

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
May 3-4, 2012

Chairman Jeff Olson called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM MDT in the White Buffalo Room at Blue Bell Lodge in Custer State Park near Custer, South Dakota. Commissioners present were Jeff Olson, Susie Knippling, John Cooper, Barry Jensen, Cathy Peterson, Duane Sather, and Bill Cerny. Jim Spies was absent. Department Secretary Jeff Vonk was present along with media, staff, and public numbering approximately fifty-five.

Division of Administration

Olson called for any additions or corrections to the April 4-5 meeting in Brookings.

Motion by Cooper with second by Knippling TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson called for any additions or corrections to the April 4th Governance meeting.

Motion by Peterson with second by Knippling TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL GOVERNANCE MEETING AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Olson called for any additional commissioner salary days. Cooper requested one day for Parks and Wildlife Foundation meeting and Olson requested one day for the Angostura public meeting.

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

Administration Director Chris Petersen presented license list requests for Commission approval.

The Ramada of Summerset, SD, requested a list of 2012 Black Hills elk, turkey, and deer hunters to send information and special rates offered by Ramada. The request is for 1,000 names and would be at full fee.

Motion by Cooper with second by Jensen TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM THE RAMADA AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Petersen presented a list request from Rooster Ridge Lodge of Chamberlain requesting a list of 2,000 nonresident preserve license holders for Texas, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi to promote the lodge and the Chamberlain area. This would be at full fee.

Motion by Peterson with second by Cerny TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM ROOSTER RIDGE LODGE AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Petersen presented a request from the South Dakota Wildlife Federation for a list 2011 nonresident small game license holders at the reduced fee. The list would be used to send a survey regarding fees for access, public leased land, and preserves in South Dakota.

Motion by Jensen with second by Cooper TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM THE SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Wildlife Division and Snowmobile Trails Program FY13 Budget Approval

Director presented the FY13 Budget indicating there were no changes from Commission review last fall except for the employee salary package and benefits as approved by the 2012 Legislature in March. The FY13 Budget begins on July 1, 2012, and ends on June 30, 2013, with Department spending authority of \$78,977,783.

The Snowmobile FY13 Budget is \$1,454,790 with 9.1 FTE and requires Commission approval.

The Wildlife Division operations FY13 Budget is \$41,517,898 with 286.7 FTE. The Capitol Development and Improvement FY13 Budget is \$4,281,800 with two years of spending authority. Both budgets require Commission approval.

Director Petersen recommended approval of the FY13 Budgets for the Snowmobile Trails and the Wildlife Division.

Motion by Knippling with second by Jensen TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 SNOWMOBILE TRAILS BUDGET AND THE WILDLIFE DIVISION OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT/IMPROVEMENT BUDGETS AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

License Sales Report

Petersen indicated that over-the-counter license sales as of April 26, 2012, were very, very strong especially fishing licenses. License sales of 120,121 were up 45.7% over the April 2011 sales of 82,426.

Open Forum

Chairman Olson asked the attending public if anyone would like to comment on the upcoming Big Sioux land acquisition on the agenda later in the meeting. No public comment was received.

Dr. Tom Huhnerkoch indicated the Department has gone down a dark path that has led to prey decline of elk and other big game, one of the biggest problems facing the Department. All human problems local, state, and federal are caused directly or indirectly by two legged predators and please don't forget it.

Anna Hermanson, President of the South Dakota Trappers Association indicated the trapping proposals to be presented at today's meeting are fully supported by the Association. The Association has funds earmarked for furbearer research and the Department or public may contact her or any director with any prospective projects.

Hunting Season Proposals

Andy Lindbloom and John Kanta provided deer population updates and information prior to proposals.

West River Deer Hunting Season

Chad Switzer presented changes to West River Deer Hunting Season to include reducing the overall number of available licenses by ten percent, modify the boundary for Unit WRD-27L to include adjacent public land, and remove the conversion portion for “any” deer tags to “antlerless” for the extended season. Discussion included the extended season and depredation, hunter conflict, landowner comments, and the antelope season.

Motion by Knippling with second by Cooper TO NO LONGER ALLOW HUNTERS WITH WEST RIVER ANTERLESS DEER TAGS TO FILL THEM DURING THE FIREARM ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON. Roll call vote: Cerny-no; Cooper-yes; Jensen-no; Knippling-yes; Peterson-yes; Sather-yes; Olson-yes. Motion carried with five yes votes and two no votes.

1. Adjust resident license numbers by increasing one-tag licenses by 1,590, increasing two-tag licenses by 830 (1,660 tags), and decreasing three-tag licenses by 4,960 (14,880 tags) compared to 2011.
2. Adjust nonresident license numbers by increasing one-tag licenses by 128, increasing two-tag licenses by 67 (134 tags), and decreasing three-tag licenses by 397 (1,191 tags) compared to 2011.
3. Modify the boundary description for Unit WRD-27L to add some additional public lands adjacent to the Cheyenne River and Angostura Reservoir and to make the unit boundary more easily identifiable for hunters.
4. Only unfilled “antlerless deer” and “antlerless whitetail deer” tags are valid during the antlerless deer season extension beginning the Saturday after Christmas.
5. No longer allow west river antlerless deer tags to be filled during the firearm antelope hunting season.

Motion by Knippling with second by Cooper TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE WEST RIVER HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED INCLUDING COMMISSION ACTION TO NO LONGER ALLOW HUNTERS TO FILL WEST RIVER ANTERLESS TAGS DURING THE ANTELOPE FIREARM SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

Black Hills Deer Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented changes to the Black Hills season with a reduction of licenses available for the 2012 season. Hunter success remains about the 55% level.

1. Offer residents 200 and nonresidents 16 fewer “Any” deer licenses than 2011.
2. Offer residents 500 and nonresidents 40 fewer “Any Whitetail” deer licenses than 2011.
3. Offer residents 50 and nonresidents 4 fewer “Antlerless Whitetail” deer licenses than 2011.

Motion by Cooper with second by Peterson TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Archery Deer Hunting Season

Chad Switzer presented the recommended changes to include additional counties with single antlerless tags, antlerless tags not valid in Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), modify the special access permits to include Blood Run Nature Area, and allow individuals with special access permit to have an uncased bow and to use the bow when hunting in the Blood Run Nature Area. The Sand Lake NWR change came after conversations with Refuge staff and due to the limited habitat at Sand Lake.

1. Add Brookings, Deuel, Hamlin, and McCook counties to the restricted area where only one (1) single tag antlerless deer license is valid.
2. "Any antlerless deer" licenses are not valid for the Sand Lake NWR.
3. Modify rule to allow 45 "antlerless deer" and 5 "any deer" resident licensees to hunt deer at the Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve and 5 "antlerless deer" and 5 "any deer" resident licensees to hunt deer at the Blood Run Nature Area through the issuance of "Access Permits" issued via lottery drawing by the Department.
4. Modify existing rule to allow an individual with a valid "Access Permit" to possess an uncased bow and to allow the use of bow and arrow to hunt deer and turkey within the Blood Run Nature Area.

Motion by Knippling with second by Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO ARCHERY DEER HUNTING SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Season

Switzer presented changes to coincide with the archery season for antlerless deer. Hunter harvest and success for the last ten years was presented.

Add Brookings, Deuel, Hamlin, and McCook counties to the restricted area where only one (1) single tag antlerless deer license is valid.

Motion by Cooper with second by Knippling TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE MUZZLELOADER DEER HUNTING SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Deer Hunting Season

Switzer presented a change to the youth season by adding more counties where a youth can fill only one youth deer license and indicated youth can purchase two licenses and 42% of the youth hunters did purchase the second license with hunter harvest is 45-55% for the youth.

Add Brookings, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Turner, and Yankton counties to the restricted area where only one youth deer license is valid.

Motion by Cerny with second by Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE YOUTH HUNTING SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Archery Antelope Hunting Season

Chad Switzer presented changes to eliminate the two-tag license and to adjust the boundaries to include the Black Hills Fire Protection District while using the special access permit to allow for hunting in Custer State Park. The fewer licenses are due to a lower antelope population.

1. Eliminate the two-tag license valid for one "any antelope" and one "doe-fawn" antelope.
2. Include those portions of Custer and Pennington counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District (except Custer State Park) and issue 5 special access permits via lottery drawing to those licensees who possess a valid "any antelope" resident archery license. The special access permits may be issued by lottery drawing.

Motion by Jensen with second by Peterson TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE ARCHERY ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Fall Turkey Hunting Seasons

Switzer presented changes to the fall turkey season to offer fewer two-tag licenses as this is used as a population reduction tool and close Harding and Turner counties to turkey hunting.

1. Offer 490 more one-tag licenses and 1,630 fewer two-tag licenses for resident hunters on the East River Prairie Units.
2. Offer 500 fewer one-tag licenses for resident hunters and 40 fewer one-tag licenses for nonresident hunters in the Black Hills.
3. Close Harding and Turner counties to fall turkey hunting.

Motion by Sather with second by Cerny TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE FALL TURKEY HUNTING SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Olson called a recess at 3:11 PM and meeting resumed at 3:40 PM.

Keith Fisk indicated there are no recommended changes to beaver, skunk, opossum, jack rabbit, fox, raccoon, badger, mink, and weasel seasons. The harvest estimates for 2010 and 2011 were calculated using a new harvest survey methodology thus showing an increase in harvest for many of the species; this will replace the previous method derived from information received from South Dakota fur buyers.

Bobcat Trapping and Hunting Season

Fisk presented changes to the bobcat season to include a 23 day east river season allowing one bobcat to be harvested as the population is estimated between 165-450 bobcats along the Missouri River. The season is to coincide with the west river season where 784 bobcats were harvested earlier this year by 250 trappers with one trapper harvesting 41 bobcats. Recently completed research supports that there is a harvestable population of bobcats along the Missouri River in south central South Dakota. A map was provided of the east river hunting area and public input reflected support for the season but concern for the over harvest of the bobcat. All

bobcats are inspected by staff within five days of harvest then tagged and the lower jaw removed.

Allow a limited season in certain counties east of the Missouri River with a limit of one bobcat per trapper or hunter.

Motion by Jensen with second by Peterson TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO BOBCAT TRAPPING AND HUNTING AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Trapping Prohibitions

Fisk presented changes to provide consistency with similar rules for season dates and types or features of traps.

1. Change the date that traps may be placed prior to the mink season to be consistent with other administrative rules (i.e. sunrise of opening day).
2. Clarify the dimensions of colony traps used for muskrat trapping as round and square traps are now being used and current rule only addresses round traps.
3. Require on public lands and public road rights-of-ways statewide, that body grip traps with an opening greater than 36 sq. inches (larger than 160 Conibears) when used in conjunction with any bait, lure, or scent be recessed a minimum of seven inches in cubbies, baited box traps, or bucket traps.

Motion by Knippling with second by Cooper TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO TRAPPING PROHIBITIONS AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Muskrat Shooting Season

Fisk presented a new rule to meet direction of the legislation passed during the last legislative session providing for a statewide hunting season for muskrats to prevent damage to private property, roads, and other infrastructure. Discussion included value of the pelt when trapped and when shot, dates, "nuisance rats", and kill permits. This past season the March and April pelts were worth \$5-\$10, pelts taken later have little value.

1. The season would be open from April 1 - August 31 statewide.
2. Only landowners and/or operators on their own property and state, county, or township highway officials within public road right-of-ways, may shoot muskrats.
3. Nontoxic shot is required for shotguns.

Motion by Cooper with second by Knippling TO PROPOSE THE MUSKRAT SHOOTING SEASON AS PRESENTED WITH THE CHANGE TO AN APRIL 1ST OPENING DATE. Motion carried unanimously.

August Management Take Goose

Chief Kirschenmann presented a change to add four counties to the Goose Hunting Season for residents to harvest Canada geese in August. Sportsmen Against Hunger received 2,000 geese from fifteen processors last year.

Expand the open area to include the counties of Brown, Hutchinson, Spink, and Turner.

Motion by Knippling with second by Cerny TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO GOOSE HUNTING SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Rule Reduction Initiative

Chief Kirschenmann presented recommended changes for the three divisions that represent rule reductions that consolidate and simplify rules.

List of Chapters and Rules modified and/or repealed.

Uses of Parks and Public Lands	41:03:01:06	Repeal
Uses of Parks and Public Lands	41:03:01:10	Modify
Uses of Parks and Public Lands	41:03:01:22	Repeal
Uses of Parks and Public Lands	41:03:01:28	Repeal
Park Licenses	41:03:03:06:01	Modify
George S. Mickelson Trail user service fees	41:03:05:05	Repeal
Motorboats and Watercraft	41:04:05:07	Repeal
Application for License	41:06:01:10	Modify
License Forms and Fees	41:06:02:01:05	Modify
License Forms and Fees	41:06:02:02	Repeal
License Forms and Fees	41:06:02:04	Modify
License Forms and Fees	41:06:02:05	Repeal
Custer State Park restrictions	41:06:07:07	Repeal
Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season	41:06:13:02	Modify
Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season	41:06:13:03	Repeal
Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season	41:06:13:04	Modify
Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season	41:06:14:02	Modify
Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season	41:06:14:03	Repeal
Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season	41:06:14:04	Modify
Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season	41:06:14:05	Modify
Custer State Park Spring Turkey Season	41:06:15:03	Repeal
Black Hills Deer Hunting Season	41:06:19:02	Modify
Black Hills Deer Hunting Season	41:06:19:04	Modify
Black Hills Deer Hunting Season	41:06:19:07	Repeal
West River Prairie Deer Season	41:06:20:02	Modify
West River Prairie Deer Season	41:06:20:03	Repeal
West River Prairie Deer Season	41:06:20:04	Repeal
East River Deer Season	41:06:21:03	Repeal
East River Deer Season	41:06:21:04	Repeal
Archery Deer Hunting Season	41:06:22:03	Repeal
Archery Deer Hunting Season	41:06:22:06	Repeal
Antelope Hunting Season	41:06:23:02	Modify
Antelope Hunting Season	41:06:23:03	Modify
Antelope Hunting Season	41:06:23:04	Repeal
Antelope Hunting Season	41:06:23:05	Repeal
Archery Antelope Hunting Season	41:06:24:03	Repeal
Custer State Park Antelope Season	41:06:25:01	Modify
Custer State Park Antelope Season	41:06:25:03	Repeal
Black Hills Elk Hunting Season	41:06:26:03	Repeal
Black Hills Elk Hunting Season	41:06:26:04	Repeal
Custer State Park Elk Hunting Season	41:06:27:03	Repeal
Custer State Park Elk Hunting Season	41:06:27:05	Repeal
CSP Early Archery Elk Season	41:06:28:03	Repeal
CSP Early Archery Elk Season	41:06:28:05	Repeal
Mountain Goat Hunting Season	41:06:29:04	Modify
CSP Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season	41:06:30	Repeal (Chapter)
National Wildlife Refuge Deer Seasons	41:06:36:02	Modify

National Wildlife Refuge Deer Seasons	41:06:36:02.01	Modify
National Wildlife Refuge Deer Seasons	41:06:36:02.02	Modify
National Wildlife Refuge Deer Seasons	41:06:36:03	Repeal
National Wildlife Refuge Deer Seasons	41:06:36:04	Repeal
Custer State Park Fall Turkey Season	41:06:38	Repeal (Chapter)
Custer State Park Deer Season	41:06:41:03	Repeal
Archery Elk Hunting Season	41:06:43:03	Repeal
Archery Elk Hunting Season	41:06:43:04	Repeal
Youth Deer Season	41:06:44:03	Repeal
General Muzzleloading Deer Season	41:06:45:03	Repeal
General Muzzleloading Deer Season	41:06:45:04	Modify
Depredation Permits	41:06:46:08	Repeal
Special CSP antlerless elk season	41:06:47:03	Repeal
Special CSP antlerless elk season	41:06:47:04	Repeal
CSP Late Archery Elk Season	41:06:48:03	Repeal
CSP Late Archery Elk Season	41:06:48:04	Repeal
Prairie Elk Hunting Season	41:06:59:03	Repeal
Prairie Elk Hunting Season	41:06:59:04	Repeal
Mountain Lion Hunting Season	41:06:61:05	Repeal
Furbearer Seasons	41:08:01:02	Modify
Furbearer Seasons	41:08:01:03	Repeal
Furbearer Seasons	41:08:01:04	Repeal
Furbearer Seasons	41:08:01:08.02	Modify
Furbearer Seasons	41:08:01:08.04	Repeal
Protected Furbearing Animals	41:08:04	Repeal (Chapter)
Bait	41:09:04:08	Repeal
Bait	41:09:04:09	Repeal
Bait	41:09:04:10	Repeal
Bait	41:09:04:13	Repeal
Private Fish Hatcheries	41:09:07:01	Repeal
Private Fish Hatcheries	41:09:07:02	Modify
Private Fish Hatcheries	41:09:07:03	Repeal
Private Fish Hatcheries	41:09:07:03.01	Repeal
Nursing Home Group Fishing	41:09:14:03	Repeal

Motion by Knippling with second by Peterson TO PROPOSE THE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REDUCTION CHANGES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Division of Parks and Recreation

Big Sioux Land Acquisition

Director Doug Hofer presented Resolution 12-06 requesting Commission approval to purchase 15 acres of land adjacent to the Big Sioux Recreation Area from Elsie L. Metz and Vernon Risty. This property would provide access to the Big Sioux River on the southern end. The City of Brandon, the Wildlife Division, and the Parks Division have agreed to each pay a third of the purchase price with the property to become an extension of the Big Sioux Recreation Area.

Motion by Peterson with second by Sather TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-06 AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT TO COMPLETE THE PURCHASE OF 15

ACRES FOR \$35,210.00 FROM METZ AND RISTY AS PRESENTED (Appendix A).
Motion carried unanimously.

Fort Randall Concession Marina

Concessions Lease Manager Sean Blanchette presented a draft First Amendment to the Fort Randall Marina Concession Lease indicating this may be an action item at the next meeting. Blanchette indicated the marina lease was inherited from the Corps of Engineers in 2001 which had been with the Fort Randall Boat Club since its inception in 1959. The Department issued a new ten-year lease with the marina in 2003 for the operation which terminated the existing Corp. The current marina operation does not provide opportunity for the public to rent slips. All slips are currently owned by individuals and sold based on their perceived value of the long-term exclusive use rights which are attached to them. The Department's goal is to convert this marina away from the club operational style to one that is open to anyone on a first-come, first-serve basis. The draft amendment contains a phased option plan which would grant no more than three 5-year lease extensions in exchange for the conversion of the marina slips to marina owned and rented slips on a seasonal basis and will update language to meet current concession lease criteria in regards to authorized services. The amendment contains a provision for a cooperative agreement between the Department and marina for the hard surfacing of the marina access road at the Department's expense but which would only take place at the time that 100% of the marina has been converted.

Revenue and Visitation Report

Director Hofer provided the January-April 2012 revenue report showing a 10.6% increase primarily due to the mild winter allowing park users additional opportunity to enjoy the parks. Camping is up 174.9% over April 2011 primarily due to weather differences. Visitation in the parks this year is up 28% and all weather related.

Custer State Park Mountain Pine Beetle

The Commissioners were taken on a tour of nearby mountain pine beetle efforts within the Park and provided an update showing the goals and efforts to create a buffer next to Forest Service land on the north border of the Park.

Chairman Olson called a recess at 4:40 PM for the tour with meeting to resume the next morning at 8 AM. Meeting resumed at 8:13 AM with Commissioners Olson, Knippling, Cooper, Jensen, Peterson, Sather, and Cerny were present and Spies was absent. Secretary Vonk was present along with media, staff, and public numbering approximately forty.

Wind Cave/Custer State Park Boundary Fence Agreement

Wind Cave Superintendent Vidal Davila shared the Wind Cave north boundary is adjacent to Custer State Park and more land was added to Wind Cave National Park last year. Davila indicated the desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Custer State Park regarding elk and bison that pass between the

parks. A news release regarding the cooperative management of elk will be sent to the media today.

Chief of Resources for Wind Cave Greg Schroeder indicated there are three sub herds of elk in Wind Cave and showed areas of the sub herds and location of fences indicating the elk in the herd adjacent to CSP do not leave Wind Cave. In 2005, Wind Cave put GPS radio collars on elk to track locations and show movement. Movement was to the west and south with little from the northwest herd especially the bull elk.

Fences consist of metal posts to assist with controlled burns and Wind Cave has incorporated drop down panel gates in the fence. The panel gates will be put up in late summer to discourage the elk from returning to Wind Cave. Last year was the first trial for the gates and trail cameras were used to monitor the activity and it is believed the project was 100 % successful last year. Wind Cave is ready to move forward to placing an additional sixteen gates on the west boundary and proposed six gates on the north boundary adjacent to Custer State Park.

Currently, Wind Cave has 53 active collars on elk and will provide information to GFP to assist with research. The current project using collars is a partnership with Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center.

Gary Brundige shared information about the bison and elk movement between the parks and that Wind Cave desires a discreet bison herd; therefore, Wind Cave took over the management of the fence to assist with herd management especially during the breeding season. Wind Cave can no longer move elk to other areas due to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and this is why their herd has increased.

Elk movement between the parks has been monitored since the 1990's and with CWD the fence was improved to minimize movement of the herds. CWD has been discovered in all of the Black Hills elk herds and is prevalent in Wind Cave and Unit 3 and includes free ranging deer and elk in CSP. Hunter harvest shows a low level of CWD in CSP herds. There could be an increase of CWD by 3% with the movement of elk out of Wind Cave into CSP and this is a tolerable rate. Movement of elk to CSP is a benefit by increasing the herd and reproduction which is preferable to the risk of increased CWD. Vidal stated that Wind Cave elk population is 850-900 and he would like to see half of the elk herd move to CSP or the National Forest within two years to reduce the Wind Cave herd to 400. The fence will be used seasonally to exclude elk from the park. This is a pilot program as most National Parks have boundaries too big to fence and this model appears to be very successful.

GFP staff developed a good working relationship with the landowners and landowners indicated they are okay with an increased herd with elk movement into CSP and on to private land in Unit 4. Collared elk will continue be monitored as to the areas they move. The Wind Cave monitors the collars all year and Black Hills wide and includes visual observation of collared elk in herds through out the hills. The fence has been replaced over the last five years and there is little movement from CSP to Wind Cave.

The Memorandum of Understanding will provide a mechanism to continue dialogue with Wind Cave on an annual basis regarding movement of elk and bison.

Agency Partner Reports

Black Hills Group

Thomas M. Juntti a retiring forest service employee gave a PowerPoint about livestock monitoring in the Black Hills indicating the Forest Service uses a take-half and leave-half system of grazing. He shared Forest Service management practices and recommended using a Robel pole when measuring the range conditions and to leave the same amount of grass every year which is a more constant amount of grass especially important in drought conditions.

Juntti conducted a study and shared his results with the Forest Service, who then debated the accuracy of the Robel pole readings. The Forest Service uses a 1,000 pound cow when computing their formula and the average weight per cow today is 1,300. Juntti believes the Forest Service is overgrazing on an average of 30% and that native grass is almost gone.

Big Horn Sheep Management

Matt Rippentrop stated as a South Dakota resident his concern for the diminished big horn sheep population and without assistance from other states and Canada; we would not have a population at all. Rippentrop named the many people and organizations present showing their support for a big horn sheep tag to auction similar to sixteen other states. The dollars raised from the auction would be used for increasing the big horn sheep population and to assist the Department with management efforts by turning over 100% of the proceeds. Rippentrop indicated the Wild Sheep Foundation – Midwest Chapter is willing to support a biologist at the rate of \$25,000 a year for five years with Game, Fish, and Parks covering the balance of his salary. The Safari Club International would donate an additional \$5,000 a year for five years and other organizations are being sought to participate and support the biologist and project. Potential support could be \$110-160,000 for habitat, transfer of additional sheep, studies, watering sites, predator control, and education. Rippentrop asked for Department and Commission consideration and Game, Fish, and Parks would manage the funds for the improvement of the herd.

Chairman Olson asked the group and the department to develop a proposal for a big horn sheep auction license for Commission consideration by the August meeting.

Black Hills Forest Service

Commissioner Cooper began the discussion indicating the Forest Service was asked to come and answer commonly asked questions of the Commission from the public especially from the Elk Meeting discussion on March 29. Questions were prepared and provided to Forest Supervisor Craig Bobzien prior to this meeting. Bobzien stated his appreciation for the working relationship between the National Forest and the GFP Department.

Bobzien addressed the multiple uses within the Black Hills including wildlife, recreation, grazing, forestry, water resources, and quality of the environment.

The Forest Service has 135 grazing allotments with 40% having boundaries with the primary range able to hold 23,000 cattle. A permittee must own a minimum of ten acres to have a long term permit. The Forest Service has an allotment management plan for each unit with a rest-rotation plan for the pasture included in the plan. Overgrazing is a common concern and discussions with the permittee happen early in the year to make adjustments especially in drought conditions. Grazing begins June 1-15 on Forest Service land until late September or early October. Pastures are monitored and rotated within the management plan and based on utilization. Every district has staff monitoring and working within the district and willing to view the allotment with GFP and the permittees.

Fires are a main disturbance of wildlife and are a real benefit to the habitat. Livestock are not authorized to graze on the fire disturbed land to allow reestablishment of the vegetation and often times the elk are on it right away. The rest period is a full season and can be up to three years to assist with the recovery of the vegetation.

Ruffed grouse numbers declined in 2005 along with the loss of aspen trees and other hardwoods. The plan is to double the number of aspen and monitoring the ruffed grouse will help to determine the success of the project. Prescribes fires and mechanical means will be used to control pine trees in areas they are encroaching on the aspen. Mountain Pine Beetle will not have a big affect on the pine encroaching on the aspen as it is a different type of pine tree the beetle attacks.

Riparian and trampling are closely monitored with management adjustments ongoing and discussions have begun with both agencies to improve management. The Forest Management Plan is a fifteen year plan and the economic benefits of wildlife management are recognized a definite value to all parties and has a tourism value.

Bobzien indicated to create healthy and sustainable forest conditions for wildlife and humans over time for multiple uses and management to protect these conditions is the charge of the Forest Service.

Division of Wildlife

Region 1 Supervisor Mike Kintigh presented the 2011 Outstanding Performance Award to Region 1 Wildlife Damage Specialist Jack Erickson for taking the care of the dogs used for mountain lion tracking and complaints as well as assisting with mountain lion research.

Assistant Director Emmett Keyser presented Region 4 Supervisor Doug Alvine with his 35 year longevity pin indicating Alvine will be retiring in June and thanked Alvine for his years of service and leadership.

Deer population reports

Andy Lindbloom gave a PowerPoint presentation on the current deer populations in western South Dakota that included history, season types, and survey information for prairie, West River, Black Hills, archery, and muzzleloader seasons. Information included success and harvest statistics since 1975.

Lindbloom provided herd composition, decrease success rates, harvest survey results and concerns, and estimates on the lower recruitment rates. He outlined the licensee types and season length, winter conditions, quality and quantity of habitat, and coyote predation. The 2012 recommendations show a 10% decrease in licenses.

Lindbloom shared brief updates on the elk project, west river mule deer project on the grasslands, Black Hills deer population estimates, antelope herd composition, SDSU captive deer project, and the mountain lion-big horn sheep prey composition project.

John Kanta provided information about the Black Hills deer herds including mortality, hunter harvest, predation, habitat, winter conditions, diseases, fawn recruitment, and management history. Kanta included licenses, harvest and success rates since 1976 with the limited issue of tags beginning in 1996. The herd is in decline and recommendations include reducing antlerless harvest in youth, archery, muzzleloader, and rifle seasons; increase harvest of lions; and reduce the number of rifle licenses. Discussion included the target number for the Black Hills herd and the desire to have the increase of deer remain on public land and in the Black Hills National Forest.

Sportsmen Against Hunger

Chief Tom Kirschenmann gave the annual summary indicating donations were down from previous years and most deer are from the antlerless deer licenses as were antelope. The Canada goose donations were more than 2,000 with Day and Clark County providing the most donations. Discussions are ongoing with the Fish and Wildlife Service to add the Early September season to the SAH program to assist with the increase harvest of geese.

Total expenditures for the program were \$97,118 and a resolution will be brought to the Commission at the next meeting to continue the partnership with the Sportsman Against Hunger program.

Fish spawning update

Chief Lott shared that spawning efforts collected 105 million walleye eggs, and 18.4 million perch eggs were harvested and will meet stocking requests. Adult gizzard shad will be stocked into Lake Oahe as the annual survey of smelt indicated a small smelt run as was expected. Urban fisheries are stocked with trap and transfer along with trout stockings in the spring and fall for increased fishing opportunities.

June Statewide RAP Conference

Assistant Director Emmett Keyser indicated a statewide Regional Advisory Panel (RAP) Conference is scheduled for June 6th and 7th in Pierre adjacent to the June Commission meeting and extended an invitation for Commissioners to join the RAP members on Thursday morning and provided an agenda for the Conference.

Lifetime licenses and SD residency

Director Leif indicated many neighboring states offer a lifetime hunting license and the funds are often put in a specific account. South Dakota did have lifetime license legislation introduced and failed. A person who purchases a lifetime of license is eligible to hunt in that state no matter where they live and can return to that state and hunt. Recently an individual came to South Dakota to establish residency to trap; however, he holds a lifetime license in Minnesota. South Dakota law states an individual cannot claim resident benefits in another state. State statute allows a person that holds a lifetime license from another state that can be used as a nonresident to purchase a resident license in SD if they meet the SD residency requirements in statute.

Vonk stated he has no lifetime license in any other state and has no interest or influence in this issue.

Director Leif introduced Cindy Longmire as the new Human Dimensions Specialist joining the Wildlife Division Staff on April 9th.

Public Water Zoning-Family Park

Keyser shared the proposed change was tabled in March is no longer available for action as action was required within 75 days from the Public Hearing on March 1st. The Wildlife Division is drafting a policy to address the needs of disabled persons by providing a special permit. Discussion included the need to post a sign at Family Park letting users know that no motors are allowed on the water.

Elk Research Update

Chad Lehman reported staff continues to be busy capturing elk in Unit 4 and southwest of the Jewel Cave area as 81 cow elk have been captured with a pregnancy rate of 95% last year it was 85%. Each area had a cow elk mortality due to lion predation. There are 37 cows in each area with implants which will alert staff when the calf is born and allow staff to capture the calf. It is hoped to capture forty calves in each area providing information to model and monitor the herd.

Mountain lion prey collection efforts show CSP may have lions that are targeting for elk calves and able locate the hiding calves especially in the first three days. Six radio collars have been purchased to collar lions that have killed elk calves so staff then tracks the lions' movements and see if they are focusing on killing elk calves.

Landowner Preference Point System

Director Tony Leif reported on the state statutes for elk landowner preference drawing indicating Commission rule allows 50% of the licenses go to landowners. Regional Supervisor Mike Kintigh explained the process of approving landowner preference applicants. Conservation officers review the list of landowner preference licenses and research any new recipients to confirm their eligibility including an onsite tour to determine elk use and impact on the property. Section Chief Scott Simpson summarized the elk drawing statistics for Black Hills and Custer State Park hunting licenses. For Black Hills seasons, licenses are issued on a weighted system giving applicants with 10+ preference points 30% of the tags; applicants with

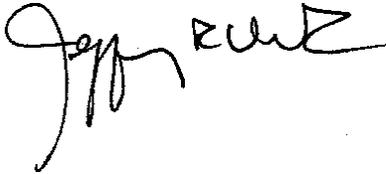
2+ preference points get 15% of the tags; and 0 preference points get 5% of the tags.

Commissioner Knippling asked why the weighted lottery system was only used for firearms elk drawings and not for archery elk drawings. Secretary Vonk advised that weighted drawings could be utilized for archery elk drawings and advised that such a system would be implemented for future archery elk drawings.

Information on landowner licenses and drawings for other big game was held for the next meeting.

Motion by Knippling with second by Sather to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Vonk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

Appendix A

RESOLUTION NO. 12-06

Whereas, the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) has expressed an interest in acquiring real property from Elsie L. Metz, of 2809 S. West Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57105 and Vernon Risty, of 103 E. Brittany Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, owners of property described as:

Tract 1 located in the East Half of the Southwest Quarter (E½SW¼) of Section 33, Township 102 North, Range 48 West of the 5th P.M., Minnehaha County, South Dakota; and

Whereas, said property is to be acquired by GFP and utilized for park and wildlife purposes and managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation as an expansion of the Big Sioux State Recreation Area ; and

Whereas, the funding for said acquisition will be provided through a partnership between the Division of Parks and Recreation, the Division of Wildlife, and the City of Brandon; and

Whereas, SDCL 41-4-1.1 requires that before GFP acquires and purchases property GFP must notify owners of land located adjacent to the property sought to be acquired by publishing notice of the same once in each legal newspaper of the county in which the property to be purchased is located; and

Whereas, GFP has published the required legal notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of action by the Commission authorizing the intended purchase, which notice included the time and location of the meeting at which the Commission's action is expected and by giving notice of instructions for presenting oral and written comments to the Commission; and

Whereas, the Commission has reviewed any and all comments that may have been received relative to the intended purchase and after consideration of the same, the Commission approves of the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that GFP is authorized to complete the purchase of the above described real property at the agreed price of \$35,210.00 and consummate the purchase agreement with Elsie L. Metz and Vernon Risty, which is acceptable to the GFP to acquire by purchase the above described real property.