



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

JULY 9 AND 10, 2026 | WEBSTER, SD
THE GALLEY

MEETING INFO

This agenda is subject to change without prior notice.

Date and Time: July 9, 2026, from 1-5 pm CST and July 10, 2026, from 8 am-12 pm CST

Meeting Location: The Galley, 230 US-12 East, Webster, SD 57274

Webinar Info: We will be using Zoom Webinar® for this meeting. As a participant, you will not have audio or video capabilities by default. During the open forum and public hearing, if you'd like to testify, please 'Raise Your Hand' using the button at the bottom of the screen, or by pressing *9 on your phone. To lower your hand via phone, press *9 again. When it's your turn to speak, the meeting host will unmute you, allowing you to have audio but no video. If your phone is muted when called upon, press *6 to unmute.

- *9 to 'Raise Your Hand' or 'Lower Your Hand.'
- *6 to Unmute or Mute

Please inform Gail Buus at gail.buus@state.sd.us by 1 pm CST if you plan to speak during the meeting. This helps us to accurately identify and call on speakers during the session. Thank you for your cooperation!

Zoom Webinar: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Call In: +17193594580,,91264176710# US

Meeting ID: 912 6417 6710

Passcode: 970458

Video Conference ID: 91264176710@zoomcrc.com

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order (1 pm CST / 12 pm MT)

Division of Administration

Action Items

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
4. License List Request

Informational Items

5. Staff Introductions

Public Hearing

The Portion of the meeting is designated for public comment finalizations.

Open Forum (2 pm CST / 1 pm MT)

The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment on petitions, proposals, and other items of interest not on the agenda.

Petitions

6. Petition 259: Transporting Paddlefish
7. Petition 260: Allowance of Nonresidents to Acquire Mountain Lion License

Proposals

8. Fishing Seasons and Regulations Proposals
9. Bobcat Season and Population Status
10. Threatened and Endangered List Proposal and Review Process Presentation

Finalizations

- 11. General License Provisions
- 12. Spring and Fall Turkey Seasons
- 13. Private Shooting Preserves

Division of Parks and Recreation

Informational Items

- 14. Dock 44 Update
- 15. Marketing Initiatives to Promote Camping
- 16. Northeast Region Park Projects
- 17. Reservation Customer Service Review Process
- 18. RTP Project Selection
- 19. Events Manager Program and Summer Events
- 20. June and YTD Camping and Revenue Report

Division of Wildlife

Action Items

- 21. Elk Raffle License

Informational Items

- 22. Roy Lake GPA Prescribed Burn Results
- 23. Goose Depredation
- 24. Big Sioux River CREP/Riparian Buffer Initiative
- 25. Coyote Bounty Results
- 26. Plant Identification and Management Workshop
- 27. Law Enforcement Case Highlight
- 28. License Sales Report

Solicitation of Agenda Items

Now is the time to submit agenda items for the Commission to consider at a following commission meeting.

Adjourn

The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on September 10-11, 2026 starting at 1 pm CST at The Holiday Inn Express, Winner, SD.

Public Comments

Other

Jim Gruber

Estelline SD

Position: other

Comment:

Have any of you commissioners ever tried to navigate your gfp site on buying a license.. you can't make it any less user friendly. And on top of that if you call in you'll get 3 different answers to same questions. Why do I have to purchase a license in June that is not valid til Oct or Nov. This is ridiculous

Jim Gruber

Estelline SD

Position: other

Comment:

Have any of you commissioners ever tried to navigate your gfp site on buying a license.. you can't make it any less user friendly. And on top of that if you call in you'll get 3 different answers to same questions. Why do I have to purchase a license in June that is not valid til Oct or Nov. This is ridiculous

Jim Gruber

Estelline SD

Position: other

Comment:

Have any of you commissioners actually ever tried to navigate your on line licensing system. It's a disaster. Can you make it any more complicated,?

Joshua Lewis

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

The Private Land "P" Tag Restriction (New for 2026): In 2025, Type 19P antlerless tags could occasionally overlap onto certain publicly accessible spaces. For 2026, the GFP explicitly mandates that all license types ending in "P" (like 15A-19P) are strictly valid on private land only. They can no longer be used on lands leased by the GFP for public access, including Walk-In Areas, Controlled Hunting Access Program (CHAP), or the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). This is complete and utter nonsense. not to mention much of the "walk-in" areas should be turned in to OIG for fraud and waste as the land is completely unhuntable in most cases.

Skye Jenkins

Seattle WA

Position: other

Comment:

I am from Alabama, but I live in Seattle. I have driven cross country numerous times and camped at state parks in most states. South Dakota's process is one of the most cumbersome, confusing, and inconvenient processes for guests. I visited your the park website before coming, and did not see any information about obtaining a license for a visit. I am at Custer State Park. I'm only here for a day but was required to buy a 7 day pass. Getting the pass was very confusing being online, and I feel I had to submit way too much personal information just for being at a park. Next, we occupied an empty campsite but found it was not on the map to signup so we were unable to pay in advance. We needed to sleep before a long day of driving, but one of your employees woke us up at 7am on July 4th demanding money. I used to love this state before, but I would actually avoid your state parks in the future because of the inconvenience and the rudeness of your employees waking up campers at the crack of dawn demanding money. I have stayed at state parks, national forests, national parks, and county/city parks but this is the first time I've ever had an employee knock on my door to wake me up demanding money at 7am. I would suggest you be more friendly to visitors if you want to improve your tourism industry. She actually frightened me, I could not find my glasses, and honestly I really needed the sleep. Get a grip, South Dakota.

To Whom It May Concern:

When I checked on my deer license results, it "appears" I didn't apply. ABSOLUTE LIE!!! It is your confusing, USER UNFRIENDLY (Florida run) application system!! Everyone I know HATES this system.

I've been into your Suwannee Falls office so often when I walk in they know what I'm there for.

MY BIO: Curtis James Parnoch. 82 years old
Viet Nam Vet - 90% disabled from
Agent Orange exposure.

Two heart surgeries; two cancer surgeries
This was very likely to be my last
year to hunt. Now it appears 2025 was!

The day I applied I was at the local GFP office and they walked me through everything, including a box I had to check that was hidden on my screen. I successfully applied for elk tags: UNSUCCESSFUL.

I applied for South Perkins, any deer. No points. Didn't register in your system.

I applied for West Sully, #1 any deer
and - Any whitetail #2 worthless points!!

Several times, since you (GFP)
has enacted this confusing application
system, my applications have gone
into limbo! And this time I know
I didn't do anything wrong!

I have a 30 year relationship
with a West River ranch family. In
their 12,000 acres they allow three
of us. This year there will be one
hunter.

If you would have the "expensive"
drawing ~~before~~ ^(Special Back) after the regular drawing,
I, and others, could at least have
an opportunity to hunt.

Years ago I hoped Kristi Noem
would replace the entire GFP
Commission. It didn't happen. It
would be great to have a Commission
that cared about South Dakota
sports persons and not sell out to
the Department of Tourism!! Or other
special interest folks.

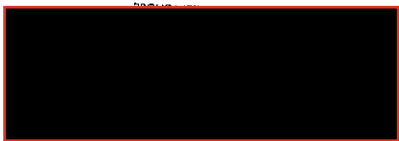
PAUSE: I just now applied for an archery deer tag and will wait and see if it goes through. Confusing, but the same as I did for ER & WR Deer.

This is likely a futile, stupid, grasping at straws request, but if anyone returns a license for West Sully or South Perkins? Me??

Partial List of Friends who HATE this system
Darin Johnson, Harlan Steen
Clyde Hagen, Larry Panning, Trevor Steen
And everyone I know!

Going to Florida to get a program for applications is like Kristi Noem going to Texas because South Dakota doesn't have any qualified dentists.

Curtis J. Pansch



No computer. No paper applications. Have to do it on an outdated phone.

Suggestions for IMPROVEMENT!

1. Stop the ABSOLUTELY CRUEL killing varmints in the spring, leaving their young to DIE in the dens when the mothers are KILLED!

2. Permit deer hunters to apply for as many licenses as they want—and can then reject any draws over two.

EXAMPLE: My points: Black Hills-8;
ER-3; Custer-22; Muzzle-6; Refuge-3;
Special Buck-1;
Back when there was still common sense,
I put in for preference points.

3. Work with the federal gov't to downsize the excessive number of pelicans and cormorants. Ugly, dirty fish eating machines.



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

June 11-12, 2026 | Heartland Energy, Madison, SD

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Call Meeting to Order

Vice Chair Cull called the meeting to order at 1 pm CST at Heartland Energy, in Madison, SD on June 11, 2026. Commissioners Bruce Cull, Travis Theel, Chuck Spring, Julie Bartling, Dean Kirkeby, Robert Whitmyre, and Kevin Nyberg were present. Commissioner Stephanie Rissler was in attendance beginning at 3:30pm Thursday. With seven commission members present or online, a quorum was established. The public and staff could listen via SDPB Livestream and participate via conference or in person, with approximately 92 total participants attending via Zoom or in person.

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

[Action Item]

Vice Chair Cull requested the disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest, but none were brought forward.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

[Action Item]

Vice Chair Cull called for any additions or corrections to the regular minutes of the May 2026 meeting. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY THEEL TO APPROVE THE MAY 2026 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Additional Salary Days

[Action Item]

Chair Cull called for additional salary days from the Commissioners. No additional days were submitted for approval.

4. License List Request – Hunt Lead Free

[Action Item]

General Counsel for the Department, Nick Michels, presented to the commission a license list request from an organization called Hunt Lead-Free SD. Michels explained that this entity's stated reasons for wanting a list of deer, elk, and antelope tag holders in western SD did not fall under any of the categorical prohibitions laid out in ARSD 41:06:02:04 and that, consequently, the Department had no objection to granting Mr. Druce's request.

MOTIONED BY NYBERG, SECONDED BY THEEL TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Michels also conveyed to the Commission that, because Hunt Lead-Free SD is a non-profit with limited available funding, it requested that the Commission grant the modified fee made available in ARSD 41:06:02:06.

MOTIONED BY KIRKEBY, SECONDED BY RISSLER TO APPROVE THE AMENDEMENT FOR THE MODIFIED FEE FOR THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST. The motion carried unanimously.

5. 2027 Budget Approval

[Action Item]

Deputy Finance Officer, Callyn Donald, presented an overview of the FY2027 Budget, which takes effect July 1st. As part of the presentation, the Commission approved the FY2027 budget for the three informational centers: Wildlife – Informational, Wildlife – Development/Improvement – Informational, and Snowmobile Trails – Informational. The presentation outlined the agency's budget structure and budget cycle, showed the key changes from the FY2026 base budget and highlighted the legislative adopted FY27 changes which included adjustments related to the 1.4% salary package and BIT bureau billings. Additionally, the Deputy Finance Officer and the Director of Wildlife provided a brief



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update regarding Pittman-Robertson federal funds, noting the impact of the declining PR funds on future budget cycles.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY THEEL TO APPROVE THE 2027 BUDGET FOR WILDLIFE – INFORMATIONAL, WILDLIFE – DEVELOPMENT/IMPROVEMENT-INFORMATIONAL, AND SNOWMOBILE TRAILS - INFORMATIONAL. Motion carried unanimously.

6. New Staff Introductions

[Info Item]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation, introduced two new Parks Division employees: 1) Jeremy Bullion – Park Technician at Lake Louise Recreation Area, and 2) Lane Arthur – Service Forester at Custer State Park.

Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Division Director, introduced one new employee Brandon Welker, Education and Operations Specialist at the Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Complex.

Public Hearing

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor at 2:09 pm CST for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda as finalization.

Agenda Item #11: Youth, Mentor, and Apprentice Deer

No testimony provided.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the public hearing closed at 2:10 pm.

Open Forum

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor at 2:10 pm CST for discussion from those in attendance on matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda, not as a finalization or may not be on the agenda.

2:11 pm: Representative Tim Goodwin of Rapid City, SD testified in person in support of allowing fisherman to keep one Musky.

2:14 pm: Cory Hanson of Brandon, SD testified in person in support of depredation tags for river otters.

2:17 pm: Tim Peters of Madison, SD, representing Mitchel Pheasants Forever, testified in person about Pheasants Forever helping to improve Old Stickney Lake GPA.

2:20 pm: Julie Anderson of Rapid City, SD representing Signs of Hope, testified virtually in opposition to the bounty programs.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the open forum at 2:24 pm CST.

7. Petition 256 – Tagging of Harvested Preserve Birds

[Action Item: Petition]

Director Kirschenmann provided a brief summary of the two petitions as they both pertain to Private Shooting Preserves and tagging/transportation rules. The petitions were brought forward by Mr. Sal Roseland requesting the Commission to adjust rule to allow birds harvested on Private Shooting Preserves to be transported to either the lodge or processing facility without attaching leg tags, however they must accompany the birds and once processed at the facility then inserted in packages. The first petition addressed the process of “how” preserves would carry out this process and respective



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requirements and the second petition included an exception clause within the transportation permit rule to allow this process if a preserve operator chose to use this method.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO APPROVE THE TAGGING OF HARVESTED PRESERVE BIRDS PETITION. FINAL ACTION WILL BE IN JULY. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Petition 257 – Preserve Transportation Permit

[Action Item: Petition]

MOTIONED BY NYBERG, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO APPROVE THE PRESERVE TRANSPORTATION PERMIT PETITION. FINAL ACTION WILL BE IN JULY. Motion carried unanimously.

9. General License Provisions - Definitions

[Action Item: Proposal]

Staff recommended modifying the administrative rule defining a buck and bull by removing the term “polished antler” and replacing it with “antler.” This change would allow hunters to legally harvest velvet-antlered deer or elk. The Commission adopted the proposal, with final rule consideration scheduled for the July Commission meeting.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADOPT THE PROPOSAL. FINAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IN JULY. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Spring and Fall Turkey Seasons

[Action Item: Proposal]

Staff presented updates on the Spring and Fall Turkey Seasons.

- For the Spring Season, the recommendation splits Day and Codington counties into separate hunting units.
- For the Fall Season, the proposal allows the use of rifles statewide—except in Minnehaha County—and aligns Fall Season Units with Spring Units, excluding the Black Hills.

The Commission adopted the proposal, with potential finalization at the July meeting.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY NYBERG TO ADOPT THE CUSTER STATE PARK SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON PROPOSAL. FINAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IN JULY. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY NYBERG TO ADOPT THE SPRING WILD TURKEY SEASON PROPOSAL. FINAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IN JULY. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY THEEL TO ADOPT THE FALL WILD TURKEY SEASON PROPOSAL. FINAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IN JULY. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Youth, Mentor, and Apprentice Deer

[Action Item: Finalization]

The Commission approved changes closing these seasons in nine southeastern counties: Bon Homme, Clay, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Turner, Union, and Yankton. These seasons previously allowed the harvest of antlerless whitetail deer. Closing them is intended to help low deer populations in these counties recover more quickly toward management objectives.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY SPRING TO APPROVE THE YOUTH, MENTOR, AND APPRENTICE DEER FINALIZATION. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Antelope Survey and License Allocation

[Action Item: Wildlife]

Staff reported on pronghorn population trends based on recent herd composition and aerial surveys. Although the population has grown over the past two years, it remains below the



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statewide objective. Accordingly, the Commission approved license recommendations that include a 1% increase in buck only licenses. No doe or kid harvest opportunities are currently available.

MOTIONED BY SPRING SECONDED BY BARTLING TO APPROVE ANTELOPE LICENSE RECOMMENDATIONS. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Big Game Depredation Hunts

[Action Item: Wildlife]

The Commission approved a resolution authorizing the Game, Fish and Parks Secretary to issue big game depredation permits for the next three years. Each year, up to 600 permits, plus 200 additional landowner/operator permits, may be issued for each species group—deer, antelope, and turkey. No more than 100 elk depredation permits may be issued annually.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY SPRING TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Law Enforcement Overview of Recruiting and Training

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Law enforcement chief, Sam Schelhaas, provided an update on the hiring and training process for conservation officers. The presentation started with what the hiring process looked like, the timeline involved and then ended with what the wildlife training officer program entails.

15. Outdoor Campus East Update

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Kip Rounds, Regional Wildlife Supervisor, provided an update on the ongoing expansion project at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls. The presentation started with a brief background of the Outdoor Campus and classes offered since it opened in 1997, followed by the primary goals of the expansion project. The commission was provided updates and pictures of different areas of construction, along with total general completion timelines. Some areas, such as the new classrooms, bathrooms, and game processing room, will be completed by mid-June. The entire project is scheduled to be complete by October 2026. The November GFP Commission meeting is scheduled to be in the new classroom space, along with a ribbon-cutting event.

16. 2025 Small Game Harvest Report

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Jacob Wolfe, Wildlife Biologist, provided an update on pheasant and grouse populations and hunter activity. Pheasant hunter numbers remained relatively stable during the past season, while harvest increased—an indicator of strong and potentially growing pheasant populations. For prairie grouse, both hunter participation and harvest declined. However, harvest two years ago was unusually high, so this season's numbers likely represent a return to typical harvest levels. Additionally, drought conditions and variable hunting conditions in parts of the state may have contributed to reduced grouse harvest.

17. Walleye Genetics

[Info Item: Wildlife]

BJ Schall, Fisheries Biologist in Sioux Falls, presented the results of a research project that evaluated Walleye genetics in 11 lakes in eastern South Dakota and Lake Oahe. The results of research indicated that there was little genetic variation among lakes in South Dakota. West 81 Lake showed some slight divergence from the other waters, but the remaining 11 lakes had similar genetics. Additionally, GFP compared the genetics of South Dakota Walleye against Walleye from Southern Minnesota (Lake Sarah) and from the Mississippi River along the Iowa border. Each of the sources (South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa) appeared to represent different genetic strains. Over the next 4 years, GFP will stock Walleye fry from Minnesota and Iowa into lakes in eastern South Dakota and compare the success against South Dakota strain Walleye.



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18. Youth Trapping Recruitment Program and Coyote Bounty Updates [Info Item: Wildlife]

Jacquie Ermer provided a summary of the 2026 Youth Trapping Recruitment Program and the Coyote Bounty Program. The Youth Trapping Recruitment program was open only to resident youth under the age of 18 starting March 1, 2026. The program closed on April 22 after reaching the program maximum of \$200,000 (\$10/eligible tail). A total of 728 youth participated. The Coyote Bounty Program is new this year and began on April 1 for all South Dakota residents. The Coyote Bounty program will run until July 1, 2026 unless the maximum of \$300,000 (\$30/eligible tail) is reached before then. To date about 3,200 coyote tails have been submitted by 454 participants of which 124 are youth.

19. Community Fishery Study [Info Item: Wildlife]

Aysah Dondlinger, SDSU graduate student in the Natural Resource Management School, presented findings from his research on use, demographics, preferences and constraints of anglers, especially youth, fishing eastern South Dakota CFPs. Fishing pressure on CFPs is high with his five study waters (totaling 44 acres) supporting nearly 20,000 hours of fishing pressure during summer 2025, similar to fishing pressure on a much larger water body (e.g., Lake Madison - 2,642 acres). Angler catch rates and fishing pressure increased right after fish were stocked. Angler satisfaction was generally high and trip satisfaction with youth was nine times more likely to be high when they were satisfied with the number of fish they caught. The age distribution was dominated by younger anglers who had a preference for catching largemouth bass, were introduced to fishing by parents, grandparents and other family members, and got a lot of their fishing information watching videos. Stocking preferred fish species, having fishing opportunities close to home and fishing with family and friends were of highest importance to young anglers.

20. Private Lands Habitat Program [Info Item: Wildlife]

Will Gallman, Private Lands Habitat Biologist out of Brookings, presented on available private lands habitat programs, importance of partnerships in private lands conservation, public access programs, and challenges and opportunities they run into on a daily basis. Will also highlighted different private lands projects that are happening in region three. These included grassland restoration projects, Riparian Buffer Initiative (RBI) projects, Walk in Areas (WIA), and Controlled Hunter Access Program (CHAP) areas.

21. License Sales Report [Info Item: Wildlife]

Director Kirschenmann provided an overview of this month's license sales report. License sales remain consistent from the May report. Small game license sales are up while fishing licenses are slightly behind last year and 3-year average. Weather may have resulted in fewer fishing license sales and the department continues to reach out to anglers. June will be a big month as the combined deer draw will happen towards the end of June with an application deadline of June 23. Statistics also show that all elk hunting seasons had a higher volume of applications than last year.

22. Strategic Marketing Using Dashboard Data [Info Item: Parks]

Hilary Morey, Outdoor Recreation Engagement Specialist gave an overview of how the Parks Division can use information from GoOutdoors South Dakota to better understand current park users and to help drive future marketing efforts. The presentation showed snapshots of user demographics (age brackets), where our park users are traveling from, reservation frequency by age, and midweek camping patterns. The commission learned how this information and trends in the data can be used to inform future marketing efforts such as digital ads targeted by geography and reactivation campaigns targeted to lapsed users. Future efforts will include involving the Department's Human Dimensions Specialist to identify motivations of various park user groups, as well as evaluating marketing efforts to determine their effectiveness.



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23. Custer State Park Resort Lease RFP

[Info Item: Parks]

Custer State Park Resort Lease RFP – Sean Blanchette, Business Administrator for the Division of Parks and Recreation, provided an update to the prospectus for the Custer State Park Resort prospectus issuance. Blanchette explained that the Department received four proposals in response to the prospectus which closed on June 5, 2026 and that the review process has begun. Blanchette provided an overview and timeline of the planned proposal review process which will include bidder interviews. The proposal selection recommendation is to be presented to the Commission for their approval at the September 2026 meeting. Final contract approval is planned for the October 2026 meeting.

24. Park Division Assets

[Info Item: Parks]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation, provided the Commission with an overview of the scale and complexity of the Parks Division capital asset program that ranges from campgrounds, boat ramps, bathrooms, and various other park amenities. These facilities and structures are set up to both assist campers in enjoying their overnight stays as well as bringing in day-use visitors who are drawn to the parks for these diverse features. Asset Management is one of the Dept.'s 4 Strategic Pillars and is critical to the success of the Parks Division and the customers who use it.

25. North Point Breakwater Project

[Info Item: Parks]

Derek Dorr, SE Regional Parks Supervisor informed the Commission on the progress on a new wave attenuator/breakwater design being piloted at North Point Recreation Area. Manufacturing has now been completed on four of the six planned breakwater pods, including two pods constructed by the North Point staff, one by Eureka Manufacturing, and one by the Springfield Penitentiary. Installation of the first four pods is scheduled for early June once the barrage is secured for a couple weeks.

This design was patterned off an existing structure from Nebraska and was developed to improve long-term maintenance efficiency by allowing staff easier access to the structure without the need for costly dive teams. The project will also address increasing challenges caused by zebra mussels, which have accelerated wear and maintenance concerns on the older tire-style breakwater system. As a result, the original tire breakwater design has reached the end of its service life and has been removed from the area. GFP looks forward to evaluating the effectiveness and durability of this new system as part of ongoing efforts to improve marina infrastructure and visitor experience at North Point Marina.

26. America 250 Update

[Info Item: Parks]

The Commission received an update on Adventure 250: Make Your History in South Dakota State Parks, the 2026 annual park theme celebrating the America 250 initiative. The presentation highlighted strong early participation, with over 1,000 participants engaging in park adventures, creating visitor-generated content, and encouraging repeat visitation. Staff shared the program's comprehensive promotional strategy, including digital outreach, social media, partnerships, and park-level engagement, as well as efforts to use Adventure 250 as a tool to support campground occupancy. The Commission also received information on the value of partnerships, including sponsorship support from the Independent Insurance Agents of South Dakota, and the program's role in increasing awareness and connections to South Dakota State Parks.

27. May and Year to Date Camping and Revenue Reports

[Info Item: Parks]

May and YTD Camping and Revenue Reports - Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the May monthly and year-to-date report numbers for the Division of Parks & Recreation related to camping units and revenue. May camping units were running slightly ahead of last year for the month (133 units) with nice weekend weather and slight behind YTD (127 units). The Parks Division revenue was down 3% overall for the month of May as well as YTD. Annual park entrance license sales remain very strong including 7-day passes at CSP in spite of the weather and road construction challenges the park



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has faced. The 3-year historical comparisons indicating revenue and permit sales were shared along with data on lodging and camping units.

28. Adjourn

[Action Item]

A Regular Commission Meeting will be held on July 9-10 at The Galley, in Webster, SD starting at 1 pm CST.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:02 AM CST ON June 12, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,

Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

GAME, FISH & PARKS

523 East Capital

Pierre, SD 57501

(605)773-3396

Fax (605)773-6425

Chris.Petersen@state.sd.us

REQUEST FOR LISTS OF LICENSE HOLDERS

Application

Type of List Requested Non - Residence Pheasant Liscence

Number of licenses in list (TBD) List will target the eastern 1/3 of South Dakota

Name of Person, Entity, or Organization requesting list:

Ian Meriwether-Chalfant, Airport Manager, Watertown Regional Airport

Address of Person, Entity, or Organization: 550 Airport Dr, Watertown, SD 57201

How would you like your list sent to you: (email or disk)

Email (to: iMeriwether-Chalfant@watertownsd.us)

Phone Number

(605) 753-9357

Purpose for which list will be used:

Marketing the Watertown Regional Airport (with it's new terminal and expanded flight offerings) to non-resident pheasant hunters who have driven, or are considering driving considerable distances to their NE SD hunting destination after they land in MN, ND or SD.

This list is Names and Mailing Addresses ONLY

The sale of lists by the Department of Game, Fish & Parks is authorized by SDCL 1-27-1 and ARSD 41:06:02:04, 05 and 06. The fee for a Game, Fish & Parks Commission approved exception is \$100, otherwise the fee is \$100 per thousand names or a minimum of \$100 whichever is greater.

Unless requested and approved as part of this request, the license list will not include anyone under eighteen years of age. Names are for one-time use only and are to be used only by the person, entity or organization approved per this request.



Authorized Signature of Purchaser

7/6/2026

Date

Date of Commission Action

South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

Petition for Rule Change

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:



ID: 259

Petitioner Name: David Mines

Address: 104 Robin St
Yankton , SD 57078

Email: davidmines4831@gmail.com

Phone: 605-661-4831

Rule Identification: The rule that requires paddlefish harvested during the archery paddlefish season below Gavins Point Dam to be transported to your home whole.

Describe Change: Allow for paddlefish harvested during the archery paddlefish season in June to be reduced to 2 fillets for transportation.

Reason for Change: It makes no sense for this requirement since there isn't any sort of length limit or slot limit on the archery season anyway. We have lots of fish in SD that have length limits, yet we can fillet them and transport them legally. It can also be difficult to transport a large fish whole in the heat of summer. This change could be applied to the LFC season as well since there is no slot limit there as well.

South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

Petition for Rule Change

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:

ID:	260
Petitioner Name:	Jason Clayton
Address:	14806 SW 112th ST FAXON, OK 73540
Email:	jason.claytonsr@gmail.com
Phone:	580-284-6114
Rule Identification:	Administrative Rule 41:06:61:06
Describe Change:	Seeking to remove the requirement of South Dakota residency in order to pursue mountain lions in the Black Hills without dogs/hounds.
Reason for Change:	As a former SD resident and mountain lion hunter for many years, I am seeking the change the rule so that I may apply for and purchase/receive a tag to boot hunt mountain lions in the black hills of South Dakota.

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Chapter 41:10:04

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 9, 2026	Webster
	Public Hearing	Sept. 10, 2026	Winner
	Finalization	Sept. 10-11, 2026	Winner

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes:

1. Add golden mussel to the current list of Aquatic Invasive Species.
2. Modify a current exemption to exclude phragmites species from being used as blind material on a conveyance when launching or removing from a waterbody.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. Golden mussels have established self-sustaining populations in western North America and are spreading east. Golden mussels can have similar impacts to zebra and quagga mussels once established.
2. Both native and invasive common reed (phragmites spp.) exist in South Dakota and determining the difference is challenging. By excluding both in this exemption, it will prevent users from inadvertently using the invasive form as blind material and possibly contributing to the spread of this species within the state.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:10:04:01. List of aquatic invasive species. Species classified as aquatic invasive species in the state are as follows;

- (1) Fish:
 - (a) Bighead carp, *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*;
 - (b) Black carp, *Mylopharyngodon piceus*;
 - (c) Common carp, *Cyprinus carpio*;
 - (d) Grass carp, *Ctenopharyngodon idella*;
 - (e) Prussian carp, *Carassius gibelio*;
 - (f) Round goby, *Neogobius melanostomus*;
 - (g) Rudd, *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*;
 - (h) Silver carp, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*;
 - (i) Snakehead (*Channa Spp.*);
 - (j) Western mosquitofish, *Gambusia affinis*; and
 - (k) White perch, *Morone americana*;
- (2) Plants:
 - (a) Brittle naiad, *Najas minor*;
 - (b) Common reed, *Phragmites australis*;
 - (c) Curly pondweed, *Potamogeton crispus*;
 - (d) Didymo, *Didymosphenia geminata*;
 - (e) Eurasian water-milfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*;

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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- (f) Flowering rush, *Butomus umbellatus*;
- (g) Purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*; and
- (h) Starry stonewort, *Nitellopsis obtusa*; and

(3) Invertebrates:

- (a) Asian clam, *Corbicula fluminea*;
- (b) New Zealand mudsnail, *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*;
- (c) Quagga mussel, *Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*;
- (d) Red rimmed melania, *Melanoides tuberculata*;
- (e) Red swamp crayfish, *Procambarus clarkii*;
- (f) Rusty crayfish, *Orconectes rusticus*;
- (g) Spiny waterflea, *Bythotrephes longimanus*; ~~and~~
- (h) Zebra mussel, *Dreissena polymorpha*; and
- (i) Golden mussel, *Limnoperna fortune*.

41:10:04:02.01. Aquatic species conveyance launching and removal exceptions. The following are exempt from SDCL [41-13A-3](#) and [41-13A-4](#):

(1) An owner and agent of the owner of a conveyance with dressinid mussels attached that is subsequently launched directly into the infested water from which it was removed, if the conveyance was stored on the riparian property of the owner or at a marina business property on the infested water, prior to launch; and

(2) An owner and agent of the owner of a conveyance with a shooting or observational blind constructed of aquatic macrophytes, except Common Reed (*Phragmites spp.*), cut above the water line, attached to or in the conveyance.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – Efforts to slow the spread of new and current Aquatic Invasive Species in South Dakota.
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

No anticipated fiscal impact to the Department.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

BAIT

Chapter 41:09:04

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 9, 2026	Webster
	Public Hearing	Sept. 10, 2026	Winner
	Finalization	Sept. 10-11, 2026	Winner

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes:

1. Modify the reporting requirements for resident retail bait dealers by removing the annual summary of bait harvested.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. Of the approximately 150 retail bait dealers licensed annually in South Dakota, only two or three trap their own bait and removing the requirement to submit an annual summary of bait harvested greatly simplifies the license issuing process.
2. Retail bait dealers who trap their own bait would still need to follow requirements of **41:09:04:16.01. Records required for bait taken in South Dakota waters**, and maintain daily records of bait trapped.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:09:04:16. Records required. All records required in §§ 41:09:04:16.01 through 41:09:04:16.06, must be recorded and maintained on forms supplied by the department, or electronically in a format approved by the department.

Each record must be kept current and available for inspection by personnel of the department, during normal business hours, at the physical location of the business where the record is kept, as indicated on the license application, for a period of three years after the end of the license year. Each record for a resident bait dealer must be kept within the state. Each wholesale and export bait dealer shall submit a summary of the dealer's yearly records to the department by January 31 of the following calendar year. The department may refuse to issue a new license if these records are not submitted.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA

4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

No anticipated fiscal impact to the Department.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

FISH LIMITS

Chapter 41:07:03

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 9, 2026	Webster
	Public Hearing	Sept. 10, 2026	Winner
	Finalization	Sept. 10-11, 2026	Winner

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes:

1. Modify the daily and possession limit of muskellunge and northern-muskellunge (tiger) cross from catch and release to 1 daily, 2 in possession with a 45-inch minimum length limit for inland waters.
2. Modify the current daily harvest limits for Reetz Lake in Day County to statewide limits for inland waters.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. Currently, the harvest limit for muskellunge and northern-muskellunge (tiger) cross is catch and release only. This change would allow for the harvest of 1 fish daily, 2 in possession with a 45-inch minimum length limit on inland waters, which would allow for the opportunity of limited harvest while still providing a trophy fishery.
2. Currently, the daily harvest limits for Reetz Lake in Day County are: one walleye twenty-eight inches or greater in length; one yellow perch fourteen inches or greater in length; one black crappie fifteen inches or greater in length; and one bluegill ten inches or greater in length, from May first through September thirtieth. This unique regulation was implemented when an access agreement was in place to allow public access. This agreement is no longer active, and public access is by landowner permission only.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:07:03:01. Inland waters. Except as provided in § 41:07:03:03, in inland waters no person may harvest in one day or have in possession at any time more than the following:

- (1) Five trout or salmon of any species combined, possession limit ten;
- (2) Four walleye of any species combined, possession limit eight;
- (3) Five largemouth bass or smallmouth bass or combination thereof, possession limit ten;
- (4) Ten catfish of any species combined, possession limit 20, provided that no more than one flathead catfish may be over 30 inches in length.
- (5) Six northern pike, possession limit 12;
- (6) Fifteen, bluegill and sunfish or combination thereof, possession limit 30 each;
- (7) Fifteen crappie of any species combined, possession limit 30;
- (8) Fifteen yellow perch, possession limit 30;
- (9) The daily limit for smelt is five gallons, no possession limit;
- (10) Unlimited number of rough fish, lake herring, lake whitefish, white bass, rock bass, and bullheads; ~~and~~
- (11) The season for all species of sturgeon is closed; and

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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(12) One muskellunge or northern-muskellunge (tiger) cross 45-inches or longer, possession limit two.

41:07:03:03. Daily, possession, and length limit restrictions on special management waters -
- Additional restrictions described. Daily limit, possession limit, length limit, and additional restrictions on special management waters are as follows:

(1) Catfish may be taken without limit on the Grand, Moreau, Cheyenne, Belle Fourche, Bad, White, and Little Missouri Rivers; and in the inland waters of the Missouri River and its impoundments;

(2) In the waters of Lake Yankton in Yankton County and Lake Mitchell in Davison County, the minimum length limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is fifteen inches;

(3) In New Wall Dam in Pennington County, only those largemouth and smallmouth bass less than fourteen inches in length or eighteen inches or greater in length may be taken, and of the largemouth and smallmouth bass taken daily no more than one may be eighteen inches or greater in length;

(4) In the Black Hills Fish Management Area:

(a) The areas described in subsections (b), (c), and (d) are restricted to artificial lures only and the use or possession of worms, baitfish, salmon eggs, corn, marshmallows, insects, moldable scented bait or naturally occurring or man-made food intended to be used as bait, within one hundred feet of the water in those areas, is prohibited;

(b) Rapid Creek, including the Pactola Stilling Basin below Pactola Dam to the foot bridge at Placerville Camp and Upper and Lower Yates Ponds at Cheyenne Crossing, are restricted to catch and release;

(c) Rapid Creek in Rapid City from Jackson Boulevard upstream to Park Drive is restricted to catch and release;

(d) Spearfish Creek from Homestake Hydro Dam No. 2 to Maurice Dam is restricted to catch and release for rainbow trout. Other trout species may be retained within established limits; and

(e) Only one trout fourteen inches or greater in length, regardless of species, may be taken daily from streams within the Black Hills Fish Management Area. However, in the Black Hills Fish Management Area the minimum length limit for lake trout or brook trout-lake trout (splake) cross is twenty-four inches or greater and the daily limit is one;

~~(5) All waters statewide are restricted to catch and release only for muskellunge and northern-muskellunge (tiger) cross;~~

~~(65)~~ The season on paddlefish is closed, except as provided in § [41:07:05:02](#);

~~(76)~~ In inland waters only one walleye twenty inches or greater in length may be taken daily, except as provided in subdivisions ~~(409)~~ and ~~(13)~~ of this section;

~~(87)~~ In Lakes Francis Case and Sharpe, the minimum length limit for walleye is fifteen inches, from September first through June thirtieth;

~~(98)~~ In Angostura Reservoir, Shadehill Reservoir, and from the Ft. Randall Dam downstream to the South Dakota-Nebraska state line on the Missouri River, the minimum length limit for walleye is fifteen inches;

~~(409)~~ In Twin Lakes in Minnehaha County and Horseshoe Lake in Day County, the daily limit for walleye of any species is one, twenty-eight inches or greater in length;

~~(140)~~ In Lynn and Middle Lynn Lakes in Day County, Opitz Lake in Day and Marshall Counties, Newell Lake and Belle Fourche Reservoir, including the terminal drop canal, in Butte County, and Curlew Lake in Meade County, the daily limit for walleye of any species combined is two and the minimum length limit is fifteen inches;

~~(121)~~ From the Ft. Randall Dam downstream to the South Dakota-Nebraska state line on the Missouri River, the daily limit for white bass is fifteen and the possession limit is thirty; and

~~(13)~~ In Reetz Lake in Day County, the daily limit is: one walleye twenty-eight inches or greater in length; one yellow perch fourteen inches or greater in length; one black crappie fifteen inches or greater in length; and one bluegill ten inches or greater in length, from May first through September thirtieth.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – Low levels of harvest will have negligible biological impacts.
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

No anticipated fiscal impact to the Department.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

FISHING TOURNAMENTS

Chapter 41:09:15

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 9, 2026	Webster
	Public Hearing	Sept. 10, 2026	Winner
	Finalization	Sept. 10-11, 2026	Winner

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes:

1. Modify the dates when a fishing tournament cannot occur to clarify fishing tournaments cannot occur on the Friday of the 4th of July weekend, if the 4th falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. The 4th of July is one of the busiest holidays of the summer. This change will better clarify that if the 4th falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday, fishing tournaments cannot be held on the Friday before that weekend.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:09:15:09. Restricted times of fishing tournaments. Fishing tournaments are not permitted from 8:00 a.m. on Friday to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday on the weekend in May preceding Memorial Day weekend, if it is designated as free fishing and visitor appreciation weekend, or from 8:00 am on Friday to 8:00 pm on Monday of Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, and the weekend associated with on Memorial Day, July fourth, if the fourth falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday Labor Day, and on associated weekend days when those holidays fall on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday. Junior fishing clinics or achievement contests are permitted at that time with approval of the local park manager.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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FISCAL IMPACT

No anticipated fiscal impact to the Department.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

IMPORTATION OF FISH

Chapter 41:09:08

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 9, 2026	Webster
	Public Hearing	Sept. 10, 2026	Winner
	Finalization	Sept. 10-11, 2026	Winner

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes:

Update the list of fish pathogens of regulatory concern used for fish importation permit requirements.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

- Updating the list of pathogens of regulatory concern is directly related to issuance of fish importation permits. For an importation permit to be granted for a specific species of fish, the out-of-state supplier must have had a fish health inspection for their facility within the last year, the species of interest must have been tested for species-specific pathogens of concern, and those test results must be negative. This change would reduce the regulatory burden on importers and suppliers by reducing the number of pathogens that must be tested for. The proposed changes reflect current fish health standards and disease risk assessments while maintaining safeguards to prevent the introduction of significant fish pathogens into South Dakota waters.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:09:08:03.03. Pathogens of regulatory concern. Fish pathogens of regulatory concern are as follows:

- For all fish species:
 - Viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus – V.H.S.; and
 - ~~Yersinia ruckeri – enteric redmouth disease.~~

In addition, screening for the following pathogens is required for the following fish families:

- Salmonidae:
 - Oncorhynchus masou* virus - O.M.V.;
 - Salmonid rickettsial septicemia virus – S.R.S.;
 - Infectious salmon anemia virus – I.S.A.;
 - Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus – I.P.N.;
 - Infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus – I.H.N.;
 - Epizootic epitheliotropic disease virus – E.E.D.;
 - Spring viremia of carp virus – S.V.C.;
 - Renibacterium salmoninarum* - bacterial kidney disease;
 - Aeromonas salmonicida* – furunculosis;
 - ~~Piscirickettsia salmonis – piscirickettsiosis~~ *Yersinia ruckeri* – enteric redmouth disease;
 - Ceratomyxa shasta* – ceratomyxosis;
 - ~~Tetracapsuloides bryosalmonae – proliferative kidney disease;~~ and
 - ~~Myxosoma cerebralis~~ *Myxosoma cerebralis* - whirling disease;

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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~~(3) Ictaluridae:~~

- ~~(a) Channel catfish virus — C.C.V.;~~
- ~~(b) Edwardsiella ictaluri — catfish enteric septicemia;~~
- ~~(c) Edwardsiella tarda — emphysematous putrefactive disease; and~~
- ~~(d) Edwardsiella piscicida;~~

~~(4) Percidae:~~

- ~~(a) Heterosporis sp.;~~

~~(5) Cyprinidae:~~

- ~~(a) Spring viremia of carp virus — S.V.C.; and~~
- ~~(b) Edwardsiella piscicida;~~

~~(6) Esocidae:~~

- ~~(a) Spring viremia of carp virus — S.V.C.; and~~
- ~~(b) Northern pike fry rhabdovirus — P.F.R.D.;~~

~~(7) Centrarchidae:~~

- ~~(a) Spring viremia of carp virus — S.V.C.;~~
- ~~(b) Largemouth bass virus — L.M.B.V.; and~~
- ~~(c) Edwardsiella piscicida;~~

~~(83) Acipenseridae:~~

- ~~(a) White sturgeon iridovirus — W.S.I.; and~~
- ~~(b) Shovelnose sturgeon iridovirus — S.S.I.; and~~

~~(94) Polyodontidae:~~

- ~~(a) Shovelnose sturgeon iridovirus — S.S.I.~~

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA.
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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No anticipated fiscal impact to the Department.

APPROVE ____	MODIFY ____	REJECT ____	NO ACTION ____
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GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

PADDLEFISH SEASON

Chapter 41:07:05

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 9, 2026	Webster
	Public Hearing	Sept. 10, 2026	Winner
	Finalization	Sept. 10-11, 2026	Winner

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes:

1. Modify the transportation requirements for paddlefish harvested during the archery season below Gavins Point Dam to allow for harvested paddlefish to be cleaned, including removal of the head, skin and tail, prior to transport.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. The justification for the cleaning restrictions is for law enforcement to be able to accurately determine the length of a harvested paddlefish when encountered. As there is no length limit or protected slot for the archery season, requiring the head, skin and tail of a paddlefish to be attached for inspection is not needed.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:07:05:03. Paddlefish snagging, processing, and transportation restrictions. Any paddlefish taken below Gavin's Point Dam, by snagging, which measures between 35 inches and 45 inches when measured with a flexible tape along and over the center line contour of the fish, lying flat, from an entire eye to the natural unaltered fork of the tail must be immediately released to the water from which it was caught. A person may not attempt to snag rough fish or paddlefish after reaching the limit on paddlefish. A gaff hook or other penetrating device may not be used as an aid while landing snagged paddlefish.

For paddlefish taken below Gavin's Point Dam by snagging, only the snout in front of the eyes, gills, and entrails of a paddlefish may be removed for transportation. The head, skin, and tail must remain attached. Final processing may only be completed once the angler has reached their domicile or immediately prior to consumption.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA

4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

No anticipated fiscal impact to the Department.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Bobcat Trapping and Hunting Season Chapter 41:08:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 9-10, 2026	Webster
	Public Hearing	September 10, 2026	Winner
	Finalization	September 10-11, 2026	Winner

RECOMMENDED CHANGES

Duration of Proposal: 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

Residents: December 26, 2026 – February 15, 2027
Nonresidents: January 9 – February 15, 2027

Residents: December 26, 2027 – February 15, 2028
Nonresidents: January 8 – February 15, 2028

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: Unlimited. A furbearer license is required for all nonresidents and residents over 18 years of age. Residents under age 18 are not required to have a license.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Hunters or trappers who participate in the Black Hills and East River management zones are limited to one bobcat in each zone and there is no limit per hunter or trapper in the West River management zone.
2. A bobcat taken must be presented to a department representative for registration and tagging of the pelt, within five days of harvest. Once the season has closed, a person has 24 hours to notify a department representative of any untagged bobcats harvested during the season.
3. The pelt must be removed from the carcass and the carcass must be surrendered to the department representative. After the pelt has been tagged, it must be returned to the hunter or trapper. Upon request, the carcass may be returned to the hunter or trapper after the carcass has been inspected and the lower jaw has been removed.
4. A person may only possess, purchase, or sell raw bobcat pelts that are tagged through the eyeholes with a tag provided by the department or if taken from another jurisdiction, properly and securely tagged with a tag supplied by the governmental entity issuing the license. If the governmental entity issuing the license does not issue a tag, other proof that the animal has been lawfully taken is necessary.

No recommended changes from last year

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Figure 1. Map of bobcat management zones from the South Dakota Bobcat Action Plan 2024-2028.

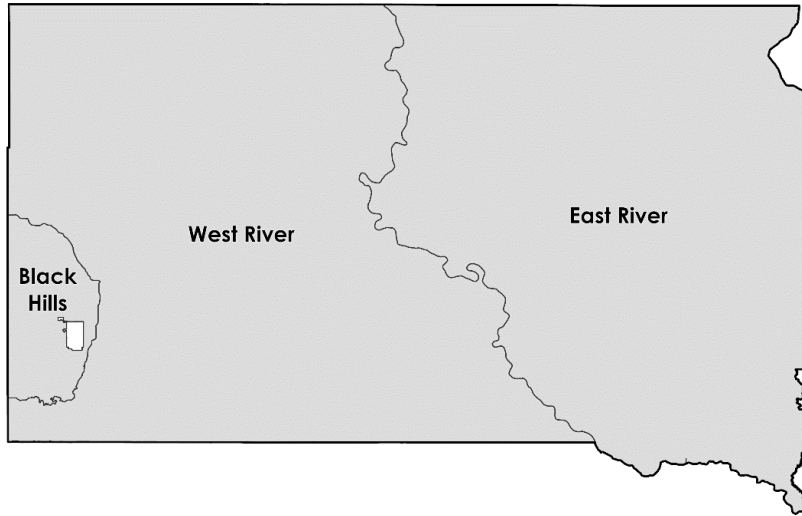


Table 1. Statewide bobcat trapper and harvest summary by method from 2014 to 2026.

Year	Unique Successful Trappers/Hunters	Harvest					Total
		Trapped	Snared	Shot	Hounds	Unk	
2014-2015	88	150	33	21	9	1	214
2015-2016	123	116	62	32	4	40	254
2016-2017	103	135	24	34	3	22	218
2017-2018	215	272	88	64	31	7	462
2018-2019	164	190	66	54	15	10	335
2019-2020	133	140	64	43	12	8	267
2020-2021	184	180	56	48	11	9	304
2021-2022	151	153	48	44	3	13	261
2022-2023	100	95	27	34	12	1	169
2023-2024	122	171	13	11	8	35	238
2024-2025	204	250	71	75	8	0	404
2025-2026	228	316	90	68	5	0	479

Table 2. Bobcat trapper and harvest summary in the Black Hills from 2014 to 2026.

Year	Successful Trappers/Hunters	Harvest					Total
		Trapped	Snared	Shot	Hounds	Unk	
2014-2015	18	35	2	3	4	0	44
2015-2016	23	29	3	5	3	0	40
2016-2017	15	29	3	5	3	0	40
2017-2018	21	33	1	5	14	0	53
2018-2019	25	33	1	3	7	0	44
2019-2020	20	22	3	5	9	0	39
2020-2021	14	18	1	0	19	0	29
2021-2022	15	21	3	3	3	0	30
2022-2023	14	27	4	5	6	0	42
2023-2024	14	36	2	0	3	0	41
2024-2025	16	12	0	2	4	0	18
2025-2026	19	15	0	3	1	0	19

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

None.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

Biennial Commission Review of SD Threatened and Endangered Species List July 2026 Commission Meeting

SDCL 34A-8-4 states: The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission shall conduct a review of the state list of endangered and threatened species within the period ending July 3, 1979, and every two years thereafter and may amend the list by appropriate additions or deletions.

In 2026, Nongame Conservation staff drafted status reviews for all state threatened and endangered (T&E) species to describe the current level of knowledge and identify monitoring and research priorities needed to help develop and meet downlisting and delisting goals. If sufficient information allowed, downlisting and/or delisting criteria were identified. Downlisting a species changes its status from state endangered to threatened. Delisting a species removes it from the state T&E list.

Each status review includes a section that highlights updates since 2024. Significant changes are described here:

- Delisting is recommended for the Eskimo curlew (state endangered) because the species is likely extinct throughout its range, including in South Dakota, based on the best available information.
- Delisting is recommended for the least tern (state endangered) because survey data collected by the USACE demonstrate that the species has met the state recovery goals established in the Least Tern and Piping Plover Management Plan (Aron 2005). This recommendation is further supported by the species' federal delisting in 2021.
- The osprey recovery criteria for the population outside of the Black Hills were revised to establish more realistic goals. The revisions require GFP to continue documenting new nesting pairs and monitoring active nests, with a revised criterion of an average of at least three active nests during at least three years within a 7-year period, reduced from the previous criterion of six nests. In addition, at least two of the three nests outside the Black Hills must be successful (produce at least one fledged young), reduced from the previous requirement of four successful nests out of six.
- The peregrine falcon recovery criteria were revised to include a definition of an active nest. An active nest is defined as a nest that is claimed or built by a pair and in which eggs are laid during that nesting season. This revision provides clarity when evaluating recovery criteria.
- Recovery criteria were established for the eastern hog-nosed snake and the lined snake.

STATE THREATENED or ENDANGERED SPECIES
(as of July 2026)

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATE STATUS
Birds		
American dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	ST
Eskimo curlew *	<i>Numenius borealis</i>	SE
Least tern *	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	SE
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	ST
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	ST
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	ST
Whooping crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	SE
Reptiles		
Eastern hog-nosed snake	<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	ST
False map turtle	<i>Graptemys pseudogeographica</i>	ST
Lined snake	<i>Tropidoclonion lineatum</i>	SE
Mammals		
Black-footed ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	SE
Swift fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>	ST
Fishes		
Banded killifish	<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i>	SE
Blacknose shiner	<i>Notropis heterolepis</i>	SE
Finescale dace	<i>Chrosomus neogaeus</i>	SE
Longnose sucker	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>	ST
Northern pearl dace	<i>Margariscus nachtriebi</i>	ST
Northern redbelly dace	<i>Chrosomus eos</i>	ST
Pallid Sturgeon	<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>	SE
Sicklefin chub	<i>Macrhybopsis meeki</i>	SE
Sturgeon chub	<i>Macrhybopsis gelida</i>	ST

SE = State Endangered; ST= State Threatened

* A rule change is recommended to delist the species from the T&E list.

STATE T&E SPECIES STATUS REVIEWS EXPLAINED

- A status review was updated for each state threatened or state endangered species to summarize the current status of each in the state.
- If sufficient information existed, draft criteria for downlisting (changing status from endangered to threatened) and/or delisting (removing a threatened or endangered species from the state list) are described. If such information was lacking, the review describes additional monitoring or research needs.
- For species also listed as federal threatened or federal endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, separate state recovery goals were not drafted. For those, SD Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) will continue cooperating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to meet identified recovery goals or assist in recovery planning, consistent with the “Cooperative Agreement between the U.S. Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks for the Conservation of Endangered and Threatened Animals.” This agreement was approved on June 30, 1977 and has been updated annually since then.
- The authority for state threatened and endangered species conservation and recovery, including listings and delistings, corresponds to the state’s boundaries. South Dakota’s state endangered species law does not require that the state list of threatened and endangered species agree with the federal list developed under the authority of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Species that have been delisted under the ESA may be included on South Dakota’s list because they remain rare within the state’s boundaries, and federal listed species not considered rare within South Dakota’s borders are not necessarily state listed.
- South Dakota’s endangered species law is included in this document as Appendix A. The law can also be viewed here:
http://www.sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=34A-8
- An additional law addressing black-footed ferret reintroduction is included in this document as Appendix B. The law can also be viewed here:
https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/2064247
- These status reviews will be revisited at least every two years to comply with the biennial review schedule of the state list of threatened and endangered species.

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Endangered and Threatened Species

Chapter 41:10:02

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 9-10, 2026	Webster
	Public Hearing	September 10, 2026	Winner
	Finalization	September 10-11, 2026	Winner

RECOMMENDED CHANGES

Duration: Beginning in 2026

Changes from last year:

- 1) Modify § 41:10:02:01 to remove the Eskimo curlew and Least tern from the list of endangered birds.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

South Dakota Codified Laws § 34A-8-3 and § 34A-8-4 direct the GFP Commission to maintain a state list of endangered and threatened species and to review that list every two years, making any necessary additions or deletions. In addition, § 34A-8-5 requires the Commission to promulgate rules governing the addition or removal of species and to notify the governors of bordering states where the affected species is known to occur.

GFP staff recommend delisting two species currently classified as state endangered: the Eskimo curlew and the Least tern.

- The Eskimo curlew is believed to be extinct throughout its range. The last confirmed observation occurred in Barbados in 1963, and there are no records of the species in the South Dakota Nongame Conservation Database.
- The Least tern was removed from the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species in 2021. In South Dakota, Least terns have been monitored annually for more than 30 years, and recovery criteria have been met for multiple consecutive years, including the most recent monitoring period.

These findings support the recommendation to remove both species from the state endangered list.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:10:02:01. List of endangered birds. Birds classified as endangered in the state are as follows

- (1) Whooping crane, *Grus americana*;
- ~~— (2) Eskimo curlew, *Numenius borealis*;~~
- ~~— (3) Least Tern, *Sternula antillarum*.~~

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE	_____	MODIFY	_____	REJECT	_____	NO ACTION	_____
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GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

General Provisions – Buck and Bull Definitions Chapter 41:06:00

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 11-12, 2026	Madison
	Public Hearing	July 9, 2026	Webster
	Finalization	July 9-10, 2026	Webster

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration: Beginning in 2026

Changes from last year (no recommended changes from proposal):

- 1) Modify § 41:06:00.01:02 to remove “polished antler” and replace with “antler” from the definition of a buck and bull to allow an individual to harvest a velvet antlered deer or elk on a buck only or bull only license type, respectively.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Although there are no bull only license types, “buck only” deer license types are available. Based on the current definition, individuals cannot harvest velvet antlered deer with this type of license. The rule clean-up would allow an individual to harvest a velvet antlered elk or deer, which is common at the beginning of the archery deer season and for animals that have been affected by hemorrhagic disease.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:00.01:02. Definitions. As used in this article:

- (1) "Buck" means a male deer with a visible, ~~polished~~ antler;
- (2) "Bull" means a male elk with a visible, ~~polished~~ antler;
- (3) "Antlerless" means a whitetail or mule deer, or elk, of either sex without a visible antler;
- (4) "Any deer" means a whitetail or mule deer of either sex;
- (5) "Any whitetail" means a whitetail deer of either sex;
- (6) "Antlerless whitetail" means a whitetail deer without a visible antler;
- (7) "Any mule deer" means a mule deer of either sex;
- ~~(8) "Mule buck" means a male mule deer with a visible polished antler;~~

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:13

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 11-12, 2026	Madison
	Public Hearing	July 9, 2026	Webster
	Finalization	July 9-10, 2026	Webster

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2027 and 2028 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

April 10 – May 31, 2027 Single-season prairie units
 April 24 – May 31, 2027 Black Hills and Black Hills archery
 April 10 – 30, 2027 Split-season early prairie units (08A and 44A) and unit 58B
 May 1 – 31, 2027 Split-season late prairie units (08B and 44B)
 April 10 –30, 2027 Good Earth State Park and Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve
 Archery and Mentored Access Permit Areas

April 8 – May 31, 2028 Single-season prairie units
 April 22 – May 31, 2028 Black Hills and Black Hills archery
 April 8 – 30, 2028 Split-season early prairie units (08A and 44A) and unit 58B
 May 1 – 31, 2028 Split-season late prairie units (08B and 44B)
 April 8 –30, 2028 Good Earth State Park and Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve
 Archery and Mentored Access Permit Areas

* Depending on the geographic area being hunted, the Mentored and Archery Spring turkey seasons must align with the Prairie and Black Hills hunting season dates, respectively.

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: During Spring 2026 there were:

Black Hills: Unlimited resident and 2,225 nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
 Prairie: 9,830 resident and 318 nonresident “male turkey” licenses
 Archery: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
 Mentored: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses

* *Specific license numbers by unit are included in the administrative action item.*

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. No more than 10,000 one-tag male turkey and 2,500 two-tag male turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the prairie spring turkey hunting season.
2. A person may apply for and receive one license in the prairie season in the first and second lottery drawings.
3. A person may apply for one license in the third drawing and apply for an unlimited number of licenses on a first-come first-served basis in the fourth, leftover license drawing. In the third and fourth drawings, resident and nonresident licenses are pooled.
4. A person may purchase only one Black Hills male turkey license and the license number for nonresidents is limited.

5. One-half of the limited licenses in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference.
6. No person may shoot a turkey in a tree or roost.
7. A person may use only bow and arrow, a shotgun using shot shells, or a muzzleloading shotgun to hunt turkeys during the spring turkey season.
8. The season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day of an open season.

Changes from last year (no recommended changes from proposal):

- 1) Modify § 41:06:13:02 to remove references to Federal property closures. The properties remain closed to hunting. Hunting access determinations are under the authority of the landowner.
- 2) Modify § 41:06:13:02 to separate PST-22A into county specific units for Day (PST-22A) and Codrington (PST-05A) counties.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Figure 1. Map of spring wild turkey hunting season units*. Archery hunting is open statewide, except Custer State Park. Licenses in prairie units bordering the Cheyenne or White Rivers, excluding that portion of Fall River County within Unit PST-27A, may hunt within one mile of either side of the river boundary, as well as in the remainder of the unit for which the license is issued.

**Department recommendation to split Day (PST-22A) and Codrington (PST-05A) counties and close Sanborn (PST-56A) and Bennett (PST-11A) Units.*

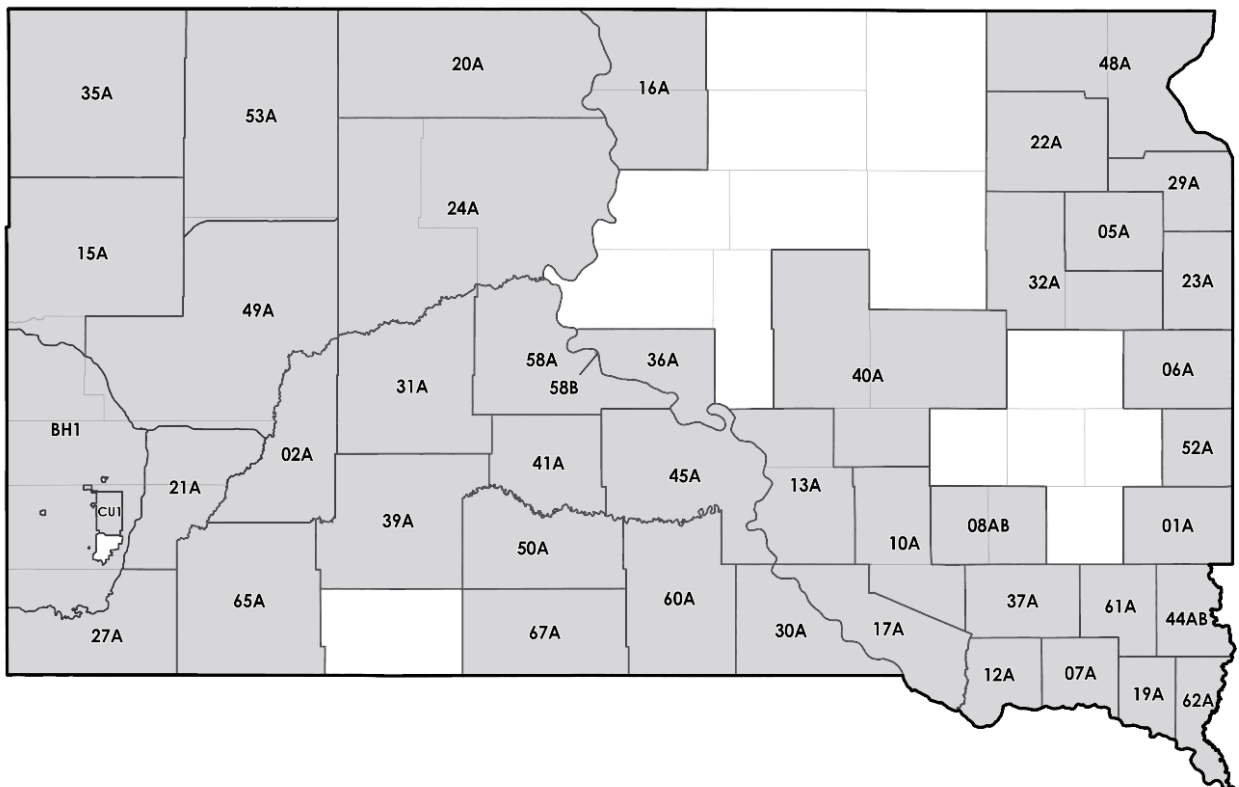


Table 1. Spring prairie turkey harvest summary from 2016 to 2025.

Year	Resident Licenses	Nonres Licenses	Tags	Harvest		Success	Avg Days Hunted	Satisf
				Males	Hens			
2016	5,648	1,202	7,907	2,482	4	31%	2.72	5.49
2017	5,364	1,213	7,371	3,323	5	45%	2.50	5.55
2018	5,364	1,146	7,287	2,724	9	38%	2.18	5.49
2019	5,250	1,125	6,977	2,722	5	39%	2.14	5.39
2020	5,500	955	7,103	3,107	6	44%	2.70	5.48
2021	5,444	1,255	7,348	3,748	0	51%	2.57	5.75
2022	4,834	1,824	7,305	3,725	2	51%	2.69	5.61
2023	5,878	1,432	8,048	3,647	0	45%	2.65	5.40
2024	5,848	1,490	8,074	4,024	0	50%	2.63	5.53
2025	6,068	1,504	8,382	4,556	0	54%	2.55	5.65

Table 2. Spring Black Hills turkey harvest summary from 2016 to 2025.

Year	Licenses Issued	Harvest	Tag Success	Avg Days Hunted	Average Satisfaction
2016	4,056	1,575	39%	3.38	5.21
2017	4,401	1,701	39%	3.48	5.30
2018	4,567	1,441	32%	3.38	5.15
2019	4,545	1,365	30%	3.61	4.93
2020	4,733	1,287	27%	3.64	4.90
2021	6,303	1,776	28%	3.44	4.87
2022	5,133	1,563	30%	3.46	4.92
2023	5,328	2,073	39%	3.37	5.20
2024	5,994	2,156	36%	3.35	5.00
2025	5,079	2,155	42%	3.10	5.46

Table 3. Spring archery turkey harvest summary from 2016 to 2025.

Year	Licenses Sold		Harvest	Success	Avg Days Hunted	Satisfaction
	Resident	Nonresident				
2016	2,844	358	885	28%	3.90	5.39
2017	2,925	373	912	28%	3.87	5.47
2018	2,914	350	719	22%	3.43	5.33
2019	3,129	338	915	26%	3.47	5.51
2020	4,063	396	1,340	30%	4.10	5.47
2021	4,306	593	1,607	33%	4.23	5.42
2022	4,181	570	1,310	28%	3.60	5.37
2023	4,276	676	1,247	25%	3.26	5.19
2024	4,398	701	1,373	27%	3.32	5.36
2025	4,011	757	1,438	30%	3.32	5.58

Table 4. Spring mentor turkey harvest summary from 2015 to 2026.

YEAR	Licenses Sold	HARVEST			%Success	Avg Days Hunted	Average Satisfaction
		Males	Hens	Total			
2016	734	277	0	277	38%	2.68	5.78
2017	799	310	0	310	39%	2.70	5.85
2018	735	261	0	261	35%	2.32	5.82
2019	1,024	295	0	295	29%	2.03	5.63
2020	1,356	507	2	508	37%	3.04	5.76
2021	1,422	523	0	523	37%	2.54	5.71
2022	1,632	558	0	558	34%	2.47	5.55
2023	1,702	489	2	491	29%	2.52	5.53
2024	1,849	710	4	714	39%	2.13	5.77
2025	1,897	766	2	769	41%	2.47	5.67

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:13:02. Open units -- Exceptions. The following is a description of the open spring turkey hunting units:

- (1) Unit BST-BH1: excluding Custer State Park, ~~Wind Cave National Park, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and Jewel Cave National Monument~~, that portion of Lawrence County south of Interstate 90; that portion of Meade County west and south of Interstate 90; those portions of Pennington and Custer Counties west of State Highway 79; that portion of Fall River County north and west of a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 18, then east along U.S. Highway 18 to its junction with the Cheyenne River. then east along the Cheyenne River to its junction with State Highway 79; then north along State Highway 79 to its junction with the Custer County line;
- (2) Unit PST-01A: Minnehaha County;
- (3) Unit PST-02A: that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River;
- (4) Unit PST-05A: Codington County;
- (5) Unit PST-06A: Brookings County;
- ~~(5)~~(6) Unit PST-07A: Yankton County;
- ~~(6)~~(7) Unit PST-08A: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April thirtieth;
- ~~(7)~~(8) Unit PST-08B: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08B is open beginning on May first through May thirty-first;
- ~~(8)~~(9) Unit PST-10A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;
- ~~(9)~~(10) Unit PST-11A: Bennett County;
- ~~(10)~~(11) Unit PST-12A: Bon Homme County;
- ~~(11)~~(12) Unit PST-13A: Brule and Buffalo Counties;
- ~~(12)~~(13) Unit PST-15A: Butte County and that portion of Lawrence County north of Interstate 90;
- ~~(13)~~(14) Unit PST-16A: Campbell and Walworth Counties;
- ~~(14)~~(15) Unit PST-17A: Charles Mix County;
- ~~(15)~~(16) Unit PST-19A: Clay County;
- ~~(16)~~(17) Unit PST-20A: Corson County;
- ~~(17)~~(18) Unit PST-21A: that portion of Custer County east of State Highway 79 and that portion of Pennington County south of Interstate 90 between State Highway 79 and the Cheyenne River;
- ~~(18)~~(19) Unit PST-22A: Day and Codington Counties County;
- ~~(19)~~(20) Unit PST-23A: Deuel County;
- ~~(20)~~(21) Unit PST-24A: Dewey and Ziebach Counties;
- ~~(21)~~(22) Unit PST-27A: that portion of Fall River County not included in Unit BST-BH1;
- ~~(22)~~(23) Unit PST-29A: Grant County;
- ~~(23)~~(24) Unit PST-30A: Gregory County;
- ~~(24)~~(25) Unit PST-31A: Haakon County;
- ~~(25)~~(26) Unit PST-32A: Hamlin and Clark Counties;
- ~~(26)~~(27) Unit PST-35A: Harding County;
- ~~(27)~~(28) Unit PST-36A: Hughes County;
- ~~(28)~~(29) Unit PST-37A: Hutchinson County;
- ~~(29)~~(30) Unit PST-39A: Jackson County;
- ~~(30)~~(31) Unit PST-40A: Beadle, Hand, and Jerauld Counties;
- ~~(31)~~(32) Unit PST-41A: Jones County;
- ~~(32)~~(33) Unit PST-44A: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April thirtieth;
- ~~(33)~~(34) Unit PST-44B: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44B is open beginning on May first through May thirty-first;
- ~~(34)~~(35) Unit PST-45A: Lyman County;
- ~~(35)~~(36) Unit PST-48A: Marshall County and Roberts County;
- ~~(36)~~(37) Unit PST-49A: those portions of Meade County not included in Units BST-BH1 and PST-53A, and that portion of Pennington County north of Interstate 90, west of the Cheyenne River;

~~(37)~~(38) Unit PST-50A: Mellette County;
~~(38)~~(39) Unit PST-52A: Moody County;
~~(39)~~(40) Unit PST-53A: Perkins County and that portion of Meade County north of U.S.
Highway 212;
~~(40)~~(41) Unit PST-56A: Sanborn County;
~~(41)~~(42) Unit PST-58A: Stanley County;
~~(42)~~(43) Unit PST-58B: that portion of Stanley County located at the Oahe Downstream
Recreation Area to include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Land that is east and southeast
of Powerhouse Road. This unit is bordered by the Missouri River to the east and the
emergency spillway canal to the south. Unit PST-58B-is open beginning on the second
Saturday of April through April thirtieth, but only to licensed persons who use a wheelchair;
~~(43)~~(44) Unit PST-60A: Tripp County;
~~(44)~~(45) Unit PST-61A: Turner County;
~~(45)~~(46) Unit PST-62A: Union County;
~~(46)~~(47) Unit PST-65A: Oglala Lakota County;
~~(47)~~(48) Unit PST-67A: Todd County; and
~~(48)~~(49) Unit AST-ST1: statewide for archery turkey, except in Custer State Park.

Excluding that portion of Fall River County within Unit PST-27A, licensees in prairie units that
utilize the Cheyenne or White Rivers as unit boundaries may hunt within one mile of either side of
the river boundary, as well as in the remainder of the unit for which the license is issued.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE	_____	MODIFY	_____	REJECT	_____	NO ACTION	_____
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GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:14

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 11-12, 2026	Madison
	Public Hearing	July 9, 2026	Webster
	Finalization	July 9-10, 2026	Webster

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2026 and 2027 hunting seasons

Season Dates: Nov. 1 – Jan. 31

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: During Fall 2025 there were:

Black Hills: 200 resident and 16 nonresident one-tag “any turkey” licenses
Prairie: 1,570 resident and 60 nonresident one-tag “any turkey” licenses
150 resident and 12 nonresident two-tag “any turkey” licenses
Mentored: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “any turkey” licenses

** Specific license numbers by unit are included in the administrative action item.*

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. No more than 500 one-tag turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the Black Hills fall turkey hunting season and no more than 2,500 one-tag turkey licenses and no more than 2,000 double-tag licenses may be issued to residents for the prairie fall turkey hunting season.
2. A person may apply for and receive one license in each of the Black Hills and prairie seasons in the first and second lottery drawings.
3. A person may apply for one license in the third drawing and apply for an unlimited number of licenses on a first-come first-served basis in the fourth, leftover license drawing. In the third and fourth drawings, resident and nonresident licenses are pooled.
4. One-half of the limited licenses in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference in the first drawing.
5. No person may shoot a turkey in a tree or roost.
6. A person may use a shoulder-held firearm using ammunition which is factory-rated to produce at least 700 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle and handguns using ammunition which is factory-rated to produce at least 500 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle in the hunting of wild turkeys. Muzzleloading firearms and muzzleloading shotguns may also be used in the hunting of wild turkeys.
7. The season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day of an open season.

Changes from last year (no recommended changes from proposal):

1. Modify § 41:06:14:02 to remove references to Federal property closures. The properties remain closed to hunting. Hunting access determinations are under the authority of the landowner.
2. Modify § 41:06:14:02.01 to remove the weapon limitation of only shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow in all units, except for Minnehaha County.
3. Modify § 41:06:14:02.01 to align all units for Spring Turkey and Fall Turkey, except for Unit BH1 in the Black Hills.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The weapons restriction change will allow the use of rifles or shotguns for hunting turkeys in the fall for all units except for Minnehaha County (Unit 01A). In addition, the changes to fall turkey unit boundaries will result in the same Spring and Fall turkey unit boundaries for all units except for the Black Hills.

Specific license numbers by unit are included in the following administrative action item. The recommended changes would result in a closure of fall turkey hunting in Gregory and Mellette counties and opening Hughes County.

Figure 1. Map of fall wild turkey hunting season units. The dark shaded regions are open units and the hashed areas are closed*.

**Department recommendation to close Gregory (PFT-30A) and Mellette (50A units), and open Hughes (PFT-36A unit).*

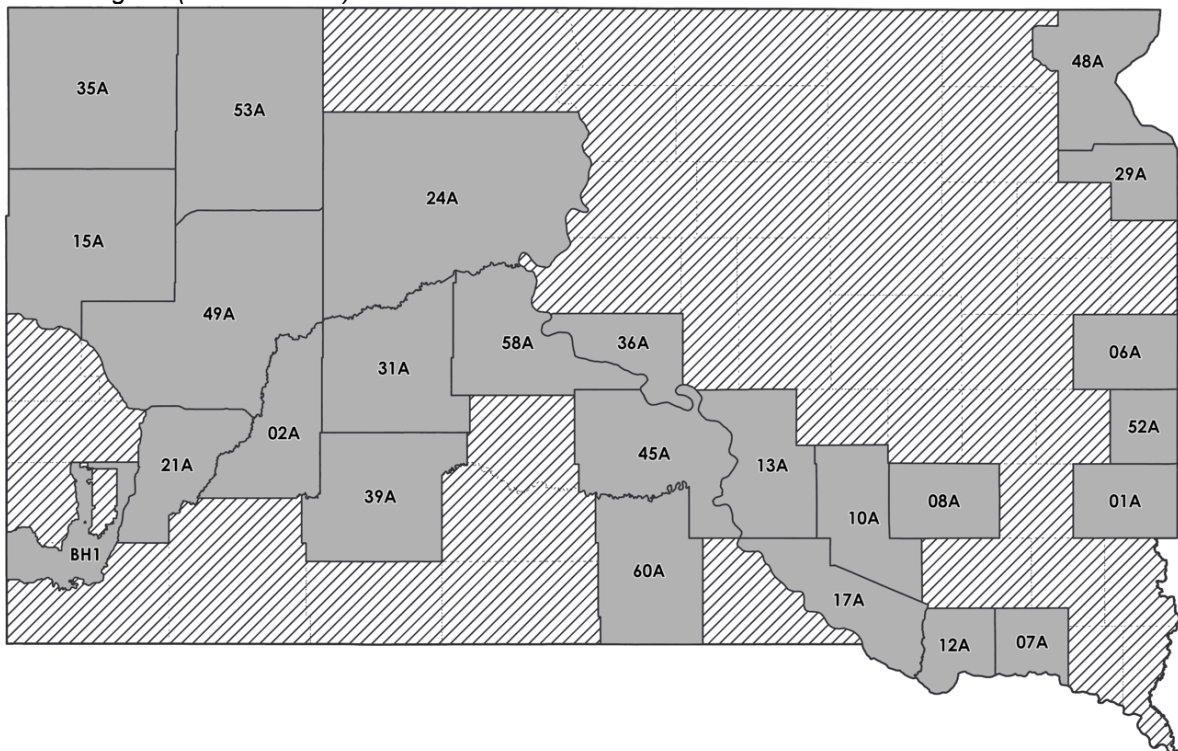


Table 1. Fall prairie turkey harvest summary from 2016 to 2025.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Licenses</i>	<i>Tags</i>	<i>HARVEST</i>				<i>Avg Days</i>	<i>Average</i>
	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Hens</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% Success</i>	<i>Hunted</i>	<i>Satisfactn</i>
2016	908	958	173	72	246	26%	2.19	4.87
2017	898	948	194	56	250	26%	2.46	4.86
2018	548	548	142	52	194	35%	2.18	5.09
2019	548	548	130	52	182	33%	2.11	5.12
2020	438	476	117	62	180	38%	3.43	5.32
2021	438	476	113	54	166	35%	3.17	4.98
2022	1,721	1,774	350	144	494	28%	2.52	5.23
2023	1,800	1,852	338	199	536	29%	2.51	4.98
2024	1,575	1,738	360	228	588	34%	2.53	5.14
2025	1,571	1,733	388	170	559	32%	3.91	5.06

Table 2. Fall Black Hills turkey harvest summary from 2016 to 2025.

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>LICENSES SOLD</i>		<i>HARVEST</i>				<i>Avg Days</i>	<i>Average</i>
	<i>Resident</i>	<i>Nonresid</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Hens</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%Success</i>	<i>Hunted</i>	<i>Satisfaction</i>
2016	408	26	91	55	147	34%	2.79	4.85
2017	415	18	87	52	139	32%	3.82	4.88
2018	204	16	27	26	54	25%	2.74	4.85
2019	204	12	34	18	53	25%	2.20	4.76
2020	102	7	11	15	25	23%	3.71	4.87
2021	101	8	18	9	27	25%	2.89	5.10
2022	201	14	30	32	62	29%	2.61	4.71
2023	209	7	36	46	82	38%	2.72	5.08
2024	201	16	46	42	89	41%	3.32	5.50
2025	201	16	31	9	40	18%	4.14	4.56

Table 3. Fall mentor turkey harvest summary from 2016 to 2025.

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>Licenses</i>	<i>HARVEST</i>				<i>Avg Days</i>	<i>Average</i>
	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Hens</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%Success</i>	<i>Hunted</i>	<i>Satisfaction</i>
2016	429	62	21	84	20%	1.55	5.48
2017	453	60	22	83	18%	1.87	5.34
2018	521	68	27	96	18%	1.67	5.35
2019	412	40	22	60	15%	1.18	5.28
2020	501	48	14	62	12%	1.75	5.18
2021	300	42	13	56	19%	1.80	5.34
2022	444	89	36	125	28%	1.62	5.75
2023	558	84	44	127	23%	1.82	5.17
2024	567	60	43	103	18%	1.94	5.09
2025	579	67	38	104	18%	1.72	5.40

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:14:02. Black Hills unit -- Exceptions. The following is a description of the open Black Hills unit:

Unit PFT-BH1: excluding Custer State Park, ~~Wind Cave National Park~~, and those portions of Custer and Fall River counties within a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 385 and the Custer/Pennington County line, south on U.S. Highway 385 to State Highway 89, south on State Highway 89 to Pilger Mountain Road, west on Pilger Mountain Road to Dewey Road, west on Dewey Road to the Wyoming-South Dakota state line, south on the Wyoming-South Dakota state line to U.S. Highway 18, east on U.S. Highway 18 to the Cheyenne River, east along the Cheyenne River to State Highway 79, north on State Highway 79 to the Custer/Pennington County line, and west to the Custer/Pennington County line, the point of beginning.

41:06:14:02.01. ~~Prairie units. The following is a description of the open prairie units:~~

- ~~— (1) Unit PFT 01A: Minnehaha County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;~~
- ~~— (2) Unit PFT 02A: that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River;~~
- ~~— (3) Unit PFT 06A: Brookings County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;~~
- ~~— (4) Unit PFT 07A: Yankton County;~~
- ~~— (5) Unit PFT 08A: Davison and Hanson Counties. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;~~
- ~~— (6) Unit PFT 10A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;~~
- ~~— (7) Unit PFT 12A: Bon Homme County;~~
- ~~— (8) Unit PFT 13A: Brule and Buffalo Counties;~~
- ~~— (9) Unit PFT 15A: Butte County and that portion of Lawrence County north of Interstate 90;~~
- ~~— (10) Unit PFT 17A: Charles Mix County, excluding Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge;~~
- ~~— (11) Unit PFT 19A: Clay County;~~
- ~~— (12) Unit PFT 21A: that portion of Custer County east of State Highway 79 and that portion of Pennington County south of Interstate 90 between State Highway 79 and the Cheyenne River;~~
- ~~— (13) Unit PFT 23A: Deuel County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;~~
- ~~— (14) Unit PFT 24A: Dewey and Ziebach Counties;~~
- ~~— (15) Unit PFT 27A: that portion of Fall River County not included in Unit BFT-BH1;~~
- ~~— (16) Unit PFT 29A: Grant County;~~
- ~~— (17) Unit PFT 30A: Gregory County;~~
- ~~— (18) Unit PFT 31A: Haakon County;~~
- ~~— (19) Unit PFT 35A: Harding County;~~
- ~~— (20) Unit PFT 36A: Hughes County, excluding Farm Island Recreation Area, LaFramboise Island Nature Area, and department land from the Pierre city limits to Farm Island Recreation Area;~~
- ~~— (21) Unit PFT 37A: Hutchinson County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;~~
- ~~— (22) Unit PFT 39A: Jackson County;~~
- ~~— (23) Unit PFT 40A: Jerauld County;~~
- ~~— (24) Unit PFT 41A: Jones County;~~
- ~~— (25) Unit PFT 44A: Lincoln County;~~
- ~~— (26) Unit PFT 45A: Lyman County;~~
- ~~— (27) Unit PFT 48A: those portions of Marshall County south and east of State Highway 25 and north of State Highway 10 and Roberts County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;~~
- ~~— (28) Unit PFT 49A: those portions of Meade County not included in Units BFT-BH1 and PFT 53A, and that portion of Pennington County north of Interstate 90, west of the Cheyenne River;~~
- ~~— (29) Unit PFT 50A: Mellette County;~~
- ~~— (30) Unit PFT 52A: Moody County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;~~

- ~~— (31) Unit PFT 53A: Perkins County and that portion of Meade County north of U.S. Highway 212;~~
- ~~— (32) Unit PFT 58A: Stanley County;~~
- ~~— (33) Unit PFT 60A: Tripp County;~~
- ~~— (34) Unit PFT 61A: Turner County;~~
- ~~— (35) Unit PFT 62A: Union County; and~~
- ~~— (36) Unit PFT 67A: Todd County.~~

Except for the Black Hills fall turkey open unit and statewide spring archery turkey unit, the open prairie units for the fall wild turkey hunting season are the same units described in § 41:06:13:02, excluding BST-BH1 And AST-ST1.

In Minnehaha County, hunters are limited to using shotguns with shotshells, muzzleloading shotguns, or bows and arrows.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? Hunters will be able to use additional weapons in some areas to hunt turkeys in the fall.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Hunters can hunt turkeys with different weapons.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Turkey Hunting License Numbers

Chapter 41:06:13, 41:06:14, 41:06:15

Commission Meeting Dates: **Public Hearing**
Finalization

July 9, 2026
July 9-10, 2026

Webster
Webster

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Recommendation to decrease Spring Turkey licenses by 2% and decrease Fall Turkey licenses by 6%. The Fall Turkey Season will be closed in Gregory (PFT-30A) and Mellette (PFT-50A) counties and opened in Hughes County (PFT-36A).

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Recommended 2027 and 2028 Spring Turkey resident license number changes by unit compared to the previous 2 years.

Unit #	Unit Name	2025-2026 Resident Licenses	2027-2028 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2025-2026 Resident Tags	2027-2028 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
BH1	Black Hills	UNL	UNL	NA	NA	UNL	UNL	NA	NA
CSP	Custer State Park	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
01A	Minnehaha	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
02A	Pennington	250	250	0	0%	250	250	0	0%
05A	Codington*	NA	80	NA	NA	NA	80	NA	NA
06A	Brookings	60	80	20	33%	60	80	20	33%
07A	Yankton	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
08A	Davison/Hanson	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
08B	Davison/Hanson	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
10A	Aurora/Douglas	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
11A	Bennett	10	0	-10	-100%	10	0	-10	-100%
12A	Bon Homme	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
13A	Brule/Buffalo	175	175	0	0%	175	175	0	0%
15A	Butte/Lawrence	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
16A	Campbell/Walworth	20	20	0	0%	20	20	0	0%
17A	Charles Mix	350	350	0	0%	350	350	0	0%
19A	Clay	120	120	0	0%	120	120	0	0%
20A	Corson	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
21A	Custer/Pennington	125	125	0	0%	125	125	0	0%
22A	Day*	175	80	-95	-54%	175	80	-95	-54%
23A	Deuel	200	250	50	25%	200	250	50	25%
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
27A	Fall River	100	150	50	50%	100	150	50	50%
29A	Grant	375	400	25	7%	375	400	25	7%
30A	Gregory	650	450	-200	-31%	650	450	-200	-31%
31A	Haakon	250	250	0	0%	500	500	0	0%
32A	Hamlin/Clark	30	20	-10	-33%	30	20	-10	-33%
35A	Harding	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
36A	Hughes	30	35	5	17%	30	35	5	17%
37A	Hutchinson	70	70	0	0%	70	70	0	0%
39A	Jackson	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
40A	Jerauld/Beadle/Hand	20	20	0	0%	20	20	0	0%
41A	Jones	75	75	0	0%	75	75	0	0%
44A	Lincoln	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
44B	Lincoln	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
45A	Lyman	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
48A	Marshall/Roberts	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
49A	Meade	400	400	0	0%	800	800	0	0%
50A	Mellette	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
52A	Moody	60	60	0	0%	60	60	0	0%
53A	Perkins	100	100	0	0%	200	100	-100	-50%
56A	Sanborn	10	0	-10	-100%	10	0	-10	-100%
58A	Stanley	40	40	0	0%	40	40	0	0%
58B	Stanley	2	2	0	0%	2	2	0	0%
60A	Tripp	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
61A	Turner	30	30	0	0%	30	30	0	0%
62A	Union	120	120	0	0%	120	120	0	0%
65A	Oglala Lakota	40	40	0	0%	40	40	0	0%
67A	Todd	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
TOTAL		7,387	7,292	-95	-1.3%	8,137	7,942	-195	-2.4%

Note: An additional 8% of the number of licenses will be available to nonresidents in West River units.

Unit 22A was both Day and Codrington counties in 2025 and 2026. Those units are proposed to be split in 2027.

Recommended 2027 and 2028 Spring Turkey Licenses.

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident		Nonresident		Resident		Nonresident	
		TomT 32	2 TomT 35	TomT 32	2 TomT 35	Licenses	Tags	Licenses	Tags
BH1	Black Hills	UNL		2,225		UNL	UNL	2225	2225
CSP	Custer State Park	100				100	100		
01A	Minnehaha	100				100	100		
02A	Pennington	250		20		250	250	20	20
05A	Codington*	80				80	80		
06A	Brookings	80				80	80		
07A	Yankton	300				300	300		
08A	Davison/Hanson	100				100	100		
08B	Davison/Hanson	100				100	100		
10A	Aurora/Douglas	50				50	50		
11A	Bennett					0	0		
12A	Bon Homme	300				300	300		
13A	Brule/Buffalo	175				175	175		
15A	Butte/Lawrence	400		32		400	400	32	32
16A	Campbell/Walworth	20				20	20		
17A	Charles Mix	350				350	350		
19A	Clay	120				120	120		
20A	Corson	100		8		100	100	8	8
21A	Custer/Pennington	125		10		125	125	10	10
22A	Day*	80				80	80		
23A	Deuel	250				250	250		
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	150		12		150	150	12	12
27A	Fall River	150		12		150	150	12	12
29A	Grant	400				400	400		
30A	Gregory	450		36		450	450	36	36
31A	Haakon		250		20	250	500	20	40
32A	Hamlin/Clark	20				20	20		
35A	Harding	150		12		150	150	12	12
36A	Hughes	35				35	35		
37A	Hutchinson	70				70	70		
39A	Jackson	200		16		200	200	16	16
40A	Jerauld/Beadle/Hand	20				20	20		
41A	Jones	75		6		75	75	6	6
44A	Lincoln	50				50	50		
44B	Lincoln	50				50	50		
45A	Lyman	150		12		150	150	12	12
48A	Marshall/Roberts	450				450	450		
49A	Meade		400		32	400	800	32	64
50A	Mellette	300		24		300	300	24	24
52A	Moody	60				60	60		
53A	Perkins	100		8		100	100	8	8
56A	Sanborn					0	0		
58A	Stanley	40		4		40	40	4	4
58B	Stanley	2		1		2	2	1	1
60A	Tripp	400		32		400	400	32	32
61A	Turner	30				30	30		
62A	Union	120				120	120		
65A	Oglala Lakota	40		4		40	40	4	4
67A	Todd	50		4		50	50	4	4
	TOTAL	6,642	650	2,478	52	7,292	7,942	2,530	2,582
	Unit	TomT 32	2 TomT 35	TomT 32	2 TomT 35	RES Licenses	RES Tags	NR Lic	NR Tags
RES & NR:						9,822	10,524		

Note: An additional 8% of the number of licenses will be available to nonresidents in West River units.

Unit 22A was both Day and Codington counties in 2025 and 2026. Those units are proposed to be split in 2027.

2027-2028 license numbers for archery and mentored youth seasons.

- Spring Archery "male only" turkey licenses are limited to 1 per individual for residents and nonresidents. These licenses are valid statewide, excluding Custer State Park.
- Archery and mentor youth "male turkey" access permits.
 - Good Earth State Park: 5 archery.
 - Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve: 30 archery and 20 mentored youth.

Recommended 2026 and 2027 Fall Turkey resident license number changes by unit compared to the previous 2 years.

Unit #	Unit Name	2024-2025 Resident Licenses	2026-2027 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2024-2025 Resident Tags	2026-2027 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
01A	Minnehaha	25	25	0	0%	25	25	0	0%
02A	Pennington	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
06A	Brookings	20	20	0	0%	20	20	0	0%
07A	Yankton	175	175	0	0%	175	175	0	0%
08A	Davison/Hanson	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
10A*	Aurora/Douglas	25	25	0	0%	25	25	0	0%
12A	Bon Homme	175	175	0	0%	175	175	0	0%
13A	Brule/Buffalo	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
15A	Butte/Lawrence	75	75	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
17A	Charles Mix	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
21A	Custer/Pennington	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
29A	Grant	125	150	25	20%	125	150	25	20%
30A	Gregory	50	0	-50	-100%	50	0	-50	-100%
31A	Haakon	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
35A	Harding	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
36A	Hughes	0	10	10	NA	0	10	10	NA
39A	Jackson	75	100	25	33%	150	200	50	33%
45A	Lyman	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
48A	Marshall/Roberts	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
49A	Meade	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
50A	Mellette	25	0	-25	-100%	25	0	-25	-100%
52A	Moody	25	25	0	0%	25	25	0	0%
53A	Perkins	50	25	-25	-50%	50	25	-25	-50%
58A	Stanley	25	25	0	0%	25	25	0	0%
60A	Tripp	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
BH1	Black Hills	200	100	-100	-50%	200	100	-100	-50%
TOTAL		1,720	1,580	-140	-8%	1,870	1,755	-115	-6%

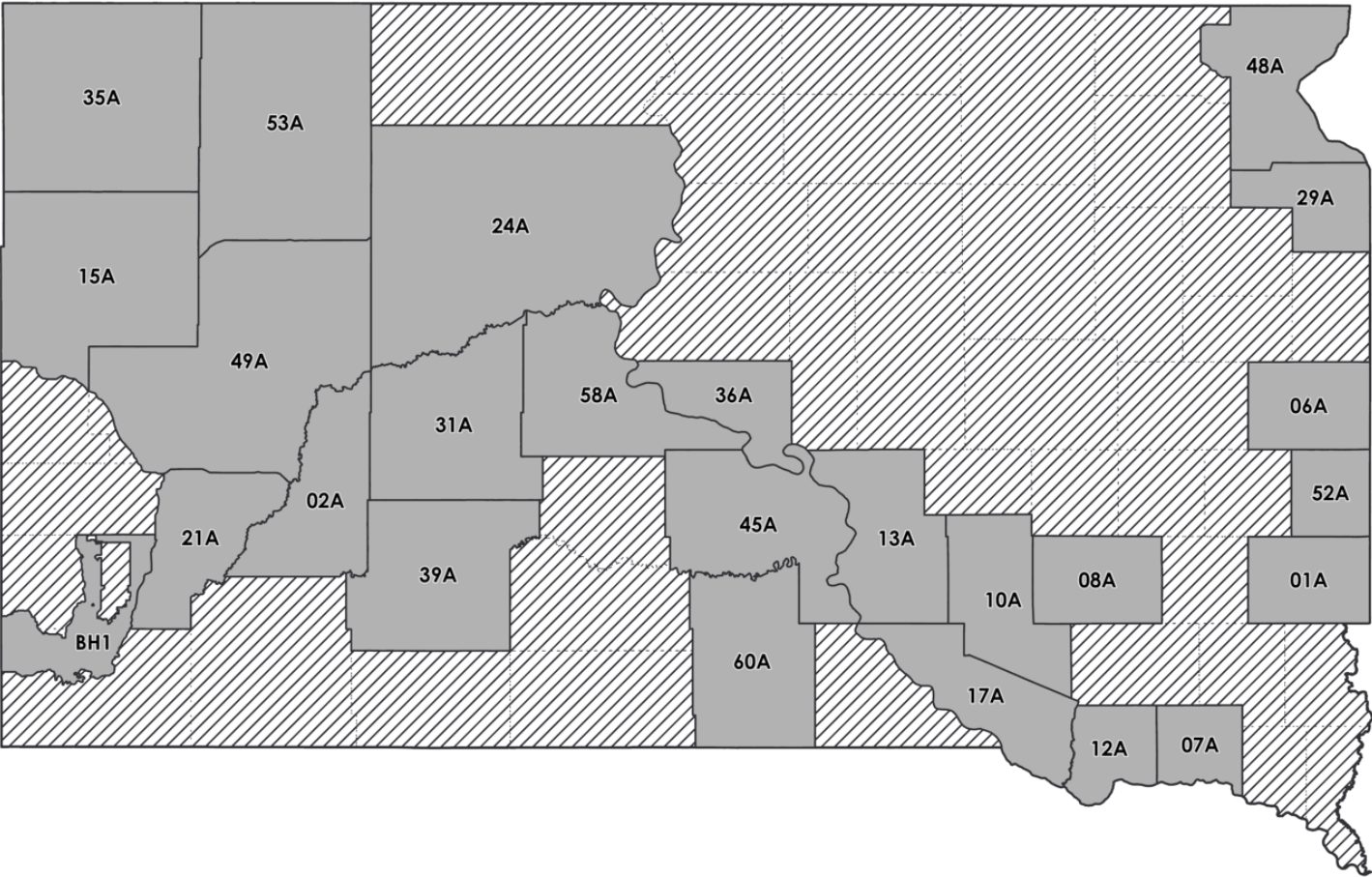
Recommended 2026 and 2027 Fall Turkey Licenses.

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident		Nonresident		License Totals			
		AnyT	2 AnyT	AnyT	2 AnyT	Resident		Nonresident	
		31	37	31	37	Licenses	Tags	Licenses	Tags
01A	Minnehaha	25				25	25		
02A	Pennington	50		4		50	50	4	4
06A	Brookings	20				20	20		
07A	Yankton	175				175	175		
08A	Davison/Hanson	50				50	50		
10A*	Aurora/Douglas	25				25	25		
12A	Bon Homme	175				175	175		
13A	Brule/Buffalo	50				50	50		
15A	Butte/Lawrence		75		6	75	150	6	12
17A	Charles Mix	50				50	50		
21A	Custer/Pennington	50		4		50	50	4	4
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	50		4		50	50	4	4
29A	Grant	150				150	150		
30A	Gregory								
31A	Haakon	50		4		50	50	4	4
35A	Harding	50		4		50	50	4	4
36A	Hughes	10				10	10		
39A	Jackson		100		8	100	200	8	16
45A	Lyman	50		4		50	50	4	4
48A	Marshall/Roberts	100				100	100		
49A	Meade	50		4		50	50	4	4
50A	Mellette								
52A	Moody	25				25	25		
53A	Perkins	25		2		25	25	2	2
58A	Stanley	25		2		25	25	2	2
60A	Tripp	50		4		50	50	4	4
BH1	Black Hills	100		8		100	100	8	8
TOTAL		1,405	175	44	14	1,580	1,755	58	72
RES & NR:						1,638	1,827		

Note: An additional 8% of licenses are available to nonresidents for the West River prairie units.

There is no fall turkey hunting in Custer State Park and no Fall Archery Turkey season. The Mentored Youth Fall Turkey Season is open in all open Fall Turkey Season units with >0 licenses available.

Map of fall wild turkey hunting season open units (gray units). The hashed region is closed to fall turkey hunting.



GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Private Shooting Preserves Chapter 41:09:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 11, 2026	Madison
	Public Hearing	July 9, 2026	Webster
	Finalization	July 9-10, 2026	Webster

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Proposed change from last year:

- 1) Modify §41:09:01:04 and §41:09:01:04.01 to allow the transportation of harvested birds from a private shooting preserve directly to a lodge or cleaning facility not located on permitted acres prior to tagging.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Recommended changes: None.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The GFP Commission adopted this proposal based on a petition for rule change. The petitioner's reason for change is immediate tagging can result in tags coming into contact with meat during cleaning, creating potential contamination issues, and allows for legal transportation to cleaning facilities before tags are applied. Allowing tagging after processing improves food safety and enhances the overall experience for hunters and operators, while still maintaining proper accountability.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:09:01:04. Tagging of ~~bagged~~ harvested birds. Serially numbered tags, supplied by the department, must be securely attached around the leg or neck of all harvested bird species that are listed on the preserve permittee's permit. All pen-reared and wild birds harvested on a preserve ~~shall~~ must be tagged by the shooting preserve permittee, or the permittee's employees or agents, upon any of the following circumstances, whichever occurs first:

- (1) Prior to leaving the preserve acreage, except as provided in § 41:09:01:04.03;
- (2) At the time the birds are cleaned or processed;
- (3) Prior to the birds being placed in a cooling or freezing facility; or
- (4) Prior to midnight of the day that the birds were harvested.

The head, leg, or sufficient plumage must remain attached to the bird to identify the sex and species of the bird. The ~~kill~~ tag must remain attached to the bird while the bird is possessed, placed in public storage, transported, or shipped by anyone. However, the head, leg, and sufficient plumage may be detached from the bird and discarded if the bird is processed at a wildlife processing facility, if the bird is immediately packaged by a transparent vacuum-sealed or shrink-wrap packaging process, and if the ~~kill~~ tag is encased in the same package and clearly legible. The package ~~shall~~ may contain only those individual bird parts associated with the original ~~kill~~ tag. No more than two birds may be enclosed in the same package. Except as provided in this section, the provisions of chapter 41:06:03 apply to the possession, processing, and transportation of game birds harvested on a preserve.

41:09:01:04.01. Private shooting preserve transportation permit -- Exception. A licensed private shooting preserve permittee may obtain a transportation permit for processing purposes from the department. The permit allows the transportation of birds legally harvested on the shooting preserve to ~~another location for processing a wildlife processing facility as defined in 41:06:03:10~~. The kill tags must be attached to the birds, except as provided for in § 41:09:01:04.03. The permit must

include the preserve name; the hunter's name; the hunter's ~~driver's~~ driver license number, ~~state-issued~~ state-issued identification number, or youth hunter safety number; the species and number of birds transported; and the date of processing.

In lieu of the transportation permit, a permittee or employee may transport permitted species harvested on a shooting preserve to another location for processing, if the carrier of the birds has a duplicate copy of the guest register required by SDCL 41-10-17. The permittee may use ~~computer~~ formats a data collection platform provided by the Department that ~~list~~ lists hunter and harvest information for the birds being transported for processing with prior department approval.

The carrier of the permit or guest register must be an employee or agent of the preserve and must possess the processing permit or a copy of the guest register while in possession of the birds enroute to or from the processor.

41:09:01:04.03. Transportation of birds off preserve prior to tagging. Notwithstanding subdivision 41:09:01:04(1), prior to tagging, harvested birds may be transported directly to a wildlife processing facility as defined in 41:06:03:10 that is not located on the permitted preserve acreage, if:

- (1) The birds were harvested on the permitted preserve acreage;
- (2) No hunting occurred off the acreage;
- (3) The birds are transported directly to the processing facility or lodge;
- (4) The birds are transported by the preserve operator or employee;
- (5) The birds are accompanied by the necessary tags described in § 41:09:01:04;
- (6) Complete harvest information was loaded into the private shooting preserve database supplied by the department prior to leaving the acreage; and
- (7) All other transportation requirements provided in § 41:09:01:04.01 are followed.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? No
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? No
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? No
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE	_____	MODIFY	_____	REJECT	_____	NO ACTION	_____
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2026 June Camping

Agenda Item #20

6/1/2025 - 6/30/2025	6/1/2026 - 6/30/2026
Camping Units	Camping Units
76122	73373

District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	691	542	-22%
	Pickereel Lake Recreation Area	1273	1291	1%
	Roy Lake State Park	1922	2099	9%
	Sica Hollow State Park	33	27	-18%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	64	80	25%
2	Fisher Grove State Park	183	209	14%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	464	381	-18%
	Mina Lake Recreation Area	650	716	10%
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	403	384	-5%
3	Hartford Beach State Park	1441	1320	-8%
	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	409	412	1%
	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	1420	1329	-6%
4	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	385	359	-7%
	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	1819	1678	-8%
5	Oakwood Lakes State Park	1972	1900	-4%
	Lake Carthage Lakeside Use Area	158	195	23%
	Lake Herman State Park	1155	1195	3%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	1548	1528	-1%
6	Walkers Point Recreation Area	565	534	-5%
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	7	0	-100%
	Buryanek Recreation Area	597	583	-2%
	Dude Ranch Lakeside Use Area	4	16	300%
	Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area	26	0	-100%
7	Platte Creek Recreation Area	378	346	-8%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	1804	1628	-10%
	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	1192	1232	3%
8	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	2131	2117	-1%
	Palisades State Park	1961	2074	6%
	Good Earth State Park	0	1	NA
	Newton Hills State Park	1567	1640	5%
9	Union Grove State Park	251	205	-18%
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	2349	2282	-3%
	Clay County Park	198	249	26%
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	9014	9013	0%
	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	951	890	-6%
10	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	21	7	-67%
	Springfield Recreation Area	276	293	6%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	6	12	100%
	North Point Recreation Area	2437	2069	-15%
11	North Wheeler Recreation Area	299	227	-24%
	Pease Creek Recreation Area	469	432	-8%
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	1407	1159	-18%
	South Shore Lakeside Use Area	44	61	39%
	Star Valley Lakeside Use Area	9	5	-44%
12	Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	116	122	5%
	White Swan Lakeside Use Area	37	50	35%
	Farm Island Recreation Area	1568	1510	-4%
	West Bend Recreation Area	1859	1978	6%
13	Cow Creek Recreation Area	821	639	-22%
	Minneconju Lakeside Use Area	0	14	NA
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	3366	3087	-8%
	Okobojo Point Recreation Area	397	426	7%
	Spring Creek Recreation Area	266	319	20%
14	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	8	39	388%
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	2403	2299	-4%
	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	43	36	-16%
	Little Bend Lakeside Use Area	0	5	NA
15	Little Moreau Recreation Area	0	1	NA
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	382	410	7%
	Walth Bay Lakeside Use Area	0	3	NA
	West Pollock Recreation Area	318	266	-16%
	West Whitlock Recreation Area	1752	1686	-4%
16	Bear Butte State Park	143	97	-32%
	Hugh Glass Lakeside Use Area	70	49	-30%
	Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area	62	52	-16%
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	1525	1350	-11%
17	Shadehill Recreation Area	1789	1518	-15%
	Custer State Park	10532	10489	0%
	Angostura Recreation Area	4106	3776	-8%
	Bailey's Lakeside Use Area	14	11	-21%
	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	592	421	-29%
Total:		76122	73373	-4%



2026 June YTD Camping

		1/1/2025 - 6/30/2025	1/1/2026 - 6/30/2026	
		Camping Units	Camping Units	
		133299	130190	
District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	892	709	-21%
	Pickerel Lake Recreation Area	2076	1961	-6%
	Roy Lake State Park	3196	3264	2%
	Sica Hollow State Park	74	90	22%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	120	132	10%
2	Fisher Grove State Park	333	355	7%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	887	713	-20%
	Mina Lake Recreation Area	1304	1372	5%
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	656	751	14%
	Hartford Beach State Park	2562	2361	-8%
3	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	665	606	-9%
	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	2581	2438	-6%
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	585	557	-5%
	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	2944	2678	-9%
	Oakwood Lakes State Park	3408	3184	-7%
4	Lake Carthage Lakeside Use Area	277	322	16%
	Lake Herman State Park	2190	2359	8%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	2756	2602	-6%
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	1067	888	-17%
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	24	14	-42%
5	Buryanek Recreation Area	1251	1187	-5%
	Dude Ranch Lakeside Use Area	45	91	102%
	Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area	63	54	-14%
	Platte Creek Recreation Area	816	592	-27%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	3194	3143	-2%
6	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	2762	2843	3%
	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	4388	4314	-2%
	Palisades State Park	3979	4194	5%
	Twin Lake Lakeside Use Area	0	1	NA
	Good Earth State Park	0	1	NA
7	Newton Hills State Park	3526	3433	-3%
	Union Grove State Park	551	438	-21%
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	4398	4195	-5%
	Clay County Park	554	688	24%
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	14616	14824	1%
8	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	1792	1626	-9%
	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	88	51	-42%
	Springfield Recreation Area	553	535	-3%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	29	31	7%
	North Point Recreation Area	3787	3399	-10%
9	North Wheeler Recreation Area	528	491	-7%
	Pease Creek Recreation Area	769	734	-5%
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	2229	2021	-9%
	South Shore Lakeside Use Area	90	130	44%
	Star Valley Lakeside Use Area	9	30	233%
10	Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	262	258	-2%
	White Swan Lakeside Use Area	77	100	30%
	Farm Island Recreation Area	2769	2836	2%
	West Bend Recreation Area	3467	3764	9%
	Cow Creek Recreation Area	1248	1113	-11%
11	Minneconju Lakeside Use Area	0	24	NA
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	5514	5175	-6%
	Okobojo Point Recreation Area	574	552	-4%
	Spring Creek Recreation Area	401	671	67%
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	21	54	157%
12	Indian Creek Recreation Area	3635	3735	3%
	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	84	74	-12%
	Little Bend Lakeside Use Area	2	5	150%
	Little Moreau Recreation Area	0	11	NA
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	566	616	9%
13	Walth Bay Lakeside Use Area	8	29	263%
	West Pollock Recreation Area	663	596	-10%
	West Whitlock Recreation Area	2360	2235	-5%
	Bear Butte State Park	325	194	-40%
	Hugh Glass Lakeside Use Area	91	110	21%
14	Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area	120	79	-34%
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	2807	2600	-7%
	Shadehill Recreation Area	2853	2606	-9%
	Custer State Park	18832	19057	1%
	Angostura Recreation Area	7063	6485	-8%
15	Bailey's Lakeside Use Area	25	11	-56%
	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	913	798	-13%
Total:		133299	130190	-2%

**Division of Parks and Recreation
June 2026 Revenue by Item**

	2025		2026		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Resident Annual	11,346	\$ 436,613	10,285	\$ 393,065	
Non-Resident Annual	3,632	\$ 210,455	3,116	\$ 182,080	
Resident Double	8,614	\$ 510,982	7,559	\$ 446,990	
Non-Resident Double	1,446	\$ 128,742	1,394	\$ 123,125	
Transferable	565	\$ 50,298	559	\$ 49,790	
GSM Annual Trail Pass	1,514	\$ 30,190	1,158	\$ 22,920	
Annual Licenses	27,117	\$ 1,367,280	24,071	\$ 1,217,970	-11%
Resident Daily License	12,925	\$ 128,634	10,702	\$ 106,780	
Non-Resident Daily License	8,931	\$ 133,845	8,267	\$ 123,122	
Unattended Vehicle Daily	280	\$ 5,590	180	\$ 3,590	
GSM Daily Trail Pass	5,389	\$ 26,945	2,921	\$ 14,605	
Motorcoach Permit	10,111	\$ 32,608	4,340	\$ 17,360	
CSP 7 Day Pass	41,430	\$ 1,031,440	43,812	\$ 1,091,290	
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	4,681	\$ 93,140	3,975	\$ 79,400	
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
One-Day Special Event	15	\$ 1,500	10	\$ 1,000	
Festival Daily	2,427	\$ 11,475	2,220	\$ 10,870	
Daily Licenses	86,189	\$ 1,465,177	76,427	\$ 1,448,017	-1%
Licenses	113,306	\$ 2,832,457	100,498	\$ 2,665,987	-6%
Camping Services		\$ 1,244,183		\$ 1,443,864	16%
Pet Fees	278	\$ 2,780	332	\$ 2,913	5%
LODGING		\$ 1,246,963		\$ 1,446,776	16%
Picnic Shelters		\$ 2,640		\$ 5,627	113%
Boat Rentals		\$ 4,292		\$ 4,031	-6%
Firewood	7,960	\$ 53,425	7,665	\$ 51,436	-4%
Gift Card	16	\$ 1,375	16	\$ 1,369	0%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ 11,790		\$ 2,661	-77%
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 8,999		\$ 7,610	-15%
Retail		\$ 57,293		\$ 47,989	-16%
Call Center Fee	2,197	\$ 13,116	1,994	\$ 11,634	-11%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ 229		\$ 622	172%
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 153,158		\$ 132,979	-13%
TOTAL		\$ 4,232,577		\$ 4,245,742	0%

Division of Parks and Recreation
June YTD 2026 Revenue by Item

	2025		2026		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Resident Annual	25,813	\$ 1,035,964	25,756	\$ 984,055	
Non-Resident Annual	8,244	\$ 477,325	7,720	\$ 448,220	
Resident Double	28,107	\$ 1,671,365	29,544	\$ 1,730,977	
Non-Resident Double	4,056	\$ 361,227	4,480	\$ 393,413	
Transferable	2,291	\$ 204,833	2,389	\$ 210,970	
GSM Annual Trail Pass	3,537	\$ 70,435	3,434	\$ 67,080	
Annual Licenses	72,048	\$ 3,821,149	73,323	\$ 3,834,715	0%
Resident Daily License	22,176	\$ 220,748	20,207	\$ 202,025	
Non-Resident Daily License	15,083	\$ 226,080	14,312	\$ 212,470	
Unattended Vehicle Daily	456	\$ 9,055	316	\$ 6,310	
GSM Daily Trail Pass	6,810	\$ 33,908	4,437	\$ 22,185	
Motorcoach Permit	11,574	\$ 38,369	6,408	\$ 25,632	
CSP 7 Day Pass	68,661	\$ 1,700,635	73,881	\$ 1,835,200	
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	5,477	\$ 108,960	5,075	\$ 101,340	
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
One-Day Special Event	44	\$ 4,400	21	\$ 2,075	
Festival Daily	2,427	\$ 11,475	2,230	\$ 11,620	
Daily Licenses	132,708	\$ 2,353,630	126,887	\$ 2,418,857	3%
Licenses	204,756	\$ 6,174,779	200,210	\$ 6,253,572	1%
Camping Services		\$ 7,440,641		\$ 7,107,838	-4%
Pet Fees	908	\$ 9,069	1412	\$ 13,415	48%
LODGING		\$ 7,449,710		\$ 7,121,253	-4%
Picnic Shelter		\$ 8,885		\$ 15,063	70%
Boat Rentals		\$ 7,222		\$ 5,134	-29%
Firewood	14,902	\$ 99,873	13,153	\$ 87,911	-12%
Gift Card	91	\$ 8,286	126	\$ 7,155	-14%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ 155,768		\$ 165,014	6%
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 12,892		\$ 11,491	-11%
Retail		\$ 85,517		\$ 88,967	4%
Call Center Fee	7,815	\$ 46,580	6,716	\$ 38,820	-17%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ 217,097		\$ 229,065	6%
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 642,120		\$ 648,620	1%
TOTAL		\$ 14,266,609		\$ 14,023,445	-2%

June 2026 YTD Revenue, Camping and Modern Lodging 3-year Summary

	2023		2024		2025*		3-Yr Avg		2026		% Change (3-Yr Avg)	
	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#
Annual Licenses	\$ 3,070,549	73473	\$ 3,258,478	77934	\$ 3,821,149	72048	\$ 3,383,392	74485	\$ 3,834,715	73323	13.3%	-1.6%
Daily Licenses	\$ 1,578,513	103957	\$ 1,772,456	121050	\$ 2,353,630	132708	\$ 1,901,533	119238	\$ 2,418,857	126887	27.2%	6.4%
Camping/Lodging	\$ 6,736,417		\$ 6,691,447		\$ 7,449,710		\$ 6,959,191		\$ 7,121,253		2.3%	
Miscellaneous	\$ 424,573		\$ 540,111		\$ 642,120		\$ 535,601		\$ 648,620		21.1%	
Total	\$ 11,810,051	177430	\$ 12,262,492	198984	\$ 14,266,609	204756	\$ 12,779,717	193723	\$ 14,023,445	200210	9.7%	3.3%

* Fee increase in 2025

	2023*	2024	2025	3-Yr Avg	2026	% (3-yr Avg)
Camping Units	137310	138608	133299	136406	130190	-4.6%
Modern Lodging Nights Booked January 1 through December 31						
Lake Thompson		108	108	108	100	-7.4%
Mina Lake		90	130	110	144	30.9%
Newton Hills (3 units)		246	264	255	245	-3.9%
Oahe Downstream (5 units)		643	687	665	584	-12.2%
Palisades		122	112	117	111	-5.1%
Pickerel Lake		79	138	109	137	26.3%
Roy Lake (12 units)		1146	1181	1164	1327	14.1%
Shadehill		130	164	147	145	-1.4%
Sheps Canyon		98	75	87	77	-11.0%
Spring Creek (16 units)		817	795	806	1248	54.8%
All Parks Total		3479	3654	3567	4118	15.5%

* Modern Lodging numbers for 2023 not available



June 29, 2026

South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Commission
Secretary Kevin Robling
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Commission members and Secretary Robling

With Administrative Rule to 41:06:27:02:06 of the drawing occurring on or before July 15th, we are still gathering the final tickets for the 2026 South Dakota Special Elk Tag drawing. We hope that you will be pleased with the funds generated from the 2026 South Dakota Special Elk Tag. Sales were up this year, consistent with the uptick in spending across the state at RMEF, and likely due to the restructure in our pricing from \$100/ticket to \$50/ticket or \$100/3 tickets. Expenses were up as well, due to our elk tag mailer to generate additional sales. As of June 29, 2026, we have raised \$41,377 in net revenue.

As the overall health of the elk herd in the Black Hills has improved, residents have become even more willing to support the fund-raising effort. While conducting Big Game Banquets is our main effort for fundraising, many of our supporters turned to online sales which helped us raise funds for the South Dakota Special Elk Tag as well as our South Dakota membership. We have seen a large increase in sales by allowing sales to occur after the South Dakota Elk Draw Results were posted.

RMEF committees have attempted at each banquet to educate attendees about the 100% investment they make in elk and elk habitat when they purchase an opportunity for the tag and other prizes. In addition to the annual fund-raising efforts, nearly 50 of these volunteers gathered in the Southern Black Hills for our Summer Rendezvous to enhance elk and other big game habitat. These volunteers worked on building a new metal roof guzzler, repairing existing guzzlers, fencing projects in the Buffalo Gap Grassland, and fawn capture/GPS collaring; all to benefit elk and other big game.

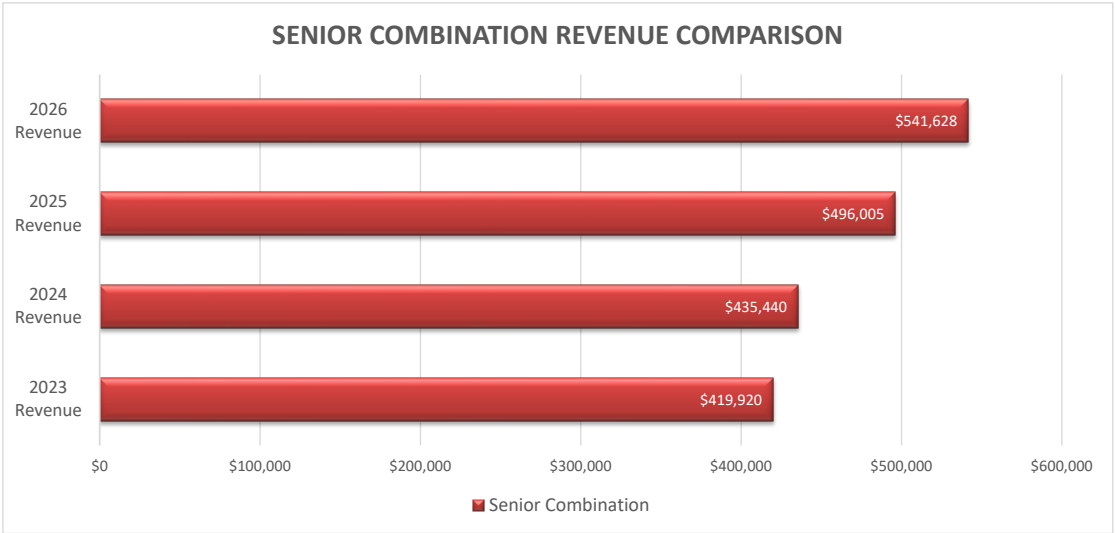
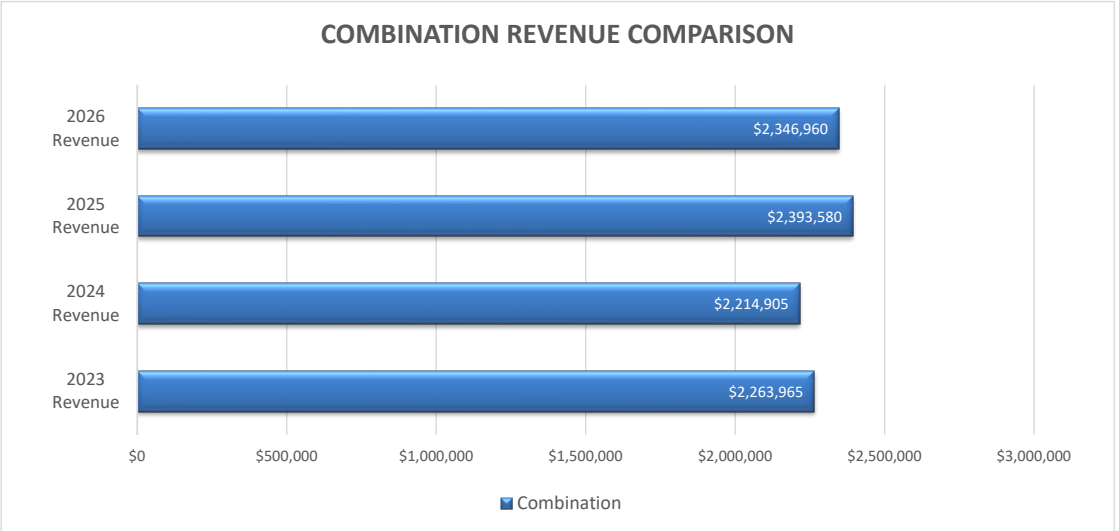
The South Dakota RMEF volunteers would like to continue to be a part of this conservation effort and request consideration for the 2027 South Dakota Special Elk tag. We understand that if selected, the raffle must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of 41:06:27:02:06.

Yours in Conservation,

Josh Flynn
E South Dakota & E Nebraska RMEF Regional Director
Cell (913)-549-2011
E-mail: jflynn@rmef.org

COMBINATION LICENSES
December 15 - June 30

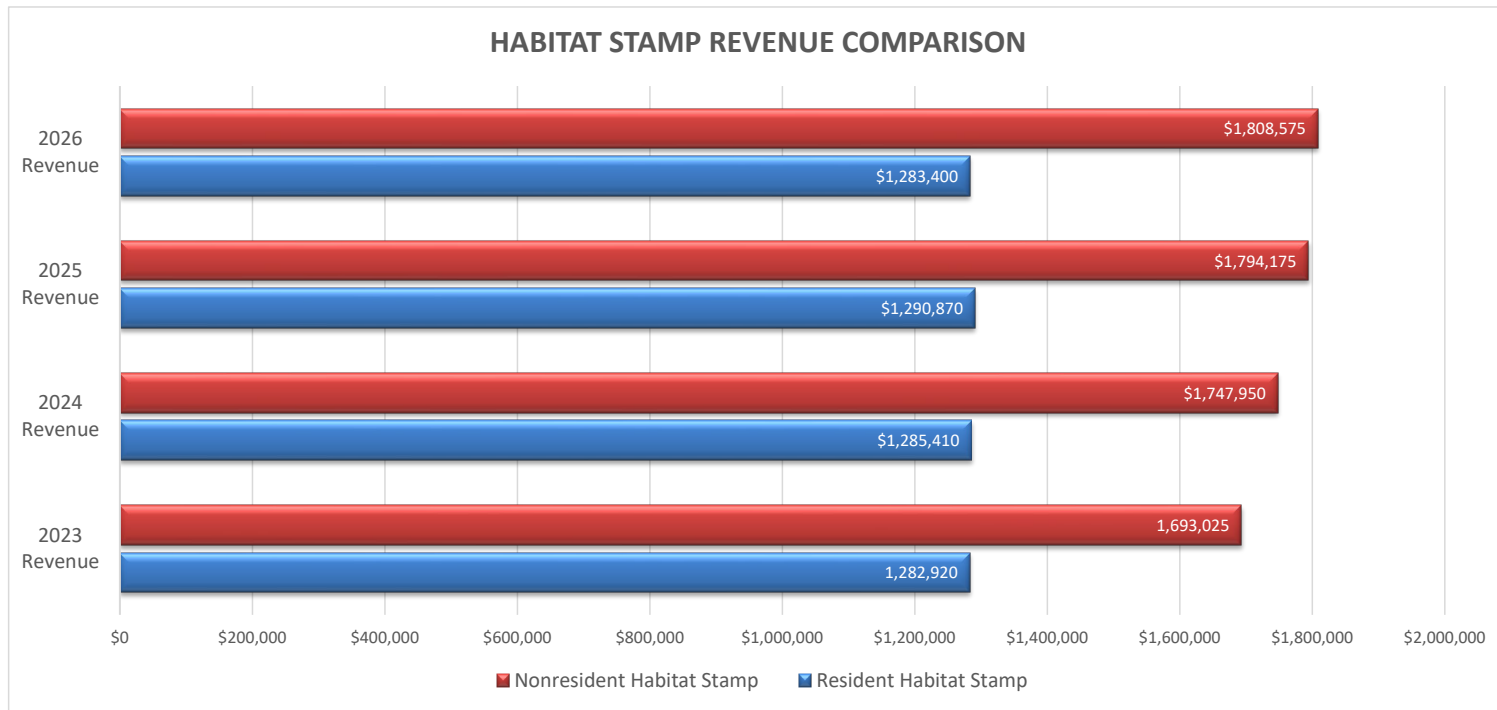
License Type	2023	2024	2025	3-yr Avg	2026	2026 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	
Combination	41,163	40,271	39,893	40,442	39,116	\$2,346,960	(777)	(1,326)	(\$46,620)	\$56,143	-3%
Senior Combination	10,498	10,886	11,535	10,973	12,596	\$541,628	1,061	1,623	\$45,623	\$91,173	15%
Combination License Totals	51,661	51,157	51,428	51,415	51,712	\$2,888,588	284	297	(\$997)	\$147,316	12%



HABITAT STAMP

December 15 - June 30

License Type						+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from	
	2023	2024	2025	3-yr Avg	2026	2026 Revenue	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg
Resident Habitat Stamp	128,292	128,541	129,087	128,640	128,340	\$1,283,400	(747)	(300)	(\$7,470)	(\$3,000)	0%
Nonresident Habitat Stamp	67,721	69,918	71,767	69,802	72,343	\$1,808,575	576	2,541	\$14,400	\$63,525	4%
Habitat Stamp Totals	196,013	198,459	200,854	198,442	200,683	\$3,091,975	(171)	2,241	\$6,930	\$60,525	1%

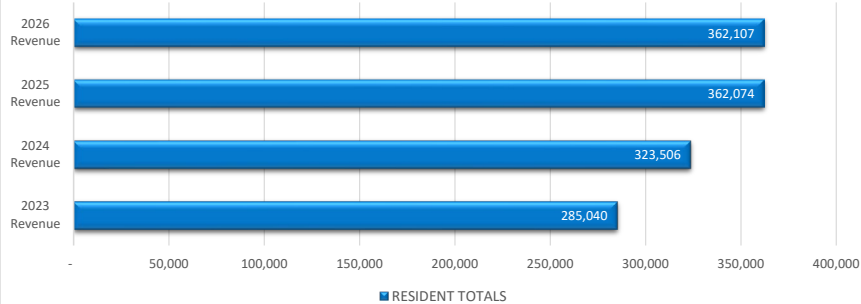


SMALL GAME LICENSES

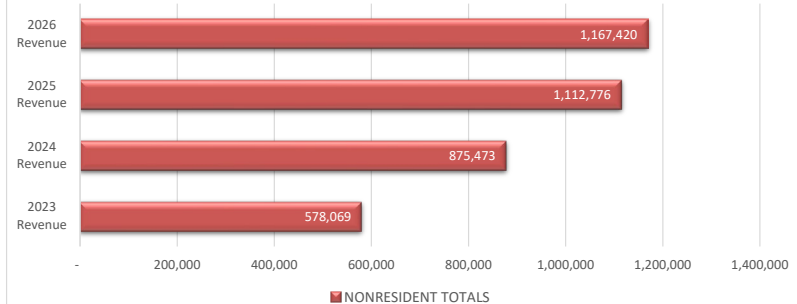
December 15 - June 30

License Type							+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change
	2023	2024	2025	3-yr Avg	2026	2026 Revenue	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	from 3 Yr. Avg
Small Game	4,865	6,030	6,549	5,815	6,436	\$231,696	(113)	621	(\$4,068)	\$33,263	11%
1-Day Small Game	100	208	201	170	238	\$3,570	37	68	\$555	\$1,333	40%
Youth Small Game	1,416	1,520	1,317	1,418	1,455	\$7,275	138	37	\$690	\$187	3%
Mentor Small Game	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	245	\$1,225	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Furbearer	2,853	3,029	3,169	3,017	3,276	\$101,556	107	259	\$3,317	\$9,990	9%
Predator/Varmint	1,493	1,283	981	1,252	1,000	\$6,000	19	(252)	\$114	(\$589)	-20%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck	339	209	118	222	102	\$510	(16)	(120)	(\$80)	(\$600)	-54%
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	4,293	3,218	2,399	3,303	2,055	\$10,275	(344)	(1,248)	(\$1,720)	(\$6,242)	-38%
RESIDENT TOTALS	15,359	15,497	14,734	15,197	14,807	\$362,107	73	(515)	(\$1,192)	\$37,342	-3.39%
Small Game	2,950	5,220	5,641	4,604	5,841	\$829,422	200	1,237	\$28,400	\$272,378	27%
Youth Small Game	204	355	368	309	336	\$3,360	(32)	27	(\$320)	\$270	9%
Mentor Small Game	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	97	\$970	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shooting Preserve 1-Day Nonresident	103	172	192	156	242	\$12,100	50	86	\$2,500	\$4,939	55%
Shooting Preserve 5-Day Nonresident	822	1,004	1,210	1,012	1,352	\$129,792	142	340	\$13,632	\$52,880	34%
Shooting Preserve Annual Nonresident	64	62	66	64	88	\$12,848	22	24	\$3,212	\$5,104	38%
Furbearer	2	5	1	3	4	\$1,300	3	1	\$975	\$567	0%
Predator/Varmint	3,112	3,148	3,328	3,196	3,458	\$159,068	130	262	\$5,980	\$31,228	8%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck	79	32	113	75	104	\$520	(9)	29	(\$45)	\$147	39%
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	3,740	4,226	3,740	3,902	3,608	\$18,040	(132)	(294)	(\$660)	(\$1,470)	-8%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	11,076	14,224	14,659	13,320	15,130	\$1,167,420	471	1,713	\$53,674	\$366,043	12.86%
COMBINED TOTALS	26,435	29,721	29,393	28,516	29,937	\$1,529,527	544	1,421	\$52,482	\$403,385	4.98%

RESIDENT HUNTING REVENUE COMPARISON



NONRESIDENT HUNTING REVENUE COMPARISON



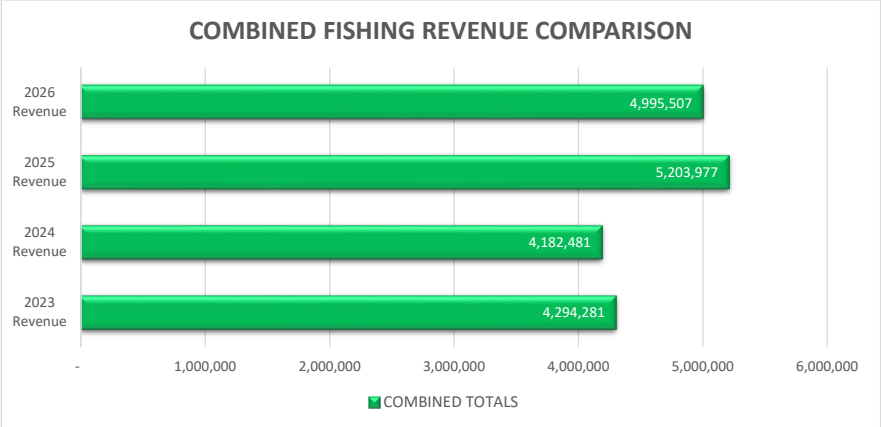
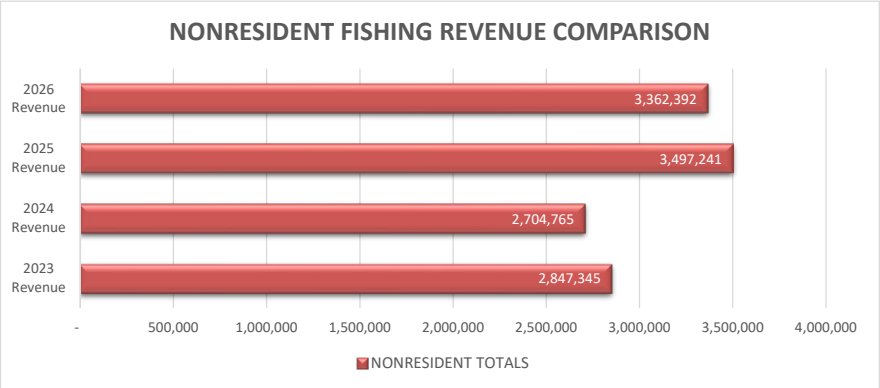
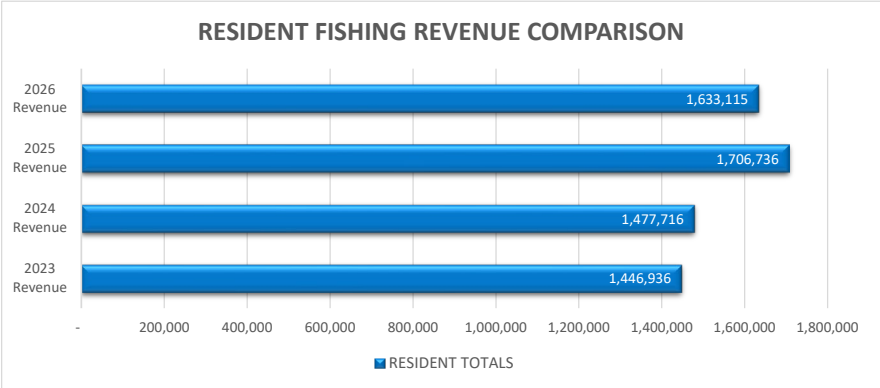
COMBINED HUNTING REVENUE COMPARISON



FISHING LICENSES

December 15 - June 30

License Type	2023	2024	2025	3-yr Avg	2026	2026 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	
1-Day Fishing	3,237	3,581	3,558	3,459	3,247	\$32,470	(311)	(212)	(\$3,110)	\$2,429	-6%
Annual Fishing	45,552	46,427	47,213	46,397	45,364	\$1,406,284	(1,849)	(1,033)	(\$57,319)	\$59,946	-2%
Senior Fishing	12,132	12,426	12,209	12,256	11,433	\$194,361	(776)	(823)	(\$13,192)	\$26,945	-7%
RESIDENT TOTALS	60,921	62,434	62,980	62,112	60,044	1,633,115	(2,936)	(2,068)	(\$73,621)	\$89,319	-3.33%
1-Day Fishing	18,826	18,365	13,716	16,969	12,927	\$336,102	(789)	(4,042)	(\$20,514)	\$18,878	-24%
3-Day Fishing	11,379	10,499	12,549	11,476	12,042	\$541,890	(507)	566	(\$22,815)	\$83,826	5%
Annual Fishing	31,718	30,186	32,199	31,368	31,055	\$2,484,400	(1,144)	(313)	(\$91,520)	\$243,237	-1%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	61,923	59,050	58,464	59,812	56,024	\$3,362,392	(2,440)	(3,788)	(\$134,849)	\$345,942	-6.33%
COMBINED TOTALS	122,844	121,484	121,444	121,924	116,068	\$4,995,507	(5,376)	(5,856)	(\$208,470)	\$435,261	-4.80%



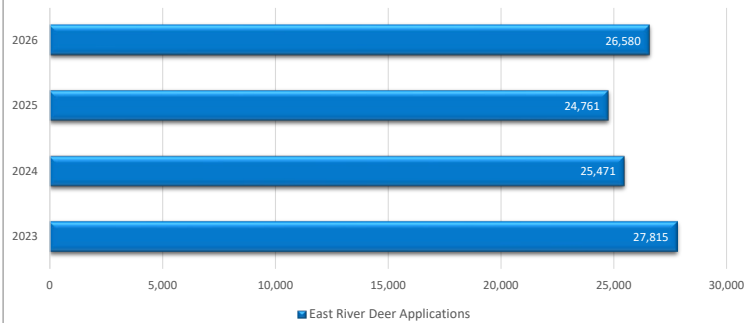
2026 BIG GAME LICENSES

License Type	2023	2024	2025	3-yr Avg	2026	2026 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	
East River Deer	22,068	20,697	17,313	20,026	17,163	\$717,483	(150)	(2,863)	\$142,653	\$115,700	-14%
Res West River Deer	13,907	13,427	12,791	13,375	13,223	\$615,570	432	(152)	\$239,994	\$232,947	-1%
NR West River Deer	1,377	1,342	1,194	1,304	1,190	\$420,325	(4)	(114)	(\$204,013)	(\$206,444)	-9%
Resident Black Hills Deer	2,950	2,948	2,950	2,949	2,949	\$132,705	(1)	(0)	\$14,785	\$14,732	0%
NR Black Hills Deer	236	236	236	236	236	\$88,500	-	-	\$21,004	\$21,004	0%
Muzzleloader Deer	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	\$45,000	-	-	\$5,000	\$5,000	0%
Resident Refuge Deer	135	127	119	127	120	\$5,400	1	(7)	\$3,705	(\$52)	-6%
NR Refuge Deer	14	14	12	13	10	\$3,750	(2)	(3)	(\$750)	(\$1,250)	-25%
Custer Deer	20	20	25	22	25	\$3,900	-	3	\$0	\$520	15%
Resident Archery Deer	8,671	8,192	5,845	7,569	6,151	\$256,635	306	(1,418)	\$11,125	(\$33,528)	-19%
NR Archery Deer Public/Private	2,200	2,183	2,194	2,192	2,192	\$822,000	(2)	(0)	\$197,662	\$129,904	0%

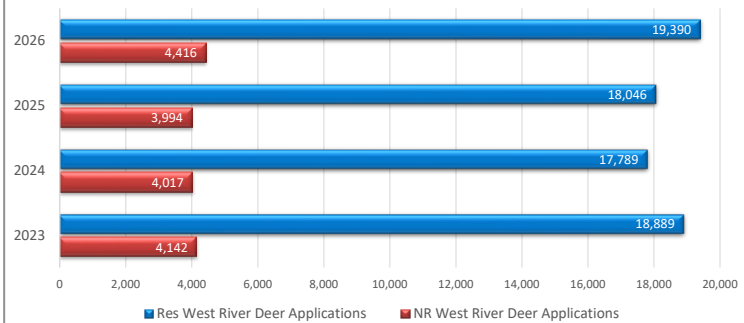
1st Draw Applications Submitted

East River Deer Applications	27,815	25,471	24,761	26,016	26,580		1,819	564			2%
Res West River Deer Applications	18,889	17,789	18,046	18,241	19,390		1,344	1,149			6%
NR West River Deer Applications	4,142	4,017	3,994	4,051	4,416		422	365			9%
Resident Black Hills Deer Applications	12,017	11,409	11,379	11,602	11,927		548	325			3%
NR Black Hills Deer Applications	1,955	1,858	2,023	1,945	2,159		136	214			11%
Muzzleloader Deer Applications	4,279	4,169	3,950	4,133	4,005		55	(128)			-3%
Resident Refuge Deer Applications	433	424	378	412	383		5	(29)			-7%
NR Refuge Deer Applications	127	126	133	129	163		30	34			27%
Custer Deer	1,064	1,022	1,197	1,094	1,327		130	233			
NR Archery Deer Public/Private Applications	2,827	3,463	3,264	3,185	2,965		(299)	(220)			

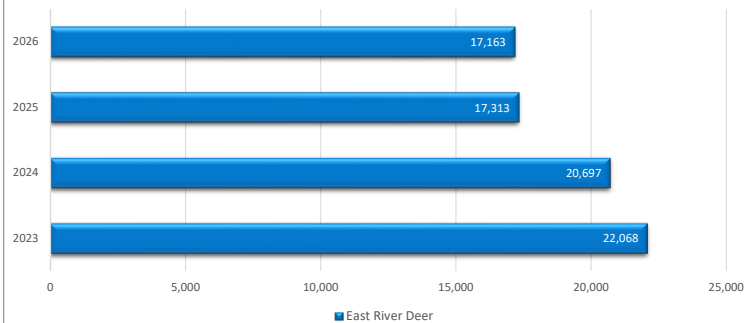
EAST RIVER DEER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED



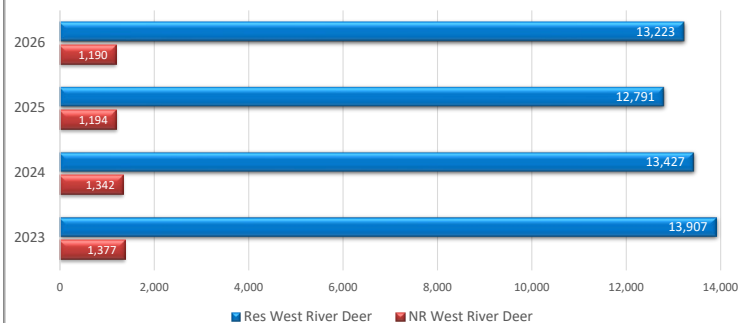
WEST RIVER DEER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED



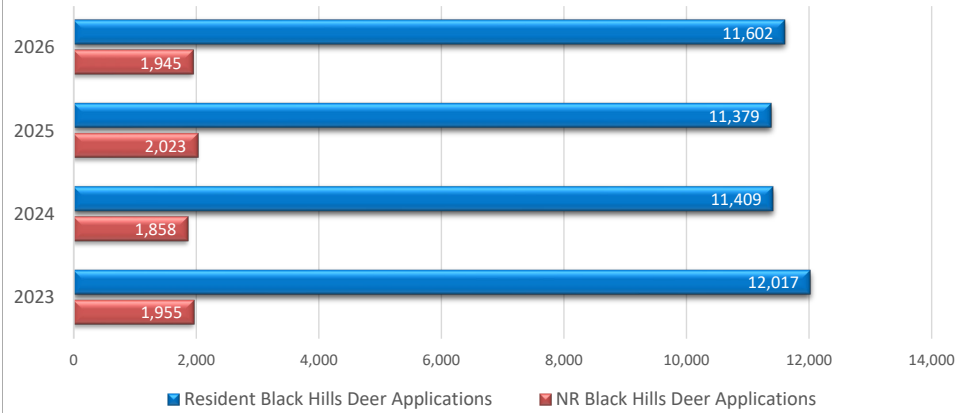
EAST RIVER DEER LICENSES ISSUED



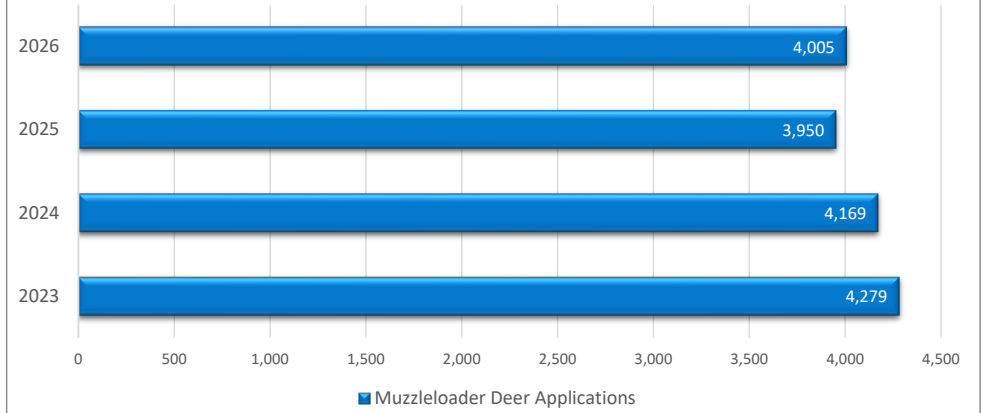
WEST RIVER DEER LICENSES ISSUED



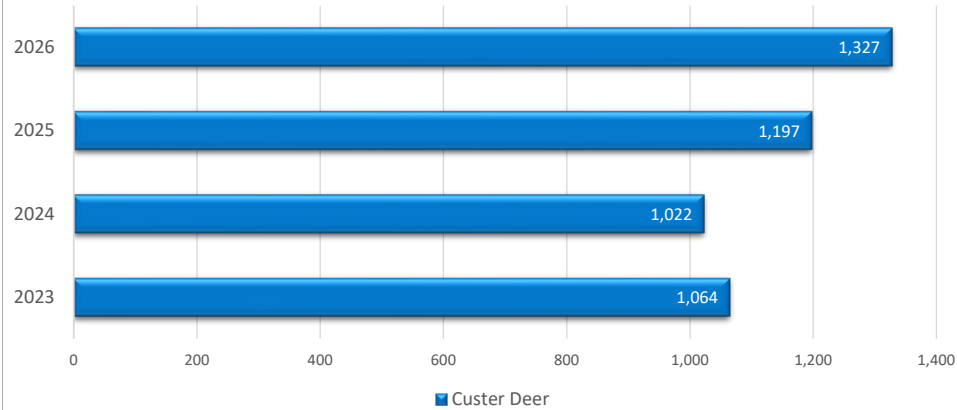
BLACK HILLS DEER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED



MUZZLELOADER DEER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED



CUSTER DEER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED



REFUGE DEER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

