

From: John Thompson [<mailto:jjthompson@santel.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:25 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: 214 Fishing Rule Changes Proposed

South Dakota Game Commission,

I oppose the proposal to increase the possession limit in inland waters for all fish species. As a resident fisherman I can see that this would not benefit the fishing or fishermen in South Dakota. Our glacial lakes are now experiencing quality fishing, to increase the possession limit would damage the quality of the fish. The Missouri river system especially Frances Case and Sharp (most of the time) are examples of poor quality walleyes. The fishing pressure on those waters (when the size limit is on) makes it hard to get a limit. This proposal would do nothing but harm the fishing in South Dakota. Therefore, I oppose the proposal.

John Thompson
Mitchell, SD

Roger Wiltz of Wagner, SD, stopped by the Game, Fish, and Parks office to express his opposition to the increase of the daily possession limit for fish. He believes the pressure on Francis Case is excessive and we not gaining any ground on the walleye population. He thinks killing another daily limit of fish is going to be more than a good fishery can handle.

I took a call from Craig Jones of Mitchell this morning. Craig indicated he was opposed to increasing the possession limit to three times the daily limit and thought that some of our Missouri River reservoirs were already overfished.

Please add this to the file of public comments.

John Lott
Aquatic Resources Chief
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
John.lott@state.sd.us
(605) 773-4508

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

From: Todd and Barb [<mailto:budgethostinn@kennebectelephone.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 2:12 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Cc: todd and barb

Subject: walleyes

I am an avid walleye fisherman. I go fishing many times on the Missouri River. I don't think we need to have 3 days possession. I am for lowering the limit to 3 per day. On Lake Francis case below Fort Thompson to Chamberlain, a heavily fished area, one can't find a keeper some days. Now they are fishing Sharpe heavily, the guides are there daily. I own a motel, and have people stay that are fishing, but they would be content with only 3 per day. There are smallies and catfish to catch if they want more meat. Just an opinion.

Todd Meier-Kennebec

From: gwtc.net, krs
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2013 5:01 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: revising walleye possession limits

I am not in favor of going from a 2 day to 3 day possession limit on walleye or any fish. I think it is designed for out of staters and not for the benefit of the fisheries or South Dakotans. Thank you for your time.

Kerry Stiner, Burke SD

From: Wayne Schneider [<mailto:WSchneider@mthelectric.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2013 3:19 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Walleye limits

I don't think you should raise the possession limits to 12. I think 8 is enough. I don't think that is a deal breaker on whether or not people come to fish. If you are going to do that you should have two licenses and charge more for that one.

I go fishing at Lake Erie every year and I don't go because of the fish I can bring home. I go because of the quality of fishing.

Lake Francis Case gets too much pressure from fishing now as it is and this would make it worse. The best thing you ever did for that lake was to reduce the limit to 3 fish and it improved the fishing tremendously for several years. Then they had to make the limit 4 statewide because people can't read a book and follow limits.

Don't cave in to the Chamber of Commerce on this one also. I remember when you lowered the limit to 3 they complained like crazy that time because they worry about money today and not the future but that was the right thing to do.

Please leave the limits as are or lower LFC to 3 fish per day.

Thank You

Wayne Schneider
2324 N Langdon St
Mitchell, SD 57301

Terry Green of Mitchell, SD, called about the walleye possession limits. "This is totally absurd to consider a larger possession limit" and he wants his grandchildren to be able to fish. Out-of -stater will take all the fish and the Oahe limits should go back to where it was. He believes there should be no fishing when the fish are spawning. He and his kids love to fish and we need to protect all reservoirs."

10/23/13 da

Gay, S. D
Oct 21, 2013

S. D. Game, Fish & Parks Commission
523 E Capital Ave
Pierre, S. D 57501

RECEIVED

OCT 22 2013

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing in regard to your proposal to increase daily possession limit to 3 day limit. Myself and a lot of S. D residents feel the 2 day limit is adequate and will protect our lakes from over harvest.

I realize fishermen from Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota where they have fished out their lakes would like to haul more fish home in their coolers. And resorts & bait shops and the state want more revenue.

But lets preserve our great natural resources Canada has gone to a conservation license where the possession limit is 4 walleyes.

Please leave possession limit at a 2 day limit



Mr. Lyndon Limberg
48494 171st St.
Gary, SD 57237

Sincerely
Lyndon Limberg

**S.D. Game, Fish & Parks Commission
523 E Capital Ave
Pierre, S.D. 57501
10-18-2013**

The following S.D. residents are opposed to increasing the daily possession limits from two day limit to three day limit. We feel this will endanger the fish populations and is only being done for greed for revenue and so that more fish may be taken out of state by non-residents.

Lyndon Limberg

Mr. L

Rubak Lounsbury

Brenda Sime

Walter Egan

And Hart

W. H.

Larry Eup

Duane Rescher

Chris Schofer

Chin Schmieding

Kathleen Limberg

David Arnold

Roger Kreutner

Eric Adolph

John B. Jones

From: rwiltz@charles-mix.com
To: jlcoop11@aol.com
CC: susie.knippling@state.sd.us
Sent: 10/31/2013 1:07:40 P.M. Pacific Standard Time
Subj: Walleye Possession Limit

Dear Commission Chair, Vice Chair,

I fish our Missouri River impoundments 2-3 times a week. I know Francis Case especially well. The fishing pressure on all the reservoirs, especially Francis Case, is heavy. A 3-day possession limit of walleyes is not in our reservoir fisheries best interest. Keeping four more walleyes is killing four more walleyes. If anglers want to be "meat" fishermen, they should be satisfied with catfish/white bass/smallmouth bass. The Ontario possession limit is four fish. They know what pressure they can bare. Please don't succumb to money interests and greed. Catch & release needs more consideration. Thanks for listening.

Roger Wiltz, Wagner, SD

Sent from Windows Mail

Vince Assmus of Plankinton, SD, called and have these comments for the Public Hearing on November 7 regarding fish possession limits. "Would just as soon not increase the fish possession limits. Pierre resorts have same people staying and shipping out fish on weekends with their family and are already catching their limits. He would like Game and Fish manage the fish not tourism."

RECEIVED

NOV 05 2013

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

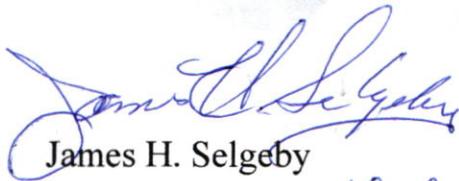
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission
Pierre, South Dakota
57501

Sir:

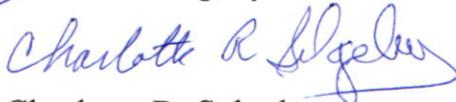
This letter is to argue against increasing possession limits on South Dakota fishes. In a lifetime of working in fisheries research I have seen the devastating effects of over fishing in the greatest lakes of the world and even the oceans. Not only are fish stocks depleted but users often lose their livelihoods.

We in South Dakota are blessed with fertile waters that support large fish stocks which grow quickly. Nonetheless, over harvest is a constant threat. Fisheries managers must be constantly aware that over fishing needs to be anticipated and prevented, thus eliminating the need for drastic remedial actions after the fact.

Sincerely,



James H. Selgeby



Charlotte R. Selgeby



James Selgeby
47697 164th St.
Reville, SD 57259

From: Kenneth Dulik [mailto:kenneth_dulik@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 3:21 PM
To: SDGFPINFO
Subject: RE: SD GFP November Commission Meeting

I have already seen what the change in the party hunting regulations has done with regards to the increased number of pheasant people are killing. And this is in a year when the numbers of pheasants are way down. I'm still not sure why party fishing from a boat had to be added into that regulation change, but if the possession limits for fish are increased, I think you need to seriously consider decreasing the daily limits or you are going to have to figure out how to raise and stock lots more fish. Once the resource is depleted, people will buy less licenses and then the GFP will really be in trouble. It shouldn't be about the killing and keeping of wildlife, it should be about the experience of getting out in the field and having the real chance to catch the big one. Minnesota went the other way several years ago and reduced the possession limits. Daily and possession limits are now the same. I doubt they are selling less licenses because of that change but I bet there are more fish for others to catch.

Ken Dulik, Aberdeen SD

From: Steve Elkjer [<mailto:selkjer@sio.midco.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 2:19 PM
To: SDGFPINFO
Subject: RE: SD GFP November Commission Meeting

Increasing the limit to 3 times the daily limit will definitely increase tourism. Fishermen will stay longer in Chamberlain, Pierre, Milbank, etc. I would stay longer in Lake Preston.

Thank you
Steve Elkjer, Sioux Falls SD

From: Larry Gillies [<mailto:lgillies@abe.midco.net>]
Sent: Monday, November 04, 2013 8:19 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Walleye Limit

I support the SD Missouri River petition to increase in the walleye limit to match the three day limit to 12 fish state wide.

Larry Gillies, Aberdeen SD
D & Campground and Specialty Resort

From: bill waeckerle [<mailto:bill.waeckerle@venturecomm.net>]
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 4:11 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Walleye limit changes

I support the Walleye possession limit changes.

Bill Waeckerle, Akaska SD

From: lmsnyder1@gmail.com [<mailto:lmsnyder1@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 5:46 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Support for increased possession limit.

My husband and I own and operate Circle H Motel in Lake Andes, S.D. and we DO NOT think increasing the walleye limit is a good idea unless Lake Francis Case gets fingerling walleyes replenished annually to keep up with the fishing pressure. Right now the fishing limits are very good due to the flood of 2011 but that won't stay good indefinitely. Every year our motel and bait sales increases due to the people population increasing and the lack of clean water east of us in Iowa and also in Nebraska. If you increase the fishing limit the walleye population will slowly decrease and our business will suffer immensely. We are very much in favor of more motel and bait sales. Just don't wreck a good thing that we have now. Thank you,

Mary and Larry Snyder, Lake Andes SD

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Lois Ries [<mailto:lries@pierre.org>]
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 3:25 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: support for increased possession limit

I support SD Missouri River Tourism's petition to increase the possession limit for walleye to three times the daily limit, or 12 fish, statewide.

Thank you!

Lois Ries
CVB Director
Pierre Chamber of Commerce
605-224-7361
lries@pierre.org

From: haden@mobridge.org [mailto:haden@mobridge.org]

Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 3:08 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Support for increased possession limit

I support SD Missouri River Tourism's petition to increase the possession limit for walleye to three times the daily limit, or 12 fish, statewide.

Thank you,

Haden Merkel

Executive Director

Mobridge Area Chamber of Commerce

103 Main Street

Mobridge, SD 57601

haden@mobridge.org

www.mobridge.org

Office 605.845.2387

Cell 605.848.9048

Fax 605-845-3223

www.facebook.com/MobridgeChamber

From: Area Chamber of Commerce, Platte
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 3:03 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Support for increased possession limit

We support SD Missouri River Tourism's petition to increase the possession limit for walleye to three times the daily limit, or 12 fish, statewide.

Thank you,

Laura Vanden Berge
Executive Director Platte Area Chamber of Commerce
605-337-2275 (phone)
605-337-3988 (fax)
PO Box 393, Platte, SD 57369

From: Michael and Brenda Johnson [mjandb@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 9:36 PM
To: Knippling, Susie (GFP); jicoop11@aol.com; Spies, Jim; barryj@gwtc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Sather, Duane; Jensen, Gary
Subject: Letter Opposing increase to Possession Limits

Game Fish and Parks Commissioners,

The purpose of this letter is to express my opposition to the increase in the statewide possession limit for all species from 2 times the daily limit to 3 times the daily limit. This proposed change will be devastating to small fisheries in Western South Dakota where I live, and could be detrimental to fisheries statewide if implemented.

The tourism industry is obviously behind this proposal, and their argument is that it would be a better fit with the 3-day non-resident fishing license currently available. I contend that when you allow financial considerations above the water to influence the health and well-being of our reservoirs, lakes, and streams you are making a serious mistake. Why do you think out of state anglers come to South Dakota to fish? They come because we have historically had well-managed, healthy fisheries and excellent opportunity for success. Further, we do not have any closed seasons, and the cost is relatively low. If increased fishing pressure and harvest continue, how long do you think this excellent opportunity will last? When the quality of the fishing experience goes down, so will the number of non-resident anglers, and make no mistake, the number of resident fishing licenses will also follow this trend. The result is that the tourist-based businesses will line their pockets for a few, short years and the budget of the GF&P will suffer later when angler expectations are not met. Resident anglers will ultimately pay the price for this with reduced opportunity, oversight and enforcement, (or higher license fees) if you approve it.

Biologists are saying that they expect this change to have little to no effect on our fish population. If you divide the harvest rates for any given year by two and multiply that number by three you should have a pretty good idea of how to measure the effect this could have.

Instead of increasing the possession limit to match the 3-day license, why not change the non-resident license to 2 days and leave the possession limit alone? If the tourism industry wants to keep out of state sportsmen here an extra day, come up with some way to work with tourism-based businesses to offer an incentive if they produce a non-resident license. Other opportunities exist in South Dakota that do not exploit our fisheries. Spread the wealth around and introduce these out of state visitors to other parts of the state by using their expired 2-day license as a coupon to visit something else.

This entire proposal reminds me of a children's story about a farmer that killed a goose that laid golden eggs. If you would like I can send a copy of it to Governor Dugaard, Secretary Vonk, and Secretary Hagen. The moral of the story is they should leave this golden goose alone.

Signed by an Agitated Angler,
Michael Johnson
Rapid City, SD

From: Calvin Walsh [<mailto:calvin.walsh@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 8:34 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Cc: kpedel

Subject: comission meeting proposal #4

I disagree that increasing possession limits would not negatively affect walleye populations. It would be my guess that the people petitioning for this are guides, outfitters ETC. catering to nonresident clients. These guides fish every day and know where the fish are and how to harvest them and take a huge number of walleyes in a season, while most of us local fishermen practice catch and release. Allowing them to harvest 50% more would definitely have an impact. Catch and release should be encouraged instead of, (come to SD and take home large limits) . They would not be petitioning for this if they did not believe it would bring more clients in for longer periods. Lets preserve our walleye populations, so the average family can take his boat or rent a boat, and go catch some fish. Encouraging a larger harvest does not improve the fishery.

This is my opinion

Calvin Walsh from rural Hermosa South Dakota.

From: BEATIS@aol.com [<mailto:BEATIS@aol.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 3:19 PM

To: Schlueter, Chuck

Subject: public comment

Hi Chuck

Hope all is well. Can you read my comment on the WMI report during the comment period? I know it is on the agenda but not sure when and if they are taking comments. I also have one on fish.

1. I do not support raising the possession limit on all fish through out the state from two to three days. Our waters are too diverse to take this single handed approach for all species and bodies of water.

2. I feel WMI did a good job on the external review of big game management. They pointed out many areas of improvement. I feel it would be a good idea to have an external team in place to make sure these valuable changes are made. One suggestion they made was to send GFP leadership to training but they did not suggest where. I contacted them and they had three suggestions. The National Conservation Leadership Institute, the Management Assistance Team of AFWA and the National Conservation Training Center.

Thanks for your time

Jeff Olson

From: Nathan Olson [<mailto:nolson981@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 9:52 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Comment on fee increases for non-resident licenses...

As a non-resident hunter, I travel to South Dakota to shoot 3 antlerless deer a year. I choose this license because it is already too expensive for me to purchase an any deer tag, I am more successful in getting a license, and I am more successful in actually filling my tags. In addition, I know the GFP likes to have antlerless deer taken out of the population, so I am more than happy to do my part. Now the Commission wants to double the license fee for an antlerless tag. I think this should be re-evaluated. If GFP really wants more antlerless deer taken out of the population, than the 2-tag and 3-tag antlerless licenses should stay at the same price (or better yet, the price should be reduced) and then possibly more hunters would purchase these tags and help control the deer population like GFP would prefer.

Please do not raise the price on the antlerless deer tag licenses.

Nathan Olson
48196 Leek Lake Drive
Vergas, MN 56587

From: Wayne Baker [<mailto:wayne@mt-rushmore.net>]

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2013 4:14 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: License increase

It appears to me you are already to high on fishing license rates . North Dakota is much cheaper now. I can go to Ontario and buy a license for about the same price as the South Dakota non resident license, and fishing is twice as good.

Wayne Baker Hermosa

From: Chris Biehn [<mailto:cbiehn@loyolacatholicschool.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 2:09 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Proposed fee increases for non-resident Deer hunting

I am not opposed to gradual fee increases for deer hunting. I would hate to see South Dakota ramp up their fees like Iowa did a few years ago and destroy my desire to hunt out west. I look forward to deer hunting in S.D. every year and have been doing so for rifle and muzzle loader in both the West River and East River zones 12 years now. It is a great family event for my son and I, and hope that as his sons get older, we will be able to continue this tradition. We have made solid contacts with ranchers in the West River region and have made great friends with them. Right now I consider the fee perfect for me with the two tag system you have employed. I am a die hard deer hunter and love venison above all other meat.

Again I would like to thank the GFP for allowing non-residents the opportunity to hunt in South Dakota. Please consider my response to not trying to price out the nonresidents. I believe we bring in quite a bit of cash flow for your state in hotel fees, food, and gas.

Thank you
Chris

--

Mr. Chris C. Biehn

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

From: george tokarczyk [<mailto:gtoksd@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 11:07 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: non resident fishing fees

The non resident fees should be substantially increased. They flood in from Minnesota because they have fished out their lakes and will soon fish out the lakes in N.E. SD

George Tokarczyk, Burke SD

From: jrg@itctel.com [<mailto:jrg@itctel.com>]

Sent: Friday, October 11, 2013 2:22 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: license increase

While I can understand the want to increase fees to sustain the current level in the gfp dept., I disagree with any increases at this time...

We have all seen the decrease in hunters and the lack of interest displayed by the next generation of sportsman and women. I just do not see why we would help add to it by increasing and placing more burden on the working stiff who struggles now to make ends meet.

it is a two way door, yes you can increase fees, and sustain the current level in gfp, but at the same time you are driving down the number of participants. Perhaps it is time for state govt. to pull in its belt, just like all americans have had to do.. Sacrifices are hard to make but we all have to, including govt.

I continue to say, you keep squeezing the middle guy and less fortunate out of the picture, and ultimately it will hit home.. If every dept. in game and fish cuts back some, a lot can be gained in the future. But, once people quit hunting or fishing, they very seldom start again... thank you and keep up the good work....

jim gruber 148 sunset park drive, Estelline s.d. 57234 605 873 2017

From: Robert Foote [<mailto:bobofoote@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 11:17 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Cc: Kirschenmann, Tom

Subject: Crazy Fee Increases

I am an ex-resident and have been returning to SoDak to hunt for many years. I am floored to see the crazy fee increases that you are imposing on your out-of-state hunters. I can only rationalize that you must think that those of us that come to hunt must be rich! I would like for you to know that I save all year long to come and spend a few days hunting. Unfortunately, we that come to hunt have to pay for a lot more than just your hunting license fees. PLEASE look at these increases more closely and if you must, lets PLEASE be reasonable!!! I know you surely know and understand what is reasonable. If you wish to respond, please don't hesitate to reply. Robert Foote

PS: And what a year you choose to increase the small game license. I hunted for 10 days straight last year to get 8 pheasants! My worst year of pheasant hunting in my life (over 50 years). And from all the reports, this year will be worse!

Robert Foote, Whittier Calif.

From: tim Burckhard [<mailto:burck@svtv.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 9:41 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: fee comment

GFP claims inflation of GFP employees health care costs by 20% as reason for increase in fees. My answer to that. So What? Where is MY 20% increase in income going to come from? The State/GPF takes more and more. For what? Letting pheasants and deer steal my corn? For letting *sshholes shoot holes in everything in range from the road? My property taxes average 3% increase per year, yet I still see no benefit from the road ditch (which I pay taxes on). It just a place for townies/nonresidents to get access to the critters I feed. And the "*I'm the one invading their habitat*" excuse is/was a load of fecal matter. There has NEVER been this many whitetailed deer. ONLY the introduction of man-produced food allowed the number to climb to the *unsustainable* levels they currently are at. The high populations ARE the cause of EHD. If they were not so crowded, especially around food sources, the incidence of the disease would not keep popping up year after year. And Pheasants? They are an introduced species. GPF is trying to prevent the spread of other introduced species. GPF even has a proposal to eliminate something called a felt-footed wader to stop introduced species spread. What about the pheasant? How about the destruction they caused to the prairie chicken?

This is all about \$, the increase in health care is due to greed. By insurance companies, hospitals, and drug companies, by going along with it all you are doing is encouraging greed and fraud. (I've never seen a hospital bill that wasn't padded). Follow your own advice, "**Just say no**".

Tim Burckhard, Brookings SD

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

From: Ryan Gab [<mailto:ryan.f.gab@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 6:48 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Resident pheasant hunter, CRP reinstated

Given the current pheasant counts, i would hope some of the fees associated with license increases would go to reinstating a state funded CRP program. I am disappointed this was apparently not discussed according to the current GF&P News email update.

Ryan Gab, Rapid City SD

From: Del Bartels [<mailto:newsdesk@pioneer-review.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 4:20 PM

To: SDGFPINFO

Subject: Re: GFP News for 10-9-13

Hello,

If enough hunting licenses were issued, then depredation would be far less of a problem. This would result in the same or greater amount of licenses, with less overhead for the GF&P.

Depredation assistance should not be available to landowners who do not allow FREE hunting on their land to reputable hunters.

Please put me down as opposing any raises to hunting and fishing costs.

Thank you.

Del Bartels

Philip, SD 57567

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

From: Evelyn Hyde [<mailto:dchyde@pie.midco.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 4:06 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: License Fee Increase

Please do not use increased game license fees for the purpose of providing health care for GF&P employees.

Use any increase in hunting or fishing license fees to manage wildlife only!

The \$5.00 fee was adopted by the legislature for hunter access and depredation.

GF&P employee health insurance should be provided utilizing other funds than that reserved for wildlife.

Dean Hyde
703 N Madison
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 224-5443

From: curt koepp [<mailto:ckoepp@abe.midco.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 2:53 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Fee increases for fishing and hunting

The need for an increase in license seems to be an attempt to spend more money. If inflation is 20% why hasn't our wages gone up, why hasn't social security been increased. The only 20% is from someone who wants to spend more. Sell some of the desks the gf&p sit behind and get them out working you won't need so many people and can save money that way. I live in the ne part of sd and have never seen a warden any where but in the parking lot of there office. We can't even fish in our own lakes because of lack of ramps due to high water and overcrowding (to many out of staters). If you want to raise them that's fine quit selling our fish and game to others and look at being more efficent with what you have. Bigger spending is not the answer.

Curt Koepp, Waubay SD

From: Miller, Aaron
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 1:33 PM
To: SDGFPINFO
Subject: Nov. Commission Meeting

With regard to the fee increases scheduled to be discussed by the Commission during the November 6-7 public hearing, I would offer a couple of comments.

I appreciate that many of the hunting and fishing fees identified in the notice have not increased since 2005 and a quick comparison of neighboring states seems to support SD fees (at least for residents) are generally in line with what other states charge. It was however disappointing to see the Junior license included in the proposed fee increases despite the fact the legislature clearly exempted youth licenses from inclusion in the special surcharge. While I know there are exceptions, most parents still pay for their kids licenses so for parents who purchase 2 or 3 junior licenses to allow the outdoors to be a family outing, we get hit with both an increase to our own license(s) and an increase to our kid's license(s).

After reading the public notice, I have a couple of comments.

The public notice states "additional revenue along with spending cuts already implemented during the current fiscal year" will 1) align expenditures with revenue and 2) replenish the "game fund".

There is no line item/description for the "game fund" within the department's Current Year Revenue or Expenditures included on the central accounting system so I am not clear as to what the "game fund" is. The notice states this fund would be replenished by the proposed increases to allow for a spending base of \$10 million. There is no explanation in the public notice stating what this \$10 million game fund is used for, which would seem to be a matter of public interest by those who are providing funding for the "game fund".

Also I am not clear whether the "current level of service" provided by GF&P includes the "spending cuts implemented during the current fiscal year"? In other words, is the public being asked to accept the fee increase to fund and sustain a level of service that has already been diminished/cut? Or are these increases intended to restore services that have been diminished/cut?

On a related but separate note, I would be interested to know the rational for proposing an increase of \$9 in the Spring two-turkey license and only \$4 in the Fall two-turkey tag and the substantial difference in the price of these two same species, different time of year tags.

Thanks.
Aaron Miller
609 N. Central Ave. Pierre, SD

From: Abby's [<mailto:abbys@cme.coop>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 6:59 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: license fees

unless I missed it in your fee increases I didn't see anything in it for the businesses. It would be nice if you would consider businesses that are still writing the the license and take us into consideration on your license fee increases and increase the fee we are able to charge. Most license are paid with credit or debit cards and the fee they charge for using the cards far exceed the \$2.00 we are able to charge having us loose money on all non resident annual hunting and fishing license. Plus the employee writing the license has also to be paid by us out of the \$2.00 that we get.

Patricia Abdouch, Pickstown SD

From: Pliska, Shawn [<mailto:Shawn.Pliska@jmfq.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 10:29 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Increase hunting & Fishing fees

No to increase hunting and fishing fees, here are my reason why. The big game in the Black hills is down 60% over the last 7 years, I am sure you know the reason why. South Dakota resident are already paying more then all of the bordering states to doing the same thing. If you want make changes then look at the budget, if want to charge someone then pass it on to the nonresidents hunters, but I don't think they should pay for GFP mismanagement of wildlife. You don't reward poor performance.

Young residents are losing opportunities to hunt in this state, someone better start taking action. More money will not make it better, it will just delay failure.

Policies and management needs to be changed to have any effect on the South Dakota residents hunting opportunities.

Shawn Pliska
Sioux Falls SD 57107
605-528-3789

TO: G&P COMMISSIONERS;

IN WALWORTH COUNTY, THE ANTLERLESS DEER LIC'S ARE NEVER FILLED. DUE TO THAT FACT AND THE PRICE OF \$80.00 FOR TWO ANTLERLESS DEER, I HAVE HAD MANY OUT OF STATE (MINNESOTA) HUNTERS COMING FOR MANY YEARS. THEY DO NOT FEEL SAFE HUNTING IN MINNESOTA. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE STATED THAT IF THE LIC'S INCREASE GOES TO 120.00 THEY WILL NOT COME.

KEEP IN MIND THAT THESE FOLKS BUY GAS, FOOD, SUPPLIES, SHELLS, ETC. IN OUR STATE.

I HOPE YOU DO SOME RESEARCH AND ASK YOURSELF IF DRAWING FOLKS FROM OUT OF STATE TO HELP GETTING RID OF SURPLUS ANTLERLESS DEER LIC'S THAT WOULD GO UNSOLD IS WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.

IF WE LIKE IT OR NOT, RESIDENT HUNTERS LOOK FORWARD TO BUCK HUNTING, THEREFOR LEAVING ANTLERLESS DEER ROAMING OUR AREA. MOST FOLKS I KNOW, DON'T FILL THEIR ANTLERLESS TAG (WHICH I'M SURE YOU KNOW).

SO I AM HOPING YOU LEAVE NON RESIDENT ANTLERLESS TAGS AT THE SAME PRICE OF IF YOU MUST RAISE THEM GO FROM 80.00 TO 90.00. OTHERWISE WE WILL LOSE NON RESIDENT HUNTERS AS WELL AS NOT HARVESTING FEMALE DEER.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THIS PROPOSAL !!

I DO UNDERSTAND THAT INCREASES AT TIMES ARE NECESSARY, HOWEVER, ACROSS THE BOARD. INCREASES SOMETIMES OVERLOOK WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH.

GENE SANDMEIER
PO BOX 318
AKASKA, S.D. 57420

Phone 649-1049
cell 845-6025

RECEIVED

OCT 30 2013

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

From: Terry Kohrt [<mailto:bigt45sd@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2013 7:27 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Proposed rate increases for hunting, fishing, preference

You picked a very poor time to try and increase your revenues from these activities.

Pheasant numbers are poor at best with the loss of habitat, weather issues, and do not look to improve any time soon.

Whitetail deer numbers are still poor due to a number of factors including lack of habitat, Blue tongue, mountain lions, etc.

Mule Deer, Elk and Antelope populations aren't good either.

Your rate increases are nothing more than a slap in the face to sportsmen of SD. Charging for preference is gotcha choice for not doing a better job of maintaining a quality hunting experience in SD, especially when numbers are down on everything.

I usually buy a combination license, even though I don't seem to get out fishing at all anymore.

If you choose to push these rate increases, I will definitely not buy a combination license again.

As far as that goes, I basically only go pheasant hunting only on the resident only, and opening weekend any more.

I put in and received a deer license, but I really don't know why, as I know numbers are way down.

With the bird numbers being so pathetic in SE SD, you have to travel so far to get a bird I find it is hardly worth it anymore.

Add to that the difficulty of getting onto any quality ground to hunt and it is not a pretty picture anymore.

Your greed under the current circumstances may push me to just quit hunting altogether.

a concerned sportsman,

Terry Kohrt
27927 46th Ave
Lennox, SD 57039

From: BRIAN BALLARD [<mailto:ballyb12@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 6:43 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: wildinfo@state.sd.us

I am writing this in response to the upcoming proposal of increasing various tag fees including the proposal for the fee for preference points. I understand the rising cost of inflation because I too experience this myself. However, I think that our current fees are plenty high the way it is. If you compare our resident fees with a lot of other states, we are consistently higher in many of the licenses. You say this is being driven by the increase cost of healthcare. Well, guess what, I experience that every year myself yet cannot vote myself a pay increase to cover these costs. If you want to keep this costs down, then change your plan like the rest of us have to. If you have a problem with healthcare costs, then write your congressman and do not pass these increases off to the middleclass who are having a hard time making it anyway. Perhaps you need to cut back employees or eliminate programs or not build million dollar structures when you don't have enough money to cover your healthcare costs. It is absolutely ridiculous to increase already high fees. More and more, you are making the sport of hunting and fishing a rich mans sport.

Sincerely,
Brian Ballard
Yankton, S.D.

From: Don Mackey [<mailto:dmackey@embarqmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2013 11:06 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: preference point

Question---is the price of just buying the preference point also going to \$10 from \$5 for non-residents? I'm not talking about an unsuccessful applicant but for someone who just wants to buy the preference point?

This move is just another move to stick it to the hunter both resident & non-resident. Charging \$5 or \$10 for someone who doesn't draw a tag in a drawing that has a high probability of NOT being drawn doesn't seem fair.

If the cost for health insurance is so high let the State employees go to ObamaCare!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! If the general public has to use this option to keep health insurance costs down then why shouldn't gov't employees? Are they someone special????

It just amazes me as I look back on the 35 yrs I've hunted in the Hills (or should I say attempted to deer hunt the Hills)

The success rate for filling a buck tag was about 30% but we could plan on a hunting trip every year. Then in 1996 some genius came up with the idea of a deer tag lottery. This lottery was going to IMPROVE the deer herd and the quality of the hunt.

Well, take a look where you're at now. You offer the LOWEST number of resident & non-resident tags in history. When we have drawn tags (about every three years) we work harder than we've had to in the past to get our deer as the numbers just aren't there.

You butchered off the does for a few years and now you've been hit with the worst blizzard in years and without those doe numbers rebuilding any type of herd is going to take years.

I just can't wait to see what the numbers are for the 2014 deer lottery. When are you people going to realize that getting a deer isn't the main reason we as non-resident come there to hunt. We call it tradition and I hadn't missed a year from 1974 to 1996, then in 1997 I didn't get drawn.

No real deer hunter should expect a 50-60% success ration when hunting the Hills, if they do let them hunt a private ranch and pay for the privilege

I just turned 65 so the way you've ruined deer hunting in the Hills isn't going to impact my hunting activity as we've moved on to Wy. Just too bad you made the move to the lottery as it ruined the tradition we took years to build.

Can't wait to see how your future policy "fine tunes" the deer numbers and the quality of the hunt. The Black Hills will NEVER become what the lottery was to do because of one thing----the habitat. The quality of the deer habitat is marginal at best then to allow sheep & cattle to be grazed there during the summer will NEVER allow the quality of deer you're dreaming of.

Can the lottery go back to the "old" ways and if those "road hunters" can't get a MATURE buck then have them get out of the rig and hunt or give up hunting altogether!

Don J.Mackey, St. James. Mn.

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

From: Eric Reisenweber [<mailto:ereiser13@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 8:46 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Preference Point Charge

I think that the \$5 charge in order to add a preference point is absurd. I understand that there are increases in costs each year on a global scale, but I think there are other ways to help offset those expenses. For starters, increase non-resident licenses. It is far cheaper for non-residents to hunt here than for us to hunt in other states. We as resident hunters have already given up so much to accommodate non-residents. We have lost majority of our access to hunt private grounds due to the demand of the dollar, and I am sure that some day the floodgates will be opened and the limited amount of non-resident waterfowl licenses will no more. The destruction of the Canada goose hunting is another ridiculous decision that has hurt us residents and has damaged our states respect from other states hunters. I understand that Canada geese do damage, but killing them before they can fly is just plain stupidity. Let's wake up and show some respect for the hunting heritage and also show some respect to the resident hunters that support this state year round.

Many people apply for several licenses every year, and each year, licenses across the board are more and more difficult to draw. I guess it all boils down to who can we take the next dollar from. I don't want to come off as all negativity, but I think its time to take a step back and look after the residents for a change.

Thanks for your time,
Eric Reisenweber
5551 S. Wexford Ct.
Sioux Falls SD. 57106

From: joe bak [<mailto:joclare5@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 9:40 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

Hello, i am an avid hunter and fisherman from SE, SD. i have no problem with increased fees to benefit state employees; however, i dont like the proposed changes to the preference point system and like it the way it is. Also, as far as using funds to aid in cost of animal depredation issues i feel this is a complete joke. The landowners, mostly farmers get enough handouts from the government, including around 60% of their crop insurance paid for by the US tax payers, you and me. The same farmer that you and i give money to that does not allow access on to his land for you or I to enjoy; they are making thousands and thousands, some millions annually; i think they can cover the cost; wish the government would send me some money, bet you do to

Joe Bak, Beresford SD

From: Tom Blue [bluetnt@rushmore.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 12:03 PM
To: Jensen, Gary
Subject: Camping fees

Re: Camping fees

Dear Commissioner Jensen,

I am following up on our conversation regarding camping fees. Growing up in Huron, SD in the 1960s and 70s, our family did not have much money. Almost every summer weekend, we would travel to Ft. Thompson, Lake Oahe, Farm Island, and other state camping areas. We camped in a tent for years, then a small travel trailer. We would spend those weekends riding our bikes, fishing, hiking, and just enjoying the great outdoors. It was an incredible way to grow up. I learned to enjoy, love, and protect the great outdoors of South Dakota. Our whole lives were centered around outdoor activities in this state. To this day, my life is centered on outdoor life in SD, from hiking to camping to hunting. We even focused much of our lives since 1972 to developing three hundred twenty acres of farm land into a wildlife mecca by Huron, with tree strips, a small man-made lake, and enviable wildlife habitat.

I would ask the Commission to do whatever it can to keep those opportunities available for everyone in the state today and in the future by keeping fees as low as possible. Money is tough for young families and many others in the state. They cannot afford expensive travel to resorts, extravagant trips across the country, or posh excursions overseas. Luckily for the less affluent, they still have so many opportunities in South Dakota to enjoy camping, hunting, hiking, and other outdoor activities. After fueling up their cars and traveling to camping sites, across-the-board higher camping fees just might be that last straw that they cannot afford. The less affluent are not pulling around thirty-foot campers or driving eighty thousand dollar motor homes. They camp in tents, small trailers, and pickup campers.

If the Commission prices camping fees outside what all of those families can afford, they will not have the opportunities that we should all enjoy by being residents of SD. If the Commission has to raise more income to cover other costs, please focus those increased revenues more on what is not traditionally, basic "camping". Possibly charge more for the extras such as electricity, and/or charge more for large campers, motor homes, and similar styles of camping that the more affluent can afford and won't even care about. Please keep camping available for all South Dakotans, regardless of financial means. It will provide great opportunities for more generations to enjoy our state and form life-long attitudes and appreciation of the outdoors like it did for me. Those experiences will shape the stewards of our outdoor resources in the future.

Tom Blue
4901 Copperhill Drive
Rapid City, SD 57702