

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS**

A Public Hearing will be held at the Ramada Inn, 1525 West Havens St., Mitchell, South Dakota, on November 5, 2015, at 2:00 o'clock P.M. (CST), to consider adoption, amendment and repeal of Rules pertaining to:

1. ARSD 41:03:03 – Park License and Trail Use Pass (Custer State Park entrance license fees)

Effect: The proposed amendments would increase the fee for a 7-day Custer State Park entrance license from \$15 to \$20, and increase the one-day fee for a motor vehicle in Custer State Park that does not have a park entrance license from \$15 to \$20.

Reason: Revenue from park entrance licenses and other user fees cover the majority of the cost to operate and maintain the South Dakota state park system. Custer State Park is a destination park and shares the same visitors as Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Rocky Mountain and Theodore Roosevelt National Parks which charge anywhere from \$20 to \$30 for a seven-day entrance permit. Eighty percent of Custer State Park's visitors are non-South Dakota residents.

2. ARSD 41:03:04 – Camping Permits and Rules (Campsite reservations - Payment of camping fees – Cancellation fees)

Effect: The proposed amendments would provide for an addition \$2.00 reservation fee for a reservation made through the telephone call center and apply to both South Dakota residents and non-residents

Reason: The intent of the additional \$2.00 fee to make a reservation through the telephone call center is to encourage campers to make reservations online. If more reservations can be shifted online, the cost of offering the reservation service will be reduced. The fee is discretionary because campers retain the option of making a

reservation online. South Dakota residents retain the option to reserve campsites at no cost if they choose to reserve online.

3. ARSD 41:03:05 – George S. Mickelson Trail Use Service Fees.

Effect: The proposed amendment would increase the daily trail user pass fee from \$3.00 to \$4.00.

Reason: Trail user fees support the cost of operating the George S. Mickelson Trail. A \$4.00 trail fee would be consistent with the daily motor vehicle fee a person pays to enter any other South Dakota state park or recreation area. The daily trail fee was last adjusted 7 years ago.

4. ARSD 41:04:05 – Motorboats and Watercraft (Boat license fees).

Effect: The proposed amendments would increase the annual fees for licensing motorboats and watercraft as follows: non-motorized boats over 12 feet and boats propelled solely by electric trolling motors from \$12.50 to \$15; motorboats under 19 feet from \$20 to \$25; and motorboats 19 feet and over from \$40 to \$45.

Reason: Revenue from boat licenses is used to help pay for on-going maintenance and repair of boating access sites statewide. The Division of Parks and Recreation maintains over 300 boat ramp and associated roads, docks, toilets and parking lots sites on lakes and rivers in South Dakota. The biggest single cost in providing quality boating access is the investment in roads and parking to facilitate boaters. The boat license fees were last adjusted in 2009.

5. ARSD 41:06:13 – Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would offer residents 205 more one-tag “male turkey” licenses and 480 less two-tag “male turkey” licenses for the Prairie Units than 2015 for an overall decrease of 755 tags; offer nonresidents 1 less one-tag “male turkey” license and 39 less two-tag “male turkey” licenses for the Prairie Units than 2015 for an overall

decrease of 79 tags; establish a new unit (Unit 16A) for Campbell and Walworth counties; and change the county designation of Unit PST-65A from Shannon County to Oglala Lakota County.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives. The county name for Shannon County was changed to Oglala Lakota County during the 2015 legislative session and the proposal implements that change.

6. ARSD 41:06:15 – Custer State Park Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendment would decrease the number of one-tag “male turkey” licenses from 135 to 100.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

7. ARSD 41:06:16 – Waterfowl Hunting Seasons (Spring Light Goose Conservation Order).

Effect: The proposed amendment would adjust the start date of the Conservation Order from opening statewide for 79 consecutive days beginning on the 106th day from the Saturday closest to November 1 to being open statewide for 79 consecutive days beginning the day following closure of Unit 2 of the goose hunting season.

Reason: Changing the start date of the Light Goose Conservation Order as recommended will ensure there is no overlap between the Unit 2 dark goose hunting season and the Light Goose Conservation Order.

The above rule proposals may be modified or amended following receipt of public comment at the hearing to include or exclude matters that are described in this Notice of Hearing. The hearing may be continued from time to time until its business has been completed and may be rescheduled.

Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit data, opinions, arguments, and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) at the hearing. Persons

unable to attend the hearing may mail data, opinions, arguments, and their views to the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, or transmit by email to either wildinfo@state.sd.us or gfpadminrules@state.sd.us. All persons who desire to submit written data, opinions, arguments, and their views by mail or email are encouraged to mail or transmit the same in sufficient time so that it is received by and in the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks on or before 12:00 o'clock P.M. on the date of the hearing. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit data, opinions, arguments and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) to the Commission for their consideration. All written and email comments must include the name, home town/city, and state of the person submitting the comments.

The above rule proposals are available for review on the internet by going to <https://rules.sd.gov/> and copies of the proposed rules may be requested from the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. Notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that this hearing is being held in a physically accessible place. Any individuals with disabilities who will require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the hearing should submit a request to the undersigned at 605.773.3718 or 605.223.7684 (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf).

Dated this 8th day of October, 2015.



Kelly R. Hepler, Secretary



This Notice of Public Hearing is published at the approximate cost of \$_____.