



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY South Dakota Chapter

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Subject line: Mystic Ranger District MVUM 2016

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS) submits comments concerning the Mystic Ranger Districts proposed changes to the 2016 MVUM. Our organization has an interest in this project and we appreciate the opportunity to comment. The Wildlife Society is an international non-profit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. The South Dakota Chapter achieves this mission in part by evaluating the principals involved in proposed public actions that affect wildlife and habitats. Our Chapter goals and objectives are more clearly outlined at: <http://sdwildlife.org/>

In the review of your preliminary proposed action:

1. NFSR 263-Agree with proposed changes because of ownership change
2. NFSR 718.1C-Agree with proposed changes because of other access to this area and road reduction
3. Trail 6926, 6927, 6928, 6933-Agree with proposed changes to allow full size vehicle use
4. NFSR 301.1O, 301.1P, 301.1S-Agree with proposed changes to protect sensitive plant communities, and removal of dead end non connected trails
5. NFSR 289.1E, 583.1A, 583.1C, 583.1D, 583.1E-Disagree to yearlong closure but agree to have seasonal closure similar to other Cave, Bat protection areas (May 15th to December 15th which includes big game hunting seasons).

6. NFSR 289.1E, 583, 583.1A, 583.1B, 583.1F, 583.1G, 583.1H, 583.1I, 583.1J- Agree with seasonal closure and open from May 15th through December 15th. NFSR 361, 361.2A, 361.2B, 361.2C, 361.2D, 361.2E-Disagree with closure since this is excellent mountain lion habitat and hunters use this area during the lion season and it appears that this is the only access adjacent to private land. Leave 361 open yearlong and close the 2A, B, C, D, and E trails. This will allow enough hunter access for the mountain lion season.
7. NFSR 718- Agree with change from yearlong to seasonally open May 15th through December 15 which will allow hunter access for big game seasons.
8. NFSR 173, 197, 603, 199, 199.2A, 199.2B, 199.2D, 603 -Agree with change from yearlong to seasonally open May 15th through December 15th, not many elk in this area but high concentration of whitetail. Again this will restrict access for lion hunting.
9. NFSR 249-Agree with seasonal opening May 15th through December 15th.
10. NFSR 254, 389, 389.1F, 389.1N, 389.1O, 530, 530.1A, 530.1C, 643.1D-Agree with seasonal closure for big game winter range designation.

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. Please continue to send correspondence to our Chapter.

Sincerely,

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