

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
605-787-6466
phas.wsd@rapidnet.com
Sept 5th, 2024

SD GFP Commission meeting handouts

Various pages with material on SDGFP desire to “maximize” hunter experience and “minimize” regulation complexity.

- Excerpts Draft Action Plans- Antelopes and Mt. Lions
- Excerpts USFWS on wildlife related recreation
- Excerpts Southwick Study on economic impacts from outdoor recreation
- SDGFP Wildlife Department Budget information
- SDCL – Chapter 40-1 – Animal Cruelty excerpt

MAXIMIZING HUNTER EXPERIENCES (OR BALANCING WITH WILDLIFE WATCHERS)

Prairie Hills Audubon Society objects to favoring one set of out-door recreationists over others – there should be at least balance between needs of wildlife watchers and hunters. The numbers of hunters are just 16% of wildlife watchers. We believe that biological goals – conservation of the species and its' role in the environment should be the dominant factors. Maintaining the animal's role in the ecosystem should not be secondary to human recreation, especially secondary to the human's killing of the animals.

Page 10 of draft Antelope Action Plan

Objective 2: Manage pronghorn populations for both **maximum** and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs.

a) Modify and adopt future hunting season structure as needed to **maximize hunting opportunities** for unique hunters, **minimize regulation complexity**, and maximize population growth to meet objectives as soon as possible.

b) Manage pronghorn in Custer State Park (CSP) to **balance quality wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities** as follows:

- “Buck-only” licenses will be set at a base percentage of the pre-season CSP pronghorn population estimate.
- “Doe/kid” licenses will be set at 3% of the pre-season CSP pronghorn population estimate. No licenses will be issued if the CSP pre-season population estimate is < 250 pronghorn.

EMPHASIS ADDED

Page 11 of draft Mountain Lion Action Plan

Objective 2: Manage mountain lion populations for both **maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs.**

a) Manage for a sustainable population of mountain lions within the Black Hills of South Dakota.

- The winter population objective will be 200-300 total mountain lions.
- Collect scientific-based public input from hunters, landowners, and the general public during every management plan revision to assess public perceptions regarding mountain lion management, better define social tolerance levels, and re-evaluate objectives and strategies.

b) Modify and adopt hunting season structure as needed to **minimize regulation complexity**:

- In the Black Hills Fire Protection District (BHFPD), excluding Custer State Park (CSP): **maximize hunting opportunity** for unique hunters allowing unlimited boot hunting with harvest regulated primarily through restricted season lengths and harvest limits.
- In CSP: **maximize hunting opportunity** for hunters with dogs with harvest regulated primarily through limited permits and restricted season lengths.
- Outside BHFPD: emphasis to minimize potential human conflicts with mountain lions and **maximize hunting opportunity** for hunters with dogs allowing unlimited permits and a year-round season.

EMPHASIS ADDED

USFWS 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation September 2023

To download the study visit: <https://digitalmedia.fws.gov/digital/collection/document/id/2321/> and go to Table 2 on page 48 & Table 6 on page 51.

SD is in the West North Central area, which has 16,677,887 persons, who are 16 years or older.

9% of these folks (or 1,518,281 persons) hunted.

58% of these folks (or 9,744,740 persons) wildlife watched. Some people did both.

Of the wildlife watchers – 4,624,145 wildlife watched **away from home** (28% of all persons) & 9,664,190 **wildlife watched around home** (58% of all persons). Some people did both.

Hunters make up 16% of wildlife watchers

Table 6. Selected Characteristics of Participants in Wildlife-Watching Activities Around and Away From Home: 2022
(Population 16 years old and older)

Characteristic	U.S. Population		Away from home			Around the home		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent who participated	Percent	Number	Percent who participated	Percent
Total persons	259,434,526	100	73,334,491	28	100	146,502,604	56	100
Population Density of Residence								
Urban	207,550,596	80	56,927,155	27	78	111,619,049	54	76
Rural	51,273,801	20	16,207,034	32	22	34,544,582	67	24
Population Size of Residence								
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)								
1,000,000 or more	120,312,780	46	32,361,867	27	44	64,287,608	53	44
250,000 to 999,999	45,157,567	17	13,186,918	29	18	26,339,694	58	18
50,000 to 249,999	21,052,174	8	6,122,879	29	8	12,733,641	60	9
Micropolitan (10,000 to 50,000)	18,009,250	7	5,820,624	32	8	11,498,714	64	8
Outside MSA	54,292,625	21	15,641,900	29	21	31,303,975	58	21
Census Geographic Division								
New England	12,049,325	5	3,160,202	26	4	6,620,674	55	5
Middle Atlantic	33,156,736	13	8,787,042	27	12	17,626,005	53	12
East North Central	36,911,735	14	10,657,953	29	15	21,102,160	57	14
West North Central	16,677,887	6	4,624,145	28	6	9,664,190	58	7
South Atlantic	52,601,908	20	15,172,375	29	21	31,292,146	59	21
East South Central	15,155,523	6	4,628,910	31	6	9,898,275	65	7
West South Central	31,295,266	12	8,315,982	27	11	16,802,397	54	11
Mountain	19,697,460	8	5,511,148	28	8	10,181,024	52	7
Pacific	41,885,355	16	12,476,735	30	17	23,315,735	56	16
Age								
16 to 18 years	8,408,508	3	2,326,000	28	4	5,418,818	64	4

Table 6. Selected Characteristics of Participants in Wildlife-Watching Activities Around and Away From Home: 2022
(Population 16 years old and older)

Characteristic	U.S. Population		Away from home			Around the home		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent who participated	Percent	Number	Percent who participated	Percent
Total persons	259,434,526	100	73,334,491	28	100	146,502,604	56	100
Population Density of Residence								
<i>Urban</i>	207,550,596	80	56,927,155	27	78	111,619,049	54	76
<i>Rural</i>	51,273,801	20	16,207,034	32	22	34,544,582	67	24
Population Size of Residence								
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)								
<i>1,000,000 or more</i>	120,312,780	46	32,361,867	27	44	64,287,608	53	44
<i>250,000 to 999,999</i>	45,157,567	17	13,186,918	29	18	26,339,694	58	18
<i>50,000 to 249,999</i>	21,052,174	8	6,122,879	29	8	12,733,641	60	9
<i>Micropolitan (10,000 to 50,000)</i>	18,009,250	7	5,820,624	32	8	11,498,714	64	8
Outside MSA	54,292,625	21	15,641,900	29	21	31,303,975	58	21
Census Geographic Division								
<i>New England</i>	12,049,325	5	3,160,202	26	4	6,620,674	55	5
<i>Middle Atlantic</i>	33,156,736	13	8,787,042	27	12	17,626,005	53	12
<i>East North Central</i>	36,911,735	14	10,657,953	29	15	21,102,160	57	14
<i>West North Central</i>	16,677,887	6	4,624,145	28	6	9,664,190	58	7
<i>South Atlantic</i>	52,601,908	20	15,172,375	29	21	31,292,146	59	21
<i>East South Central</i>	15,155,523	6	4,628,910	31	6	9,898,275	65	7
<i>West South Central</i>	31,295,266	12	8,315,982	27	11	16,802,397	54	11
<i>Mountain</i>	19,697,460	8	5,511,148	28	8	10,181,024	52	7
<i>Pacific</i>	41,885,355	16	12,476,735	30	17	23,315,735	56	16
Age								
16 to 17 years	8,402,500	3	2,222,000	28	4	5,418,812	64	4

EXCERPTED CHARTS FROM SOUTHWICK STUDY:

Published March 30, 2017

Economic Impact of Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, Boating, and Wildlife Viewing in South Dakota

By Southwick Associates, Florida

[SD-Fish-Wildlife-Boating-Economics-Southwick-6-30-22.pdf](#)

This 2017 study at page 25, table 29 shows 173,825 wildlife watchers (residents - 89,277 persons & non-residents - 84,548 persons). All are only watching away from home. At page 8, table 1, the study shows 103,619 resident hunters & 112,174 non-resident hunters or 215,793 total hunters. It does not delete at home hunting.

Table 29. Total away from home wildlife viewer and days by region and residency

	Residents	Nonresidents	Total
Total Wildlife Viewers	89,277	84,548	173,825
Total Days Away from Home	2,068,180	528,636	2,596,817
Average Number of Days			
Statewide	23	6	
Black Hills Region	7	2	
West River	4	1	
East River	10	2	
Missouri River	2	1	

Table 1. Species targeted by hunters

	Residents		Nonresidents	
	Hunters	%	Hunters	%
Deer	52,900	51%	6,230	6%
Other Big Game	14,854	14%	3,015	3%
Pheasant	77,938	75%	91,175	81%
Other small game	38,080	37%	14,979	13%
Migratory Bird	25,436	25%	9,808	9%
Total Hunters	103,619	na	112,174	na

Resident hunters dedicated an average 18 days of hunting in South Dakota during the past 12 months compared to five days reported by nonresident hunters.

Wildlife and Parks Budget Information - Division of Wildlife Budget Information

<https://gfp.sd.gov/budget/>

Expenditure categories include the following:

- **Wildlife Management:** Surveys, research and wildlife damage management services.
- **Habitat and Access Management:** Habitat and hunting access on private and public lands.
- **Fish Management:** Surveys, research, hatcheries, stocking and administrative support.
- **Law Enforcement:** Natural resource protection and advocacy.
- **Information and Education:** Outreach and awareness campaigns, education, planning and administrative support.
- **Capital Development:** Habitat and access projects and facility improvements.
- **Support Services:** Fiscal, licensing, legal, engineering and administrative support.

Category	Amount
Wildlife Management	\$10,994,421
Habitat and Access Management	\$18,431,207
Fish Management	\$8,556,395
Law Enforcement	\$13,881,804
Capital Development	\$2,562,500
Support Services	\$4,100,000
Total Budget	\$58,526,327

Funding Sources	Amount
Non-resident License Fees (big/small game, waterfowl, fishing)	\$17,621,050
Resident License Fees (big/small game, waterfowl, fishing)	\$11,204,712
Federal Aid (Dingell-Johnson and Pittman-Robertson)	\$21,000,000
Miscellaneous and County ADC Funding	\$6,705,000
Total Funding Sources	\$56,530,762

EXCERPT from CHAPTER 40-1 on SDGFP

CHAPTER 40-1 CRUELTY, ABUSE AND INJURY TO ANIMALS

<https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/40-1>

CHAPTER 40-2 HUMANE SOCIETIES

<https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/40-2>

We ask SDGFP Commission to remember its duty to watch over animal cruelty:

40-1-17. Exemptions from chapters 40-1 and 40-2.

Nothing in this chapter or chapter 40-2 may be construed to interfere with an animal under the direct

and proper care of a licensed veterinarian or with persons engaged in standard and accepted agricultural

pursuits or animal husbandry practices.

In addition, ***the following are exempt from the provisions of this chapter and chapter 40-2:***

(1) Any usual and customary practice;

(a) In the production of food, feed, or fiber, including all aspects of the livestock industry;

(b) In the boarding, breeding, competition, exhibition, feeding, raising, service work, showing,

training, transportation, and use of animals; or

(c) In the harvesting of animals for food or byproducts;

(2) Any humane killing of an animal;

(3) ***Any lawful hunting, trapping, fishing, or other activity authorized by the South Dakota***

Department of Game, Fish and Parks;

(4) Any lawful pest, vermin, predator, and animal damage control, including the disposition of wild

animals;

(5) Any reasonable action taken by a person for the destruction or control of an animal known to be

dangerous, a threat, or injurious to life, limb, or property; and

(6) ***Any actions taken by personnel or agents of the board, the Department of Agriculture and Natural***

Resources, Department of Game, Fish and Parks, or the United States Department of Agriculture

in the performance of duties as prescribed by law.

Source: SDC 1939, § 40.2211; SL 1991, ch 331, § 30; SL 2014, ch 194, § 15; SL 2021, ch 1 (Ex. Ord. 21-3),

§ 14, eff. Apr. 19, 2021.

EMPHASIS ADDED