

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission Meeting
October 4-5, 2012

Chairman Olson called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM Mountain Time at Cadillac Jack's on Main Street, Deadwood. Commissioners Jeff Olson, Susie Knippling, John Cooper, Barry Jensen, Bill Cerny, Cathy Peterson, Duane Sather, and Jim Spies were present along with Secretary Jeff Vonk and approximately 110-120 people from the media, staff, and public.

Olson indicated the Executive Session would follow the Division of Administration items and before the Public Hearing.

Division of Administration

Chairman Olson called for additions or corrections to the minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Cooper with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 2-3, 2012, MINUTES AS PRESENTED IN THE COMMISSION BOOK. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson called for any additional Commissioner Salary Days. Knippling requested one and Cooper requested two.

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

Director Chris Petersen presented the following license list requests for Commission consideration:

Brenda L. Helwig requested a list of 200-300 Custer County license holders for turkey, deer, and elk to send a brochure promoting accommodations and lodging at Custer Knoll Cabins in Custer. This would be a full fee request.

Motion by Spies with second by Sather TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM BRENDA L. HELWIG AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

The South Dakota Waterfowl Association requested a list of resident waterfowl license holders to inform hunters about the organization and promote membership. This would be at the reduced fee.

Motion by Sather with second by Cerny TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM THE SOUTH DAKOTA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation requested a list for 2012 west river deer, antelope, and east river deer resident license holders to sell gun tickets and recruit membership to the organization. This is an annual request and is at the reduced fee.

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

Director Petersen presented the 2013 Commission Meeting Schedule for consideration and approval.

Motion by Sather with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE 2013 MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Glodt, Policy Advisor to the Governor, presented a summary of comments received regarding the independent review of the Wildlife Division and an overview for the scope of the project that will accompany the Request for Proposal to be advertised. Glodt indicated advertising will be as soon as possible with proposals to be submitted in four to six weeks. Glodt introduced Nathan Sanderson as he would be presenting the selected proposal for approval of funding to the Commission at the December meeting. It is anticipated the contract could be accepted and funded and work to begin as early as January 2013. Discussion included the comments received, that the proposal is for the eight previous years from now, and clarification that the results should include improvements of process or issues reviewed and suggested action for improvement.

Director Petersen presented the Over-the-Counter License Sales Totals Report ending September 26, 2012, indicating an increase of 10.6% in sales primarily due to increased resident and nonresident fishing license sales. This represents about 90% of the fishing license sales for the year. Small Game and Combination resident and nonresident sales will show increases in the next reports.

Petersen provided background on the reporting requirement related to bonds issued by the SD Building Authority on behalf of Game, Fish, and Parks. Petersen indicated that the IRS is conducting a federal audit on SD Building Authority bonds. South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks bonds were part of the audit process. It was anticipated that the final report would be completed by this meeting; however, it was not finalized and a report will be forthcoming.

Executive Session

Motion by Knippling at 1:49 PM with second by Cooper TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS. Motion carried unanimously. Present for the executive session were all Commissioners, Secretary Vonk, Directors Hofer and Leif, Department Legal Counsel Richard Neill, and Debra Ascher. Executive Session concluded at 2:13 PM.

Public Hearing

Chuck Schlueter began the public hearing at 2:17 PM and concluded at 4:11 PM. (Minutes of the public hearing are following the regular minutes.)

Open Forum

Dale Wedekind of Hot Springs addressed the Commission about building a shooting range near Hot Springs. He believes it will be the best shooting range he has ever seen. He thanked DJ Schroeder for work on the project and provided a handout of an artist's rendition for the range he would like to be developed to include pistol shooting, long range shooting, a 25-50 yard range for kids with a .22, and for shooting sports within ten miles of Hot Springs. He wants the club to work with GFP to build the range and build it to his idea of a good range and provided letters from adjoining landowners. He wants to start using Pittman-Robertson dollars to begin building. He believes the GFP proposal is not what the club envisioned and that cost estimates are high. There are lots of volunteers to help build it and the people who want a place to shoot, want it open for the public with no gate. The range would be a major improvement to the state and the local area.

Nancy Hilding commented that the Outdoor Campus West has video conferencing capability and should soon have it in the Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus and that Pierre already has the capability and suggested future commission meetings have video conferencing at all times. She indicated this should be included in the Governor's office for consideration in the review especially due to the cost of gas in cars.

Chairman Olson called a ten-minute recess and about thirty public and media returned from the recess. Olson indicated the Emergency Rule and Parks information item 16 with Custer Resorts would take place today and Finalizations and all other agenda items would go to Friday morning.

Emergency Rule

Andy Lindbloom presented a PowerPoint on EHD prior to the Emergency Rule action item indicating that landowners, sportsmen, and citizens across South Dakota have been reporting EHD and this year the loss is more substantial due to drought. Lindbloom began with history of the disease and its characters. He told about the mite that in late summer or early fall comes out and spreads the disease. Deer die in two or three days. Symptoms include a fever and that deer want to be near water. Whitetail deer are 95% of wildlife affected and usually in the central part of the state. A distribution chart of EHD throughout the country provided information about neighboring states. Almost 2,800 deer have been reported so far this year in South Dakota and county specific losses were shared and compared to last year. There is no vaccine for this disease but a freeze will kill the insect and curtail any continued losses. The impact is hard to quantify yet indications are deer will develop antibodies to resist the disease. Management considerations include verifying reports to confirm the disease, consider losses in individual counties, adjust the number of license allocations, provide refunds for hunters, and the emergency action. Action taken thus far was reviewed in specific counties.

Chief Tom Kirschenmann and Director Tony Leif provided an overview indicating conditions are ideal for the mite and provided a map showing reports of EHD as of October 3rd. The coming week will be the second draw for the East River Deer Hunting Season licenses and approval of the requested emergency rule at this time would assist hunters in making selections prior to the draw especially hunters in the affected areas. Leif indicated a news release has been issued asking hunters to contact their landowner before applying for a license. Discussion included - is this action aggressive enough? Leif indicated more than 300 archery tags have been returned for refund. A letter will go out explaining reasons why the season is not closed as it will not rebuild the herd, what the affects will be for next year, and promote the left over west river licenses.

Motion by Cooper with second by Jensen TO ADOPT EMERGENCY RULE TO AMEND ARSD §41:06:01.11 TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT SECRETARY, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GFP COMMISSION, TO LIMIT THE SALE OF ANY BIG GAME HUNTING LICENSES REMAINING UNSOLD IN SPECIFIC UNITS FOLLOWING THE FIRST LOTTERY DRAWING IF THE SECRETARY DETERMINES THERE HAS BEEN DOCUMENTED UNFORESEEN DEATHS OR ILLNESSESS OF THE BIG GAME ANIMALS WITHIN THE RESPECTIVE HUNTING UNIT. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Olson called a recess at 5:33 PM MT indicating meeting will resume at 8 AM MT the next morning. The meeting resumed at 8:09 AM MT in the same location with all Commissioners present with Jeff Vonk, media, staff, and public numbering about thirty.

Finalizations

Mountain Lion Hunting Season 41:06:61

Kirschenmann indicated a three-hour open house in Rapid City in August hosted about 125 people answering questions and concerns and provided insight for the recommended changes to proposal. Kirschenmann clarified the population estimate of 300 was on January 1st, 2012, prior to the 2012 hunting season. He indicated the population is projected to be 240 prior to the Jan 2013 season and following the 2013 harvest, the Jan 2014 estimated projected population would be 180, which is in line with the management plan. Director Leif pointed out that these population estimates were modeled projections using the 2012 pre-hunt estimate as a baseline and that a revised population estimate would be made after additional data is collected during the 2012-13 hunting season.

Chief Kirschenmann presented the proposed changes and presented changes to proposal to provide additional conditions for hunting with hounds.

1. Hunter and houndspersons are not allowed to release dogs on tracks indicating multiple cats traveling together.
2. Hunters using dogs must attempt to harvest the first legal mountain lion that they have reasonable opportunity to harvest, except under the condition where the lion pursued shows obvious signs of lactation.

Motion by Cooper with second by Sather TO AMEND PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Increase the total mountain lion harvest limit from 70 to 100 and the female harvest limit from 50 to 70.
2. Change the season start date from January 1 to December 26.
3. Any properly licensed hunter (both landowners and non-landowners) may hunt mountain lions outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District from January 1 to December 31.
4. Custer State Park is closed to mountain lion hunting except during established hunting intervals for 162 mountain lion licensees who possess a valid mountain lion license and a temporary access permit issued free of cost. This structure includes five (5) hunting intervals (14-16 days in length) with each having 30 access permits (no dog hunting allowed) and three (3) intervals (7 days in length) with each having 4 access permits (dog hunting allowed). The temporary access permits may be issued by a random drawing.
5. Make an allowance for the use of dogs during specified hunting intervals in Custer State Park.
6. Hunter and houndspersons are not allowed to release dogs on tracks indicating multiple cats traveling together.
7. Hunters using dogs must attempt to harvest the first legal mountain lion that they have reasonable opportunity to harvest, except under the condition where the lion pursued shows obvious signs of lactation.

Motion by Cooper with second by Spies TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING SEASON 41:06:61 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season 41:06:56

Tom Kirschenmann gave the Bighorn Sheep Plan information item before presenting the proposed new rule and outlined requirements and restrictions to establish a process to auction the third bighorn sheep license.

Kirschenmann indicated the Department suggests one change to the proposal and the Bighorn Sheep Working Group requested three changes to the proposal. Discussion included moving the season setting information earlier in the year to allow the Commission time to determine units that have a population large enough to harvest sheep and allow time for an auction to take place if a third license will be issued before the hunting season. A Memorandum of Understanding is in draft form for the receipt and use of funds received from the auction license.

1. Add language stating the Commission will determine which unit(s) the auction license is valid during its annual bighorn sheep season setting process.
2. An auction license will be made available if at minimum three (3) bighorn sheep licenses are allocated ~~in the area outside of Custer State Park~~, with the third license designated as an auction license.
3. Allow an individual who has previously been issued a bighorn sheep license (lottery drawing or auction) to purchase subsequent auction licenses.

Motion by Cooper with second by Spies TO AMEND PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE THE DEPARTMENT CHANGE AND CHANGES 1 AND 3 OF THE WORKING GROUP CHANGES. Motion carried unanimously.

1. An auction license will be made available if at minimum three (3) bighorn sheep licenses are allocated with the third license designated as an auction license.

2. Add language stating the Commission will determine which unit(s) the auction license is valid during its annual bighorn sheep season setting process.
3. Allow an individual who has previously been issued a bighorn sheep license (lottery drawing or auction) to purchase subsequent auction licenses.

Summary of rules for the establishment of a bighorn sheep auction license:

License application

The auction license designated by the Commission is available to residents and nonresidents. Only a person who has not previously been issued a bighorn sheep license at auction may purchase a bighorn sheep auction license.

One bighorn sheep license available for auction

One auction license made available by commission approval if three total bighorn sheep licenses are approved for the Black Hills bighorn sheep hunting season. The license will be made available to a successful bidder at an auction conducted by a nonprofit organization devoted to big game management.

Criteria for selecting the organization

The Commission shall consider the following criteria in selecting the organization to auction the license: 1) goals and objectives related to big game management, 2) methods used to achieve objectives, 3) fundraising experience, 4) past projects and accomplishments, 5) financial stability and integrity, and 6) ability to fulfill the terms of the agreement.

Application procedure

Interested organizations will submit their application letter to the Department and include information such as: 1) a statement to enter into agreement with the Department, 2) federal tax exempt verification, 3) evidence of the organizations goals and objectives related to big game management, 4) evidence of methods used in achieving goals, 5) evidence of fund raising success, 6) explanation of specific projects and past accomplishments, 7) financial records showing organizations financial stability and integrity, and 8) any other information that can substantiate compliance with the criteria to be considered by the Commission.

Application deadline

Application letters shall be received by the Department by November 1 the year proceeding the year in which the license will be issued.

Selection of organization by commission

The Commission shall review and evaluate all application letters and by resolution select the best qualified organization. The Department secretary shall notify all applicants regarding the selection made by the Commission.

Execution of agreement

The agreement between the participant selected and the Commission shall include the following terms and conditions: 1) the Department shall make available and issue one bighorn sheep license to the successful bidder, 2) the successful bidder must be of legal age and not otherwise prohibited from possessing a valid hunting license, 3) the participant who conducts the auction will provide within fourteen days of the auction the total amount of the winning bid, 4) the participant sends the contact name and address of the successful bidder within fourteen days of the auction to the Department upon which the successful bidder is issued one bighorn sheep license, and 5) the license is subject to all applicable hunting laws and rules.

Motion by Cooper with second by Cerny TO FINALIZE BLACK HILLS BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASON 41:16:56 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Cooper thanked the staff for the work done to make this happen and to keep the Commission informed and make recommendations to the Commission if this is not working.

Division of Parks and Recreation

Parks Entrance License Fee Proposal

Director of Operations Bob Schneider indicated park entrance fees were last increased in 2009. The recommendation is to increase the park entrance license two dollars with the second park entrance license be increased by one dollar, the transferable license increased five dollars and the daily fee for the Fort Sisseton Festival increased by one dollar. These proposed increases will generate approximately \$157,000 that is needed for operating and maintaining the state parks system.

1. The fee for an annual park entrance license ~~sticker~~ is ~~\$28~~ **\$30** for the first vehicle and ~~\$14~~ **15** for each additional vehicle registered to the same owner.
2. The fee for a transferable annual park entrance license is ~~\$60~~ **\$65**.
3. The daily fee for admission to the annual Fort Sisseton Festival at the Fort Sisseton State Park is ~~\$4~~ **\$5** for each person who is 12 years old or older.

Motion by Knippling with second by Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO PARK ENTRANCE FEES AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Camping and Lodge Fees Proposal

Schneider recommended adding South Scalp Creek, Walth Bay, and White Swan Lakeside Use Areas as areas requiring basic camping fees because amenities are similar to other camping areas that require similar fees. These areas see 500-600 camping units annually. He also recommended increasing fees to generate additional revenue to offset increases in operating costs for the state parks system.

1. Add South Scalp Creek, Walth Bay, and White Swan Lakeside use areas to the list of areas that require a basic campground fee.
2. Increase the daily group lodge fees at Mina Lake ~~is \$160.00~~ and Shadehill to ~~\$151.66~~ **\$185.00**, and Lake Thompson, Palisades, and Newton Hills to ~~\$213.27~~ **\$240** per night with each additional person over the age of 12 a rate of ~~\$45~~ **\$17.00** per night.

Motion by Sather with second by Peterson TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO CAMPING AND LODGE FEES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Camper Unit Definition Proposal

Schneider indicated these changes will simplify the definition of a camping unit on a campsite.

1. Repeal 41:03:04:09 Camper units limited to two per site.
2. Modify 41:03:04:10 Campsite occupancy restricted and defined.
3. Repeal 41:03:04:10.01 Additional camper unit occupancy permitted – Fee.

Motion by Peterson with second by Sather TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO CAMPING UNIT DEFINITION AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Custer State Park Cabin Transfer

Matt Snyder, Custer State Park Superintendent, presented background information on the 35 private cabins in Custer State Park indicating they have a court settlement date of December 31, 2029, before they have to vacate the park. Snyder indicated that Jack Harris owns one of the cabins and wishes to transfer all of his interest in said cabin to Guy and Karin Burdick. The Burdick's are aware of all agreements and permits surrounding the cabin and wish to close on October 10th, pending Commission approval of Resolution 12-14 for the remaining seventeen years of the permit.

Motion by Jensen with second by Sather TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-14 AS PRESENTED (Appendix B). Motion carried unanimously.

Land, Water, and Conservation Fund Grants

Director Doug Hofer presented a list of 56 local Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant applications received for the 2012 LWCF funds available in South Dakota. These projects were scored with a Priority Rating System. LWCF funds are available for the top eleven projects. Hofer indicated that with Commission approval he will forward the recommendation to fund the following to the Governor.

Brandon Aspen Park Land Acquisition \$50,000
Dell Rapids City Park Playground Project \$38,000
Lennox Pool and Bathhouse Improvements \$46,000
Pierre Fourth Street Park Playground and Shelter \$24,000
Sturgis Starline Park \$28,000
Groton Park Equipment Replacement Project \$12,000
Gregory Memorial Sports Park Playground Project \$27,000
Brookings Valley View Park Development \$45,000
Gettysburg Little Angels Playground Improvements \$20,000
Box Elder Playground Equipment Safety Remediation Project \$50,000
Beresford Burlow Park Playground Equipment \$18,310

Motion by Cooper TO ENDORSE THE ELEVEN PROJECTS RECOMMENDED BY THE PARKS DIVISION AND PRESENT TO THE GOVERNOR FOR APPROVAL. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Hofer presented a list of Recreational Trail project grants that were awarded earlier this year. The Governor has sent grant award letters for those projects.

Visitation and Revenue Report

Director Hofer presented the Visitation and Revenue Report indicating the 2012 season was an excellent year. Visitation year-to-date is up 13.4% and camping units were up 14.7% over all. The state park system will host a record number of camping units in 2012.

Custer State Park Resort Preventative Maintenance Projects

Sean Blanchette, Concession Manager, indicated that Custer Resorts has completed the 2012 R&M projects. Concession Manager Josh Schmaltz presented the 2013 project list request and provided insight on the various projects. Schmaltz indicated revenues are up 8.2% over 2011. Hofer indicated he and CSP staff support the 2013 project list and would provide a letter of approval to Custer Resorts. Schmaltz provided an update on the personal Property Replacement Reserve showing receipts and expenditures for 2012.

Angostura Update

Blanchette indicated the Parks Division and the Wildlife Division will be entering into a new 25 year Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Reclamation for lands adjacent to Angostura Reservoir. The plan is to propose a bonding package to finance a new sewer system that will serve the seasonal trailers and the park. Specifics on the cost of repaying the bond will be provided to trailer owners in a letter to the trailer owners that will request earnest money towards the project before the bonding package is presented to the Legislature.

The Request for Proposal for the Concession Contract at Angostura has been advertised and some interest has been received from prospective concessionaires. The Department anticipates awarding a new concession lease for Angostura Recreation Area at the December Commission meeting.

Division of Wildlife

Fishing Regulations Proposals

Chief John Lott presented the recommended changes following a PowerPoint Presentation by Mark Fincel. The recommendations will provide additional fishing opportunities in the northeast, standardize setlines on the Grand River, correct county designations on a couple of lakes, make an adjustment to Patten Dam, and increase the daily limit and possession limit on Lake Oahe.

1. Modify 41:07:02:05 "Special management waters." by removing the following streams and creeks from the spring fishing closure list:
 - a. All creeks in Codrington County except those associated with Punished Woman and Round Lakes;
 - b. The outlet stream from Lake Poinsett;
 - c. All creeks in Grant County;
 - d. Creeks in Roberts County below White Rock Dam on the Bois De Sioux River and below Reservation Dam gates on Lake Traverse.

2. Modify 41:07:03:03. "Daily, possession, and length limit restrictions on special management waters." By:
 - a. Removing "River upstream from Shadehill Dam" from subsection (1),
 - b. Changing the county designation for Richland Dam from Jerauld to Jones and Curlew Lake from Pennington to Meade in subsection (2), and;
 - c. Removing subsection (4), "In Patten Dam in Aurora County, the daily trout limit is 2."
 - d. Add subsection (14) (13 if subsection 4 is removed) stating "In Lake Oahe, the daily limit for walleye, sauger, walleye-sauger hybrids, or combination thereof is 8 and of the walleye taken daily no more than four may be 15 inches or greater in length, possession limit is 24;"

Motion by Peterson with second by Spies TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO FISHING SEASONS AND FISH LIMITS AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Snagging of Paddlefish

Adams presented a change to the snagging of paddlefish that would remove restrictions of transporting paddlefish during the May season on Lake Francis Case.

Modify 41:07:05:03. "Paddlefish snagging, processing, and transportation restrictions." By removing transportation restrictions on paddlefish harvested during the May season on Lake Francis Case.

Motion by Spies with second by Cerny TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO SNAGGING OF PADDLEFISH AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Spearing

Geno Adams presented three changes to spearing that will provide additional opportunity for northern pike harvest by darkhouse spearing and for catfish harvest as part of the rules reduction initiative.

Modify 41:07:06:03. "Areas open to spearing of game fish – Additional permit required." by:

- Allowing northern pike spearing in inland waters statewide.
- Changing spearing end dates for inland waters to March 15.
- Include text regarding year-round take of catfish on the Missouri River system

Motion by Jensen with second by Knippling TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO SPEARING AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Hoop Nets and Setlines

Will Saylor presented the recommended changes to increase opportunity without having a negative effect on the catfish population. Restricting the use of whole baitfish as bait on setlines may reduce by-catch of game fish species during periods of the year when they are more likely to be in shallow water.

Modify 41:07:08:06 "Areas and restriction on the use of hoop nets, traps, and setlines."

- Lengthen season from May 1 through October 31 to year-round for all South Dakota inland waters open to hoop net or set line use.
- Expand areas on the mainstem Missouri River system open to use of hoop nets and setlines to the entire length of the river and reservoirs from the NE/SD state line to the ND/SD state line
- Standardize the number of set lines that can be used in any water where allowed in South Dakota at six
- Extend the areas of western tributaries open to use of setlines to the entire length of the tributary within South Dakota
- Add Angostura, Belle Fourche, and Shadehill reservoirs to the list of waters open to use of setlines.
- Prohibit use of whole baitfish as bait for setlines.

Motion by Sather with second by Peterson TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO HOOP NETS AND SETLINES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Bait Fish Proposals

Will Saylor presented changes to assist with the spread of aquatic nuisance species, equipment restrictions, and two changes that assist with the administrative rule reduction initiative.

1. Modify 41:09:04:03 "Waters open to taking of bait." as follows:

Change title to "Waters closed to taking of bait." and;

Close the following waters year-round to the commercial and noncommercial taking of bait by those methods listed in 41:09:04:04

- a. Creeks, streams or rivers, permanent or temporary in Aurora, Beadle, Brown, Bon Homme, Clay, Davison, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Lincoln, McCook, McPherson, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Sanborn, Spink, Turner, Union, Yankton counties and the Black Hills Trout Management area as defined in 41:07:01:01
- b. Brookings County – Interstate, Butte County – Newell, Deuel County – Alice, Edmunds County – Mina, Pennington County – Pactola and Sheridan.

Modify: the list of Waters closed year-round to commercial taking of bait to add Bennett County – Little White River; Brookings County – Twin (east of Hwy. 81), Brush, Nature Park East, Nature Park West, Nelson GPA; Brule County – Wanalain, Sixteen; Codington County – 3rd Avenue Pond; Corson County – Trail City: Day – Lynn, Opitz; Dewey County – Lantry, Little Moreau #3, Moreau River; Fall River County – Cottonwood, Hyde County – Mission (Boehm); Jones County – Okaton, Draper, All Ft. Pierre Nat'l Grassland ponds Bad River, White River; Lake County – Herman State Park Pond; Lawrence County – Mirror #1 & #2, Strawberry Hill; Lincoln County – Rollings GPA Pond; Lyman County – All Ft. Pierre Nat'l Grassland ponds, Byre, White River; Marshall County – Cattail/Kettle; McCook County – Island; McPherson County – Eureka, Leola; Mellette County – White River, Little White River; Minnehaha County – Loss, Island, Scott, Twin; Pennington County – Sunday Gulch Pond; Spink County – Redfield; Stanley County – All Ft. Pierre Nat'l Grassland ponds, Bad River; Tripp County – White River, Keya Paha River.

Modify the list of Waters closed year-round to commercial taking of bait to remove Bon Homme County – Missouri River; Brookings County – Interstate Lake; Butte County – Newell; Campbell County – Chester, Corson County – Tetanka; Custer County – All trout streams; Deuel County – Alice; Dewey County – Adams, Dewberry; Edmunds County – Bowdle/Hosmer, Loyalton, Mina; Fall River County – All trout streams; Grant County – Blue Cloud Abby; Hyde County – Chappelle, Quirk; Jones County – National Grasslands Dams; Kingsbury County – Iroquois; Lawrence County – All trout streams; McPherson County – Eureka #1, Eureka #2, Wolff; Mellette County – Blackpipe, Diess, Rohloff; Pennington County – Pactola, Sheridan, All trout streams, Spink County – Dudley Mirage, Bierman.

2. Modify 41:09:04:04 "Seines, net, and traps limited." to clarify that permission to use seines, nets, and traps larger than those specified may be issued by the department in association with the department's approval to stock public waters with white suckers for rearing and harvest.
3. Modify 41:09:04:12 "Transportation of other fish by bait dealer." change rule title to: "Transportation of bait and other fish by bait dealer" and add the sentence "Transportation equipment shall allow for inspection of bait and other fish at all times".
4. Modify 41:09:04:16 "Records Required." to add the words "or electronically in a format approved by the Department".

Motion by Cooper with second by Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO BAIT AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Turtles

Sayler presented a couple of clean up rule changes to clarify rule and have no change of intent or function of regulations.

1. Modify 41:07:10:01 "Seasons." to add the word legal before spears and to specify turtle traps as defined in 41:07:10:03
2. Modify 41:07:10:04 "Restrictions." to add the words "any species of" and remove reference to 41:09:04:02.02 that defined turtles as biological specimens and has been repealed.

Motion by Sather with second by Cooper TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO TURTLES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Special Management Categories

Geno Adams presented changes that include additional species on the list of aquatic nuisance species and changes to watercraft restrictions.

1. Modify 41:10:04:01. "List of aquatic nuisance species" by adding the following species:
 - a. Western mosquitofish *Gambusia affinis*
 - b. Purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*
 - c. Flowering rush *Butomus umbellatus*
 - d. Red rimmed melania *Melanooides tuberculata*
2. Separate 41:10:04:03 "Watercraft restrictions -- Aquatic nuisance species inspection." into two rules as follows:
 - a. 41:10:04:03 "Watercraft restrictions" No person may launch or attempt to launch a boat, motorboat, or boat trailer of any kind into the waters of the state with an aquatic nuisance species attached or onboard. Law enforcement officers may require the removal of aquatic vegetation from boats, motors, trailers and associated equipment.
 - b. 41:10:04:04 "Watercraft inspections" Any boat, motorboat, or boat trailer is subject to inspection by a department representative. If an aquatic nuisance species is found during inspection, a department approved decontamination process, specific to the aquatic nuisance species present, shall be required prior to launching.

Motion by Knippling with second by Spies TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Fisheries Rules Reduction Proposals

Chief John Lott presented changes for the Administrative Rules Reduction Initiative. Three were referenced in rule changes earlier today in the spearing, bait, and setline recommended changes, thus providing for the repeal of six rules.

Repeal:	
Artificial lights	41:07:01:06
Possession limit for one-day license	41:07:03:04
Seasons and areas open to taking of catfish	41:07:06:05
Minimum length of catfish	41:07:08:03
Baitfish prohibited	41:07:08:05.01
Transportation by dealers -- Inspection.	41:09:04:11

Motion by Spies with second by Peterson TO PROPOSE THE REPEAL OF RULES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

2013 Nonresident Small Game Hunting License Fees Proposal

Director Tony Leif presented changes to the nonresident hunting fees indicating the last changes were in 2005 and the Consumer Price Index would indicate that the rate of inflation since 2005 was 18%. Leif indicated with increased cost of operating vehicles, depredation costs, and revenue reduction due to the decrease in sales in 2012 it is time to consider increasing fees. The additional funds will provide 2014 funding for boat ramps, habitat, and access on properties currently owned by the Department. Leif provided the 2011 fees of adjacent states and the increased opportunity SD provides compared to these adjacent states. He believes hunters and anglers take pride in funding this agency and will continue to provide opportunity. Discussion included differences in the Shooting Preserve annual license and the Small Game 10-day license, hunting opportunity, the number of licenses sold, and reaction from the preserve operators.

Commissioner Knippling made a motion TO INCREASE THE FOLLOWING NONRESIDENT LICENSE FEES:

Small Game – 10 day	\$120
Shooting Preserve – annual	\$120
Shooting Preserve – 1-day	\$ 45
Shooting Preserve – 5-day	\$ 75
Waterfowl – 10day/annual	\$120
Waterfowl – 3 day	\$ 75

*These fees include the \$5 surcharge imposed by state statute.

Commissioner Cooper second the motion and following additional discussion and roll call vote the motion carried. Roll call vote: Cerny-yes; Cooper-yes; Jensen-yes; Knippling-yes; Peterson-yes; Sather-no; Spies-yes; Olson-yes.

Commissioner Spies made a motion TO INCREASE THE RESIDENT SMALL GAME LICENSE BY \$3 TO \$32 AND THE RESIDENT COMBINATION LICENSE BY \$3 TO \$52. Cerny second the motion. Discussion included the last increase was in 2005, would generate \$250,000 for on the ground projects, and the need to assess boat ramps and the need for the additional revenue for the Department. Roll call vote: Cerny-no; Cooper-no; Jensen-no; Knippling-no; Peterson-no; Sather-absent; Spies-yes; and Olson-yes. Motion failed.

Hill Ranch GPA Inholding Acquisition

Directors Leif and Hofer and Paul Coughlin presented information and Resolution 12-13 requesting Commission approval to complete the purchase of the 52.11 acre inholding of the Hill Ranch Game Production Area. The residence would be renovated to be used as a lodge within the Parks Division similar to other lodges. The property will provide improved access to the GPA for public hunting, wildlife habitat management practices, and increase recreation opportunities such as horseback riding.

Motion by Sather with second by Spies TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-13 AS PRESENTED. (Appendix A). Motion carried unanimously.

HuntSAFE Instructor of the Year

Director Leif introduced Conservation Officer Bill Eastman who introduced Instructor of the Year, Pete Krush, as well as Chuck Berdan, Rick Walton, Kevin Burke, and Richard Sprewell making up the balance of the Belle Fourche HuntSAFE Team. Eastman shared comments about the members and their role on the team.

Director Tony Leif recognized Dennie Mann, who recently retired, for 35 years of service by outlining his accomplishments, awards, and his public service.

Hot Springs shooting range

Scott Simpson indicated the land trade for the Hot Springs shooting range was completed on August 10th, inspections and permits needed to be completed prior to development, DOT has completed the road work, and consultation with the adjacent landowner regarding fencing has been completed. A crew is surveying the land to provide for and determine elevations for shooting safely. Simpson indicated some club members are less than ecstatic about the timeline needed; however, permitting needs to be completed, designs need to be done, and the range could be ready for use next year.

Simpson indicated most clubs own or lease land for cooperative shooting range projects and GFP provide matching \$ to help with shooting sports. The club has to provide reasonable public access and that varies with each club and facility. The Hot Springs range has the land in state ownership as the club could not find private land. Simpson is working with the club to find reasonable access and because it is public land the access requirements change, the general requirements of a traditional club is not going to work. Simpson will be meeting with the club on October 12th to work on a Memorandum of Understanding. The range design by engineers had a significant cost, while the club had an estimate much lower, and Simpson will assist to find some middle ground.

Vonk indicated this is a public resource and the club wants it locked and wants a key; however, as public dollars will be invested, the public needs access to the public resource. The liability of owning and operating the facility is also a concern.

Lake Oahe fishery update

Mark Fincel gave a PowerPoint showing graphs of walleye angling pressure, catch rates, walleyes harvested, angler satisfaction, abundance of walleye, condition of walleye, rainbow smelt spawn reduction this year, prey fish, and outlook on the reservoir. Catch rates will continue to be good next year with anglers catching smaller fish with an abundance of smaller fish and there is a need for good conditions for prey fish and smelt. The Department recommendation is to keep anglers happy, provide opportunity, and incentive to fish. The recommendation will remove the restriction of one over 20 inches on Oahe and have an eight fish limit on Oahe with only four over 15 inches, as there is an abundance of 15 inch walleye in Oahe. The 24 walleye possession limit on Oahe provides for a three day limit or weekend limit of fish. The increase limit will not hurt the fishery and will keep anglers coming to Oahe.

Game fish spearing survey report was postponed to another meeting.

Bighorn sheep plan

Tom Kirschenmann shared about the bighorn sheep management plan and focused on the hands-on management of sheep and that pneumonia and habitat are foremost. Disease is the number one issue and he is working with federal and private landowners in conducting an inventory of domestic sheep in hills, developing addition programs, fencing for separation of sheep herds, and working with partners. Wildlife staff are working on habitat analysis of potential new areas that could be enhanced or developed for bighorn sheep, augmentation of existing herd, supplement herds with sheep from other herds, begin dialogue with other states for possible purchase of sheep in the future, public education and open houses, survey and monitoring the population, and researching other tools available for monitoring the herd. Two areas have been identified for possible herds and will continue to research those areas.

Elk study report

Chad Lehman indicated the southeast Black Hills research project began in 2011 and collared forty pregnant elk to study recruitment rates and cow elk/calf survival rates on the declining population. Forty-one elk were collared in 2012 with a 95% pregnancy rate and the collars indicated a lot of movement in and out of the park. Thirty seven calf elk were collared and one cow is still pregnant and one cow gave birth in September. Current results show fourteen calf fatalities from lions, two from coyotes, two calves lost their collars, and eighteen still have active collars. Calf survival this year is 38% an increase over last year of 9%. Calf mortality due to puma predation this year was 55%. Ratio due to puma predation is 71% in the park and 29% outside the park. The cow/calf ratio increased to 29% and the bull/cow ratio increased to 33%.

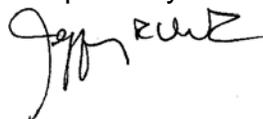
Elk cow/calf update

Andy Lindbloom indicated the SDSU study shows similar cow/calf count in Unit 2 to previous years and indicated six calves were lost to lions, fourteen calves were collared, and staff continue to monitor the calves. The cow/calf ration is looking good.

Pheasant season update was postponed to another meeting.

Motion by Knippling with second by Jensen to adjourn the meeting at 12:44 PM MT. Motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

Appendix A

RESOLUTION 12- 13

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) has expressed an interest in acquiring real property presently owned by Samuel P. Hill and Diane L. Hill, 12985 Shep's Canyon Road, Hot Springs, SD, 57747-9609, which property is described as:

Hill Ranch Tract as recorded in Book of Plats 25, page 3 office of the Register of Deeds, Fall River County, South Dakota, located in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25, and in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26, Township Eight (8) South, Range Five (5) East, Black Hills Meridian, Fall River County, South Dakota, containing 52.11 acres, more or less.

WHEREAS, said property is to be acquired by and utilized by GFP as both a Game Production Area and State Recreation Area facility; 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 Commission 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 purchase of said property for use as both a Game Production Area and a Recreation Area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that GFP is authorized to complete negotiations for the purchase of the above described real property and execute and consummate an agreement with Samuel P. Hill and Diane L. Hill, which is acceptable to GFP to acquire by purchase, at the price of \$378,560.00, the above described real property for use as both a Game Production Area and State Recreation Area facility.

Appendix B

CUSTER STATE PARK CABIN TRANSFER

RESOLUTION 12-14

Whereas, the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks Commission has been advised that Jack Harris was the owner of a cabin located in Custer State Park (Custer County) on property described as:

Sylvan Lake Group #1 in the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section Twenty-nine (29), and the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section Thirty (30), Township Two (2) 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 Jack Harris by permit by reason of a Stipulation of Settlement and Dismissal entered in Craft v. Wipf, Civil Action No. 85-5092, US 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 Jack Harris desires to and has transferred and assigned all of his interest in said cabin and cabin site permit to Guy and Karin Burdick; 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 cabin site permit and cabin and appurtenances located thereon and which further provides that said Assignee agrees 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
October 4, 2012

Public Hearing Office Chuck Schlueter began the public hearing at 2:17 PM by welcoming everyone and indicated the written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this Hearing and oral testimony will follow. Persons wishing to provide oral testimony are to keep comments to three minutes and sign the form provided at the microphone.

Mountain Lion Hunting Season

Oral comments were received from:

Tim Goodwin Sr. of Sheridan Lake referenced today's newspaper article. The mountain lion hunt is a great hunt; he hunts most every day of the season, and is passionate about lion hunting. He would like to have a season not a quota from Dec 26 –Mar 31. It is hard to hunt lions so see what is harvested, continue with a check-in, and forget about the number.

Dan Petersen, of Rapid City, a retire marine avid deer hunter with one problem has medical disable and restriction all travel in all areas and walk in is difficult for him to find the antelope and have permission of landowner and often time pay for hunt. Wants roads open especially in the prairie unit.

Sharon Senzko, of Custer, representing the Black Hills Mountain Lion Foundation, wants the management plan with science based knowledge and it has no assurance that a healthy population will be sustained. The Foundations has concerns that proposals would promote the decline of the population, impact the immigration of lions, does not consider lion quotas in WY, the Commission is changing the quota yearly, the prairie unit will be harder to control the poaching, and that controlling the cougar to promote elk herd is wrong. Petition of SD residents rejecting the Prairie Unit and request a review of the research projects with specific criteria.

Sara Suda of Custer opposes the proposal and read a statement from Rick Summerville of RC about deer and elk management, about complaints of elk in past years, enormous licenses sales to kill elk and deer. The elk populations have slow growth, the Black Hills rangelands are overgrazed so deer doe have a natural deficiency affecting reproduction, Forest Service land is for public use, the cougar did not the cause population reduction of deer as hunters did it and absence of population monitoring.

Sara Suda stated and wrote that she objects the open unlimited prairie unit, she objects to use of hounds in CSP, she objects to the increased harvest quota, and urge rethink management methods of population.

Bill Locken of Spearfish stated that hunters harvested all time low last year with 4,000 last year, lions kill twice the number of deer in a year of 4,500 more that hunters, and lions have an impact on deer population, 40-50 lion would be a healthy population of lions.

Russell Suda of Custer stated and wrote that he enjoys wildlife; supports the 2nd amendment; has hunted and believes hunting freedoms have stewardship

responsibilities; the science of lions is to do timely, thorough, research, with debate; and believes that GFP is government supported agency with a political agenda. Where is the oversight? He opposes the systematic eradication of mountain lions in the Black Hills, objects to increase of lion harvested, the use of dogs in Custer State Park, and objects to unlimited year-long quota in the prairie.

Judy Love, of Custer, read a statement from Dean Flaga of Sturgis referencing a article published in Rapid City Journal in August, about starving cubs of hunted mothers and they are the threat to humans. Hunters created problem this especially due to the hunting season which creates a two-fold problem for people in towns and the kittens that starve to death; thus increasing the species population decline.

Judy Love, personally, opposes changes of quotas and the prairie unit.

Dave Love of Custer, SD, commented and wrote a letter to do the right thing for wildlife management; however, the season of lions he is adamantly against, including the prairie unit, and to protect the wildlife for all citizens of the state.

Shane Taylor of Rapid City and hunted fourteen days saw many bull elk and cow elk with only five calves, lions have devastating impact on elk calves, increase tags to get population in line and extend the season to hunt holidays. He appreciates initiative on the review and wants neutral party to conduct the review.

Jeb Bordewyk of Black Hawk and spent a lot of time in September in woods and saw eight lions the in woods. His neighbors saw two lions in his back yard and this becomes personal. If cats are invading where we live, let's get to population estimate to 150 by increasing the harvest to 200.

Jason Bergman of Lead and not hunter is outdoor enthusiast and Wed. Sept 17 and Sept 21 was approached from behind by lion and was ready to take him out. He conducted a defensive/offensive move to the vehicle and threw rocks at the lion. Public safety is his concern and lions will show up on doorstep and in recreation areas.

Tim Goodwin of Rapid City shared he doesn't like timing of the meeting and should serve the public at 7 PM at The Outdoor Campus West and wonders if the Commission is tone deaf as the last meeting was a weeknight during the Sturgis Rally. Business owners can't make meeting, look at the scheduling, the department ignores public input, and he would like to see an increase of the harvest of lions. He appreciates the increase harvest but this should have done five years.

Tate Glader of Johnson's Siding believes lion is amazing creature and challenged advocates and there are too many lions. He wonders where lion advocates is compassion for other species in Black Hills and not looking at big picture. Lion killed deer near his house and neighbors put trail cams on it and GFP loaded up the killed deer and told the neighbor it was a poached deer and lion returned that night. Where is the motivation for this cover up and he wants an open season on lions as we are not going to kill them all.

Larry Bowden, President of Western SD Fur Harvest Association and Hound Hunters of SD, indicated he saw more lion signs in the area he traps in and deer kills are not uncommon in southern hills. The lions are responsible for the decline of all game including all small game, bobcat, raccoon, and porcupine in the past decade. The GFP bobcat harvest information supports the bobcat decline. Bowden provided a handout to all the Commissioners. The 300 member organization from western SD supports the harvest of more lions and by other means of harvest as well, and supports limited use of hounds.

Harry Burke of Hermosa stated he will continue to come to fight for what is right. He disagrees with the count of lions to support the harvest of lions and to increase the number of the lion population to support additional harvest is wrong. The wildlife of SD belongs to all citizens, like to one time the Commission call a meeting to talk about protecting all of the SD wildlife not to be species specific. GFP employees should not have to depend on the hunters for their paycheck. Be glad lions are eating deer not the calves and lions are being crowd out of their habitat. He wants to put a stop to hunt of lions with dogs.

Kathy Schmitt of Nemo, stated she has not seen lion in wild and hikes a lot. Does not believe there is a shortage of deer and they fill her meadow. Elk are around and GFP knows the elk population is down due to too many licenses being issued. Tourism will be affected due to high harvest of lions, killing 70 female lions harvested is too many as they leave kittens behind and kittens are the problem lions.

Ernie Getty of Rapid City likes to hunt and GFP has offered solutions to problem and lions seem to proliferate and affect deer and elk. Hunts Harding County and landowners there are concerned about lions and support the proposed harvest and supports hunting outside the hills. Scheduling would be better in evenings or weekends. CSP population of elk has declined and wants a co-tag for a lion while hunting elk in the park.

Brad Tisdoll of Rapid City provided affiliations and hunted 36 years stating there are too many lions. We don't have enough deer and elk due to lions and want children and future children to be able to hunt in the Black Hills. He is greatly in favor of hound season and wants proposal passed.

Will Cooper of Deadwood stated he agrees with quota as set and could be more and do not need a restriction on female harvest as this will help control the population. Stated this is not all about deer and elk, but sheep and porcupine and other species are suffering and probably take a toll on turkeys. Lions are big game and need to be managed and sound data from research and follow the scientific data to do what needs to be done. Hunters pay for the sport and want the big game managed for future hunters and tourism. Think proper management for lions and other predators all will fall in place. Continue what are doing and get to goal for future.

Tuffy Halls of Hot Springs and wants lion season to see a three part season to harvest lions for hunters, trappers, and hounds men to reach goal of lions that need to be harvested. He thanked for allowing hounds in CSP.

Dennis Barrett of Deadwood and has seen one lion and spends lots of time outside and believes there are lots of mountain lions and wife saw one yesterday. He called in an elk in September and saw 19 elk, sort thru comments give lions what they need.

John Wrede representing the Rapid City Chapter of Ike's and supplied a Resolution supporting biologically sound, science base management of the cougar in the Black Hills region. The Club "stands vigorously opposed the hunting season design and extreme cougar harvest quota proposed...encourages and recommends GFP work much more carefully and collaboratively with Wyoming and Nebraska to manage the region's cougar population for optimum viability in the four state region of the cougar resource as well as outdoor, hunting and tourism interests."

John Wrede Rapid City provided personal written testimony in a two page document stating: "...the proposal to establish a harvest quota of 100 mountain lions in

the Black Hills and a unlimited harvest in the remainder of the state with a year-long season is fraught with unreasonable and unnecessary risk and has an extremely high probability of long term damage to the viability, distribution and structure of this cougar population and offers no certain remedy for conflicts. I therefore respectfully propose that this Commission strongly consider managing this population of animals for its intrinsic and ecological values as well as it's recreational hunting values by reducing the quota statewide to 30 animals with a sub-quota of 20 females without kittens. I also further propose that the use of hounds be allowed statewide to more precisely target female animals without kittens and establish a season on December 1, 2012 and running through January 31 or until such time as the established quota is reached."

Nancy Hilding, representing Prairie Hills Audubon Society President, provided a packet of information and speaking as an individual. She shared about contradicting population estimates, questions about the science, loss credibility of estimates, wildlife watching letter, excess hunters, lions have ecological effects for other species, wildlife watchers, pass it forward belief, object to sync population, and the 300 population is not credible. The 2010 plan is obsolete, the goal was 175 and is no longer credible, and need new management plan. She objects to a 365 day season on prairie. Suggested state statute requires the consideration of all comments and wants to continue the public comment period.

Ross Rohde of Rapid City supports use of hounds in the park and would support it in all the Black Hills and the park is a good start. CSP wants lions harvested with the least affect in the park and hounds will have fewer hunters and they will be more successful. Lions do have an impact in hills and there is literally not a porcupine track anymore. Bobcats are fewer as well.

Tom Huhnerkoch of Lead stated he found this meeting interested. History shows best thing to do is nothing at all and suggests doing nothing for at least two years. Long term sustainability of cats cannot happen in the prairie unit. No reason to establish a prairie unit and requested statement of reasons.

Larry Crawford of Deadwood has been chasing wildlife for sixty years and walks every day and observes a lot of wildlife. Two years ago, a lion killed a turkey outside his back door and was buried by his shop and lion came back that night. He believes a lot of turkeys have been lost to lions. Wildlife is controlled by Mother Nature and lions are killing young deer and elk and lions are out of balance.

Michael Welchinski asked: "Who likes to eat dolphins?...Commissioners have tough job and we all eat. He wants the new RC center to keep lions in captivity for genetic viable population of lions to support lion populations

Chris Hesla of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation stated the big game numbers are low and lions are a factor but not the only factor contributing to low numbers. The Federation supports the quotas if based on science not fear, do not support the yearlong statewide proposed season as lions should not be treated as a varmint and should be protected outside the hills, and do not support the use of dogs as it is not fair chase.

Arlin Stiatmeyer of Rapid City stated the 2004 predictions do not match predictions and last year's harvest does not add up to predictions. Increased quota of harvest was probably was good to increase above staff recommendations and probably should have been higher. The point is - how many lions do we want and supports increasing the quota, the use of dogs, and supports review of GFP.

Larry Enright of Lead and provided background and has six different cats on his trail camera and more in July than deer on his camera. Believes the 300 estimate of lions is off and thinks there are three times that many in the hills and supports proposals and wants an open year-round season.

Steve Bulle from Hayward read emails last night to the Commission and found striking there were people from foreign countries commenting and he saw that they want SD to be a source population to recolonize lions in eastern side of the country and do not care about other species. Foundation website supports this theory. He shared about the harvest of deer and elk by lions and hunters. Licenses have been cut the last three years and 2012 harvest would be 2100 animals. Hunters get over 2,000 when the lions get 9,000. Are we sharing enough yet?

Mountain Lion Season increase harvest proposal

Letters and emails were received from the following people about the harvest of mountain lions for the 2013 season. Letters of support for the increase of harvest: Jennifer Hartman of Colony, WY; Lynn S. Hardy of Rapid City, SD; Randy Mink; Jerel Sateren, Black Hawk, SD; Alan Lein of Chamberlain, SD; Casey Ellerton, of Custer, SD; Shawn Pliska of Sioux Falls, SD; Pat Malcomb of Brandon, SD; Mike McKnight, President of the SD Bowhunters, Inc.; Mark Anderson of Brandon, SD; Mike Brant of Piedmont, SD; Darlene Gray Kutzler of Huron, SD; John Grenz of Pierre, SD; Charles Brenner of Hereford, SD; Jennifer M. Wild of Spearfish, SD; David Crissman of Ipswich, SD; Gary Noteboom; Justin Broughton of Sioux Falls, SD; Sarah Hazledien of Spearfish, SD; Terry Deuter of Kadoka, SD; Dennes Barrett of Deadwood, SD; Roger DeKok of Mt. Vernon, SD; Randy Kemink of Gettysburg, SD; Tim Hoeck of Sioux Falls, SD.

Letters and emails received opposing the increase harvest of mountain lions for the 2013 season: Cheryl Crowell of Lakeside, CA; Rebecca Furr of New Milton, WV; Kurt Russow of Rapid City, SD; Randy Kane of Crawford, NE; David More of the UK; Clarence Sanders of Bend, OR; Janet Harding of Bakersfield, CA; Jacqueline Nott of Auburn, CA; Jane Lamborn of CA; David Nerison of Spearfish, SD; Janet Hoben of Burbank, CA; Jim DeToy of Rapid City, SD; Christine VanNess of Rapid City, SD; Richard VanNess of Rapid City; Rosanne Dudrick; Jean Public of Whitehouse Station, NJ; Maria Farina; Dwight Buntrock of Columbia, SD; Jennifer Dowdy of Paducah, KY; Philip Glaser of Laguna Niguel, CA; Irene Lopez of SanDiego, CA; Chris Matusiaka of Black Hawk, SD; David O Crissman of Ipswich, SD; Laurie Arthur of Custer, SD; David Nickel of Spearfish, SD; Lonnie Arthur of Custer, SD; Julie Anderson of Rapid City, SD; Jean Truman of Rapid City, SD; Donna Watson of Deadwood, SD; Pamela J. Stefanich of Sioux Falls, SD; Tom and Ione McNeill of the Black Hills of SD; Phil Hartger of Asheville, NC; Michael Barrett of North Weymouth, MA; Lauren Vorhees of Durham, NC; Lainey of Ashford, TN; Judith Smith of Oakland, CA; Elizabeth Kitchen of Venice, CA; Rolf Jacobson of St. Paul, MN; Bill Everitt of Atlanta, GA; Tracy Ledford of Fletcher, NC; Janice Barrett of Moulton, AL; Richard Holland of Blue Ridge, GA; Ben Prater of Asheville, NC; Daniel Kolomeets-Darovsky of Durham, NC; Wilbert and Gloria Griffith of Mountain City, TN; Dan Anco of Fellsmere, FL; Catherine Anderson of Blacksburg, VA; Andrew Jackson of MN; Kathryn Knapczyk of Willow Springs, IL; Scott Banbury of Memphis, TN; Elspeth Wilman of Durham, NC; Jason Riggio of Davis CA; Rachel Meriwether of Loachapoka, AL; Abbey Zap of Boca Raton, FL; Nicole Weber of Pasadena, MD; Doris Schumann of Mission Viejo, CA; Sarah Steward of Gardiner, MT; Amanda Sue Rudisill of Olympia WA; Chapulina Ramos of Lakeside, CA; Gerald Orcholski of Pasadena,

CA; Jack McGowan of Berkeley, CA; Laurra Maddock of Laguna Niguel, CA; Patty Lotz of Santa Monica, CA; Pat CuvIELlo of Redwood City, CA; Lorraine Faford of Portland, OR; Laura Flanagan of Battle Ground, WA; Ken and Melva Greenwood of Grand Rapids, MI; Smelia Fusaro of Atlanta, GA; Sam Baraso of Atlanta, GA; Doninic Anco of New Lenox, IL; Sherman Lewis of Hayward, CA; D. J. Duerr of Pinedale, WY; Susan Elizabeth Hass of Sammamish, WA; Ellyn Berner of Mountain View, CA; Alycia Keating of Derby, CT; Leora Pendleton of Ventura, CA; Bill Leikam of San Francisco, CA; Janet Martin of San Diego, CA; Colleen Mac Kay of South El Monte, CA; Linda McCracken of Marlow, NH; Mike Whitehead of Scottsdale, AZ; Linda McCracken of Marlow, NH; Alexandra Lamb of Eureka, CA; Helen McGinnis of Harman, WV; Glorai F. Resa; Bonnie MacRaith of Arcata, CA; Corey Anco; Mary Oliver; Cooper Rosin; Lesley Terwilliger; Matt Knoth; Chad Hymel; Patricia Podboy; Robert Garland; Shelley Palmer; Taylor Frances; Deborah Trujillo; Peggy M. Pecaro; Faith Strailey; Jeff Olson of CA; Kate Griffin; Dave Messineo; Gale J. Lederer; Clare Jacobs; Darla Lovrin; Connie York; Mary Jo Fernandez; David W. Jacobson; Vanessa Viso; Gabriela Craciunas; Inesse Diehr; Codel Frydendahl; Carmel Severson; Julie Pridgen; Christine Sakach; Dani Duran of CA; Mija Gentes; Connie Butler; David Stihler; Hazel Bonner; Nicholas Pitz; Nicole Verbist of Belgium; Maria Borremans of Belgium; Marian Giesbers of the Netherlands; Zorana Krsmanovic of Serbia; Elizabeth Bechmann of Austria; Rosa Mertens of Belgium; Betty Lathouwers of Belgium; Beat Sommerhalder of Switzerland; Jasmina Cuk of Sweden; Lisa Laas; Baerbel Wichmann of Germany; Leslene Dunn of Newlands; Tessa Nijzingh of the Netherlands; Anneke A. van Brussel; Hennie Oosterman; David Weisman; Susan van Ockelen; Jeanet Verweij; Miranda van Ittersum; Netherlands; Jean S.; Armand Beaufort; Lisette G.; Aurelie B.; Cheryl Minottes; France. Yvonne Suters; Inge Schroeder; Wolfgang Beckingen; Mireille Dautz; Germany.
Tina Bartels; John Summers; Henry T.; Vickey Osborn; Teddy Miller; Great Britain.
Amanda Fields; Jurgen Sorens; Rita Suffolk; Mary Dalton; Joseph Pritchard; Kimberley Fields; USA. Simon Sears; Beverly Woods; Anita Brewer; Daniel Russel; Petra Stafford; Australia.

Mountain Lion Season adjust start date proposal

Letters and emails were received about the change of mountain lion season start date. Supporting the change: David Crissman of Ipswich, SD; and opposing the change: Sam Brooks of Washington, DC.

Mountain Lion Season prairie season proposal

Letters and emails received about the change to allow properly licenses hunters (both landowner and non-landowners) to hunt mountain lions outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District from January 1 to December 31. Supporting the change: Mike Brant of Piedmont, SD.

Opposing the change: Doris Ann Wilcox; Kisha Burgardt of Wichita, KS; sawah; Jennifer A. Haynes; Laurie Arthur of Custer, SD; David Nickel of Spearfish, SD; Donna Watson of Deadwood, SD; Pamela J. Stefanich of Sioux Falls, SD; Phil Hartger of Asheville, NC; Michael Barrett of North Weymouth, MA; Lauren Vorhees of Durham, NC; Lainey of Ashford, TN; Judith Smith of Oakland, CA; Elizabeth Kitchen of Venice, CA; Rolf Jacobson of St. Paul, MN; Bill Everitt of Atlanta, GA; Tracy Ledford of Fletcher, NC; Janice Barrett of Moulton, AL; Richard Holland of Blue Ridge, GA; Ben Prater of Asheville, NC; Daniel Kolomeets-Darovsky of Durham, NC; Wilbert and Gloria Griffith of Mountain City, TN; Dan

Anco of Fellsmere, FL; Catherine Anderson of Blacksburg, VA; Andrew Jackson of MN; Kathryn Knapczyk of Willow Springs, IL; Scott Banbury of Memphis, TN; Elspeth Wilman of Durham, NC; Jason Riggio of Davis CA; Rachel Meriwether of Loachapoka, AL; Abbey Zap of Boca Raton, FL; Nicole Weber of Pasadena, MD; Doris Schumann of Mission Viejo, CA; Sarah Steward of Gardiner, MT; Amanda Sue Rudisill of Olympia WA; Chapulina Ramos of Lakeside, CA; Gerald Orcholski of Pasadena, CA; Jack McGowan of Berkeley, CA; Laura Maddock of Laguna Niguel, CA; Patty Lotz of Santa Monica, CA; Pat CuvIELlo of Redwood City, CA; Lorraine Faford of Portland, OR; Laura Flanagan of Battle Ground, WA; Ken and Melva Greenwood of Grand Rapids, MI; Smelia Fusaro of Atlanta, GA; Sam Baraso of Atlanta, GA; Doninic Anco of New Lenox, IL; Sherman Lewis of Hayward, CA; D. J. Duerr of Pinedale, WY; Susan Elizabeth Hass of Sammamish, WA; Vadim Mell of New York City, NY; Helen McGinnis of Harman, WV; Bonnie MacRaith of Arcata, CA; Corey Anco; Mary Oliver; Cooper Rosin; Lesley Terwilliger; Matt Knoth; Chad Hymel; Patricia Podboy; Nicole Verbist of Belgium; Maria Borremans of Belgium; Marian Giesbers of the Netherlands; Zorana Krsmanovic of Serbia; Elizabeth Bechmann of Austria; Rosa Mertens of Belgium; Betty Lathouwers of Belgium; Beat Sommerhalder of Switzerland; Jasmina Cuk of Sweden; Lisa Laas; Baerbel Wichmann of Germany; Leslene Dunn of Newlands; Tessa Nijzingh of the Netherlands; Anneke A. van Brussel; Hennie Oosterman; David Weisman; Susan van Ockelen; Jeanet Verweij; Miranda van Ittersum; Netherlands; Jean S.; Armand Beaufort; Lisette G.; Aurelie B.; Cheryl Minottes; France. Yvonne Suters; Inge Schroeder; Wolfgang Beckingen; Mireille Dautz; Germany. Tina Bartels; John Summers; Henry T.; Vickey Osborn; Teddy Miller; Great Britain. Amanda Fields; Jurgen Sorens; Rita Suffolk; Mary Dalton; Joseph Pritchard; Kimberley Fields; USA. Simon Sears; Beverly Woods; Anita Brewer; Daniel Russel; Petra Stafford; Australia. Robert Garland; Shelley Palmer; Taylor Frances; Deborah Trujillo; Peggy M. Pecaro; Faith Straily; Jeff Olson of CA; Kate Griffin; Dave Messineo; Gale J. Lederer; Clare Jacobs; Darla Lovrin; Connie York; Mary Jo Fernandez; David W. Jacobson; Vanessa Viso; Gabriela Craciunas; Inesse Diehr; Codel Frydendahl; Carmel Severson; Julie Pridgen; Christine Sakach; Dani Duran of CA; Mija Gentes; Connie Butler; David Stihler; Gloria F. Resa; Gina Claeys.

Mountain Lion Season changes in CSP proposal

No letters or emails were received supporting or opposing the season changes within the Custer State Park Season other than comments regarding use of dogs as noted below.

Mountain Lion Season use of dogs in CSP proposal

Letters and emails supporting the use of dogs in the Custer State Park Season as proposed: Tony Leonard of Sioux Falls, SD; Tom Riddle of Mitchell, SD; Kevin Parmely of Huron, SD; Alan Lein of Chamberlain, SD; Marcia Erickson of Pierpont, SD; Casey Ellerton of Custer, SD; Jim Hagen of Britton, SD; Rod Leyendecker of Huron, SD; Mark Anderson of Brandon, SD; Keith Hagen of Mitchell, SD; Roger Prunty of Tabor, SD; David Williams of Rapid City, SD; Jeff Krolikowski of Martin, SD; Mike McKnight, President of the SD Bowhunters, Inc.; Mike Brandt of Piedmont, SD; Laurie Arthur of Custer, SD; Terry Deuter of Kadoka, SD; Lonnie Arthur of Custer, SD; Ross Rohde of Rapid City, SD; Frank Dooley of Custer, SD; Brad Bilka of Rapid City, SD; Jeremy Wells of Rapid City, SD; Jack Corr of Hermosa, SD; Roger DeKok of Mt. Vernon, SD; Heath Gustafson of Black Hawk, SD; Abbey Zap of Boca Raton, FL; Nicole Weber of Pasadena, MD; Doris Schumann of Mission Viejo, CA; Sarah Steward of Gardiner, MT; Amanda Sue Rudisill of Olympia WA; Chapulina Ramos

of Lakeside, CA; Gerald Orcholski of Pasadena, CA; Jack McGowan of Berkeley, CA; Laurra Maddock of Laguna Niguel, CA; Patty Lotz of Santa Monica, CA; Pat CuvIELlo of Redwood City, CA; Lorraine Faford of Portland, OR; Laura Flanagan of Battle Ground, WA; Ken and Melva Greenwood of Grand Rapids, MI; Smelia Fusaro of Atlanta, GA; Sam Baraso of Atlanta, GA; Doninic Anco of New Lenox, IL; Sherman Lewis of Hayward, CA; D. J. Duerr of Pinedale, WY; Susan Elizabeth Hass of Sammamish, WA;

Letters and emails opposing the use of dogs in the Custer State Park Season as proposed: Dean A. Hyde of Pierre, SD; Rich Grable of Rapid City, SD; Kyle Ann Campos of Custer, SD; Dwight Buntrock of Columbia, SD; Irene Lopez of San Diego, CA; David Crissman of Ipswich, SD; Sam Brooks of Washington, DC; Randy Kane of Crawford, NE; Rod Leyendecker of Huron, SD; Paul Roghair of Kadoka, SD; Laurie Arthur of Custer, SD; David Nickel of Spearfish, SD; Julie Anderson of Rapid City, SD; Donna Watson of Deadwood, SD; Pamela J. Stefanich of Sioux Falls, SD; Phil Hartger of Asheville, NC; Michael Barrett of North Weymouth, MA; Lauren Vorhees of Durham, NC; Lainey of Ashford, TN; Judith Smith of Oakland, CA; Elizabeth Kitchen of Venice, CA; Rolf Jacobson of St. Paul, MN; Bill Everitt of Atlanta, GA; Tracy Ledford of Fletcher, NC; Janice Barrett of Moulton, AL; Richard Holland of Blue Ridge, GA; Ben Prater of Asheville, NC; Daniel Kolomeets-Darovsky of Durham, NC; Wilbert and Gloria Griffith of Mountain City, TN; Dan Anco of Fellsmere, FL; Catherine Anderson of Blacksburg, VA; Andrew Jackson of MN; Kathryn Knapczyk of Willow Springs, IL; Scott Banbury of Memphis, TN; Elspeth Wilman of Durham, NC; Jason Riggio of Davis CA; Rachel Meriwether of Loachapoka, AL; Eillyn Berner of Mountain View, CA; Alycia Keating of Derby, CT; Vadim Mell of New York City, NY; Leora Pendleton of Ventura, CA; Janet Martin of San Diego, CA; Linda McCracken of Marlow, NH; Mike Whitehead of Scottsdale, AZ; Bonnie MacRaith of Arcata, CA; Corey Anco; Mary Oliver; Cooper Rosin; Lesley Terwilliger; Matt Knoth; Chad Hymel; Patricia Podboy; Robert Garland; Shelley Palmer; Taylor Frances; Deborah Trujillo; Peggy M. Pecaro; Faith Strailey; Jeff Olson of CA; Kate Griffin; Dave Messineo; Gale J. Lederer; Clare Jacobs; Darla Lovrin; Connie York; Mary Jo Fernandez; David W. Jacobson; Vanessa Viso; Gabriela Craciunas; Inesse Diehr; Codel Frydendahl; Carmel Severson; Julie Pridgen; Christine Sakach; Dani Duran of CA; Mija Gentes; Connie Butler; David Stihler; Hazel Bonner; Nicholas Pitz; Rebecca Furr; Nicole Verbist of Belgium; Maria Borremans of Belgium; Marian Giesbers of the Netherlands; Zorana Krsmanovic of Serbia; Elizabeth Bechmann of Austria; Rosa Mertens of Belgium; Betty Lathouwers of Belgium; Beat Sommerhalder of Switzerland; Jasmina Cuk of Sweden; Lisa Laas; Baerbel Wichmann of Germany; Leslene Dunn of Newlands; Tessa Nijzingh of the Netherlands; Anneke A. van Brussel; Hennie Oosterman; David Weisman; Susan van Ockelen; Jeanet Verweij; Miranda van Ittersum; Netherlands; Jean S.; Armand Beaufort; Lisette G.; Aurelie B.; Cheryl Minottes; France. Yvonne Suters; Inge Schroeder; Wolfgang Beckingen; Mireille Dautz; Germany. Tina Bartels; John Summers; Henry T.; Vickey Osborn; Teddy Miller; Great Britain. Amanda Fields; Jurgen Sorens; Rita Suffolk; Mary Dalton; Joseph Pritchard; Kimberley Fields; USA. Simon Sears; Beverly Woods; Anita Brewer; Daniel Russel; Petra Stafford; Australia.

Other mountain lion comments

Letters and emails were received sharing concerns about the mountain lion season changes but were unclear as to support or opposition to a particular change: Brett Jelkin of Windsor, CO; Rebecca R Leas of Rapid City, SD; Helen Carney; Jay Price of San Diego, CA; William J Locken of Spearfish, SD; Michael Loehrer of Lake Pactola; Kris Weinberger of

Piedmont, SD; Gloria Quan of San Jose, CA; Cindy Spring of Oakland, CA; LaDene L. Mayville of Columbus, OH; Pam Ribbey of Malibou Lake, CA; Roberta Marquez of Arcadia, CA; Rachel Oliver; Diane Simoneau Simpson; Phoebe Lenhart; Sara King; Thomas Derr; Angeliki Alexiou of Greece; Jonathan Judelman of South Africa.

Bighorn Sheep Tag

Letters and emails were received supporting the designation of a bighorn sheep license for auction was from: Sportsman's Club of Brown County; Chris Cammach of Union Center, SD; Spencer Vaa of Brookings, SD; Mike McKnight of Sioux Falls, SD; Will Cooper of Lead, SD; Matt Rippentrop of Oelrichs, SD; Roger DeKok of Mt. Vernon, SD; George Jenter of Sturgis, SD; Gary Colbath of Rapid City, SD; Dana R. Rogers of Box Elder, SD; Dale Penning of Harrisburg, SD.

Letters and email opposing the bighorn sheep license for auction were received from: Donavon Schoon of Rapid City, SD; Curt Tesch of Rosholt, SD; Lynn Maas of Corona, SD; Dean A. Hyde of Pierre, SD; Darrel W. Sauder of Rapid City, SD; Robert Farland of Hill City, SD; Doug Harms of Harrisburg, SD; Randy Kemink of Gettysburg, SD; Joel Wagner of Brookings, SD.

Oral testimony:

Guy Tillet of Black Hawk provided background with photos of bighorn sheep and indicated the proposal provides money and resources for the means to maintain the herd in South Dakota. The auction tag provides money for management of bighorn sheep and he strongly supports the proposal.

Chris Camack supports the proposal and stated his affiliation with other organizations and banquets. He has watched millions of dollars spent on bighorn sheep and wants sheep back on the mountain. The Sheep Foundation will give 100 percent of the auction proceeds back to the state for bighorn management.

Tom Krafka of Rapid City stated he continues to apply for bighorn sheep tag. Safari International supports bighorn sheep management with financial assistance. The herd continues to decline and he supports the proposal to improve the bighorn herd and urges Commission support.

Jim Petersen from South Dakota Bighorn Sheep Inc. with 300 members indicated they support the auction tag proposal to promote the bighorn herd and he shared concerns about purchase of bighorn sheep and it should not be futile due to mountain lions.

Chris Hesla representing the South Dakota Wildlife Federation supports the proposal only as the science and herd can support the third tag.

Jim Glines had a handout and supports the bighorn tag but has a problem with the auction tag and there are other means to get funds for bighorn management and mentioned the visitors to state park and would like to charge them for viewing the wildlife and use dollars for bighorn herd.

Matt Rippentrop of Ulrich, SD, provided background of the proposal and indicated the Bighorn Sheep Committee and he suggests amendments as listed on the finalization sheet and supports the finalization with the amendments. The suggested amendments would open all areas for the bighorn auction tag including Custer State Park, the tag holder could hunt anywhere a resident tag is allocated, and allow a person

who had a previous tag to be eligible as this will increase interest in the auction tag and will provide additional dollars for management of bighorn sheep. The idea of the auction tag is to generate dollars and support for an increased bighorn sheep herd that will increase resident hunting opportunity.

John Wrede testified and provided a letter that reviewed historical observations and wants everyone to remember that in the 90's that SD habitat was evaluated and results showed that only two locations were suitable for bighorn sheep. These locations are currently occupied and the other locations identified had bighorn sheep intermingle with local sheep and have died. A limiting factor is habitat and the need for quality and quantity. There are a lot of domestic sheep in the hills and they have pneumonia. Is the cart before the horse?

Nancy Hilding stated that bighorn sheep had problems before the lions were here and domestic sheep are the problem. The lion is being blamed for habitat problems and illness of sheep. Lions are being scapegoated.

The Public Hearing concluded at 4:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary