

GF&P COMMISSION MEETING

Notes & Highlights: October 2-3

Sturgis, SD

Division of Administration

Action Items

Minutes of August meeting

Spies and Petersen-motion approved

Additional Commissioner salary days

Gary Jensen 2

Cathy Petersen 1

John Cooper 2

License lists requests

- Sausage Shack-game processor-deer hunters in eastern SD
- Sealy Clothing in Rapid City-resident and nonresident small game licenses
- Howard Hotel and Conference Center-nonresident small game licenses
- All are full fee
- passed

List of meetings in 2015

- Jan, March in Pierre
- Brookings-april
- CSP-may
- Pierre- June,July
- Aberdeen-Aug
- Spearfish-Oct
- Mitchell-Nov
- Pierre-Dec
- Passed as proposed
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Information Items

Parks and Wildlife Foundation

- Spencer Hawley gave the Commission a yearly report
 - 26 projects currently active
 - Good earth State Park- 12\$ million project
 - \$6 million earmarked from foundation- currently \$5.25 million has been raised
 - CSP Visitor Center
 - Foundation committed to \$1 million originally
 - Has agreed to increase to \$3 million-\$800,000 yet to raise
 - BH Park and Forestry Association donated \$2,000
 - Mikkelsen trail spur to Rushmore
 - Have \$100,000 raised for EIS
 - Mikkelsen trail bridge repairs-ongoing project did 2 this year
 - Adams Homestead-endowment fund from ag land within homestead
 - Also sponsored Governor's Pheasant Habitat Summit

Division of Parks and Recreation

Action Items

- Lewis and Clark Marina-changes made to lease agreement
- Custer State Park Private Cabin Transfer
 - Two cabin transfers

Information Items

Good Earth State Park

- Update on the archeological find at the proposed visitor center sight

2015 CSP Resort Repair and Maintenance Program

- Main focus will be on the workers dorms
- Other projects as scheduled

Revenue and Camping Report

- Camping is up across the state.

Open Forum

- Rep. Betty Olson
 - Wants to be able to use dogs for mountain lions outside of the Black Hills
 - Sponsored bill in the legislature last year
 - Would be year round
- Dan Hotchkiss-80 yr old mother's cocker spaniel got attacked by a mountain lion
 - Grass is high, only way to hunt/find problem lions is to use dogs
- Brad Tisdall-President of SD Houndsmen-46 members
 - Gets calls monthly from landowners wanting and needing and help
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Public Hearing 2 PM

No written or oral testimony for finalization of Parks

Finalizations

Division of Wildlife

Action Items

Antelope Management Plan

- Been an ongoing process
 - Asking for formal Commission adoption
 - Approved as proposed

Sage Grouse Management Plan

- Species of concern across the west
- States are fighting to keep the sage grouse from being listed on the threatened/endangered species list
- Request from the federal level to assemble plans if nonexistent or to revise and update plan if it does exist.
- We have just completed an updated version of our plan
- Commissioner Cooper suggested that we keep the comment period open for another 30 days to make sure that any interested public have made comment. Cooper would also like to see the local mortalities accounted for in a better manner.
- Report adoption will be delayed until the November meeting.

Proposals:

Spring Light Goose Conservation Order

- No proposed changes, so it passes

Hunting Requirements and Prohibited Methods

- A person may not establish, utilize, or maintain a bait station from August 15 to February 1, inclusive, and from April 1 through the end of the spring turkey seasons established in 41:06:13 and 41:06:15, inclusive, to attract any big game animal, including wild turkey, and a person may not use an electronic call when hunting any big game animal except a mountain lion. A bait station is a location where grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay, minerals, or any other natural food materials, commercial products containing natural food materials, or by-products of such materials are placed or maintained as an attractant to big game animals for the purpose of hunting. The use of scents alone does not constitute a bait station.
- This is an expansion of the baiting rules to include turkey hunting in the spring
- Approved as proposed

Custer State Park Turkey

- No proposed changes
- Season is finalized

Spring Turkey

Recommended Season Dates:

April 4 – May 17, 2015	Archery
April 11 – May 17, 2015	Black Hills and single-season Prairie units
April 11 – April 30, 2015	Split-season early Prairie units
May 1 – May 17, 2015	Split-season late Prairie units

Recommended Licenses Available:

Black Hills:	Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
Prairie:	5,449 resident and 219 nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses 1,880 resident and 151 nonresident two-tag “male turkey” licenses
Archery:	Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses

Recommended changes from last year:

1. Offer residents 85 less one-tag “male turkey” licenses and 290 less two-tag “male turkey” licenses for the Prairie Units than 2014 for an overall decrease of 665 tags. Offer nonresidents 10 more one-tag “male turkey” licenses and 24 less two-tag “male turkey” licenses for the Prairie Units than 2014 for an overall decrease of 38 tags.
2. Modify spring unit boundaries for Black Hills and 49A to be consistent with fall turkey unit boundaries (see attached maps).
3. Eliminate Black Hills Unit 2.
4. Remove the archery restriction west of Interstate I-29 in Brookings County.

5. Remove the split seasons in Clay and Union counties.
6. Add Lincoln County to the restricted area where a person may use only a shotgun using shot shells, muzzleloading shotgun, or bow and arrow.
7. Reduce the number of archery turkey access permits valid for Good Earth State Park from 10 to 5.
8. Repeal Unit PST-ZZ1.

- Approved as proposed

Nonrefundable Application Fees

Archery and rifle elk - \$10

Mountain Goat - \$10

Bighorn Sheep - \$10

- Adjust the nonrefundable application fee for elk, mountain goat, and bighorn sheep from \$5 to \$10.
- Hasn't been changed since inception in 1987
- Took this to the legislature as a bill as it is in state statute. Now the Commission has the authority to raise this fee.
- Currently collect around \$160,000 with \$5 fee. Spend around \$380,000 in these species. A \$10 app fee would help these programs, including elk depredation programs immensely
- Passed as proposed

Fishing Regulations

- Increase the size of diver-down flags
 - Clarify rules regarding the boundary for gamefish spearing on Lake Sharpe to the upstream side of the hwy 14 bridge
 - Include Shadehill Reservoir to be open for gamefish spearing
 - Allow spearing of northerns and channel cats in all inland lakes with limited exceptions and the Grand River below Shadehill Reservoir
 - Allow the spearing for Northerns and Catfish on Minnesota/SD border waters from Nov. 15 – last Sunday in Feb.
 - Require all fish speared by speargun, bow or spear must be taken into possession.
 - Define specific “boundary” and “inland” waters
- Passed as proposed

GENERAL PROPOSALS FOR FISHING

- Define the term “inland waters”
- Define the term “snaghook”
- Cleanup of the artificial lights while fishing rule. Currently, artificial lights are legal, but there was a provision that was contradictory to this rule
- Allow for the take of silver and bighead carp that inadvertently jump into a boat or are netted from the air. This proposal would allow anglers the opportunity to harvest those fish.

- Approved as proposed

Scientific Collectors

- Regulate the non-commercial taking of freshwater mussels.
- Require collection permits for all wild animals for use in scientific collections.
- Limit numbers of all wild animals that can be collected
- Approved as proposed

Paddlefish snagging

- Dakota-Nebraska border waters anglers to have a daily limit of 10 channel catfish and 5 flathead catfish. The possession limits for these fish would be twice the daily limit.
- The Commission also proposed to clarify the way a paddlefish is measured. The proposal calls for paddlefish to be measured with a flexible tape along and over the center line contour of the fish, lying flat including the entire eye to the natural, unaltered fork of the tail.
- Approved as proposed

Information Items

- Land acquisition update
 - Tour of Hydro 2 and little Spearfish Falls with Commission
 - This tract will likely be coming in front of the Commission –Hydro 2- in December.
- License sales report
 - Fishing license sales
 - Resident annual about steady but a very strong level
 - Non resident up 12%
 - Small game licenses-will start to increase with the opening of pheasant season
 - Hopeful that nonresident hunters will increase with stronger pheasant population
- Free senior fishing license for 85+
 - Was a bill in the session to provide for this. The bill died, Representative felt that this issue belongs in the commission.
 - No proposal,
 - Department is funded by license sales and federal taxes
 - 7 million in fisheries budget last year
 - 2013 almost 19,000 sr licenses were sold. These licenses are discounted by %60. Between 700-800 of these anglers were 85+, resulting in a revenue loss of \$8,000-\$9,000. Each license sold, we also lose about \$35 in exise tax, costing another \$30,000
 - Dept takes the position that we provide a good product.
- Stream fishery management
 - Fisheries Biologist Jake Davis explained information collection, components of management,
 - Fish populations
 - Habitat
 - People

After taking these into account

 - Populations manipulation
 - Trap and transfer
 - Chemical renovation

Introduction to new species or strain

- Regulations
 - Habitat manipulation
 - Hatchery stocking
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- Atlantic Salmon update
 - Geno Adams gave an update of public opinion survey
 - Will Sayler provided and update on raising Atlantic Salmon
 - 40,000 eggs from Nashawa hatchery in New Hampshire
 - Cost is \$2500
 - 20,000 at each hatchery for a year and evaluate best use practices for raising these species
 - Initial fish would be stocked in april of 2016.
 - Stocking of 120,000 over the next 3 years
 - Stocking an equal amountof chinooks and atlantics and decide after that
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 - Pheasant habitat working group
 - get electronic copy of report
 - Deer hunter opinion survey
 - Random sample of 6,000 applicants from 2013,
 - 87% had an email-email invite to take online survey
 - Other 13% and non email respondents will receive a hard copy thru the mail. Will go out week of oct 13
 - WMI big game action plan update
 - Enhance electronic media; including effectiveness/layout of website
 - Provide more real estate for news and real time content on the GFP homepage and enhance secondary pages to align with design elements.
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 - Develop a responsive website design to ensure customers are able to access digital content from a handheld or tablet device.
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 - Continue the effective use of targeted communications via email and social media.
 - Enhance staff training for surveys and protocols
 - Biologists and wildlife managers developed a guide which describes sex and age classification characteristics for deer and pronghorn.
 - To improve training opportunities, additional photos are being collected this fall that will be used to develop a power point training and refresher presentation.
 - Reevaluate mountain lion populations estimate and survey methods
 - The Department is transitioning from radio collared lion estimates to biopsy-darting.
 - Survey protocols and methods-Implement adjustments to wildlife survey protocols and methods.
 - Elk – spring herd composition surveys being evaluated as a replacement to fall counts in order to get a better estimate of annual recruitment.
 - Deer – SDSU project is finalizing an evaluation that will define sample sizes for fall herd composition survey protocols and develop a Black Hills deer road survey to assist in monitoring and estimating deer numbers.
 - Pronghorn – change from annual to biennial aerial surveys. Still evaluating herd composition surveys through the SDSU study.
 - Mountain lion – Transition from radio-collaring mountain lions and generate Lincoln-Peterson estimates using DNA samples from biopsied lions.

- Employ adjustments to composition surveys of deer and pronghorn composition surveys
 - Staff is currently working with SDSU to complete the deer and pronghorn composition survey analysis.
- Commission guidance to the Department on seasons/regulations

During the August Commission meeting, the topic of establishing a formal process for the Department to obtain information, guidance, or direction from the Commission to evaluate all or portions of seasons or regulations was discussed. That discussion resulted in an approach which will include a re-occurring Commission meeting agenda item looking ahead to scheduled topics.

 - This agenda item is not listed on the October meeting as no proposals are scheduled for the November meeting. Beginning in November, this item will be placed on the agenda to provide a formal platform for the Commission to consult and advise the Department on topics they would like assessed or recommendations brought forward for consideration.
- Multi-year schedule
 - The Commission and Department discussed the development and transitioning to a multi-year season setting and regulation schedule at the August Commission meeting. The Department is considering all the variables involved and drafting a schedule to recommend to the Commission at the November meeting.
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- Quagga mussels found in Angustora
 - Byssal threads allow these mussels to attach to hard surfaces
 - Quagga can also attach to soft surfaces
 - Non native species-invasive
 - Sept 22nd a BOR sample showed positive for quagga mussels in Angustora. Sample was taken near marina. DNA sampling showed a 75% match to populations in the West
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Next Meeting Information:

Next meeting will be held November 6-7 at the Sioux Falls Ramada