

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: proposed increase of cow tags

From: Gary & Ragine [ragary@rushmore.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2015 8:58 AM

To: Jensen, Gary

Subject: proposed increase of cow tags

Good Morning Gary

I would like to take a moment of your time to voice my concern on the increased amount of cow elk tags that are being proposed. Last fall during all the elk seasons in H1 unit I did not see the number of elk that would warrant a increase in cow tags for that area. I do not understand the rationale behind the increase in those license. Could you or someone from GFP explain to me the need for an proposed increase in those license. I thank Suzie Knippling for her leadership last year in keeping the numbers at a lower level. I look forward to the explanation concerning the increase. I truly have a passion concerning in particular the elusive elk. As in the past I appreciate your involvement concerning our valuable resource of all wildlife in South Dakota. It is a very difficult job always hearing the negative! I extend an invitation to meet someday and discuss the positives why we live in western South Dakota! Wishing you a good day!

Sincerely

Gary Hendrickson

1000 Roberts

Belle Fourche, SD

57717

605-641-5529

Jacob and Judy Sharp
4188 Fleetwood Drive
Black Hawk, SD 57718

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MAR 18 2015

Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks
Pierre, SD 57501

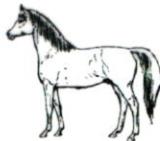
Dear sirs:

I will keep my comments short. If a state resident gets to the age of 80 years old and has never gotten a elk tag it should be automatic to get one. All residents should get at least 1 elk tag in their lifetime. Thank you for your time. You do a good job most of the time.

Thank you,

Jacob A. Sharp

P.S. If you wish to contact me:



Jacob and Judy Sharp

Jacob: 605-890-1917
Judy: 605-890-1982
jacobsharp75@yahoo.com

4188 Fleetwood Drive
Black Hawk, SD 57718

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4188 Fleetwood Drive
Black Hawk, SD 57718

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Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Elk License Increases

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

From: dick [<mailto:djtrapp@rushmore.com>]

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 9:50 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Elk License Increases

Dear Members of GFP Commission,

I do not feel that the proposed increase in hunting licenses is the proper thing to do as it appears the herd population appears to have finally taken a modest increase. I would suggest that the commission only do 25% of the proposed increase to hunting licenses. Thank You

Richard D Trapp
4810 West Chicago St.
Rapid city, SD 57702

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Elk & Goat hunting season

From: Tina Abrahamson [<mailto:celtgunn1970@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 11:04 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Elk & Goat hunting season

To the GF&P commission,

I believe it would be beneficial to have a hunting season for Elk, only if there is a high enough count to maintain enough here for a continued healthy population of them. However, there must be care taken in the sexes allowed to be hunted, so as to keep balance here in the hills.

As for the mountain goats, I'm unsure of the population counts and would be uncomfortable commenting on that. However, IF this commission feels that there -is- a high enough population to allow a few goats to be taken, then I would be comfortable with that. However, those given tags absolutely -must- take care and only take the sex of the goat on their tag. I would also suggest this goes for the Elk tags as well, since I know just how difficult it can be to get an Elk Tag. (My husband has applied for these before.)

Thank you for taking time to read my email,

Tina Abrahamson,
Black Hawk, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: comments on unit 2 over population of elk Pat Coy

From: Pat and Fran Coy [<mailto:loftlandranch@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 8:30 PM
To: GFP Wild Info; SDGFPINFO
Subject: comments on unit 2 over population of elk Pat Coy

To whom it may concern:

My name is Pat Coy I ranch in unit 2 I understand you are proposing to add 400 head of antlerless tags. That is a good place to start. We run over a 100 head of cows and over a 100 head of elk. I feel like we need to do something about that to trim it down so a rancher can make a living. I believe if we don't get the numbers down you can't ranch in the Black Hills. Which will lead to a bunch more development. Pat Coy

Hill City / Custer, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: 2015 Elk

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

From: Dylan Deuter [<mailto:ddeuter2001@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 2:38 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: 2015 Elk

I think you are still putting out to many cow tags.

The contingency plan is a bad idea. It is not the GF&P job to ensure that the grazing associations have enough grass for their cattle. Let the US Forest Service do their jobs.

The contingency plan could destroy our elk herds for up to 20 years and more.

Thanks for your time.

Dylan Deuter

Ree Heights SD 57371

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain goat season

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

From: Vicki Schlieff [<mailto:goodjunkgirl@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:17 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain goat season

I saw an article in the newspaper saying they were thinking about having a mountain goat hunting season. The question I have is, if we have too many in a certain area - why can't we catch and release them into another area (spearfish canyon, deadwood area, etc)? I'm sure the number of mountain goats aren't that large, were we have to kill them. I don't understand why we need to always think about hunting them versus relocating them - so others can enjoy the beauty of these magnificent animals.

In the article it said we could email our comments - well here's my 2 cents.

Thanks and I hope there's NOT a hunting season for them and I hope there are more people like me, who would love seeing them in the wild.

Vicki S.

Sent from Vicki's iPhone

Silver City, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain Goat Hunting Season

From: Kathy McDaniel [<mailto:mcdanielka@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 11:56 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Goat Hunting Season

I am very opposed to opening a mountain goat hunting season in the Black Hills. These beautiful creatures are rare and have a difficult time surviving without being hunted by a select group of hunters. Please disapprove the proposed hunting season and leave these animals for all of us in the Black Hills to enjoy.

Kathy McDaniel

22765 Hwy 385 Lot 2

Rapid City, SD 57702



FOR HUNTERS

P.O. Box 149
Gregory, South Dakota 57533
Phone (605) 835-8391

February 28th, 2015

To whom it may concern my name is Charlie Johnson and I manage and own two pheasant lodges in Gregory county. Wild Wings opened for business in 1987 and Sully Flats opened in 1994. Prior to that my family hosted non-commercial pheasant hunts since the early 1950's. I was asked to write a letter discussing the limit size of 20 total individuals in hunting party. I believe it was about 9 or 10 years ago the South Dakota GFP decided that no more then 20 total people are allowed in a hunting party. Prior to the rule change our long time established and annual pheasant hunting customers always tried to bring large groups of around 20 hunters for their hunting trip. When the SD GFP changed the ruling to limit 20 individuals total in a party this caused several problems for our pheasant hunters and my hunting businesses. These are my personal opinions reflecting just pheasant hunting with a group on privately owned property Not public land hunting or big game hunting.

1. Many people, including myself, view pheasant hunting is a very social event. You can be young, old, handicapped or a non-hunter who just enjoys being outside, taking photos, watching the birds fly and the dogs work.
2. Our long time established groups do not want to break up into smaller groups because they want to experience the hunt together. Breaking into smaller hunting party's isolated from each other is not preferred by our clients.
3. Prior to opening commercial hunting lodges my family hosted non-paying pheasant hunts for all the family and close friends to attend. There was never a head count on to who can go on along on the pheasant hunt especially for kids and people who just wanted to watch. Although to young to carry a gun some of my favorite memories were standing along side my father while he posted at the end of the field. Under the current party size rule of 20 people a child or a non-shooting spectator is counted as part of the 20 person group.
4. Our lodges employ several non-weapon carrying hunting guides to help out with the party's hunt. The larger the group size typically the more guides I want to provide to my clients. This not only improves the quality of the hunt but also increases the safety of the hunting party. The additional guides are constantly stressing safety along with their other duties. Under the current party size rule I am limited to the number of guides I can provide for a large group. Which increases the danger and confusion to the hunting party while decreasing the quality of the hunt.
5. Pheasants are not migratory birds. Most natural pheasants live their entire lives within one to two miles of where they were first hatched at. If you aggressively hunt your natural pheasants too much they will leave your property. If you provide the right habitat on your property and not over hunt your natural birds you should be able to maintain a balance with your natural pheasant population. Our habitat is made up of established shelter-belts, switch grass, food plots, wetland areas that cover many acres. Many wildlife areas I hunt are between 40 to 80 acres in size. As a result the only way to hunt these areas effectively is with large hunting parties.
6. Pheasant hunting small areas with a large hunting party is dangerous and less enjoyable for our clients. When hunters get crowded in small hunting areas they can muzzle blast another hunter

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MAR 20 2015

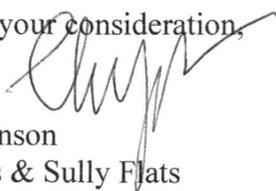
Dept of Game, Fish & Parks
Pierre, SD 57501

and become more aggressive hunters. In my experience the more aggressive the hunters are the more likelihood of a low shot occurring which is extremely dangerous thing to do while pheasant hunting. Our hunters want space and time while hunting an wildlife area not to be packed in an area where there is more competition to shoot at a rooster.

7. Financially every year the limiting party size rule has cost my hunting business, other local area businesses (like our local hardware stores, restaurants, gas stations, and other people who benefit from commercial pheasant hunting in the state) thousands of dollars in revenue. The state of South Dakota is missing out on collecting additional license fees and sales tax because of the party size limit restrictions. We are not collecting this additional money because pheasant hunting groups are intentionally not bringing as many hunters as they would like because of the size limit rule.

At a minimum I would like the party size limit of 20 be amended to count only weapon carrying pheasant hunters towards the party size and not count non-weapon carrying guides or non-hunting spectators. I would even suggest that while pheasant hunting on private property that there be no limit to the size of the pheasant hunting party. Or at least consider a increase to the party size. I'm not sure who came up with the number 20 as maximum size to hunting party and why the number 20 works better then say 25? Our lodges were built to accommodate groups of 20 or more prior to this rule change occurring limiting the hunting size of the party and as a result fewer hunters come spend their money in South Dakota.

Thanks for your consideration,



Charlie Johnson
Wild Wings & Sully Flats
33580 286th Street
Gregory, SD 57533

Wild Wings

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charlieroberjohnson@yahoo.com



Lodge
605-835-8507

Rick Johnson
(1942 - 2004)

Charlie Johnson
605-830-1362

Jeff Johnson
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