

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
July 1-2, 2015

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. CDT at the RedRossa Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners John Cooper, Cathy Peterson, Jim Spies, Barry Jensen, H. Paul Dennert, Gary Jensen, and W. Scott Phillips were present. Duane Sather was absent. Secretary Kelly Hepler was present along with approximately forty public, staff, and media.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Cooper called for any additions or corrections to the June 4-5, 2015, minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Peterson TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4-5, 2015, MEETING AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Chairman Cooper requested two additional salary days and Dennert requested one additional salary day.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS AS REQUESTED. Motion carried unanimously.

License List Requests

Director Chris Petersen presented a license list request from Rhonda Else of Lee's Meats and Sausage, Inc. of Tea, So. Dak. requesting a list of 1,000 west river and 3,000 east river hunters in specific counties. The list will be used to mail a flyer to promoting their wild game processing services. This is a full fee request.

Petersen presented a license list request from Dale Houser of Dakota Plains Taxidermy, of Kimball, So. Dak. of 2015 successful any elk applicants for both archery and rifle seasons. The list will be used to mail a brochure to promote his business. This is a full fee request.

Motion by Spies with second by Dennert TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUESTS FROM RHONDA ELSE AND DALE HOUSER AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Notification of lien filing

Director Petersen presented information to the Commission as required by SDCL 5-22-3 about a Public Improvement Contract Lien for the Roy Lake Comfort Station Project. Petersen indicated the project has been completed; however, a subcontractor filed the lien on funds held by GFP for the project. No Commission action is required.

PROPOSALS

Threatened and Endangered Species Listings (June 2015 Proposal)

Attorney Richard Neill reminded the Commission that the Public Hearing for the proposed changes to the Threatened and Endangered Species rules presented at the June Commission meeting required a 30-day public notice and comment period. Because there was not sufficient time between the June meeting and today's Public Hearing to provide the public with the statutorily required 30 day notice and opportunity for comment, it is necessary for the Commission to defer final action on the T&E rule proposal until its regularly scheduled August 2015 meeting. Neill informed the Commission that a separate Public Notice pertaining specifically to the T&E rule proposal which complies with the 30 day public notice/comment requirement has been published as required by state law. The Legislative Research Council requested that an explanation of the procedural status for the adoption of this rule be noted in the July minutes in order to provide an audit trail and clarification for the public comment period. Neill stated the Public Hearing for the proposed change to remove the Bald Eagle from the South Dakota list of Threatened and Endangered Species List will be held at the same time as the August 6, 2015, Public Hearing on other rule proposals and any Commission action on this particular proposal can be considered and taken following the August Public Hearing.

Duck Hunting Season

Senior Wildlife Biologist Rocco Murano presented the Waterfowl season setting schedule (later in these minutes) before the duck and goose hunting season recommended changes.

Wildlife Management Program Administrator Chad Switzer presented the Duck Hunting Season dates, open areas, daily limits, and possession limits. Switzer included five years of harvest information and information about the liberal package of daily limits for the different species of ducks before presenting the recommended change to decrease the daily limit of scaup from three to two.

Decrease the scaup daily limit from 3 to 2.

Motion by Peterson with second by Phillips TO PROPOSE THE CHANGE TO THE DUCK HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Goose Hunting Season

Switzer presented the Goose Hunting Season dates for light geese, white geese, and Canada geese (and Brant) along with daily limits, possession limits, number of hunters, and harvest information. Switzer indicated the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering the allowance of a liberal package for South Dakota and the recommended change is to increase the number of hunting days for white-fronted geese.

Increase the number of hunting days for white-fronted geese from 72 to 86 consecutive days.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Spies TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE GOOSE HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 2:04 p.m. and concluded at 2:07 p.m. and the minutes follow these minutes.

FINALIZATIONS

Senior Big Game Biologist Andy Lindbloom presented a PowerPoint on Pronghorn Management and Research Updates prior to finalizations; see report information later in these minutes.

Antelope Hunting Season 41:06:23

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented the proposed changes to the Antelope Hunting Season indicating these changes begin the first year of a two-year cycle of the newly implemented multi-year season setting process approved by the Commission last year. The season dates, open area, number of licenses, requirements, and restrictions were presented along with supportive information that included five years of harvest and success rate information were presented before the recommendation to adjust the number of licenses from proposal.

Recommended changes from proposal:

1. Offer resident hunters 165 more one-tag licenses (165 tags) and 125 less two-tag licenses (250 tags) than proposed.
2. Offer nonresident hunters 5 less two-tag licenses (10 tags) than proposed.

Motion by Peterson with second by Gary Jensen TO AMEND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Offer resident hunters 240 more one-tag licenses (240 tags) and no additional two-tag licenses than 2014.
2. Offer nonresident hunters 1 more one-tag licenses (1 tag) and no more two-tag licenses than 2014.

Motion by Phillips with second by Peterson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON 41:06:23 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season 41:06:14

Biologist Chad Lehman presented a PowerPoint on the Fall Wild Turkey Outlook providing the preliminary data and season objectives. Lehman included information about brood data, flock counts, feather collection, hunter harvest and success, depredation, matrix modeling, research, and public and staff comments.

The Department had no recommended changes to proposal. Chief Kirschenmann indicated the Fall Turkey Season will be visited again next year due to

on-going work to revise the Turkey Management Plan. Discussion ensued about the concerns of the National Wild Turkey Federation board members in South Dakota; the hen winter and fall hunt survival rates; depredation and the tools utilized for depredation issues, along with the reduction of tags in the Black Hills unit.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Spies TO AMEND PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE BLACK HILLS UNIT RESIDENT LICENSES TO 400 ONE-TAG "ANY TURKEY" LICENSES AND THE BLACK HILLS UNIT NON-RESIDENT TO 32 ONE-TAG "ANY TURKEY" LICENSES. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Offer 100 more one-tag licenses for resident hunters on the East River Prairie Units.
2. Modify Unit NE1 to include those portions of Marshall County south and east of South Dakota State Highway 25 and north of South Dakota State Highway 10 and Roberts County north of South Dakota State Highway 10 (see attached map).
3. Offer 350 less one-tag licenses for resident hunters and 28 less on-tag licenses for nonresident hunters for the Black Hills Unit.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Spies TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE FALL WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON 41:06:14 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Early Fall Canada Goose Hunting Season 41:06:50 Waterfowl Hunting Season 41:06:16

Chief Kirschenmann presented the proposed changes to the Early Fall Canada Goose Hunting Season and Waterfowl Hunting Seasons with no recommended changes to proposal. Kirschenmann indicated the actual change to the unit description is found within the Waterfowl Chapter 41:06:16 and that no actual change is occurring within the Early Fall Goose season Chapter 41:06:50. However, both were listed in the rule proposal presented to the Commission; as there are distinct ties between both chapters in creating the Sioux Falls metro unit. This begins a three-year season setting schedule for the Early Fall Canada Goose Hunting Season and includes the new metro area of Sioux Falls. Staff is working with landowners in and around the Sioux Falls metro area for access. Discussion included the size and boundaries of the unit.

Amend 41:06:16:07 to modify the boundaries of Units 1 and 2 by adding those portions of Lincoln and Minnehaha counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Minnesota state line and Minnehaha County Highway 122 (254th Street) west to its junction with Minnehaha County Highway 149 (464th Avenue), south on Minnehaha County Highway 149 (464th Avenue) to Hartford, then south on Minnehaha County Highway 151 (463rd Avenue) to State Highway 42, east on State Highway 42 to State Highway 17, south on State Highway 17 to its junction with Lincoln County Highway 116 (Klondike Road), and east on Lincoln County Highway 116 (Klondike Road) to the South Dakota-Iowa state line, then north along the South Dakota-Iowa and South Dakota-Minnesota border to the point of beginning, to Unit 2.

Motion by Dennert with second by Peterson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON 41:06:16 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Custer State Park hunting restrictions 41:06:06

Superintendent Matt Snyder presented the proposed changes to hunting restrictions in Custer State Park indicating the change was to clean up and provide consistent guidelines when hunting near roads and buildings within Custer State Park. The change will reduce conflicts between hunters and other park visitors. The recommended change came from the Legislative Research Council to simplify the proposed change in rule. Discussion included concern to get information out to the hunter about the change, when and where hunters can load their gun, and law enforcement.

Recommendation to Amend 41:06:07:10 as: No person may hunt any big game species within 200 yards of any public access road or building in Custer State Park.

Motion by Peterson with second by Barry Jensen TO AMEND PROPOSAL AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

41:06:07:10. Hunting restrictions near roads and buildings. No person may hunt any big game species within 200 yards of any public access road or building in Custer State Park.

Motion by Peterson with second by Barry Jensen TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO CUSTER STATE PARK RESTRICTIONS 41:06:07 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Chairman Cooper invited those who wished to visit with the Commission on something other than the items listed under Finalizations to come forward. No one came forward. Chairman Cooper then called a fifteen-minute recess.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Custer State Park private cabin transfer

Matt Snyder presented Resolution 15-07 requesting a change in ownership of a cabin located in Custer State Park from a couple wishing to add their children to the current lease. Snyder stated he has visited with all persons involved and they understand the terms and conditions for the change. Snyder indicated the change requires Commission approval. Discussion ensued about the leases and the property located in Custer State Park when all private cabin leases expire in the year 2029.

Motion by Dennert with second by Barry Jensen TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 15-07 AS PRESENTED (Appendix A). Motion carried unanimously.

Good Earth State Park update

Director Doug Hofer shared that the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation (PWF) entered into a contract for deed to purchase the Spring Creek Country Club (SCCC) just southeast of Sioux Falls and adjacent to the Good Earth State Park. The PWF will lease the golf course back to the current operators for ten years. Upon the end

of the 10-year contract for deed with SCCC, the PWF intends to donate the 194-acre golf course property to the state for an addition to the Good Earth State Park.

Hofer had slides showing the Spring Creek Golf Course location in relationship to the Good Earth State Park along with a history of land acquisitions since 1987 including the Iowa side of the Blood Run Historical Landmark. Hofer shared the PWF has begun another phase of fundraising for Good Earth State Park of \$2 million making their total commitment to the Blood Run/Good Earth State Park project at \$7.5 million. Hofer stated the PWF has been an invaluable partner on this project.

Director Hofer shared that the Department of Ag is conducting an inventory of properties the PWF own adjacent to Good Earth State Park to identify what would be eligible for additional Forest Legacy Grant funding. Hofer then indicated that Iowa has joined in on the project and are developing a Master Plan to be complete in July of 2017.

Hofer shared Good Earth Visitor Center site has been relocated and schematic plans are complete. It is anticipated construction will be complete the summer of 2016 with road construction to begin later this year.

Parks Reservation System update

Visitor Coordinator Lynn Spomer presented a PowerPoint with information about the current reservation system. Spomer indicated this is the third year of a three-year contract that contains an option for two one-year extensions. In October, the first of the two extensions will be entered into with Leisure Interactive of Sioux Falls. Spomer shared reservation system statistics and features, and options to increase website use to decrease call center costs.

June storm damage

Assistant Director Bob Schneider presented slides showing damage in parks from June 19-22. Schneider indicated there were no major injuries. Damage was sustained to campers, boats, and vehicles, as well as to a storage shed at the Snake Creek Dock 44 Marina. Damaged park property included downed and damaged trees, minor structural damage, and some erosion on the Mickelson Trail. Parks sustaining damage included Lake Louise, Snake Creek, North Point, Angostura, West Bend, Farm Island, and Palisades. All campgrounds were back in business the following weekend due to long hours and hard work by staff and volunteers.

Discussion included how losses to private campers and boats and the removal of damaged or downed trees are addressed.

Parks Revenue and Camping Reservations

Director Hofer stated the storm did not hurt revenue or visitation for the month of June as year-to-date permit sales were up seven percent and camping services are up nine percent year-to-date. All Districts showed revenue up at least four percent for June. District 14 including Shadehill and Belle Fourche Reservoir showed the most growth in camping with a 23% increase over the same timeframe in 2014.

Miscellaneous Updates

Snyder indicated the Custer State Park Visitor Center project is a little behind schedule due to recent rains. The rains came at a good time as they provided insight as to the possible water issues the new visitor center could have had; and allowed some modifications for drainage. The anticipated opening is still spring of 2016.

Matt Snyder indicated the film company is planning another visit in July in preparation for making the film for the new visitor center.

Director Hofer stated the Custer State Park Resort improvements cost estimates and design work is complete; and the building committee will meet later this month.

Chairman Cooper called a recess at 4:50 p.m. indicating the meeting would resume at 8 a.m. the next morning.

The meeting resumed at 8:02 a.m. on Friday, July 2 in the same location with Commissioners Cooper, Peterson, Gary Jensen, Spies, Phillips, and Dennert present. Absent were Barry Jensen and Sather. Secretary Hepler was present along with twenty-five public, staff, and media.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

2016 Elk raffle license

This item was moved to the August meeting.

Land Acquisition update

Program Administrator Paul Coughlin presented the land acquisition update indicating the proposed acquisition of 175 acres in Yankton County and 160 acres in Day County have been advertised and will be brought to the Commission for consideration at the August meeting. Commissioner Peterson indicated she visited the Yankton parcel and Dennert indicated he visited the Day County parcel.

Antelope survey and populations

Andy Lindbloom presented the Pronghorn Management and Research Updates that included objectives for two on-going research projects with SDSU. Lindbloom provided updates on the management surveys, pronghorn management plan, season recommendations for the firearm, archery, and mentored youth pronghorn. He included harvest information, recruitment survey methods and estimates, fall recruitment, aerial survey data, winter severity index since 2000, population objectives, harvest strategies, management unit objectives, and Data Analysis Units before presenting the season recommendations.

Brook Brown Boating Safety Officer Award

Boating Safety Program Manager Brandon Gust presented the 2015 Brook Brown Boating Safety Officer Award to Conservation Officer Dan Altman of Yankton, South Dakota.

Update on AIS activities

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator Mike Smith indicated about half of the signs are up at the boat ramps. Smith shared that sampling has begun at Lewis and Clark Lake and the samples were sent to the lab in Montana. The July samples from Angostura were taken and have been held until results from the sample the Bureau of Reclamation have been received. Samples will be taken from both waters again in August.

Assistant Director Arden Petersen shared that officers are checking anglers and boaters for boat plugs and transportation of bait and fish when leaving the water or fish cleaning stations. There seems to be a great level of support for the regulation and people seem to understand the importance of these changes. Moving bait remains a challenge and recreational boaters are less aware and less understating of the regulation changes. There is an effort to identify ways to get the message out to the recreational boaters. Petersen indicated the meeting last week with the bait dealers went well as many of them were already properly transporting baitfish. Discussion included a need to establish a boat inspection program.

Mike Smith shared that Rusty Crayfish have been found at the Gavins Point Dam on the Nebraska side and crayfish from the South Dakota side were sent to SDSU for identification and were confirmed as Rusty Crayfish. Rusty Crayfish are larger than native crayfish and will reduce the quality of food for native fish. Smith indicated the Corp is concerned about Lake Yankton. Rusty Crayfish will be included in the goals and objectives of the updated AIS management plan and a draft of the plan should be available to the Commission next week as the comment period just concluded.

Mussel survey/inventory

Program Administrator Chelsey Pasbrig provided background on mussels that included why they are important and the need to identify threats that affect their life cycle. There are 34 species in South Dakota and the objective of the survey and inventory is to document the distribution, species composition, and abundance; while assessing their decline and to identify the variation of populations. Various locations in rivers and streams across South Dakota are being inventoried for mussels. Pasbrig shared the study area, the work completed since 2014, preliminary results, and the significance of the research.

Elk habitat conditions

Chief Tom Kirschenmann provided background on contingency elk licenses and the current elk habitat conditions. Regional Supervisor Mike Kintigh indicated the U.S. Forest Range Conservationists were contacted about current conditions and will be meeting with GFP staff on July 24 to discuss forage conditions for this fall. Kintigh stated there are no concerns at this time as the Black Hills are wet and believes there will be no need for the use of the contingency licenses.

Discussion ensued on the improved working relationship with the U.S. Forest Service and desire to continue communications with them, the grazing operators, and GFP staff.

Waterfowl season setting schedule

Rocco Murano presented a PowerPoint on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife changes to the Migratory Bird Regulation Cycle. The presentation included why the changes were needed, current timeline, federal process, and a solution that includes merging the early and late season setting process into one that uses the previous year's population information for predicting regulation changes early in the year for fall hunting seasons. The implications for these changes will allow the Commission to review the waterfowl season regulations earlier in the year and consider changes before publishing the South Dakota Hunting Handbook.

Habitat and access on private land

Paul Coughlin gave a PowerPoint presentation on habitat in South Dakota indicating 80% of land in South Dakota is held in private ownership. Ducks Unlimited and other partners realized the need to work with landowners in order to enhance habitat and established staff in four areas of the state and thus the Wetland/Grassland Program began. Coughlin stated there is a lot common ground for farmers, ranchers, and wildlife that include grazing components, wetlands, native grass projects, and more to help with wildlife habitat and will enhance producer operations.

In 2014, GFP had 97 projects with two thirds of them involving different landowners working on their own land. NAWCA is a partner that brings grant dollars to South Dakota for wetland/grassland projects and requires matching dollars where GFP land acquisition dollars meet the match criteria for the NAWCA grant dollars which have totaled about \$11 million since 2001.

GFP provides matching grant dollars to local conservation districts through the South Dakota Ag Conservation Commission and with the U.S. FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Private Lands Program.

GFP Private Lands Biologist Brian Pauly shared information on the Wildlife Partners Program where private lands biologists help with woody habitat, food plots, nesting cover, and habitat fencing projects that help fill voids in areas the federal programs do not offer. Pauly shared expenditures of the program since 2005 and additional details on the woody habitat, food plots, nesting cover, and habitat fencing program that assist landowners.

Hunting Access Coordinator Mark Norton provided information on hunting access efforts stating that the Walk In Area (WIA) program for 2015 has 1.2 million acres available to sportsmen and women which includes 112,000 of undisturbed acres, with 1,344 cooperators receiving more than \$2 million in payments.

Norton shared that the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for access and habitat along the James River Valley has 82,000 acres enrolled with 832 contracts providing an additional 110,000 of WIA acres for public hunting.

Mark Norton indicated the Controlled Hunting Access Program has 20,000 acres with 10 cooperators in 2015, and these operators receive payment only for the hunters they allow onto their property enrolled in the program, The Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Area for 2015 has 6 cooperators with 31,000 acres for controlled hunts north of Pierre, South Dakota.

Dave Nomsen of Pheasants Forever stated that their enhanced efforts for pheasant habitat in South Dakota will be primarily on CRP lands, School and Public lands, and private lands because their core work is with landowners.

Matt Morlock of Pheasants Forever talked about the Farm Bill Biologist Program providing history of the program since 2003. This program is in 19 states with 120 positions across the country and are located in USDA service centers, as this is where producers initially come for Ag planning. The impact of these programs use set aside programs on marginal acres to establish good wildlife habitat. The biologists help with better grazing systems for landowners and work on bridging multiple programs within Farm Services.

Landowner contacts are made by hosting workshops during a CRP signup and share about the program and management techniques; field tours with biologists and landowners are utilized to share practices and often spur on additional projects with the producers who attend the field tours. Morlock extended an invitation to Commissioners to do a field tour.

Discussion and questions included how to get this information to producers, the fencing program in the northwest to remove woven wire on the antelope range, and information on the website to provide access to these programs and contact information to directly reach the right people for the different programs.

Hepler stated the website will be operating this fall as he is working with Department of Ag and the website will include Ag groups and concerns for the monarch butterfly. Hepler indicated discussion is to begin to increase work force and to get pollinator plots into the parks. Cooper extended invitation to Pheasants Forever to plan to schedule a tour in conjunction with a meeting in 2016.

License sales report

Chief Scott Simpson reviewed the June over-the-counter sales report which showed fishing licenses continue to be strong and will see some additional sales when non-resident pheasant hunters arrive and want to fish as well.

Simpson provided elk applications information for 2015 as all draws are complete and all licenses were sold in the first round. The total number of applications were down while online applications remain above 92% for all license types.

Miscellaneous updates

Director Leif indicated he believes there will be no contested case hearing for the dates reserved later this month.

Commission Cooper shared Commissioner committee assignments as: GFP Budget Committee - John Cooper, Cathy Peterson, Gary Jensen; Building Committees: 1) Custer State Park Visitor Center - Gary Jensen, 2) Custer State Park Resorts Bonding/Building Committee - Scott Phillips, 3) Good Earth State Park Visitor Center - Duane Sather; South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation Board - Cathy Peterson; Governor's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Fund Board - John Cooper; ADC Policy Advisory Committee - Barry Jensen; Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee - Gary Jensen.

The Stakeholder Work Groups assignments are: 1) Canada Goose Management Plan - Paul Dennert; 2) Wild Turkey Management Plan - John Cooper and Scott Phillips alternating based upon availability; 3) Deer Management Plan - Scott Phillips (WR) with Jim Spies and Duane Sather alternating for ER based upon availability.

Adjourn

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Dennert to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at 108 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Appendix A

RESOLUTION NO. 15 - 07

Whereas, the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission has been advised that Martin L. Luschei and Joan Rathbun were the owners of a cabin located in Custer State Park (Custer County, South Dakota) on property described as:

No. 3 Birchlawn, located in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$) and the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Twelve (12), Township Four (4) South, Range Five (5) East of the Black Hills Meridian, Custer County, South Dakota; and

Whereas, the property upon which the cabin is located is owned by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks and has been leased to Martin L. Luschei and Joan Rathbun by permit by reason of a Stipulation of Settlement and Dismissal entered in Craft v. Wipf, Civil Action No. 85-5092, U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota, Western Division, and subsequent agreements and permits executed thereafter based on said Stipulation and Dismissal; and

Whereas, the Commission has been advised that Martin L. Luschei and Joan Rathbun desire to and have transferred and assigned all of their interest in said cabin and cabin site permit to Martin L. Luschei, Joan Rathbun, Kathleen Mellstrom, Nancy Bowman, and Thomas F. Luschei, as joint tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common; and

Whereas, the Commission has been requested to approve said Transfer and Assignment.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that in the event the Department receives an executed Agreement and Assignment of the above described cabin site permit and cabin and appurtenances located thereon and which further provides that said Assignees agree to abide by all of the terms and conditions of the aforementioned Stipulation of Settlement and Dismissal and all subsequent agreements relative thereto, including but not limited to Cabin Site Permits, Addendums, and all agreements relative to establishing the lease or rental payments due the Department, then in that event, the Department is authorized to execute a Consent to the requested Assignment.

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
July 1, 2015

The Public Hearing Officer Scott Simpson began the public hearing at 2:04 p.m. with Commissioners Cooper, Peterson, Jensen, Jensen, Spies, Dennert, and Phillips present. Simpson indicated all written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes.

Antelope Hunting Season

No oral or written testimony was received.

Fall Turkey Hunting Season

No oral testimony was received.

Brent Johnson of Rapid City, SD, emailed, "...I am not a biologist, but I do have a constant, 20-year, boots on the ground resident's understanding of our great resource. Stewardship is needed now and that means we have to stop shooting hens..."

Gary Colbath of Rapid City, SD, emailed, "...I would encourage you to eliminate the fall season for the Hills and reduce tags for West River..."

Mark Malone of Pierre, SD, emailed, "...I understand the expected mortality over the winter and addition to hunter opportunity in the fall, but the numbers are getting too low to be allowing hens to be killed. Even if only a smaller percentage of hens that are killed would have survived, that still means an extra flock or two in a few years for hunters to enjoy. As avid of a turkey hunter as I am, I would even support lowering the tag numbers in CSP and possibly even the second season in the hills. The poor hatches and already low numbers should be taken into consideration and forcing us to make a decision to cancel the hills fall turkey season this year."

Donald Wojciechowski of Hermosa, SD, emailed, "Please consider allowing archery turkey beginning at the same time as archery deer (last Saturday Sept). The season date revisions made in 2014 were VERY unfair to archery hunters. Some folks do not rifle hunt and do not wish to archery hunt during rifle seasons (after November 1). If the above is not possible, I would appreciate the commission documenting the reasoning for rejection."

Alan Lien of Chamberlain, SD, emailed, "I oppose the issuing of 500 Fall Any Turkey license in the Black Hills..."

Scott T. Kuck of Aberdeen, SD, emailed, "I am writing to you once again to request that the fall turkey season be closed in the Black Hills...I strongly urge you to continue the closure of the fall turkey season in the western Black Hills, and respectfully request that you close the fall season for the entire Black Hills."

Leonard Remer of Hermosa, SD, wrote, "...If there is truly a movement to close the fall 2015 turkey season, due to declining numbers of birds, I very much want to object to this insane idea..."

Tony A. Remer of Hermosa, SD, wrote, "...Please understand that limiting the season and or the #s of licenses is making a problem a bigger problem and expense for residents..."

James Schultes of Hermosa, SD, wrote, "Since you want to cancel turkey hunting season this fall. Leonard Remer is our neighbor. In the wintertime, my wife has counted over 600 some turkeys behind our place. After Fish & Game did their trapping. Since you want to close the season, maybe you can tell me where you want us to dump the these birds."

Early Fall Canada goose Hunting Season

No oral testimony was received.

Howard Brown of Brandon, SD, emailed, "I'm very excited about the new metro goose season around the Sioux Falls area..."

Darrel Miles of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed, "Great idea, not only will it provide additional days of hunting. But will also provide for the management of the ongoing population problem on Canadian geese in this area..."

James Stenseth of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed, "If you really want to thin out wildlife around Sioux Falls, shoot off some of the deer around here."

Gary Townsend of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed, "I think you have a very good idea to help control the goose population in Sioux Falls. It's nice to see the creative thinking that your office exhibits."

Dave Gilbert of Madison, SD, emailed, "I am in favor of the proposed 'Metro Goose Hunting Unit' around the City of Sioux Falls..."

Casey Rorvick of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed, "...I would like it to be put on public record that I am in favor of this proposal."

Pat Malcomb of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed, "...there are thousands of geese just around Sioux Falls we could be hunting. I think this is a great plan."

Craig Bowman of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed, "I'm all for the late season goose hunting around Sioux Falls to try to eliminate the number of Canadian honkers wintering here..."

Custer State Park hunting restrictions

No oral testimony was received.

George Welk of Fort Pierre, SD, emailed, "...I oppose this proposal...I personal don't believe that instituting the rule will further enhance the view of animals in the park..."

The Public Hearing concluded at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary