

Briefs: Elk Hunting Seasons Proposed For South Dakota

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission has proposed several changes for South Dakota elk hunting seasons.

- The proposals are as follows:
- Custer State Park (CSP) Early Archery Elk tags would remain at three “any elk” licenses.
- There would be no antlerless licenses available for the CSP Firearms Season
- CSP Later Archery Elk would remain closed.
- There would be four CSP Any Elk licenses available for the Firearms Season (one of those licenses available through the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation raffle)
- Elimination of Unit 30A for archery and adjust the boundary of Unit 7 to include a portion northeast of I-90 near Tilford.
- Adjust the license numbers from 89 “any” elk licenses and 37 “antlerless” licenses available in 2011 to 82 “any” and 25 “antlerless” licenses for the Black Hills Archery Season.
- Reduce the number of Firearms Elk licenses from 470 “any” elk and 395 “antlerless” licenses in 2011 to 395 “any” elk licenses and 260 “antlerless” licenses.
- Reduce the number of Prairie Elk licenses to 47 “any” and 53 “antlerless” licenses
- Add Unit 27 to the Prairie Elk Season to include that portion of Fall River County south of the Cheyenne River and west of Highway 385, with season dates of Sept. 1-Oct. 31
- Adjust the season dates for Unit 09A from Sept. 1-Oct. 1 to Sept. 15-Oct. 1 and Dec. 1-15
- Adjust season dates for Unit 30A to be held Sept. 29-Oct. 28 and Dec. 1-31

Other big-game season regulations also were proposed by the GFP commission at its March meeting.

The Custer State Park Deer Hunting Season was proposed to eliminate 35 antlerless whitetail licenses.

The Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Season was proposed, with a reduction in tags in Unit 1 from two to one license.

Residents who wishing to provide written comments on the big-game hunting proposals may do so until 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 4. Comments may be mailed to Game, Fish and Parks Commission, 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD, 57501 or emailed to wildinfo@state.sd.us.

Comments must have the sender's full name and address in order to become part of the public record. Comments may also be made in person at the GFP Commission meeting during a public hearing at 2 p.m. CDT on Thursday, April 5, at the Days Inn in Brookings.

Officials: Gray Wolves Still Protected In Western S.D.

PIERRE — Although the gray wolf has recently been removed from federal Endangered Species Act protections in Minnesota and the other Great Lake states, as well as, Montana, Idaho and under consideration in Wyoming the gray wolf remains protected under federal law in western South Dakota. The recent de-listing actions have removed Endangered Species Act protections for the gray wolf in eastern South Dakota but the wolf remains protected in South Dakota west of the Missouri River.

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) continues to work on plans that could de-list additional areas in the United States, including western South Dakota,” said Scott Larson with the USFWS.

For areas east of the Missouri River, the gray wolf is now under management authority by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP). “Although the gray wolf has been de-listed by the USFWS in eastern South Dakota, this animal remains protected under South Dakota law,” said SDGFP Wildlife Damage Program Administrator, Keith Fisk.

“If livestock producers experience depredation from a suspected wolf, they need to contact their local wildlife damage specialist or regional SDGFP office right away,” said Fisk. “If the livestock is determined to have been possibly killed by a wolf, we’ll work directly with USFWS to address the problem in western South Dakota.” For livestock depredation east of the Missouri River, SDGFP would likely remove the wolf.

Over the past few years, South Dakota has had wolves killed on both sides of the Missouri River. However, South Dakota does not have a resident wolf population and the USFWS and SDGFP do not believe there is enough suitable habitat to maintain a population. The wolves that have been killed in South Dakota are likely transient animals that have dispersed from populations in other states.

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Deer: Amazing And Here To Stay

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

No matter what state you're in, more than likely you'll see deer, especially during the Rut when they're mating, which in our area is around the middle of November or this time of the year when deer herds are yarded up where they'll be congregated near their main feed source

Because of the huge deer population, there are several seasons, giving hunters numerous opportunities to take deer, helping to control excess deer numbers.

Deer are amazing creatures, very adaptable, living in close proximity of man and sometimes misunderstood.

Here's some information on deer you might find interesting and if you ever get the opportunity to appear on some TV game show such as “Jeopardy,” it might make you a few “bucks.”

Deer have existed for 20 million years, changing very little over the last million years.

In 1832 deer were given their scientific name “Odocoileus Virginianus, Odocoileus is Greek meaning hollow tooth with the later part of the name, Virginianus coming from the fact that they were named in the state of Virginia.

They're amazing creatures and very adaptable, native to Canada, Mexico and forty-nine of our fifty states. Deer aren't native to the state of Hawaii. Deer found

on the Hawaiian Islands were introduced into that area.

You'll find 30 subspecies of deer in North America and an additional 10 subspecies found in South America.

The estimated total number of deer in North America in 1900 was 500,000 animals, with the estimated population today is 20 to 30 million.

Deer have the ability to run in excess of 35 miles per hour; can leap over fences eight feet tall, covering up to 30 feet in a horizontal leap.

In the wild, deer can live as long as eleven years with deer in captivity living as long as 20 years.

Deer are strong swimmers as the layer of hollow hair acts as a life preserver keeping them buoyant. Their hollow hair actually serves several purposes with the most important being, providing insulation during the winter months.

Just like humans, deer have “baby teeth” that fall out and replaced by permanent teeth, with their permanent teeth in place by the time the deer is 2-1/2 years old.

There are several myths about deer, including that a bucks age can be determined by the number of points in it's rack when in fact, the way biologists determine the age of the deer is by examining the deer's teeth.

Another is deer use their antlers during the winter to dig for food under the snow, which is false as bucks shed their racks in January & February. They're used as weapons when dueling with other males during the mating season.

Rack size depends on several factors, including age, nutrition and genetics. Generally, the larger more massive racks are found on middle age deer (4-6 years



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Larger racks on bucks generally come about when they reach 4 to 6 years of age. Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Marlyn Wiebelhaus, of Wynot, Neb., took this mature buck. during the Nebraska archery season.

old) and will reduce in size, as deer gets older.

When deer grow their antlers or rack, they are covered with “velvet,” a soft, fuzzy tissue. This velvet is the only regenerating skin found in mammals. It's the fastest growing tissue in mammals with some antler growth being measured at one inch of growth during a 24-hour period.

Deer, elk, caribou and moose are all members of the Cervidae family, they, like cows are ruminants, swallowing food that's later brought back up and chewed, which releases more nutrients.

Deer can eat almost any type of vege-

tation and aren't affected by eating some pretty tough and nasty stuff including poison ivy.

Under good conditions an average adult deer can consume as much as 5 to 9 pounds.

As any hunter can tell you, a deer's senses are uncanny as they have extraordinary sight, hearing and smell.

Does will normally have one fawn the first year they breed and after that first year, twins are the norm.

Mother Nature does a good job when it comes to helping the young fawns to survive as the spots on the fawn are a form of camouflage, this along with the ability to lie motionless, not moving help them to avoid detection from predators.

Deer have been with us a long time and because of their ability to adapt to all conditions, will be around for all to enjoy for years to come.

Since this is the time of the year when most of the hunting seasons have ended, we'll have a chance to get caught up on those honey do's, arrange our hunting gear and ready our fishing equipment for this spring, and when it comes time to get out and hunt turkey or hit the water in pursuit of your favorite fish you'll be ready and you'll have all the time you need to enjoy the great outdoors.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is the President of Outdoorsmen Productions, a former hunting and fishing guide, producer/host of Outdoorsmen Adventures television series and CO-Host of Outdoor Adventures Radio. More information on the outdoors can be found on www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

Tanagers

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“I think our girls finally realized what they had to do,” Sisseton head coach Cal Schubert said after the game. “They got in the passing lanes on defense. They cut and moved the ball on offense.”

Josie Huber hit a pair of baseline three-pointers for Vermillion, but the Tanagers got no closer than six points the rest of the way.

Kirk had a game-high eight rebounds to go with her 13 points. Macy Toelle, who had a double-

double off the bench in Sisseton's opening round loss, finished with eight points and seven rebounds. Frederick added nine points on 3-5 shooting from three-point range.

Robinson and Amundson each had 11 points for Vermillion. Szymonski added eight points.

Pine Ridge, which used a strong second half to defeat Clark-Willow Lake 61-52 on Friday, awaits Sisseton today.

“Pine Ridge will come ready to play,” Schubert said. “If we get ahead of them, we can't back off.”

The Tanagers will look to regroup for their final game of the season.

“We'll see if we can get it done tomorrow,” Mayer said.

Trojans

From Page 8

lead, 31-16. The Rustlers countered with a 10-4 rally — again anchored by posts Hunter and Watts — to fight back to within seven at the half, 38-31.

Miller closed the margin to within four, 46-44, in the third quarter, but a four-minute dry spell allowed the Trojans to widen the gap again. The Rustlers, though, would not stay down for long. Jamie Mentzer scored the final basket of the third quarter and the opening score of the fourth quarter to spark the Rustlers, who took their first lead since 2-0 with 4:53 to play, 60-58.

Miller took its largest lead, 63-60, on a Mallory Fischer three-pointer, but Parkston responded by scoring nine straight points to take a six-point lead.

From there, Miller made its run. Kristen Peterka scored a three-

point play and Jaden Kellogg, who didn't enter the game until Mentzer fouled out with 45 seconds to play, hit a putback to get the Rustlers within two. Watts' three-pointer made it a one-point game.

Watts hit two three-pointers in the contest, with Mallory Fischer hitting the other two for Miller, which took advantage when the Trojans made a rare move to a zone defense.

“We went to zone to try to protect our inside players, then Watts steps out and hits threes,” Van Laecken said.

The Lady Trojans, who avenged a regular season loss to previously unbeaten Wagner in the district final, will try to exorcise one more demon: Top-seeded St. Thomas More. The Lady Cavaliers beat Parkston 58-38 on Dec. 29 at the Parkston Classic.

“We're going to try to get revenge on them,” Malloy said. “We got revenge on Wagner. Now we hope to get it on St. Thomas More.”

Miller will look to bounce back as it takes on Elkton-Lake Benton in the third place game.

Nebraska Fires Coach Doc Sadler

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska fired coach Doc Sadler on Friday after the team he expected to be his best in his six years at the school posted the program's lowest win total since 2003.

“I've decided to make a change in the basketball program,” athletic director Tom Osborne said. “I've had to do some difficult things over my lifetime. This may be as difficult as any of them. Doc is a good man, an honorable man and I consider him a good friend. I thought it was wise at this point to make a change.”

In their first season in the Big Ten, the Cornhuskers finished 12-18 after losing 79-61 to Purdue in the first round of the league tournament on Thursday. They tied with Penn State for last place in the conference with a 4-14 record.

Sadler wept as he discussed his departure with reporters.

“You're not looking at one of the smarter guys in this business, you're looking a guy that tried,” he said. “Six years ago when I

came here, I meant what I said. I came here to do a job and this is where I want to be.

“That hadn't changed until today,” he said before leaving the podium for about 20 seconds to collect himself. “I wanted to be the guy that won the first NCAA tournament game. It didn't happen. That's the bottom line. We can all sit here and talk about this that whatever. It all comes down to winning. That's what it should come down to.”

Sadler was 101-89 overall with three NIT appearances at Nebraska but just 34-64 in conference games. In the Huskers' final five years in the Big 12, Sadler's teams never finished higher than seventh.

Osborne said he and the coaching staff thought the Huskers would be a better team this year.

“I gambled and Doc gambled that this would be a good year,” Osborne said. “Unfortunately, for whatever reason, it didn't work

out that way.”

Sadler last spring signed a contract extension through 2015-16 and his salary was \$900,000 a year. His contract calls for him to be paid as much as \$66,667 a month until he finds another job — up to a total of \$3.4 million.

Sadler has said he had passed on three chances to pursue other jobs in recent years, most recently Texas Tech, because Osborne had asked him to stay. Sadler said the contract extension last spring was a symbol of Osborne's commitment to him; Osborne said he didn't regret giving his coach the contract extension.

The program had appeared to be on the upswing on and off the court last fall.

With the hope of wooing recruits, Nebraska opened a plush, \$10 million practice facility in October. A few blocks away in downtown Lincoln, a 16,000-seat arena scheduled to open in October 2013 is under construction.



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For further information contact
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Join us at a public meeting to talk directly with project team members and City officials regarding the Planning Study.

PUBLIC MEETING INFORMATION

When: Wednesday, March 14th from 6 to 7:30 p.m

Where: RTEC, 1200 W. 21st Street, Room 114

For more information about the City of Yankton's Solid Waste and Recycling program, contact Colleen Bailey at (605) 668-5221, or visit: www.cityofyankton.org