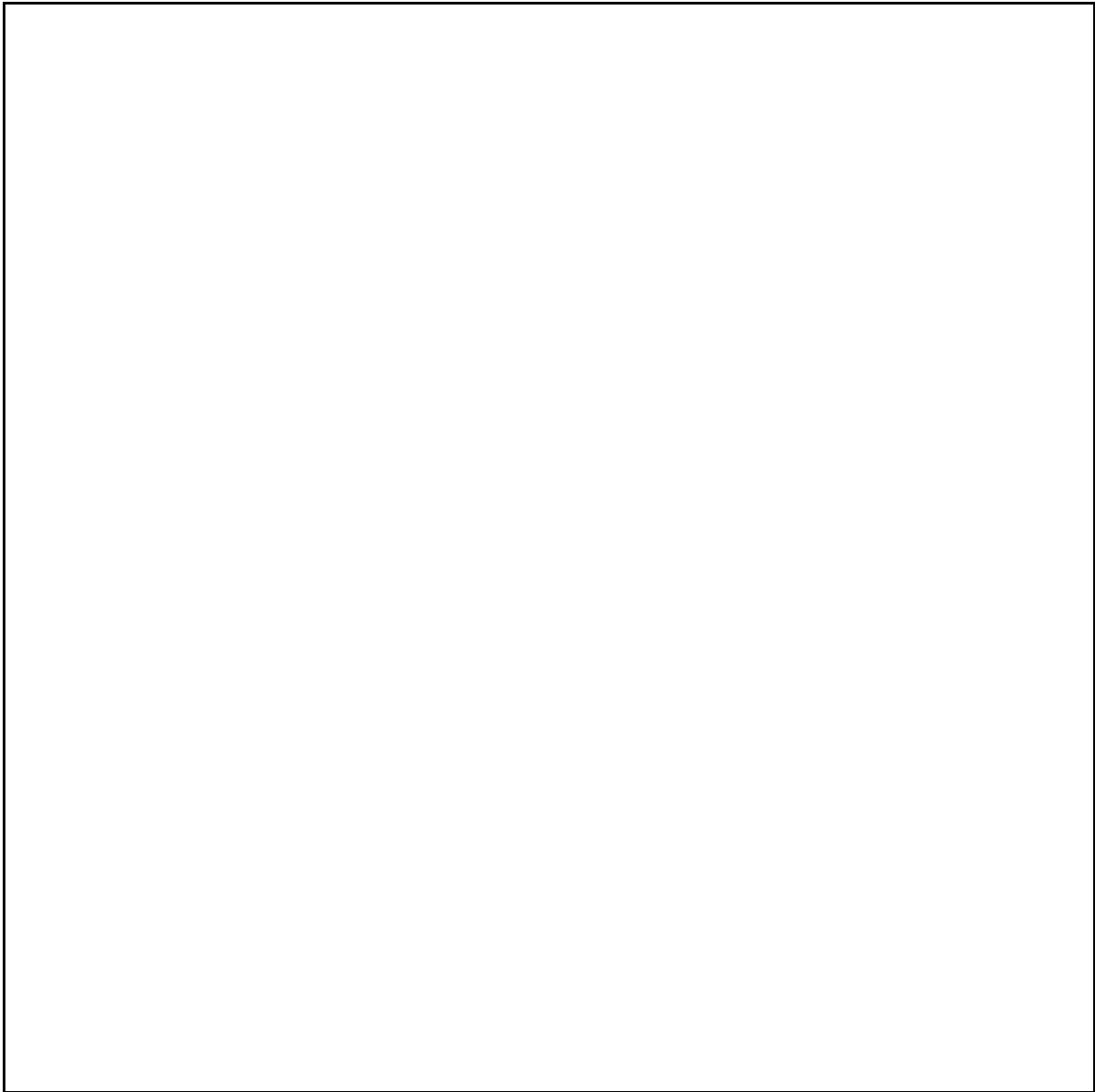
Thank you

Mark Goodwin  
605-787-6179

**From:** [MNDNR](#)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 4, 2016 3:37 PM  
**To:** [mgoodwin@rap.midco.net](mailto:mgoodwin@rap.midco.net)  
**Subject:** \*Updated:\* Minnesota Lifetime Licenses

▪ \_\_\_\_\_

[MN Hunting & Fishing Licenses](#) | [View on the Web](#)



### **Consider a Lifetime License**

(Allow 3 weeks for processing)

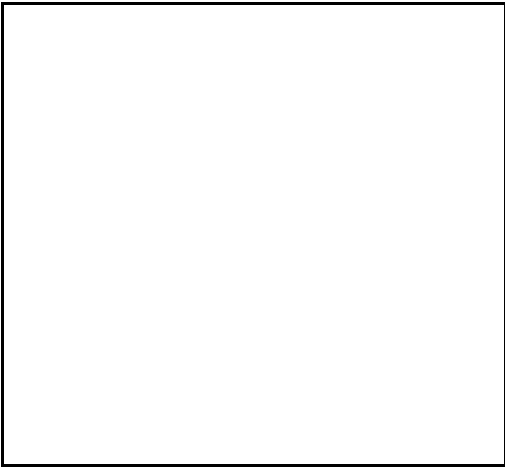
MN's 2016 fishing & small game licenses are now available. It's a great time to consider a lifetime license. For pricing and applications click on the button below that applies to you.

**Resident Form**

**Nonresident Form\***

\*Corrected

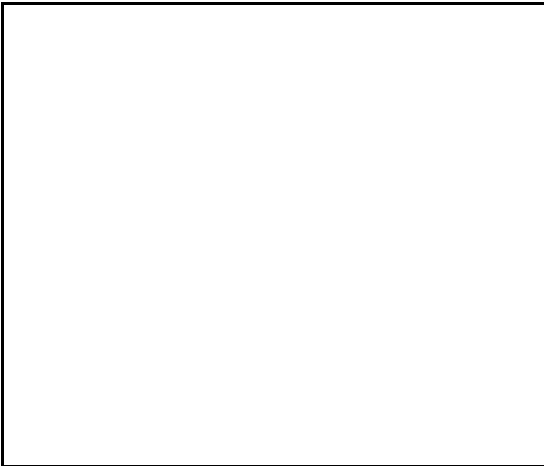
**[OR Buy Your Annual License Now](#)**



### Get Your Walleye Stamp

While this is not required to fish for or keep walleye, proceeds from the sale of the stamp are used to maintain and enhance Minnesota's famed walleye fishing. When you add the \$5 walleye validation to your fishing license those dollars flow into a dedicated account for walleye stocking.

[Walleye Stamp](#)



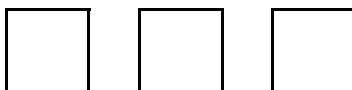
### 2016 Fishing Regulations Available

Regulation booklets are available at your [local licensing agent](#) or you can view it now by clicking the button below.

[View Regulations](#)

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## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 10:02 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: PLANTING ALFALFA AND GRASS

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** [azoss@santel.net](mailto:azoss@santel.net) [<mailto:azoss@santel.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 9:46 AM

**To:** SDGFPINFO

**Subject:** PLANTING ALFALFA AND GRASS

WHAT I WOULD LIKE EXPLAINED TO ME IS WHY THAT PAY TO HUNT PEOPLE ARE NOT ABLE TO USE THE \$100.00 AN ACRE PROGRAM TO PLANT ALFALFA AND GRASS. IT WOULD SEEM THAT WE ARE BEING PUNISHED FOR SELLING ALL THE LICENSE FOR HUNTING AND ALL THE OTHER THINGS WE DO FOR YOU. PLEASE RECONSIDER.

ADOLF "TODO" ZOSS

[azoss@santel.net](mailto:azoss@santel.net)

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 11:46 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed elk season

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Dave Jennings [<mailto:jenningsdavis@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 10:02 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Proposed elk season

I would like to encourage the GFP commission to accept the recommendation for the proposed elk season. You have a good elk management plan developed with input from all the stakeholder groups. It makes sense to follow it.

Dave Jennings  
Box 187  
Oelrichs SD 57763  
605 535 2005



## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2016 7:49 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Goose Season

**Categories:** Commission

**From:** Josh Carda [<mailto:joshua.carda@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 12:24 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Proposed Goose Season

Hello emailing in regards to the proposed goose season changes and regulations. First off, I'm greatly pleased to see that the August season has almost been done away with. However, the fact that Pennington county still remains in the August season is absolutely ridiculous. Having grown up in Rapid and spent lots of time goose hunting in September, there is flat out no reason to have an August season. The geese aren't causing any sort of depredation other than maybe some damage to the grass at canyon lake. The fact that you want to also almost completely eliminate the resident geese at canyon lake is also ridiculous. Having moved Pennington into Unit 2 I think everyone knows is helping the issue with the birds out by the airport, the August season is not. I'm sure it's basically already set in stone but I find it almost sickening to have 2 months of 15 birds a day in a county that took MANY years to even have a huntable number of geese. If anything it would be a better move to include a small portion of the Southern part of Meade county into Unit 2 where birds actually could still be hunted well after the season has closed.

Lastly, I'd like to see the September limit be moved from 15 to 8 or 5. 15 birds a day is unjustified. Having reaccessed the management goal for the state I still feel the estimated number of resident geese is blown out of proportion and that over the last few years since the August/September seasons started and have been 8 to 15 birds a day we have decimated some of the resident birds in certain counties and greatly over harvested them in others.

Thank you for taking my thoughts into consideration,

Josh Carda  
605-209-6090

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2016 7:51 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Unit 2 waterfowl boundary

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** howard brown [<mailto:howieira@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 9:21 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Unit 2 waterfowl boundary

Change the unit 2 boundary in Minnehaha county. North boundary should be 258th st. and the east boundary should be 484th ave. In the late season the geese don't fly past these areas. In the fall, north of 258 and east of 484, when crops are being harvest, the geese are feeding in these areas but the hunter can't hunt there because the season is closed. Geese don't get hunted in the late season (in this area) because they don't feed that far away from open water (Big Sioux River).

Thank you;  
Howard Brown

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 8:14 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Wild Turkey Management Comments/Draft Plan

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** John Moisan [<mailto:johngmoisan7@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 9:39 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Wild Turkey Management Comments/Draft Plan

**Name:** John G. Moisan  
709 Two Rivers St.  
Fort Pierre, SD 57532  
(605) 280-1750

**Experience:** I first turkey hunted in Gregory County, SD in 1972 and continued hunting turkeys every season through 2010 when my wife became handicapped. Over the course of 38 years, I harvested 147 gobblers in South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Montana, and Missouri. In South Dakota, I have hunted numerous prairie units across the state, as well as the Black Hills Unit and Custer State Park. I have been a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation since 1977.

**Comments:**

1. The Black Hills is being over run with out of state hunters, specifically Minnesota. They roll in before the season, set up camp in the woods, and drive their ATV's all around the Hills (and off the roads) in the hunting areas. Not only is it disruptive to the birds, but destroys the quality of the hunt for everyone. There is insufficient law enforcement to police the high volume turkey hunters in the Black Hills.
2. Non Resident Licenses are **FAR** too inexpensive. Non Resident licenses should be at least \$200 with resident licenses being \$50.
3. License fees should be reciprocal with other States or \$200 which ever is higher. Many states do not offer non-resident turkey licenses.
4. There are **FAR too many multiple tags offered.** Many people buy multiple left-overs in multiple counties. How many turkeys is enough?
5. For many years, and even now, Black Hills turkeys are shot as "camp meat" during the deer season even though the turkey season is not open at the same time as other species. Black Hills turkey should NEVER coincide with Black Hills deer, elk, or other species hunted.
6. In the 1980's, a sharp decline in the Black Hills turkey population occurred. The problem was resolved by closing the season on hens during the fall and the population rebounded in two years. Hens should only be harvested when there is a severe depredation problem, no matter which unit is involved.
7. There are far too many "amateur" turkey hunters who drive the roads and shoot long range birds from the road with a rifle or shoot them in the road ditch when turkeys are near the road. Road hunting turkeys should be prohibited.

8. In the early days of turkey hunting in South Dakota (1950's and 1960's) hunting turkey with a rifle may have been appropriate because of the limited number of birds and small number of hunters. Now that the SD turkey population has become relatively stable across the state and with the vast increases in the number of hunters, the **USE OF RIFLES SHOULD NO LONGER BE PERMITTED.** **Rifle hunting of turkey is not safe. It is permitted in very few states and due to the sophistication of the calls, decoys and attire used.....it should be stopped in all units statewide. Moreover, if you get shot with a shotgun in a turkey hunting accident, you MAY live. If you get shot with a 30-06, you probably won't live.** Personally, I have been shot at 3 times with a rifle in my 38 years of turkey hunting. I'm very glad the guys were a bad shot!
9. GFP, in my opinion, should do more trap and transfer of birds across the state to enhance genetics of particular flocks and cause hybrid vigor. For example, the turkeys on the Bad River are pretty much "land locked" with very little genetic diversity by other turkey genetics coming in from other watersheds. Thus the population is stagnant and has been for many years.
10. Finally, I am strongly in favor of the Missouri check station concept. When a bird is harvested (limit 1 per week for a two week season) the bird must be taken to an approved check in station, weighed, measured and information recorded. The state uses that information to assess the population health. Birds must be tagged and weighed in the day they are shot. It's great for turkey management and good for local business owners who run the check station.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The assembled data by GFP is magnificent.  
John Moisan

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2016 7:56 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: 2016 Elk Proposals

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Mike Schortzmann [<mailto:mjshorty57@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2016 10:01 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** 2016 Elk Proposals

I feel that landowners should be eligible for cow tags and have to send in for any elk tags just like everyone else. Their landowner tags should only be good on their own land and not public land.

I am concerned that the large jump in the number of proposed cow tags is premature. I don't think the elk herd has rebounded enough to have that many cow tags. I spend a lot of time in the woods and I have not seen evidence that that much of an increase is justified.

Michael Schortzmann  
1022 Rockhill Road  
Rapid City, SD 57703  
(605) 342-6829

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2016 1:42 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: elk 27A

**Categories:** Commission

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [arrowc@goldenwest.net](mailto:arrowc@goldenwest.net) [<mailto:arrowc@goldenwest.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2016 1:06 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** elk 27A

To the South Dakota game fish commissioners, Too many elk, not enough elk? This is a waste of everybody's time. You have one problem, the vast majority of people that get an elk tag can't hunt, don't know how to hunt, or think they can kill an from there pick-up window. They spend more time winning about there's no elk, than getting out there and hunting. AND if they get up on the elk they can't hit one! We have seen this time and time again. Please don't put more fools like this out in the woods! 27A had 60 cow tags issued, 14 were killed. There no reason that more elk should have been killed, in 27A there is 60 elk standing off HWY 18 every day! Your problem is your hunters, first, then lets talk numbers. Leon Cain, Hot Springs SD. Rancher, firefighter, hunter, fisherman, 605 745 5540. Thank You.

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2016 3:55 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Elk meeting comment

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Casey Miller [<mailto:caseymiller28@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2016 3:26 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Fwd: Elk meeting comment

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Casey Miller <[caseymiller28@gmail.com](mailto:caseymiller28@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** March 24, 2016 at 2:06:00 PM MDT  
**To:** [Mike.kintigh@state.sd.us](mailto:Mike.kintigh@state.sd.us)  
**Subject:** Elk meeting comment

I would like to see more cow tags to keep the population at or lower than 7000. This was what the staff suggested to the elk stakeholder group. The forest plan only calls for 4500 elk so we are already way over using forage that was allocated to wildlife. As a rancher and grazing permittee, elk are destructive and costly to my operation. I am all for hunters having opportunities but not at the cost of the very people that are creating wildlife habitat, not building houses on it. Casey Miller

Sent from my iPhone

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 3:33 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Elk Open House in Rapid City

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Long, Joe J (US) [<mailto:Joe.Long@baesystems.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 3:21 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** FW: Elk Open House in Rapid City

Why not create another tier in the elk drawing preference system to increase the odds for someone who has been applying for 15 or 20 years?

Based on the 2015 drawing success data for unit 2 rifle, if a person has 10+ preference points, they have about a 12% chance of drawing a tag. By creating a “**15 or more years preference**” category and moving about 100 of the 173 licenses from the 10 yr. group into that group, would greatly increase their chances. This could be done for archery and rifle seasons.

Joe Long  
Aberdeen, SD



2015 - Black Hills Elk

H2A21

Resident / H2A21 Black Hills Elk	Licenses Available to Preference Group	Number of Applications	Licenses Issued	Remaining Licenses
Landowner with preference	125	3	3	122
Landowner no preference	122	24	24	98
10 or more years preference	173	2196	173	0
2 or more years preference	38	6630	38	0
0 or more years preference	12	8430	12	0

NonResident / H2A21 Black Hills Elk	Licenses Available to Preference Group	Number of Applications	Licenses Issued	Remaining Licenses
Landowner with preference	0	0	0	0
Landowner no preference	0	0	0	0
10 or more years preference	0	0	0	0
2 or more years preference	0	0	0	0
0 or more years preference	0	0	0	0

**From:** South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks [<mailto:sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 4:44 PM  
**To:** Long, Joe J (US)  
**Subject:** Elk Open House in Rapid City

**\*\*\* WARNING \*\*\***

EXTERNAL EMAIL -- This message originates from outside our organization.

**GFP To Host Open House Regarding 2016-17 Elk Hunting Seasons**

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) will host an open house meeting on March 24, 2016, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. MDT at the Outdoor Campus in Rapid City to discuss the 2016 and 2017 elk hunting seasons proposed by the GFP Commission earlier this month.

The meeting will consist of round table discussions on elk research, Custer State Park elk management, 2016 elk aerial survey information, elk recruitment and survival studies, elk population model projections, the elk license drawing process and information on elk damage programs for landowners.

For more information on the elk hunting season proposals, visit <http://gfp.sd.gov/news/news/march/4.aspx>.

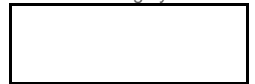
There is also an online presentation regarding elk updates and season recommendations at <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/big-game/elk/default.aspx>.

This message was sent to [joe.long@baesystems.com](mailto:joe.long@baesystems.com) from:

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## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 8:28 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: elk

**Categories:** Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: [ccm@goldenwest.net](mailto:ccm@goldenwest.net) [<mailto:ccm@goldenwest.net>]  
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2016 3:26 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: elk

Please include my comments into public record:

Trent Hiltunen  
25137 Granite Heights Drive  
Custer, SD 57730  
605-480-2766

After reading the current elk harvest proposal for the 2016 season I felt compelled to share my view. I understand there is not one simple answer to manage the elk herd. I do however feel it is vital for the GFP and Commission to take into account the views of the public to assist in the management of game populations. From what I understand there is a proposal to give out 20 antlerless permits in Custer State Park. I cannot understand the logic behind this proposal. With current CSP numbers around 455 elk and the CSP elk goal of around 800 elk this is a "shortfall" of around 350 elk. Shooting cows in CSP will not only be detrimental to the overall number it completely goes against the management objective. It has the potential to cause a stagnant growth for a few years or worse yet a declining population over the next few years. If the goal is to "protect" the grasses in the south end of the park I would like to see some current data supporting the decision to harvest antlerless elk. CSP has been gaining on the number of elk needed to reach the management goal and the harvest of antlerless elk would do nothing but deteriorate the gains made in the last few years. As far as increases in the H2 and H3 units I can see an increase in H2 as there are enough elk to increase the opportunity. But I do not understand why GFP has to have such a significant increase it seems more plausible to take smaller steps over the next few years and re-evaluate year after year. It just seems the GFP is on to much of a roller-coaster tag issuing system. The H3 unit I do not believe can support an increase in the number of elk tags. I spend a lot of time in the H3 unit throughout the year and in my opinion the number of elk reported in the H3 unit is overstated by a fairly significant number. Thanks for your time

Trent Hiltunen

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 7:58 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: GFP Concerns

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Peterson, Cathy  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 7:48 PM  
**To:** Barry Jensen; John Cooper; Jensen, Gary; Dennert, Paul H.; Spies, Jim; Olson, Russell; Phillips, W. Scott; GFP Wild Info; Comes, Rachel; Hepler, Kelly; Leif, Tony  
**Subject:** Fwd: GFP Concerns

Sharing an email I received. You may have also received it. Thanks!

Cathy

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Peterson, Cathy" <[Cathy.Peterson@state.sd.us](mailto:Cathy.Peterson@state.sd.us)>  
**Date:** March 21, 2016 at 5:26:00 PM CDT  
**To:** Travis Sivertsen <[tjs300ultra@yahoo.com](mailto:tjs300ultra@yahoo.com)>  
**Cc:** "Kirschenmann, Tom" <[Tom.Kirschenmann@state.sd.us](mailto:Tom.Kirschenmann@state.sd.us)>, "Peterson, Cathy" <[Cathy.Peterson@state.sd.us](mailto:Cathy.Peterson@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject: Re: GFP Concerns**

Travis,

Thank you for your note. I will share your concerns with the other commissioners, and forward it on to the department, and also have it put in the public comment record. We appreciate input from you.

I will share your concerns on the elk tags. I want to let you know that the department gave us a very comprehensive report at our March meetings to go along with their recommendations. The aerial surveys were also done on the Wyoming side of the Black Hills, in conjunction with the GFP aerial survey here, so all numbers were included. We looked at information on calf recruitment the last 3 years, and hunter harvest, We feel the current counts are accurate, and they show that we are now at the population objective described in our elk management plan, so need to make some adjustments based on that.

I will also share your concerns and thoughts related to the deer season.

If you would like someone from the department to call and visit with you on your concerns, I would be glad to have them contact you.

Thank you.

Cathy Peterson

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**From:** Travis Sivertsen <[tjs300ultra@yahoo.com](mailto:tjs300ultra@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2016 11:01 AM

**To:** Peterson, Cathy

**Subject:** GFP Concerns

Dear Cathy,

I'm concerned about the direction I see our states GF&P headed. I see our seasons getting longer, primitive weapons restrictions getting more lax and tag numbers rising.

The raise proposed for the antlerless elk tags sounds a little dramatic. I know they did a helicopter survey but how many elk that were counted came from the Wyoming side? I understood it was a winter count? If this is true a large number of those elk could have migrated in. I went on hunts with friends who had tags in H2 the last two years. The numbers we saw weren't great. What if you double the cow tags like proposed and we have a bad winter kill or a low percentage of calves survive the next year. Were back to poor elk numbers in the hills. These tag increases should be done in small amounts.

The late season antlerless rifle deer season is not needed. They have depredation tags if a landowner has a problem with deer numbers. The deer are in survival mode and don't need the extra stress of being hassled by rifle hunters driving thru their wintering grounds. In case the GF&P hasn't seen this, most rifle hunters won't get out of their pick up. It would be nice to see at least a trial of a 9 day season with the start date moved back a week so it's not in the middle of the rut. The two week season was put in because of one bad winter, people couldn't get out to hunt. We haven't had a winter like that in a long time but we still have the season. I think we would see better trophy quality and the meat hunters would still have good success. If a person can't get out to hunt in 9 day season hunting isn't real high on their list of priorities. The GFP should look into amount of complaint calls during rifle season in Hand and Hyde counties. I think they will see there is a very high number. There are way too many people with tags and nowhere to hunt.

I received an E-mail from the GFP about removing shed antlers from GFP land being illegal. This is a ridiculous rule. They want youth to get involved in the outdoors and then they push rules like this. As I read it, this rule also includes mushroom hunting and there are a lot of families that enjoy that as well. The public paid for that land and should be free to use it. I know of two cases of people caught shed hunting on private ground. They were caught red handed and the land owners pressed charges against them but they never received any sort of fine. This makes it look like either the GFP or the court system has zero respect for landowners. I think the GFP needs to revise their

punishments for game violations. The punishment doesn't fit the crime when some guys poach 20 some deer, end up with a \$750 dollar fine, and loss of license for a year. I would think that should be permanent loss of license in South Dakota and loss of firearms plus a larger fine. I know there will be civil charges also but its still to low.

Travis Sivertsen  
Po Box 221  
Ree Heights SD 57371

605 870 0268

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Comes, Rachel  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2016 9:16 AM  
**To:** GFP Commission Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Elk License Increase

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2016 8:10 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Elk License Increase

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**From:** Dana Rogers [<mailto:dana.rogers.1@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2016 1:27 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Elk License Increase

Commissioners,

Please take my comments into consideration. As a concerned SD sportsman, I am once again asking to reign in the zealous efforts to decrease our elk numbers in the Black Hills. From recent population estimates and models it does appear we are headed back in the right direction to increase our population. I appreciate the efforts that GF&P and volunteers have put in and thank you for that! I am most concerned at the balance of the voices heard and the prevalence of the minority opinion on that effort by grazing lease holders and the single digit number of depredation claimants. I am from a farm/ranch operation and have the utmost respect for ranchers. However, the Black Hills is mostly comprised of public lands and can hold more elk and a more diverse population and age structure. Predation is still an issue, though efforts have been made in that area as well. My chief concern is a very few who are pushing the herd reduction due to depredation and/or loss of available forage in the Black Hills. Depredation hunts could be conducted (and are) on any individuals property that proves depredation cause. The elk are one of our most treasured resources and we certainly have habitat available that could and will support more. Controlled burns need to be conducted at a much higher rate to increase forage and habitat. Please consider eliminating or significantly reducing the proposed antlerless elk increase as it will further hamper population increases.

Thank You for your time!

Dana Rogers  
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### Archery and Firearms Elk Season Proposed

**PIERRE, S.D.** - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission proposed the 2016 and 2017 archery and firearms elk seasons Thursday at their March meeting.

The proposed archery season would run Sept. 1-30 in 2016 and 2017. In comparison to the 2015 season, the proposed season has an additional three any elk licenses and 84 additional antlerless elk licenses.

The Commission also proposed the 2016 and 2017 Black Hills elk hunting seasons with an increase of 768 licenses from 2015; with 13 additional any elk licenses and 755 antlerless licenses. The proposed season would run Oct. 1-31, 2016, for hunters possessing an any elk hunting license.

The Commission also proposed an antlerless hunting subunit in Unit 2, and a new format and timeframe for antlerless hunting. In Units 2 and 3, there will be subunits with an antlerless license allocation and each will have approximately a two week period to hunt. Those time periods will be either the second half of October, first half of December, or the last half of December. In all remaining antlerless hunting units, hunters will have the ability to hunt the second half of October and the ability to come back during the first half of December to hunt.

The Commission will finalize these proposals during their April 7-8, 2016, meeting at the McCrory Gardens in Brookings. Written comments can be emailed to [wildinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:wildinfo@state.sd.us). To be part of the official public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CDT on April 7, 2016. Please include your full name along with the city and state of residence. If you would like to comment in person, the public hearing will be April 7, 2016, at 2 p.m. CDT. - See more at: <http://gfp.sd.gov/news/news/march/4.aspx#sthash.znR7KYsp.dpuf>

**Dana R. Rogers**



RECEIVED

MAR 25 2016

Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks  
Pierre, SD 57501

GF&P Commission

523 E. Capitol Ave.

Pierre, SD 57501

I am writing to express my thoughts and concerns of non-resident fishing in the state of South Dakota. I have been a South Dakota sportsman and resident all of my life and I am concerned with the amount of fishing pressure that is being put on our South Dakota fisheries particularly by non-resident fisherman. I started fishing our glacial lakes region of the state back in the early 2000's. The amount of fishing pressure in that area at that time was not even close to what it is today. Due to social media and internet forums, the glacial lakes region of South Dakota is definitely no secret today. I have seen the fishing pressure just in the last 5 years or so increase substantially. This increased amount of fishing pressure on a lot of the lakes in this region has definitely impacted these fisheries. Not only the quantity of fish but quality as well. Would it be possible to impose a non-resident fee increase? The current fee for a non-resident is \$67 annually which is a bargain in my mind, especially for the quality of our fisheries. I wouldn't think that doubling this fee would be out of line at all. By doing this the state could generate double the amount of revenue and would allow the state to replenish the lakes that are receiving extreme fishing pressure. Also, the additional amount of revenue could be used to regulate and control invasive species that could possibly be introduced to these waters which a handful of them have been already. The main one I have noticed is milfoil. If zebra mussels get introduced to these lakes it could completely ruin these fisheries forever. I feel with the current regulations and restrictions it is inevitable that at some point the more pressured fisheries (Bitter, Reetz, Waubay, Lynn, etc.) could be greatly impacted forever if these invasive species were introduced to a body of water. Our fertile lakes in NE SD are perfect environments for freshwater shrimp which walleye and perch thrive on and is a main food source in these fisheries. Zebra mussels would impact the freshwater shrimp and baitfish by filtering out the nutrients and plankton that they thrive on making them non-existent. I have been informed that Green Lake MN has been invaded by zebra mussels and water clarity is approximately 30 feet and nutrients have been filtered out of the water. Something has to be done it has gotten out of control and many other residents/non-residents have expressed that to me as well. We need to protect these fisheries for future generations to come. I would like my kids to be able to enjoy these lakes the way I have. The whole Missouri River system in South Dakota is experiencing the same situation as the glacial lakes. South Dakotans are very blessed with the abundance of fish and wildlife and we need to do anything to protect the quality for the residents of South Dakota. I often feel like the residents don't matter and all the state sees is revenue. I feel the state could collect the same amount of revenue but also maintain, manage and replenish the fisheries if they doubled the fees. The current fee is way too low and we need to raise it considerably to adequately manage our fisheries. I feel a non-resident (out of stater) doesn't have the same respect for our waters as a resident. There are of course exceptions, but as a whole. When non-resident fisherman come to South Dakota they want to take as many fish from our fisheries in the duration of their trip as possible and some times that means over bagging. I can count on one hand the amount of walleyes I have kept over 20" in my life. I remember catching quality fish (20"+) on Francis Case Constantly and now it's just full of barely over slot fish and this is due to only high fishing pressure. I hope you take my concerns in to consideration and I am speaking on behalf of other sportsmen as well.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Brockmueller

Kyle Brockmueller  
400 W. 13th Ave  
Mitchell, SD 57301

## Public Comment on 2016 Elk Proposals

First Name: NANCY

Last Name: HILDING

City: Black Hawk

### COMMENTS:

As your season hunting area overlap Jackson, Melette & Bennett county your overlap with "Indian country" Jackson's on reservation & Melette & Bennett former reservation land area that is now checker board jurisdiction. Elk have no due on tribal / non tribal jurisdiction boundaries. Tribes of SD & ND need to cooperate & consult.

Individuals can also provide written comments on commission rule proposals by sending them to 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501, or via email to [wildinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:wildinfo@state.sd.us). To be included in the public record, comments must include a full name and city of residence.

## Public Comment on 2016 Elk Proposals

First Name: Cal ~~Walt~~

Last Name: Walsh

City: Hermosa

### COMMENTS:

I think they should weigh the drawings heavier in favor of people with higher points to reward perseverance. This should go for the CSP - Deer too -

Individuals can also provide written comments on commission rule proposals by sending them to 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501, or via email to [wildinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:wildinfo@state.sd.us). To be included in the public record, comments must include a full name and city of residence.

## Public Comment on 2016 Elk Proposals

First Name: Eric

Last Name: Grenz

City: Rapid City

COMMENTS: I support increasing the total elk population objective much higher. Support the land owners of deeded land with depredation tags or on call depredation hunts. Forest service lease holders should not get as much aid until conditions become extreme as there lease rates are not fair market value.

I live in unit 7 north of Johnson siding and would like to see the elk population return.

Thank you

Eric

Individuals can also provide written comments on commission rule proposals by sending them to 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501, or via email to [wildinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:wildinfo@state.sd.us). To be included in the public record, comments must include a full name and city of residence.