



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2012 POLICY FACT SHEET Game and Fish Bill

It is needed because

This initiative addresses multiple game and fish management needs and provides more opportunities for fish and wildlife resource use and enjoyment, improves management capabilities and clarifies or better defines DNR authorities. This initiative also addresses the trend in declining outdoor recreation participation, promotes sustainable use and stewardship of fish and wildlife resources, and enhances fishing and hunting opportunities.

Major program elements

Sec. 1, 40, 41. Minnow importation. Current law prohibits the importation of minnows except for re-exporting or for feeding hatchery fish. All imported minnows have come from South Dakota and North Dakota. With Asian carp now present in several watersheds in the Dakotas and with no good information on their distribution in water bodies in the Dakotas, there is a need to establish greater regulation of minnow importation to prevent accidental introduction of Asian carp through that route.

Sec. 2. Clarify authorities for outdoor recreation recruitment and retention programming. This proposal would clarify the commissioner's authority to conduct outdoor recreation skill building, recruitment and retention programs and activities.

Sec. 3, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 39, 42, 43, 44. Wolf license/permit, fee, and season framework. Current law classifies wolves as small game and the five year waiting period post-delisting before a season could be authorized was eliminated in 2011. These changes would establish clear authorities for the commissioner to issue a license to take a wolf, to charge an additional fee for the license and/or application, to limit the number of wolves taken, to limit the number of

hunters/trappers, and other aspects of a wolf season.

Sec. 4, 5, 10, 18, 37, 45. Eliminate obsolete language. Statute language that is obsolete or redundant is eliminated.

Sec. 7. Improving efficiency by vacating state game refuges that no longer serve a wildlife management purpose. Current law requires that refuges be vacated through the same process that was used to create them, (e.g., petitions, hearings, legal publications). Many refuges no longer serve a wildlife management purpose. This proposal would authorize the commissioner to vacate refuges that have been open to hunting and trapping for at least five years, without having to go through a formal public process.

Sec. 8, 27. Deer baiting and poaching license revocation. This initiative clarifies baiting definitions related to normal agricultural practices and liquid scents, salts, and minerals and provides for a one-year revocation for a first conviction of deer baiting. There is also a provision that revokes a person's license for six-years when convicted of illegally taking trophy deer scoring higher than 170.

Sec. 10, 11. License requirements and exemptions relating to age. This technical change clarifies nonresident youth big game licensing requirements and specifies that nonresident youth, including those age 10 or 11, must pay a fee.

Sec. 23. Blaze orange requirements for small game hunting. This proposal would amend the current blaze orange requirements for small game hunting by providing an exception for archery deer hunters to take small game without blaze orange while stationary.

Sec. 25. Use of radio equipment. This initiative allows for (a) radio communication between a handler and a dog and (b) use of a remote controlled motorized decoy for taking migratory waterfowl.

Sec. 26. Special hunts for physically disabled. This initiative allows physically disabled hunters to use a mechanical/electronic device to hold or discharge a firearm or bow.

Sec. 34. Beaver control. This proposal is a technical change to clarify that local government units may obtain permits to remove beavers that are causing damage to roads or projects on land owned or managed by local governments.

Sec. 38. Allow waterfowl to be taken in open water in designated areas. This proposal would allow the taking of waterfowl in open water in areas specifically designated by the Commissioner by rule. This authority would allow designation of border waters, large lakes or other areas for open water hunting.

Priority-setting

This initiative supports DNR's strategic vision of fishing, hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing opportunities that meet the expectations of hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers. Businesses and jobs depend on sustainable use of fish and wildlife resources. This initiative also contributes to priorities of this administration to recruit and retain outdoor recreationists, foster effective and efficient conservation delivery, and provide high quality public service.

Project locations

The initiative involves activities throughout the state.

Key measures and outcomes

- Efficient management of game refuges
- Increased waterfowl hunting opportunities on large water bodies
- Increased hunting participation by nonresident youth
- Current and simplified statute language
- Wolf hunting/trapping seasons beginning in 2012
- Minnow importation for resale does not increase the risk of aquatic invasive species introductions

- Consistent blaze orange requirements for small game hunters
- Increased participation and satisfaction for physically disabled hunters
- Clarification for beaver removal permits for local governments
- Clarification for deer baiting and agricultural practices

Financial Implications

It is anticipated that wolf hunting revenues for license and application fees will offset annual costs to manage the wolf population including population monitoring, research, enforcement, education, and depredation programs.

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