

Commissioners

I appreciate you taking time to hear our concerns.

We run a commercial hunting organization based out of Wall S.D., bringing in added income for airports, motels, gas stations, restaurants, meat processors, taxidermists, etc., and the SD Dept. of Revenue. These paid hunts boost the local land owner's pockets as well. In return, money that often gets filtered back into our communities.

A year ago we met with you at this same meeting and discussed our continuing and increasing problem of obtaining buck licenses for our hunters. At that time there was a proposal to add 200 West River resident and 200 nonresident licenses. The commission voted 7 to 1 to approve this proposal, leaving us thinking there was good support and that we had taken a step in the right direction.

Consequently, two months later this never got approved. We are going backwards, to the days before the Special Buck license even existed. Not so much because there aren't enough tags available, but because of the growing numbers of applicants and the chances of drawing a tag. I would hope, there could be added S.B. tags, or ultimately a transferrable land owner tag available in the future, to offset this problem. The Special Buck license is used mostly to hunt bucks, therefore not affecting the overall deer population as much as harvesting does. To us if you want more deer, issue less doe tags.

No one would gain an opportunity to trophy hunt on our private lands, even if we couldn't obtain a single license. Without a change to the current situation, I see everyone losing.

Sincerely,

Sec./Tres. Dakota Safaris  
Spencer Cordes

**From:** [Schlueter, Chuck](#)  
**To:** [Ascher, Debra](#)  
**Cc:** [Switzer, Chad](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Full Support of Proposed Special Buck Tag Changes  
**Date:** Thursday, February 28, 2013 12:57:31 PM

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**From:** Tom Jensen [<mailto:big.buck.hunter@live.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2013 12:16 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info; tom jensen  
**Subject:** Full Support of Proposed Special Buck Tag Changes

Good afternoon,

I am writing to voice my full support of the "Special Buck Tag Changes" proposal that will be voted on soon.

The proposal makes great sense by way of opening up opportunities for more hunters to draw a single special buck tag while increasing overall revenues for the tag and managing the risk associated with it being more difficult to manage county-specific harvest goals with this tag (4% seems very feasible).

Again I think this is a great proposal all around and i strongly urge approving this proposal. Keep up the great work!

Thank you!

Tom Jensen  
429 Macey Ave  
Harrisburg, SD

**Ascher, Debra**

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**Subject:** Comment - special buck - Richard Visker

**From:** Richard [<mailto:viskey94@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2013 12:26 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Special Buck Proposal

I just wanted to take a moment to tell you I support this proposal and encourage this to pass. License numbers according to the deer population is the right route. Thanks for your time!

Richard Visker  
Sioux Falls, SD  
Big Al's Decoys | Lynch Mob Calls

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - Special buck - Thomas R Dvorak

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

From: Willie [<mailto:wdvorak@nvc.net>]

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 9:55 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special buck licenses

I would like to see the state raise their prices for special buck licenses and general season licenses for deer and antelope so the SDFG could have some additional funds to run programs in the state to promote hunting in SD.

I would also like to see less money being spent on coyote control because we(sportsmen) find coyote hunting to be a great sport in itself. When the state is funding a coyote control program through state trappers and/or arial shooting, the state is reducing the success I will have as an accomplished coyote caller. Spending money to remove coyotes when their are so many nonresidents willing to travel to SD and buy licenses, products and services is a wasted opportunity by SD for generating funds.

Thomas R. Dvorak, Mellette SD

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - Special buck - Doug Lake

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

**From:** Doug Lake [<mailto:dlake@pie.midco.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2013 10:26 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Special buck

I think the special buck licenses( east/west) numbers should be increased. More happy hunters. If the idea that killing bucks hurts less or none at all. It is a place where GFP can sell tags for a reasonable fee and the population is not hurt.

Doug Lake  
Pierre, SD

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - special buck - Fred Lamphere

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

**From:** Fred Lamphere [<mailto:fred.lamphere@buttesd.org>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2013 11:21 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** special buck

I feel that you should increase the non-resident special buck tags to the number that is applied for. That extra revenue could go to WIA funds and it would create a revenue to western South Dakota with all of the non-resident hunters. Sort of like the revenue that is created with the pheasant season.

FRED LAMPHERE  
BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - special buck - Mark Parr

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

From: [MParr@Winnelson.com](mailto:MParr@Winnelson.com) [<mailto:MParr@Winnelson.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 6:10 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Buck tags

Why are you decreasing the the tags for residents & nonresidents West River and increase for East River, or I'm I looking at this wrong. I'm glad to hear about only 1 tag, very good idea. Thanks

Mark Parr, Lennox SD

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - special buck - Mark Wilson

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

**From:** Doug Devries [<mailto:dougd@dakotabodies.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 5:28 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** special buck tag

Allow special buck tag holders to hunt public land also. Would like to know why a person can't with this tag anyway.

Mark Wilson, Watertown, SD

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - special buck - Ryan J Gruber

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

**From:** ryan gruber [<mailto:ryang201@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 5:11 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** East river special buck proposal....

Just to clarify...the proposal is to raise the number of special buck tags available? If that's the case then I should assume that even with the loss of habitat and increased hunting pressure, the GFP is clearly not concerned with the quality of bucks being harvested. I don't want to become irate at this point until I understand the facts. I would assume that with the loss of non resident pheasant revenue we'll be seeing more of this trend (hopefully I 'm drawing unfair conclusions).

Ryan J. Gruber, Brandon SD

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - Special buck - David Bechard

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

**From:** David Bechard [[mailto:david\\_bechard2000@yahoo.com](mailto:david_bechard2000@yahoo.com)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 4:47 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Special buck licenses

You must have taken to selling and bartering of game animal against the law out of the hunting manual??? So why is it OK for GFP and others to sell and barter in game animals?? It couldn't involve money and greed could it??? Seems like the numbers of special buck tags just keep going up I wonder why that is??? And every one wants us to teach our kids to hunt and fish and enjoy the great outdoors. Then the Gov. entities keep working against us in various and many ways. To me it points only one direction a money grab. Just a couple of my thoughts. I would like this in your minutes as all my required info is here.

David Bechard  
1608 Hilltop Dr.  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Phone# 605-224-8169

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - Special Buck - Micah Mauney

**Importance:** High

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

**From:** Micah Mauney [<mailto:MMauney@takcommunications.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 4:31 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Opposing the Special Buck License Proposal

**Importance:** High

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent proposal suggesting a SD resident would only be eligible for one special buck license. I am a SD resident and this is one of the biggest perks I see as a resident, that being, I am eligible to draw BOTH a west river and east river special buck license.

This proposal would mean I would have to choose between the two, and I question if this favors those that only apply for one or the other, or possibly assisting those that are only in pursuit of an east river special buck license. These statements are easily supported when reviewing the statistical draw information and seeing the lower success rate for the east river applicants. To penalize those that take advantage of hunting both sides of the state doesn't seem right or just.

One may suggest that you can still apply for the regular draws, however, the regular draws are not guaranteed and it is difficult to draw a license in numerous counties. By taking away the option for one to be eligible for both special buck licenses, hunting will be reduced for many hunters.

Micah Mauney, [Sioux Falls SD](#)

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - special buck - Scott Hanisch

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

**From:** Scott Hanisch [<mailto:scott.hanisch@buildingproductsinc.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 4:23 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Just a thought

I was reviewing the comments on the east/west river comments and having both licenses.

I don't see where that would be a problem, when it gets to the 3<sup>rd</sup> draw and there is still left over tags – sell them.

What I would like to comment on is the youth license. I'm all for youth tags, I raised 5 kids and 3 of them did the youth hunt. I believe the youth hunt is so a parent, or guardian, can spend special time to teach and educate our youth to be safe, responsible hunters. I believe if a youth acquires a "youth" tag, than they should not be eligible for a regular season tag. If your parent/guardian feels a young person's skills are refined enough to go during the main season than you don't need a youth tag. I believe this too would be beneficial to having more licenses available to the general public. This may sound like splitting hairs but it happens and I think it's taking advantage of a wonderful resource.

Scott Hanisch, [Sioux Falls SD](#)

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - special buck - Bill Menne

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

**From:** Bill Menne [<mailto:billmenne@ymail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 4:07 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** SPECIAL BUCK TAG

The tag should be for both east and west river if a hunter wants to apply, and hold both tags

Bill Menne, Doland SD

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - special buck - Paul Varcoe

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

From: Paul Varcoe [<mailto:pcv1979@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 4:27 PM

To: SDGFPINFO

Subject: RE: GFP January Commission Meeting

I will not be able to attend the GFP meeting in January. Concerning the special buck tags- I would like to see special buck tags made available to nonresidents for Easy River Deer.

Paul Varcoe, Sioux Falls SD

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - special buck - Scott Jamison

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

**From:** Scott Jamison [<mailto:sjamison@dakotacare.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 3:53 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Special Buck Suggestion

Commission Folks,

I would propose that if someone applies for an East River special buck license and is successful, they should be allowed to also apply for an East River regular license preference point the same year. It seems like this is currently disallowed and I really don't see a reason for that. A hunter would still be limited to one license per year, either Special Buck or Regular.

Currently it is impossible to acquire a preference point for regular season because you can't apply. It is nearly impossible in many ER counties to get a regular license without a preference point ( ie Miner County my main interest). Thus in a year when you are unsuccessful in the special buck you generally go without any license at all.

I would also be willing to pay a higher fee for this, or any, preference point.

I believe I see the proposal for Special Buck is to increase the number of licenses, which is a huge improvement and I appreciate the effort to do that.

By the way, thanks for your work.

**Scott Jamison**

VP Provider Relations

**DAKOTACARE**

2600 W 49th St

Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Phone: 605.334.4000 Ext:3141

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Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - special buck - Robert Garrity

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

**From:** Bob & Gloria Garrity [<mailto:gggarrity@pie.midco.net>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2013 6:10 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Buck licenses

I'm not sure I have any solutions but I do see a problem since GFP started managing the deer herd to produce more trophy bucks. Prior to this effort I had little problem getting a license which usually was an any deer license. I haven't been able to get a buck license in five years either in the Black hills or the prairie seasons. At least in the Black hills I have always put in a second choice but haven't got it either even when the deer were over running the area. I currently have 5 preference points for the Black Hills without getting any license. East river is almost as bad but I have been able to get some left over antlerless tags.

Another suggestion I would make is to have a combination deer and turkey license when the two season are on at the same time. It would be nice to have a turkey license while hunting deer but it is very disappointing to get the turkey license and not the deer.

Robert Garrity  
506 W. 1st Ave.  
Fort Pierre, SD 57532

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - special buck - Russ Roberts

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

From: [wgo@mato.com](mailto:wgo@mato.com) [<mailto:wgo@mato.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2013 10:55 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: West River Special Buck Licenses

I feel that the proposal to limit hunters to either a West River Special Buck license or East River Special Buck license but not both in the same year is a very good step in the right direction. It will help to spread opportunity out for everybody in a state that allows hunters to take way more bucks per year (up to five) - per hunter than any state around us, because of all the different seasons each hunter can get a buck license for. I would however like to see the quota of West River Special Buck licenses stay at least where it is at, 500 resident and 500 non-resident licenses. These licenses, in particular the non-resident Special Buck tags have a quota that is much lower than applicant number. Because these licenses are good only on private land and you are supposed to provide a landowners name and number that you have permission to hunt in the application process, why are we taking opportunity away from hunters that actually create good landowner/hunter relationships. If the process is working correctly that hunter has to secure permission from a landowner to hunt before applying. If that hunter does not draw a license and a hunter from the regular West River draw just shows up unannounced and expects to hunt, what kind of landowner/hunter relationships is South Dakota promoting? I don't think the answer is good for hunter or landowner.

Russ Roberts Saint Onge, SD

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - special buck - Jerry Koster

**From:** Jerry koster [<mailto:jerrygfive@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2013 5:25 PM

**To:** SDGFPINFO

**Subject:** RE: GFP January Commission Meeting

TO satisfy residents, the number of non resident special buck tags should be reduced. Example 1000 tags are made available, 750 residents apply nonresidents get to draw for the 250 left. I live here, pay taxes here, but didn't draw a special buck tag . Some out of stater did , thats just not right!

Jerry Koster, Yankton SD

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comments - Special Buck - Roger Heupel

**From:** Harriet [<mailto:hheupel@nvc.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2013 2:25 PM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** Comments

Are you going to change the deadline of one of them so a person can apply for the second one if you don't draw the first one?

Roger Heupel, [Aberdeen SD](#)

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - refuges - Derek Schiefelbein

**From:** Schiefelbein, Derek  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2013 10:26 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** waterfowl Refuges

Commission Members

The need and reason for all these waterfowl refuges has past. The Waterfowl commercial hunting is mostly all gone. Save the main refuges on Oahe. Okobojo. Dry creek. Mailshack. Nystroms. None of these 4 need to be as big as they are. The rest can go away on Lake oahe. Lake Sharpe and Francis Case could also be looked at a little. The areas are to large.

Climate change and migration pattern change is an issue. Birds are staying north longer, this has been the pattern for the past 10-12 years. Having 300,000 ducks here (for 3 months) all in the same refuge is a disaster waiting to happen. They won't leave or move, even when they should. We don't want to have another bad die off like we did 2 years ago. 8,000 dead after getting into bad grain because they are starving and won't migrate. The birds need to keep moving.

Thanks,  
Derek Schiefelbein  
280.2519

Ascher, Debra

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**Subject:** Comment - refuges - Alan Lien

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

From: Lien [<mailto:4walleye@midstatesd.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 7:10 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: North Shore State Waterfowl Refuge

Dear Commission:

We would like to submit this email in support of the proposal to remove the North Shore State Waterfowl Refuge. This will provide some additional opportunities to enjoy waterfowl hunting in this area. Most of these proposals try to limit or restrict public access, so it is a nice change to see improved access to waterfowl hunting.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of this proposal. :-)

Alan Lien  
Chamberlain, SD 57325

Steve Petersen  
Chamberlain, SD 57325