

## Deer Management Stakeholder Group

**Purpose** – The SD Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) “Deer Management Stakeholder Group” is a diverse group of citizen stakeholders who have been asked to assist Department of Game, Fish and Parks Staff and the Game, Fish and Parks Commission in conducting a review of the broad range of issues affecting deer management in South Dakota. The Deer Management Stakeholder Group will assist GFP Staff and the GFP Commission by offering insight, ideas, and alternatives that could be considered in regard to the Department and Commission positions on various deer management goals, strategies, challenges and related recreational opportunities.

**Objectives** – The basic objectives of the Deer Management Stakeholder Group are to:

- Provide an additional link between the GFP Staff and the GFP Commission and the citizens we serve;
- Identify challenges and opportunities and develop ideas and suggestions regarding the range of issues affecting the management of deer and associated recreation in South Dakota; and
- Promote communication, increased awareness and mutual understanding between and among the Stakeholder Group members regarding the diversity of deer management challenges.

**Scope of Authority** – The Stakeholder Group will function in an advisory capacity only and will provide a discussion forum for members to share their personal perspective and the perspective of the group or organization they may represent on a diversity of issues related to deer management. Members who serve on the Stakeholder Group do so solely in a volunteer capacity. The Stakeholder Group is granted no authority over rule-making or rule enforcement on public or private land, has no budgetary authority or authority over personnel management, nor is it granted any authority over any state or federal agency or non-governmental organization. The Stakeholder Group was assembled as an additional citizen participation opportunity but is not designed to supplant or curtail any other type of citizen participation or public involvement opportunities that may be further utilized by GFP.

**Organizational Structure and Stakeholder Group Membership** - The Stakeholder Group is comprised of a diverse group of citizen stakeholders who may represent a broad range of public interests in the management of deer in South Dakota. Participants will attend 3 to 5 structured meetings to hear GFP Staff presentations and offer their ideas and perspectives on deer management. The Stakeholder Group meetings will be facilitated by GFP staff or a third party facilitator hired by GFP.

**Stakeholder Group Member Roles and Responsibilities** – Working Group members will:

- Make a commitment to attend the scheduled Stakeholder Group meetings;
- Offer their thoughts and ideas and communicate with others in a respectful manner while maintaining an open mind with regard to the views and perspectives of other Working Group members, and;
- Serve as a sounding board and provide feedback and ideas to GFP Staff and the GFP Commission.

**GFP Staff Roles and Responsibilities** – GFP Staff will:

- Provide a diversity of information regarding deer management to the Stakeholder Group;
- Serve the role of facilitator for the meetings, including keeping order, achieving the meeting agenda and providing a comfortable working atmosphere for Working Group members to share ideas and opinions;
- Schedule and arrange meeting room facilities, including providing all necessary communication related to the meetings;
- Listen attentively and respectfully to all viewpoints; and
- Gather meeting notes and make them available to the public via the GFP website.

**Meeting Guidelines and Communication** – The purpose of the Deer Management Stakeholder Group is to provide a forum to promote understanding of deer management issues and challenges from diverse perspectives, therefore voting or other similar methods will not be used to formulate final group consensus on issues discussed.

- Additional Open House meetings, citizen surveys or other public involvement techniques may be used as a means to share information and gather additional public input on any proposed changes in deer management.
- Stakeholder Group members are encouraged to discuss and communicate with others about specific Deer management issues discussed at the Stakeholder Group meetings.

**Travel Expenditures** – Travel expenses (lodging, per diem and vehicle mileage) for Stakeholder Group members will be reimbursed in accordance with State Reimbursement Rules for those members who are not reimbursed by another organization or agency.