

The week of November 27th, 2022

The camping reservation window is open through February 25th, 2023. Book your late season pheasant or deer hunts and start planning your ice fishing trips with us in some of our great lodging options.

Modern lodging reservations can be made for holidays such as Christmas and New Year's. It is also time to start thinking about Martin Luther King Day and Presidents Day weekend getaways. 2023 Park Entrance Licenses and gift cards are available online and they make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers.

Muzzleloader deer season opens December 1st.

Preference points are available for purchase until January 4th, 2023.

East River Deer season closes December 4th.

Custer State Park Mountain Lion Access Permits are available for application until 8:00 am December 7th.

Aberdeen Area

Fishing Report

The lakes and rivers are covered with a thin layer of ice. Some anglers have been walking out on Richmond Lake to fish, but the ice depth varies from 2 inches to 5 inches. Still a little early to be trusting the ice!

Hunting Report

Waterfowl: Most of the waterfowl have migrated south. There are still some snow geese in southern Edmunds County, Spink County, and Faulk County.

Deer: The East River Deer season closes on December 4th. If you have an any deer tag, that tag is not valid after December 4th. If you have an antlerless deer tag that tag is valid for the antlerless deer season from December 10th to 18th. There is still rutting activity going on and lots of deer movement in the mornings and evenings.

Pheasants: Hunters are seeing good numbers of pheasants in the area. The hunters hunting cattail sloughs are having the best luck. GFP is getting lots of calls about hunters shooting at pheasants within safety zones. Please be aware of road hunting rules and respect the safety zones.

Clark County

Fishing Report

Frozen waters have started to see some fishing activity over the last week. Reports of a few walleye and perch getting caught around the county. Ice conditions vary from open water to 5 inches from other anglers' reports.

Hunting Report

Waterfowl: Ducks and Canada Geese have migrated through, still seeing decent amounts of snow geese, especially in the mornings before noon.

## Codington County

### Fishing Report

Fishermen and hunters are reminded that early ice can vary greatly on a body of water and to use caution when crossing ice. Such activities are not recommended at this time.

Goose: Little to no activity.

Kampeska: Little to no activity

Pelican Lake: Little to no activity.

Blythe Slough: Little to no activity.

Long Lake: Little to no activity.

Dry Lake: Little to no activity.

### Hunting Report

Waterfowl: A few pockets of geese and ducks can still be found in the area, but most have pushed through.

Deer: The rut is winding down and chasing has slowed greatly. With cooler temperatures this week, deer may be on the move a little more.

Pheasant: Hunters are finding good number of birds near cover that has a good food source nearby.

## Day County

### Fishing Report

Bitter: Fishing activity has picked up near the lodge on the NE side. Please use caution as there are still open pockets of water throughout the lake.

Bluedog: Little to no activity.

Enemy Swim: Little activity.

Lynn Lake: Little to no activity.

Pickereel: Little to no activity.

Rush: Little to no activity.

Waubay: Little to no activity.

### Hunting Report

Waterfowl: A few small pockets of waterfowl remain in the area. Hunters are still trying their luck at harvesting a few birds before the season closure.

Deer: Hunters are reporting decent success harvesting both archery and rifle deer. The recent warm spell has created some reduced activity from deer.

Pheasant: Most reports of success are coming from hunters walking cattail sloughs and low-lying areas. Be cautious of thin ice on the smaller sloughs.

## Hamlin County

### Fishing Report

No fishing activity across the county. Several lakes are partially iced over and ice conditions are very unsafe.

### Hunting Report

Waterfowl: A good number of Canada Geese in the area. Birds are concentrated around larger water bodies with open water. Expect cold temperatures throughout the end of the week to continue pushing birds out of the area. Most of the ducks have left due to the freezing temperatures and limited open water. A good number of snow geese remain. \*Use caution when handling sick birds. Avian Influenza has been documented in the county.

Deer: The rut is winding down. Bucks have been a lot less active. Recent warm temperatures have pushed a lot of deer back to moving during the nighttime hours. Rifle hunters are having limited success.

Pheasant: Not much for pheasant hunting pressure as of lately. Thicker grass and cattails are mainly where birds are concentrated. The warmer weather has birds out in the open sunning themselves more often.

### Marshall County

#### Fishing Report

Buffalo Lakes: Thin ice.

Cattail / Kettle Lakes: Thin ice.

Opitz: Thin ice.

Piyas Lake: Thin ice.

Clear Lake: Thin ice.

### Hunting Report

Waterfowl: With most bodies of water frozen, the birds have moved on.

Deer: Deer harvest seemed to have picked up throughout the week.

Pheasant: All the ice buildup on the trees and cattails has melted and is allowing for some good hunting.

### Parks Report

Pelican Lake Recreation Area: Game Fish & Parks is offering a Project Learning Tree® (PLT) facilitator workshop on Tuesday, December 6th. It is an award-winning environmental education program for teachers, other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. The training and activity guide contains all the information needed to conduct a variety of lesson plans for the classroom or nature activities on field trips. They include objectives, methods, background information, a list of materials needed, procedures, evaluation suggestions, recommended grade levels, subject areas, duration, group size, setting, and key terms. Supper will be provided. Preregister for this free workshop by calling 605.882.5088 or emailing [sdpltmarnie@gmail.com](mailto:sdpltmarnie@gmail.com) before Friday December, 2nd.

Fort Sisseton Historic State Park: Frontier Christmas at Fort Sisseton Historic State Park is Saturday, December 10th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Celebrate the season in classic frontier fashion with Christmas crafts, homemade bread, hands-on activities, sleigh rides (if no snow we

will have horse drawn wagons), caroling, and much more. This year we are bringing roasted chestnuts to the Frontier and as you go from building to building a warming tent! Lunch will be served from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm or until gone. Cost for lunch is \$5 per person. This event is a fun time for the whole family. A South Dakota Park Entrance License (PEL) is required on all vehicles entering the park. Cost is \$8 per day or \$36 for annual. PEL is available for purchase day of event.

Roy Lake State Park: Roy Lake State Park Christmas Open House is Sunday, December 11th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the lodge building at the west end of the west unit. There will be snacks, drinks, crafts, door prizes, and bring an item for the food pantry to get a discount on all merchandise all to celebrate Christmas! In addition, Roy Lake Suites are 25% off through March 31st! One or two bedroom suites available for \$90 to \$131.25 per night. Go online at [gooutdoorsouthdakota.com](http://gooutdoorsouthdakota.com) or call 1-800-710-2267 to reserve one of the suites.