



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

JUNE 6-7, 2024 | NFAA EASTON YANKTON ARCHERY CENTER

MEETING INFO

This agenda is subject to change without prior notice.

Date and Time: June 6, 2024, from 1-5 pm CST | 12-4 pm MT and June 7, 2024, from 8 am to 12 pm CST | 7 to 11 am MT

Meeting Location: NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center, 800 Archery Lane, Yankton, SD 57078

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

Meeting ID: 928 2777 2568

Passcode: 421262

Call In: +12532050468,,92827772568# US

Video Conference ID: 92827772568@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. Budget Discussion

Informational Items

5. Staff Introductions

Public Hearing (2 pm CST / 1 pm MT)

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

Open Forum – following the conclusion of the Public Hearing

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

Petition

6. #217: Lake Francis Case Paddlefish Season
7. #218: Motor Use on Lakes
8. #219: Panfish Daily Limits
9. #220: Panfish Daily Limits

Proposals

10. Air Gun Hunting
11. Wild Turkey Hunting Season
 - a. Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season
 - b. Custer State Park Wild Turkey Hunting Season
 - c. Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season
 - d. Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season License Allocation
12. Annual Park Entrance License Options (*Second Reading*)



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

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13. Antelope Hunting Seasons (*Second Reading*)
 - a. Archery Antelope Hunting Season
 - b. Antelope Firearm Hunting Season
 - c. Antelope Firearm Hunting Season License Allocation
 - d. Landowner Own Land Antelope and Mentored Youth Antelope Licenses

Finalizations

14. Furbearer Seasons and Methods: Hunting Raccoons with Dogs
15. Elk Raffle License
16. Landowner Own Land Elk

Division of Parks and Recreation

Informational Items

17. Pickerel Lake Cabin Staff Construction Project
18. Lake Alvin Spillway Project Update
19. Renaming of South Scalp Creek Lakeside Use Area & Game Production Area
20. Reel in the Memories Campaign Update
21. Camper Survey
22. Revenue and Camping Reports

Division of Wildlife

Informational Items

23. Antelope Action Plan
24. Habitat Projects and CREP Update
25. Blue Sucker Status
26. Spring Fish Stocking Summary
27. License Sales Reports

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 July 11-12, 2024, starting at 1 pm CST at Good Earth State Park near Sioux Falls, SD.



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Event Barn | Custer State Park | May 2-3, 2024

GOVERNANCE MEETING

Chair Rissler called the Governance Meeting to order on May 2, 2024, starting at 9 am MT. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Julie Bartling, Jim White, Robert Whitmyre, Jon Locken, Travis Bies, Travis Theel, and Bruce Cull were present. With eight commission members present, a quorum was established. The public and staff could listen via SDPB Livestream and participate via conference or in person, with no additional public attending.

Secretary Robling, Deputy Secretary Simpson, Staff Attorney Michels all presented on various topics for the commissioner consideration.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN DURING THE MEETING.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADJOURN THE GOVERNANCE MEETING AT 11:44 AM MT. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 1 pm MT at the Event Barn in Custer State Park, SD on May 2, 2024. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Julie Bartling, Jim White, Robert Whitmyre, Jon Locken, Travis Bies, Travis Theel, and Bruce Cull were present. With eight commission members present, a quorum was established. The public and staff could listen via SDPB Livestream and participate via conference or in person, with approximately 82 total participants attending via Zoom or in person.

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure [Action Item]

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

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes [Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for any additions or corrections to the regular minutes of April 2024 meeting. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BARLTING TO APPROVE THE APRIL 2024 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Additional Salary Days [Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for additional salary days from the Commissioners. The following additional days were submitted: Bartling (1) and White (1).

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS. The motion carried unanimously.

4. New Staff Introduction [Info Item]

Director Kirschenmann and Director VanMeeteren introduced new department employees.

Public Hearing

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor at 2:00 pm MT for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda as a finalization.

Agenda Item #14a: Custer State Park Hunting Seasons: Custer State Park Bison

No testimony provided.



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Agenda Item #14b: Custer State Park Hunting Seasons: Custer State Park Coyote

No testimony provided.

Agenda Item #15: Small Game Hunting Seasons

2:06 pm: Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD representing the Prairie Hills Audubon Society testified in opposition to the small game hunting seasons as proposed for finalization.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the Public Hearing at 2:10 pm MT.

Open Forum

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor following the conclusion of the public hearing at 2:11 pm MT for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda not as a finalization or may not be on the agenda.

2:12 pm: Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD representing the Prairie Hills Audubon Society testified in opposition to the Wildlife Action Plans. She presented the commissioners with a letter submitted to President Biden requesting an Executive Order that closes all federally managed public lands (public lands) in the United States to beaver trapping and hunting. She stated that the Mountain Lion Stakeholder Group should include animal welfare groups and environmental diversity groups. She distributed a letter to the commission with the Mountain Lion Plan-Stakeholder group makeup.

2:16 pm: Kim Kelly of Deadwood, SD representing the Black Hills Chapter of Dakota Rural Action testified in support of the Beaver Hunting and Trapping petition and the reducing the 12-month beaver trapping season outside the Black Hills Fire Protection Area.

2:20 pm: Sandra Seberger of Rapid City, SD representing the Sierra Group of the Black Hills testified in support of the Beaver Hunting and Trapping petition and in support of the above-mentioned Executive Order request submitted to President Biden.

2:22 pm: Dana Rogers of Hill City, SD representing the South Dakota Wildlife Federation testified in opposition to the Landowner Own Land Elk proposal.

2:26 pm: Tim Goodwin of Hill City, SD testified on support of the mountain lion hunting season and separating the bobcat hunting season from the mountain lion season.

2:30 pm: Josh Rosenau of Lake Forest Park, WA representing the Mountain Lion Foundation testified in concern of the makeup of the Mountain Lion Stakeholders group.

2:33 pm: Julie Anderson of Rapid City, SD testified in opposition to the Pheasant, Bobcat, and Deer Action Plans.

2:37 pm: Chuck Spring of Union Center, SD testified in concern of the white tail deer on the west side of the state.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the Open Forum at 2:40 pm MT.

5. Petition #213: Air Gun Hunting

[Action Item: Petition]

Blake Roetman of Mitchell, SD submitted petition #213 in which requested the Commission to reduce the required air gun factory-rated muzzle velocity of 1,000 feet per second to 600 feet per second.

Petitioner Blake Roetman from Mitchell, SD shared his reasons and justification with the commission why he is requesting the change to the air gun rules and asking for the 1,000 feet per second criteria to be reduced to 600 feet per second. Mr. Roetman talked about air guns meeting the current feet per second



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criteria, safety, utility of air guns near and around places like farmyards, and the fact that air guns are a great way to introduce young people to the sport of hunting. Director Kirschenmann shared with the commission that the agency discussed and based on the facts and information provided by the petitioner the department recommended the commission adopt the petition and begin the rule process.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY CULL TO APPROVE PETITION #213. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Kirschenmann will have staff put together a proposal to be brought back for the commission to consider at the June 2024 commission meeting.

6. Petition #214: Beaver Hunting/Trapping

[Action Item: Petition]

Nancy Hilding submitted three petitions requesting changes to the beaver trapping season. Each subsequent petition contains the same request as the previous but then adds additional requested changes. The commission considered and discussed all three petitions at one time, however voted on each petition individually.

Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD submitted petition #214 in which requested the department and commission to impose a three-year moratorium on beaver trapping/hunting in the Black Hills National Forest and rewrite the definition describing the boundary of the Black Hills Fire Protection District to assure it matches what is defined in state law. Director Kirschenmann addressed the petition by referring to the presentation provided to the commission back in December of 2023 and where it was discussed and recommended not to close beaver trapping in the BHFPD at this time until more information can be collected. Kirschenmann also described to the commission that the area used to define beaver trapping season dates does follow and aligns with the definition of the BHFPD in state law. For those reasons, the department recommended not to accept the petition.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY THEEL TO DENY PETITION #214. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-08 DENYING PETITION #214. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Petition #215: Beaver Hunting/Trapping

[Action Item: Petition]

Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD submitted petition #215 in which related to beaver trapping in the Black Hills. This petition included the same requested changes in the first petition but also added the requirement of individuals harvesting beaver on certain public federal lands need to report to the department the location of the harvest. The department also recommended to the commission to deny this petition for the same reasons of the first petition and that requiring the harvest on only federal public lands and not all other areas is not a sound approach and that trappers could avoid reporting by saying the beaver were harvested on other properties. The enforcement of such requirements would be next to impossible.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO DENY PETITION #215. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-09 DENYING PETITION #215. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Petition #216: Beaver Hunting/Trapping

[Action Item: Petition]

Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD submitted petition #216 in which related to beaver trapping in the Black Hills which included all the requests from the first two petitions and then added another rule change which asked for adjusting the beaver season across the entire state from 12 months to 5 months outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District. Director Kirschenmann described to the commission why there is a year-round



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season outside the Black Hills and that is to allow individuals to address beaver depredation and damage. The department spends considerable time and manpower addressing beaver damage and this year-round approach assists in addressing those issues. The department recommended to deny the petition.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY WHITYMYRE TO DENY PETITION #216. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITYMYRE, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-10 DENYING PETITION #216. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Annual Park Entrance License Options

[Action Item: Proposal]

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff VanMeeteren presented a rule proposal that would clean up the department administrative rules (§ 41:03:03:05 and § 41:03:03:06) dealing with Park Entrance License options following a change to SDCL 41-17-13 that came out of SB55 this past legislative season. The law was amended eliminating the options to 1) purchase a discounted second annual park entrance license through the second annual coupon method and 2) the ability to buy multiple discounted annuals using the multiple vehicle form and vehicle registrations. Going forward there are no limits as to how many double park licenses may be purchased.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR JULY FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Elk Raffle License

[Action Item: Proposal]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief presented the Custer State Park Elk Hunting Season proposal in which would release § 41:06:27:02.07 to allow an individual to obtain more than one elk raffle licenses in a lifetime. All applicants will remain limited to only one elk license in a single year.

MOTIONED BY LOCKEN, SECONDED BY WHITE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR JUNE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Archery Antelope Hunting Season

[Action Item: Proposal]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, presented the Archery Antelope Hunting Season proposals.

The Antelope (Firearm) and Mentored Youth Hunting Season proposal was presented in which would edit § 41:06:23:01 to allow an individual that applies for a "special antelope" license to apply for another antelope license in the second lottery drawing instead of the third lottery drawing. It would edit § 41:06:23:02 with minor unit boundary adjustment to use Interstate 90 instead of the Black Hills National Forest as the boundary for unit PRA-15B in Butte County. It would provide a rule clean-up for unit boundary descriptions to exclude unit PRA-45B (Ft. Pierre National Grasslands) from PRA-41A (Jones County) and PRA-58A (Stanley County). It would also provide a rule clean-up to § 41:06:01:12 to specify mentored antelope licenses are only valid on private land that is not leased by the Department for public hunting access.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY THEEL TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR JULY FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

The Archery Antelope Hunting Season proposal was presented in which would edit § 41:06:24:01 to remove five access permits for Custer and Pennington Counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

MOTIONED BY WHITYMYRE, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR JULY FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.



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12. Hunting Raccoons with Dogs

[Action Item: Proposal]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief presented the proposal for a second reading that would allow nonresidents to use a dog as an aid in taking of a raccoon.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WAS NO CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL.

13. Landowner Own Land Elk Application for License

[Action Item: Proposal]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, presented the Landowner Own Land Elk Application for License proposal for a second reading. The department did submit minor changes to the original proposal which modified § 41:06:01:07 (4) to a qualifying applicant for a ranch unit may not purchase a landowner own land elk license if any qualifying number of the ranch unit holds and elk license obtained using landowner-operator preference in that unit the prairie elk hunting season. It also updated to: A ranch unit may not be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one landowner-operator preference landowner own land license.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY WHITE TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSAL. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO APPROVE THE AMENDED PROPOSAL FOR JUNE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Custer State Park Hunting Seasons

[Action Item: Finalization]

14a. Custer State Park Bison

Matt Snyder, Regional Parks Supervisor, presented the Commissioners with the Custer State Park Bison hunting season finalization. This finalization would allow the use of archery equipment during the Custer State Park trophy and nontrophy bull bison harvest season. Decrease the allowable hunting days for trophy bull bison from 3 days to 2 days. Past hunters typically fill their tags within 2 days. The change will allow increased opportunity for scheduling of hunts. It would increase the number of trophy bull bison licenses available by random lottery drawing from 8 to 10. This would result in a total of 11 trophy bull bison licenses, including 1 license available through the Hunt for Habitat raffle drawing. It would also increase the number of nontrophy bull bison licenses from 15 to 20.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADOPT THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

14b. Custer State Park Coyote Hunting Seasons

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, presented the Custer State Park Coyote Hunting seasons finalization to the commissioners. The department recommended a single change from the proposal to remove reference to Unit CUC-CU1 in § 41:06:37:01 because that unit is not defined.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENT TO THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADOPT THE FINALIZATION AS AMENDED. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Small Game Hunting Seasons

[Action Item: Finalization]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, brought the Small Game Hunting Seasons before the Commission for finalization.



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12a. Grouse Hunting Season

This finalization had no changes from the proposal. It will modify the season end date to align with the end date for the pheasant season of January 31. This will result in an approximately 4-week extension to the season.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADOPT THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

12b. Partridge Hunting Season

This finalization had no changes from the proposal. It will modify the season end date to align with the end date for the pheasant season of January 31. This will result in an approximately 4-week extension to the season.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITE TO ADOPT THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

12c. Quail Hunting Season

This finalization had no changes from the proposal. It will modify the season end date to align with the end date for the pheasant season of January 31. This will result in an approximately 4-week extension to the season.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY WHITE TO ADOPT THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

12d. Cottontail Rabbit Hunting Season

This finalization had no changes from the proposal. It would extend the cottontail rabbit hunting season to September 1 through March 31 on publicly accessible land.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO ADOPT THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

12e. Tree Squirrel Hunting Season

This finalization had no change from the proposal. It would extend the Tree Squirrel Hunting season to September 1 through March 31.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO ADOPT THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

12f. Snipe Hunting Season

This finalization had no changes from the proposal. It would remove the word “common” before snipe to allow harvest of all snipe species.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY THEEL TO ADOPT THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

16. History of the Game Lodge

[Park & Recreation: Information Item]

Aaron Douglass, Visitor Services Program Manager, gave a presentation about the history of the Game Lodge located in Custer State Park. He focused on the construction, presidential visits, and physical changes to the building over time.

17. Custer State Park Airport Update

[Park & Recreation: Information Item]

Matt Snyder, Regional Parks Supervisor, gave a brief update on the Custer State Airport.



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18. Missouri River Reservoir Update

[Park & Recreation: Information Item]

Pat Buscher, Regional Parks Supervisor, presented the commission with an overview of the Missouri River Reservoir levels and how it will affect state parks and the boat ramps.

19. Snowmobile Update

[Parks & Recreation: Information Item]

Ryan Raynor, District Park Supervisor, gave a presentation on the snowmobile trails for the winter of 2023-24.

20. Fishing Access Mapping

[Parks & Recreation: Information Item]

Heather Berg, Parks GIS & Asset Management Specialist, showed the commissioners how the Field staff are dedicated to keeping the Public Water Access map updated in addition to posting timely updates on dock placements. The Reel in Memories campaign has its own interactive map to aid new or less experienced anglers find great fishing opportunities. Both the Public Water Access and State Parks and Trails maps can be taken offline in the free Go Outdoors South Dakota app.

21. Volunteer Outlook

[Parks & Recreation: Information Item]

Rachel Comes, Statewide Volunteer Program Coordinator and Levi Van Sambeek, Custer State Park Business Manager, briefed the commission on volunteer numbers for the 2024 season including average hours of service, fiscal impact and how volunteer service contributes to the park. They discussed volunteer recruitment, orientation, and housing specific to Custer State Park and highlighted four outstanding volunteers with over 20 years of experience volunteering in Custer State Park.

22. Parks & Recreation Revenue and Camping Reports

[Park & Recreation: Information Item]

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff VanMeeteren presented the camping and revenue reports for the month of April and YTD. Camping numbers continue to come in strong with the great spring weather we have been experiencing. Camping units for the month of April saw a 1,300 unit increase over last year and YTD camping unit numbers are up 36%. Park revenue also remains strong both for April and YTD with park entrance licenses sales up 25% YTD due to the great spring weather and a marketing push to cross sell PEL to users purchasing other department items. YTD camping services revenue are also up 3% from 2023.

23. Ring-necked Pheasant Action Plan

[Wildlife: Action Item]

Alex Solem, Senior Upland Game Biologist, discussed the comments received regarding the public comment period for the Ring-necked Pheasant Action Plan.

MOTIONED BY LOCKEN, SECONDED BY WHITE TO ADOPT THE RING-NECKED PHEASANT ACTION PLAN. The motion carried unanimously.

24. Deer Action Plan

[Wildlife: Action Item]

Andy Lindbloom, Senior Big Game Biologist, presented the commissioners with the Deer Action Plan. The South Dakota White-tailed and Mule Deer Action Plan outlines priorities, objectives, and management strategies to focus GFP's efforts over the next 4 years. Development of the plan has been an expansive process, to include numerous internal committee meetings, a public opinion survey, and public stakeholder meetings. The current objectives of the draft action plan focus on managing deer for biologically and socially acceptable levels, distributing hunting opportunity fairly and equitably, working with private landowners to alleviate depredation, and increasing deer habitat and hunter access. The draft of the action plan was presented to the GFP Commission in March and has been out for public comment.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADOPT THE DEER ACTION PLAN. The motion carried unanimously.



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25. Bobcat Action Plan

[Wildlife: Action Item]

Chad Lehman, Senior Wildlife Biologist, presented the commission with the Bobcat Action Plan.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY THEEL TO ADOPT THE BOBCAT ACTION PLAN. The motion carried unanimously.

26. East River Deer & Archery Deer License Allocation

[Wildlife: Action Item]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, provided a brief overview of the department recommendation on 2024 Archery Access Permits. Harvest data and observation reports from GFP staff, landowners, and hunters all suggest deer numbers are low in southeastern South Dakota following die-offs because of the severe 2022-2023 winter and hemorrhagic disease in 2023. In response, changes are being made to the numbers and types of East River Deer Hunting Season licenses. This would also modify the open unit for archery antlerless whitetail deer based on § 41:06:22:01.01 (4). Archery hunters in Clay, Lincoln, and Union Counties would no longer be allowed to harvest antlerless deer using their antlerless whitetail deer license (LM1 type). However, they would still be allowed to harvest a deer using their archery any deer license type (01 type).

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO ADOPT THE EAST RIVER DEER AND ARCHERY DEER LICENSES ALLOCATIONS. The motion carried unanimously.

27. Bon Homme County Land Donation

[Wildlife: Information Item]

Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, provided an update on the Snatch Creek Game Production Area. A county commissioner from Bon Homme County reached out to staff. The county has 0.21 acres that they acquired in 1938 at a tax sale for \$0.99, which is part of an old Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad right of way. The property is a triangle in the corner of the Snatch Creek GPA, which is owned by the department. Bon Homme County wants to remove this tract from their inventory of property. The county wants to sign a quit claim deed to GFP as part of the GPA. Acquiring this corner would straighten out the GPA boundary.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO APPROVE THE LAND ACQUISITION THROUGH RESOLUTION 23-06. The motion carried unanimously.

28. Krause Land Donation – Day County

[Wildlife: Information Item]

Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, also provided an update on the Krause Farm Game Production Area. The GPA is 237 acres near Roslyn, SD. 150 acres in southeast corner is very difficult to access due to a wetland across the township road. The cost to improve road to make it passable across wetland would be upwards of \$80,000. GFP currently has permission to cross Ryan Wagner's property to access GPA for management. Staff asked about formalizing an agreement for public access and Wagner proposed GFP purchase the corner from him. After staff met with Wagner, a couple of local NGOs, Whitetails Unlimited and Brown County Pheasants Forever, are willing to purchase 4.84 acres and donate it to the department. A draft purchase agreement between NGOs and Wagner has been developed. If acquired, staff will work with the township to improve the township road leading up to the new parcel by adding some gravel and create a parking lot for the public using habitat stamp funds.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY THEEL TO APPROVE THE LAND ACQUISITION THROUGH RESOLUTION 23-07. The motion carried unanimously.

29. Water Access Update – Eastern South Dakota

[Wildlife: Information Item]

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Administrator, presented to the Commission an overview of current issues related to watercraft access in eastern South Dakota that may result from low-water situations. In some cases, certain larger watercraft may experience difficulties in launching at certain ramps when water levels



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reach a certain point. Staff will post signs indicating low water, as well as update the Public Water Access map with current conditions.

30. Fish Spawning and Stocking Update

[Wildlife: Information Item]

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Administrator, presented to the Commission an update on current walleye spawning and fish stockings efforts by Aquatics staff. Walleye egg collections were below the desired goal of 110 million primarily due to poor weather conditions, which affected both staffs' ability to work in the field and catchability of fish. Additional eggs were secured from neighboring states to ensure that enough eggs are hatched to meet stocking requests. Staff have also been busy transferring fish from hatcheries and one state water to another and have stocked fish into over 100 waterbodies within the state.

31. Aquatic Invasive Species Operations Update

[Wildlife: Information Item]

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Administrator, presented to the Commission an overview of 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species efforts by GFP. A 2024 AIS communications plan has been developed and implemented and will again focus on the message of "Clean, Drain, Dry". An AIS Awareness Week is planned leading up to the free fishing and park entrance weekend and will feature AIS content daily. The 2024 AIS Operational Plan outlines field activities by staff, such as detection and monitoring. Across the state, watercraft inspection/decontamination stations will be operated starting prior to Memorial Day weekend.

32. License Sales Update

[Wildlife: Information Item]

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann provided a short summary on the monthly licenses sales. Kirschenmann indicated there has not been a lot of change in small game licenses sales, however over the past month the department has seen about a 5,500 increase in resident and nonresident fishing license sales combined. It is anticipated that those sales will continue in a positive direction with temperatures and weather improving.

33. Pheasant and Group Harvest Report

[Wildlife: Information Item]

Alex Solem, Senior Upland Game Biologist, discussed the harvest statistics for prairie grouse and ring-necked pheasants for their respective 2023-24 seasons. A projected 1,243,194 pheasants (572,159 by residents; 671, 036 by nonresidents) and 64,443 prairie grouse (46,228 by residents; 23,241 by nonresidents) were harvested.

34. Adjourn

[Action Item]

A Commissioner Governance Meeting will be held on June 6-7, 2024, starting at 1 pm CST at the NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center in Yankton, South Dakota.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 11:10 AM MT ON MAY 3, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,

Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2025

Center 06 GAME, FISH, AND PARKS									
	Actual	Actual	Budgeted	Inflation	Exp/Red	Request	Recommended	Rec.	Inc/Dec
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25		FY25
Personal Services									
EMPLOYEE SALARIES	27,667,138	31,415,629	35,455,396	0	1,242,677	35,274,496	36,698,073		1,242,677
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	7,976,299	9,066,628	10,577,326	0	224,366	10,539,526	10,801,692		224,366
FTE	550.0	573.9	583.9		0.0	583.9	583.9		0.0
Funding Types									
GENERAL	3,195,577	3,459,962	4,038,931	0	169,893	4,038,931	4,208,824		169,893
FEDERAL	5,482,504	6,831,284	7,467,606	0	273,482	7,467,606	7,741,088		273,482
OTHER	26,965,355	30,191,011	34,526,185	0	1,023,668	34,307,485	35,549,853		1,023,668
Total PS	35,643,436	40,482,258	46,032,722	0	1,467,043	45,814,022	47,499,765		1,467,043
Operating Expenses									
TRAVEL	4,747,289	5,028,529	5,763,459	0	136,768	5,738,209	5,900,227		136,768
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	33,586,484	36,868,425	33,912,912	0	1,102,657	34,168,275	35,015,569		1,102,657
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	8,066,242	9,172,562	8,463,430	0	174,600	8,638,030	8,638,030		174,600
GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	2,178,282	1,991,921	3,220,885	0	0	3,220,885	3,220,885		0
CAPITAL OUTLAY	23,814,763	29,845,147	27,914,784	0	363,946	28,278,730	28,278,730		363,946
OTHER	957,947	1,059,139	600,909	0	150,000	750,909	750,909		150,000
Funding Types									
GENERAL	3,940,438	3,282,897	3,280,880	0	-8,683	3,270,214	3,272,197		-8,683
FEDERAL	17,362,763	21,518,483	25,156,397	0	929,535	26,076,522	26,085,932		929,535
OTHER	52,047,805	59,164,341	51,439,102	0	1,007,119	51,448,302	52,446,221		1,007,119
Total OE	73,351,006	83,965,720	79,876,379	0	1,927,971	80,795,038	81,804,350		1,927,971
TOTAL FOR 06									
Funding Types									
GENERAL	7,136,015	6,742,859	7,319,811	0	161,210	7,309,145	7,481,021		161,210
FEDERAL	22,845,267	28,349,767	32,624,003	0	1,203,017	33,544,128	33,827,020		1,203,017
OTHER	79,013,160	89,355,352	85,965,287	0	2,030,787	85,755,787	87,996,074		2,030,787
Total	108,994,442	124,447,978	125,909,101	0	3,395,014	126,609,060	129,304,115		3,395,014

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2025

Center 0601		Administration							
	Actual	Actual	Budgeted	Inflation	Exp/Red	Request	Recommended	Rec. Inc/Dec	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25	
Personal Services									
EMPLOYEE SALARIES	1,485,260	1,638,612	2,331,496	0	-533,557	1,716,496	1,797,939	-533,557	
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	422,417	449,978	777,370	0	-158,820	604,470	618,550	-158,820	
FTE	22.6	22.3	29.3		(6.0)	23.3	23.3	(6.0)	
Funding Types									
GENERAL	42,745	168,591	189,582	0	6,957	189,582	196,539	6,957	
FEDERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OTHER	1,864,931	1,919,998	2,919,284	0	-699,334	2,131,384	2,219,950	-699,334	
Total PS	1,907,677	2,088,589	3,108,866	0	-692,377	2,320,966	2,416,489	-692,377	
Operating Expenses									
TRAVEL	110,542	120,401	220,764	0	-12,699	190,364	208,065	-12,699	
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	1,583,143	1,647,792	1,876,275	0	185,214	1,867,167	2,061,489	185,214	
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	390,533	287,282	352,065	0	-2,000	350,065	350,065	-2,000	
CAPITAL OUTLAY	44,628	55,367	16,715	0	7,500	24,215	24,215	7,500	
OTHER	1,560		2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000	0	
Funding Types									
GENERAL	813,302	822,982	825,910	0	-1,824	822,103	824,086	-1,824	
FEDERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OTHER	1,317,105	1,287,859	1,641,909	0	179,839	1,611,708	1,821,748	179,839	
Total OE	2,130,406	2,110,841	2,467,819	0	178,015	2,433,811	2,645,834	178,015	
TOTAL FOR 0601									
Funding Types									
GENERAL	856,047	991,573	1,015,492	0	5,133	1,011,685	1,020,625	5,133	
FEDERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OTHER	3,182,036	3,207,858	4,561,193	0	(519,495)	3,743,092	4,041,698	(519,495)	
Total	4,038,083	4,199,431	5,576,685	0	(514,362)	4,754,777	5,062,323	(514,362)	

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2025

Center 0620		State Parks and Recreation							
	Actual	Actual	Budgeted	Inflation	Exp/Red	Request	Recommended	Rec. Inc/Dec	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25	
Personal Services									
EMPLOYEE SALARIES	9,975,243	11,407,186	12,276,801	0	787,361	12,561,801	13,064,162	787,361	
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,607,770	2,992,716	3,330,784	0	195,338	3,433,384	3,526,122	195,338	
FTE	241.7	253.0	250.0		4.0	254.0	254.0	4.0	
Funding Types									
GENERAL	3,152,832	3,291,371	3,849,349	0	162,936	3,849,349	4,012,285	162,936	
FEDERAL	431,784	1,131,844	1,242,071	0	48,392	1,242,071	1,290,463	48,392	
OTHER	8,998,397	9,976,688	10,516,165	0	771,371	10,903,765	11,287,536	771,371	
Total PS	12,583,013	14,399,903	15,607,585	0	982,699	15,995,185	16,590,284	982,699	
Operating Expenses									
TRAVEL	1,496,902	1,453,091	1,695,207	0	7,344	1,680,357	1,702,551	7,344	
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	8,088,308	8,936,583	9,433,331	0	420,306	9,687,802	9,853,637	420,306	
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	3,260,020	3,471,103	3,338,619	0	160,600	3,499,219	3,499,219	160,600	
GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	773,018	885,528	1,100,000	0	0	1,100,000	1,100,000	0	
CAPITAL OUTLAY	1,839,500	1,952,651	1,253,942	0	-360,580	893,362	893,362	-360,580	
OTHER	796,025	896,074	598,909	0	150,000	748,909	748,909	150,000	
Funding Types									
GENERAL	2,461,737	2,459,915	2,454,970	0	-6,859	2,448,111	2,448,111	-6,859	
FEDERAL	1,464,041	2,933,262	2,989,915	0	2,953	2,989,915	2,992,868	2,953	
OTHER	12,327,996	12,201,852	11,975,123	0	381,576	12,171,623	12,356,699	381,576	
Total OE	16,253,774	17,595,029	17,420,008	0	377,670	17,609,649	17,797,678	377,670	
TOTAL FOR 0620									
Funding Types									
GENERAL	5,614,569	5,751,286	6,304,319	0	156,077	6,297,460	6,460,396	156,077	
FEDERAL	1,895,825	4,065,107	4,231,986	0	51,345	4,231,986	4,283,331	51,345	
OTHER	21,326,393	22,178,540	22,491,288	0	1,152,947	23,075,388	23,644,235	1,152,947	
Total	28,836,787	31,994,932	33,027,593	0	1,360,369	33,604,834	34,387,962	1,360,369	

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2025

Center 0621		State Parks and Recreation - Dev/Imp							
	Actual	Actual	Budgeted	Inflation	Exp/Red	Request	Recommended	Rec. Inc/Dec	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25	
Operating Expenses									
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	1,234,716	1,570,142	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CAPITAL OUTLAY	13,521,789	20,047,303	15,816,000	0	-3,101,500	12,714,500	12,714,500	-3,101,500	
Funding Types									
GENERAL	665,400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FEDERAL	2,347,900	4,364,446	5,009,000	0	-1,094,500	3,914,500	3,914,500	-1,094,500	
OTHER	11,743,204	17,253,000	10,807,000	0	-2,007,000	8,800,000	8,800,000	-2,007,000	
Total OE	14,756,504	21,617,445	15,816,000	0	-3,101,500	12,714,500	12,714,500	-3,101,500	
TOTAL FOR 0621									
Funding Types									
GENERAL	665,400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FEDERAL	2,347,900	4,364,446	5,009,000	0	(1,094,500)	3,914,500	3,914,500	-1,094,500	
OTHER	11,743,204	17,253,000	10,807,000	0	(2,007,000)	8,800,000	8,800,000	(2,007,000)	
Total	14,756,504	21,617,445	15,816,000	0	(3,101,500)	12,714,500	12,714,500	(3,101,500)	

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2025

Center 0610		Wildlife - Info							
	Actual	Actual	Budgeted	Inflation	Exp/Red	Request	Recommended	Rec. Inc/Dec	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25	
Personal Services									
EMPLOYEE SALARIES	16,007,658	18,019,629	20,447,634	0	972,896	20,596,734	21,420,530	972,896	
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	4,889,257	5,536,871	6,372,573	0	185,294	6,405,073	6,557,867	185,294	
FTE	281.1	290.8	295.5		2.0	297.5	297.5	2.0	
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FEDERAL	5,050,720	5,699,440	6,225,535	0	225,090	6,225,535	6,450,625	225,090	
OTHER	15,846,195	17,857,060	20,594,672	0	933,100	20,776,272	21,527,772	933,100	
Total PS	20,896,915	23,556,500	26,820,207	0	1,158,190	27,001,807	27,978,397	1,158,190	
Operating Expenses									
TRAVEL	3,104,016	3,407,720	3,785,734	0	139,518	3,805,734	3,925,252	139,518	
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	21,662,418	24,212,779	22,461,958	0	492,126	22,471,958	22,954,084	492,126	
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	4,299,436	5,098,115	4,587,996	0	16,000	4,603,996	4,603,996	16,000	
GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	1,287,159	875,273	1,808,385	0	0	1,808,385	1,808,385	0	
CAPITAL OUTLAY	3,431,447	3,259,625	3,201,252	0	6,401	3,207,653	3,207,653	6,401	
OTHER	160,361	160,092	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FEDERAL	11,835,572	12,663,099	12,459,607	0	6,457	12,459,607	12,466,064	6,457	
OTHER	22,109,267	24,350,504	23,385,718	0	647,588	23,438,119	24,033,306	647,588	
Total OE	33,944,838	37,013,603	35,845,325	0	654,045	35,897,726	36,499,370	654,045	
TOTAL FOR 0610									
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FEDERAL	16,886,292	18,362,539	18,685,142	0	231,547	18,685,142	18,916,689	231,547	
OTHER	37,955,461	42,207,564	43,980,390	0	1,580,688	44,214,391	45,561,078	1,580,688	
Total	54,841,753	60,570,103	62,665,532	0	1,812,235	62,899,533	64,477,767	1,812,235	

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2025

Center 0612 Wildlife -Development/Improvement - Info									
	Actual	Actual	Budgeted	Inflation	Exp/Red	Request	Recommended	Rec.	Inc/Dec
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25		FY25
Operating Expenses									
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	921,197	375,227	0	0	0	0	0		0
GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	7,587	61,907	0	0	0	0	0		0
CAPITAL OUTLAY	4,823,715	4,357,266	7,362,875	0	3,812,125	11,175,000	11,175,000		3,812,125
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
FEDERAL	1,715,250	1,557,675	4,697,875	0	2,014,625	6,712,500	6,712,500		2,014,625
OTHER	4,037,249	3,236,725	2,665,000	0	1,797,500	4,462,500	4,462,500		1,797,500
Total OE	5,752,499	4,794,400	7,362,875	0	3,812,125	11,175,000	11,175,000		3,812,125
TOTAL FOR 0612									
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
FEDERAL	1,715,250	1,557,675	4,697,875	0	2,014,625	6,712,500	6,712,500		2,014,625
OTHER	4,037,249	3,236,725	2,665,000	0	1,797,500	4,462,500	4,462,500		1,797,500
Total	5,752,499	4,794,400	7,362,875	0	3,812,125	11,175,000	11,175,000		3,812,125

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2025

Center 0622		Snowmobile Trails - Info							
	Actual	Actual	Budgeted	Inflation	Exp/Red	Request	Recommended	Rec. Inc/Dec	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25	FY25	
Personal Services									
EMPLOYEE SALARIES	198,977	350,203	399,465	0	15,977	399,465	415,442	15,977	
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	56,855	87,062	96,599	0	2,554	96,599	99,153	2,554	
FTE	4.6	7.8	9.1		0.0	9.1	9.1	0.0	
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FEDERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OTHER	255,832	437,265	496,064	0	18,531	496,064	514,595	18,531	
Total PS	255,832	437,265	496,064	0	18,531	496,064	514,595	18,531	
Operating Expenses									
TRAVEL	35,828	47,316	61,754	0	2,605	61,754	64,359	2,605	
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	96,702	125,900	141,348	0	5,011	141,348	146,359	5,011	
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	116,252	316,062	184,750	0	0	184,750	184,750	0	
GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	110,518	169,214	312,500	0	0	312,500	312,500	0	
CAPITAL OUTLAY	153,684	172,936	264,000	0	0	264,000	264,000	0	
OTHER	0	2,973	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FEDERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OTHER	512,985	834,401	964,352	0	7,616	964,352	971,968	7,616	
Total OE	512,985	834,401	964,352	0	7,616	964,352	971,968	7,616	
TOTAL FOR 0622									
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FEDERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OTHER	768,817	1,271,666	1,460,416	0	26,147	1,460,416	1,486,563	26,147	
Total	768,817	1,271,666	1,460,416	0	26,147	1,460,416	1,486,563	26,147	

From: info@gfp.sd.us
To: Aaron.leingang@icloud.com
Cc: [Kierl, Liz](#); [Harrington, Nick](#)
Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 2:07:19 PM

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: 217
Petitioner Name: Aaron Leingang
Address: 2105 Lancaster Loop
Pierre , SD 57501
Email: Aaron.leingang@icloud.com
Phone: 605-222-8936
Rule Identification: Lake Francis Case Paddlefish season
Describe Change: I would like the addition of catch and release licenses
Reason for Change: This is a fairly hard to draw license and I would like to see some more opportunities for people to experience this unique creature without increasing harvest on the population.

From: info@gfp.sd.us
To: ff25crash@hotmail.com
Cc: [Kierl, Liz](#); [Harrington, Nick](#)
Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form
Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 3:26:15 PM

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: 218

Petitioner Name: Timothy Staples

Address: 4009 S. Terry Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Email: ff25crash@hotmail.com

Phone: 605-941-3383

Rule Identification: Motor use on lakes

Describe Change: I was wondering if it would be possible to change the rule at family park in Sioux Falls for no motors to use of electric trolling motors only. I talked to the city parks and they said they follow the rules of gf&p for the waters. I have a 12' polyurethane duck boat that just uses a trolling motor and would love to use it on family park.

Reason for Change: Explained above.

From: info@gfp.sd.us
To: jonathonmagyar@outlook.com
Cc: [Kierl, Liz](#); [Harrington, Nick](#)
Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024 11:23:42 PM

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: 219
Petitioner Name: Jonathon Magyar
Address: 3604 South Gateway Blvd. #104
Sioux Falls , SD 57106
Email: jonathonmagyar@outlook.com
Phone: 605-351-6916
Rule Identification: Special Management Of Panfish
Decribe Change: Changing limits of Panfish from 15 to 10 per day statewide and special management of lakes including Pactola and Sheridan in the Black Hills and Enemy Swim to a 5 fish limit per day on Bluegills. My friend and fellow angler Scott Olson from Rapid City has seen a surge of limits of Gills in both lakes mentioned above of over 10 inches. I have witnessed the surge of anglers on Enemy Swim for Gills and again large fish are harvested often. These fish need to have protections on those bodies of water mentioned as special management waters. As for the state limits they also need to be changed on Perch , Crappies and Gills!! Iowa has a limit of 25 of each fish per day and Minnesota has adopted special management and limits across the state including Ottertail County
Reason for Change: To help overfishing and protect our resources for the future on these fish that are vital to our waters across the state!!!

From: info@gfp.sd.us
To: mr.history39@hotmail.com
Cc: [Kierl, Liz](#); [Harrington, Nick](#)
Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form
Date: Friday, May 31, 2024 1:32:50 PM

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: 220
Petitioner Name: Scott Olson
Address: 50 College Ave.
Rapid City, SD 57701
Email: mr.history39@hotmail.com
Phone: 605-490-1996
Rule Identification: Harvest limits

Describe Change: I am seeking to have new state regulations on harvest limits placed on lakes that where trophy class panfish are being harvested in numbers greater than the system can support.

Reason for Change: For 10 years, it's taken this long for certain lakes, particularly Sheridan Lake in the Black Hills, to get to where the panfish (bluegills in particular) are now trophy sized and the lake can support continued growth of the fish. But the harvest limit of 15 is too much and I've seen way too many bucket loads of these special fish coming out of the lake in recent years and the fishery can't sustain the pressure that it's under, especially in the winter time. This special fishery is in danger of losing what makes it special due to overharvest. I want my daughter to be catching and releasing 9-10" bluegill years from now rather than 5-6" which is where it's headed and sooner rather than later. These lakes need different harvest numbers to protect the fish a lot better, very similar to what Minnesota has done with certain trophy lakes. I'd like to see the harvest number reduced to 5 on Sheridan Lake and others that have trophy panfish in them.

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Hunting Requirements and Prohibited Methods

Chapter 41:06:04:17

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 2-3, 2024	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: Beginning in 2024

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. A person may use an air gun with hunting pellets and a minimum factory rated muzzle velocity of 1,000 feet per second to hunt cottontail rabbit, red squirrel, fox squirrel, grey squirrel, coyote, wolf*, gray fox, red fox, skunk, gopher, ground squirrel, chipmunk, jackrabbit, marmot, opossum, porcupine, crow, and prairie dog.

* wolves are currently federally protected and not legal for harvest in South Dakota.

Changes from last year:

1. Edit § 41:06:04:17 to reduce the air gun muzzle velocity minimum from 1,000 feet per second to 600 feet per second to hunt cottontail rabbit, red squirrel, fox squirrel, grey squirrel, and any species defined as a predator/varmint in § 41-1-1 (21).
 - a. § 41-1-1 (21) includes coyote, wolf, gray fox, red fox, skunk, gopher, ground squirrel, chipmunk, jackrabbit, marmot, opossum, porcupine, crow, and prairie dog.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Many air rifles do not meet the 1,000 feet per second muzzle velocity requirement, and lower muzzle velocity is more common in larger caliber air rifles. This is because less muzzle velocity is required for a larger caliber to achieve the same foot pounds of energy.

From a safety benefit, pellet trajectories are more stable at lower muzzle velocities and pellets can be a safer alternative than firearms for small game because less chance for ricochet compared to .22 long rifle.

Air rifles have less recoil and produce less sound when fired, which could present a preferable alternative to firearms for youth and when hunting near homesteads where small game hunting is common.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:04:17. Minimum air gun specifications. No person may hunt species listed in SDCL 41-8-31(1A) with an air gun that is factory-rated to produce a muzzle velocity of less than ~~4,000~~ 600 feet per second. Only hunting pellets are permitted.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

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? Yes, people may hunt small game with lesser weapon restrictions.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? People may be more likely to hunt based on the lesser weapon restriction.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

More people may hunt small game with lesser weapon restrictions on air guns.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:13

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 6-7, 2024	Yankton
	Public Hearing	Sept 5, 2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept 5-6, 2024	Rapid City

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2025 and 2026 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

- April 12 – May 31, 2025 Single-season prairie units
- April 26 – May 31, 2025 Black Hills and Black Hills archery
- April 12 – 30, 2025 Split-season early prairie units (08A and 44A) and unit 58B
- May 1 – 31, 2025 Split-season late prairie units (08B and 44B)
- April 12 –30, 2025 Access Permit Areas

- April 11 – May 31, 2026 Single-season prairie units
- April 25 – May 31, 2026 Black Hills and Black Hills archery
- April 11 – 30, 2026 Split-season early prairie units (08A and 44A) and unit 58B
- May 1 – 31, 2026 Split-season late prairie units (08B and 44B)
- April 11 –30, 2026 Access Permit Areas

* Depending on the geographic area being hunted, the mentored and archery spring seasons align with the prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively.

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: During Spring 2024 there were:
 Black Hills: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
 Prairie: 6,357 resident and 262 nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
 700 resident and 56 nonresident two-tag “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 will be recommended during the July and September Commission meetings.

Access permits:

- Good Earth State Park: 5 archery turkey access permits
- Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve: 30 archery turkey access permits
- Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve: 20 mentored turkey access permits

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. Specific license numbers will be recommended during the July and September Commission meetings.
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 and one archery male turkey license and the license number for these seasons is unlimited.
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.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Edit § 41:06:13:02 to change Unit PST-18A to PST-10A to have the unit label represent one of the counties (Aurora) contained in the unit that includes Aurora and Douglas counties. Clark County is county number 18.
2. Edit § 41:06:13:02 to expand the archery statewide turkey hunting unit to include the portion of Lake County south of State Highway 34 and specify archery hunting is valid in any unit that has limited issue spring turkey licenses available.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The minor rule change would make the unit label for Aurora and Douglas counties more logical because it will now include the county number for one of the counties (Aurora; 10) contained within the unit.

The recommendation to include the portion of Lake County south of State Highway 34 will open archery hunting in all of Lake County. Archery hunting for male only turkeys during this season is not expected to have a negative effect on potential turkey population growth rates in Lake County and this would increase hunter opportunity.

Specific license numbers will be recommended during the July and September Commission meetings.

Figure 1. Map of 2024 spring wild turkey hunting season units. Archery hunting was open statewide, except Custer State Park and south of Highway 34 in Lake County. 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. The department recommendation is to open all of Lake County to archery hunting.

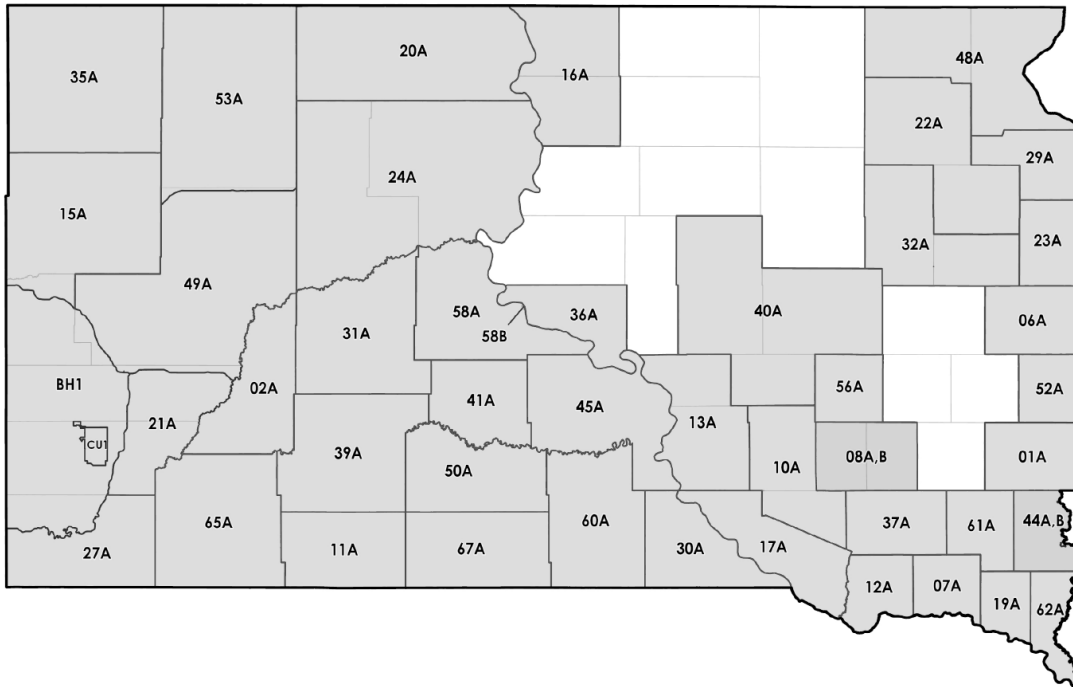


Table 1. Spring prairie turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

Year	Resident Licenses	Nonres Licenses	Tags	Harvest		Success	Avg Days Hunted	Satisf
				Males	Hens			
2014	5,888	1,301	8,962	3,491	106	40%	2.40	5.26
2015	5,604	1,357	8,470	3,555	10	42%	2.64	5.34
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

Table 2. Spring Black Hills turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Licenses Issued</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Tag Success</i>	<i>Avg Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Satisfaction</i>
2014	3,944	1,258	32%	3.19	4.99
2015	3,877	1,258	32%	3.44	4.89
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

Table 3. Spring archery turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Licenses Sold</i>		<i>Male Harvest</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Avg Days Hunted</i>	<i>Satisfaction</i>
	<i>Resident</i>	<i>Nonresident</i>				
2014	2,335	387	695	26%	3.41	5.17
2015	2,604	315	790	27%	3.59	5.36
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

Table 4. Spring mentor turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>Licenses Sold</i>	<i>HARVEST</i>				<i>Avg Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Satisfaction</i>
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Hens</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%Success</i>		
2014	679	211	0	211	31%	2.30	5.54
2015	654	205	0	205	31%	2.41	5.70
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

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-06A: Brookings County;
- (5) Unit PST-07A: Yankton County;
- (6) Unit PST-08A: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April 30;
- (7) Unit PST-08B: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08B is open beginning on May 1 through May 31;
- (8) Unit PST-10A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;
- ~~(8)-(9) Unit PST-11A: Bennett County;~~
- ~~(9)-(10) Unit PST-12A: Bon Homme County;~~
- ~~(10)-(11) Unit PST-13A: Brule and Buffalo Counties;~~
- ~~(11)-(12) Unit PST-15A: Butte County and that portion of Lawrence County north of Interstate 90;~~
- ~~(12)-(13) Unit PST-16A: Campbell and Walworth Counties;~~
- ~~(13)-(14) Unit PST-17A: Charles Mix County;~~
- ~~(14) Unit PST-18A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;~~
- (15) Unit PST-19A: Clay County;
- (16) Unit PST-20A: Corson County;
- (17) 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) Unit PST-22A: Day and Codington Counties;
- (19) Unit PST-23A: Deuel County;
- (20) Unit PST-24A: Dewey and Ziebach Counties;
- (21) Unit PST-27A: that portion of Fall River County not included in Unit BST-BH1;
- (22) Unit PST-29A: Grant County;
- (23) Unit PST-30A: Gregory County;
- (24) Unit PST-31A: Haakon County;
- (25) Unit PST-32A: Hamlin and Clark Counties;
- (26) Unit PST-35A: Harding County;
- (27) Unit PST-36A: Hughes County;
- (28) Unit PST-37A: Hutchinson County;
- (29) Unit PST-39A: Jackson County;
- (30) Unit PST-40A: Beadle, Hand, and Jerauld Counties;
- (31) Unit PST-41A: Jones County;
- (32) Unit PST-44A: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April 30;
- (33) Unit PST-44B: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44B is open beginning on May 1 through May 31;
- (34) Unit PST-45A: Lyman County;
- (35) Unit PST-48A: Marshall County and Roberts County;

(36) 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) Unit PST-50A: Mellette County;

(38) Unit PST-52A: Moody County;

(39) Unit PST-53A: Perkins County and that portion of Meade County north of U.S. Highway 212;

(40) Unit PST-56A: Sanborn County;

(41) Unit PST-58A: Stanley County;

(42) 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 which 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 30, but only to licensed persons who use a wheelchair;

(43) Unit PST-60A: Tripp County;

(44) Unit PST-61A: Turner County;

(45) Unit PST-62A: Union County;

(46) Unit PST-65A: Oglala Lakota County;

(47) Unit PST-67A: Todd County; and

(48) Unit AST-ST1: statewide for archery turkey, except in Custer State Park and south of state Highway 34 in Lake County.

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

- 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? The change will open a new area to archery turkey hunting.
- 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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GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Custer State Park Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:15

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 6-7, 2024	Yankton
	Public Hearing	Sept 5, 2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept 5-6, 2024	Rapid City

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2025 and 2026 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

- April 26 – May 18, 2025
- April 25 – May 17, 2026

* Mentor turkey tags are not valid during this season.

Open Area: Custer State Park.

Licenses: During Spring 2024 there were 100 resident one-tag “male turkey” licenses

* Specific license numbers by unit will be recommended during the July and September Commission meetings.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. No more than 200 one-tag turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the Custer State Park spring turkey hunting season. Specific license numbers will be recommended during the July and September Commission meetings.
2. South Dakota residents only.
3. No person may shoot a turkey in a tree or roost.
4. A person may use only bow and arrow, a shotgun using shot shells or a muzzleloading shotgun to hunt turkeys during the Custer State Park spring turkey hunting season.
5. The season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day of an open season.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Specific license numbers will be recommended during the July and September Commission meetings.

Table 1. Spring Custer State Park turkey season summary from 2014 to 2023.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Licenses Sold</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Avg. Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Satisfaction</i>
2014	135	78	58%	2.71	5.56
2015	135	50	37%	2.56	4.83
2016	100	49	49%	2.08	6.05
2017	100	58	58%	1.88	6.29
2018	100	43	43%	2.21	5.33
2019	100	48	48%	2.15	5.81
2020	98	55	57%	2.23	5.75
2021	100	47	47%	2.81	5.54
2022	100	42	42%	3.30	4.86
2023	100	41	41%	2.51	5.41

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

None

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

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:14

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 6-7, 2024	Yankton
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

November 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025
November 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: During Fall 2023 there were:

Black Hills: 200 resident and 16 nonresident one-tag “any turkey” licenses
Prairie: 1,700 resident and 56 nonresident one-tag “any turkey” licenses
50 resident and 4 nonresident two-tag “any turkey” licenses
Mentored: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “any turkey” licenses

* Final license numbers by unit will be recommended during the July Commission meeting.

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. Final license numbers will be recommended during the July Commission meeting.
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.
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. A person is limited to the use of only a bow and arrow, a shotgun using shot shells or a muzzleloading shotgun to hunt turkeys during the fall turkey season in Units PFT-01A, PFT-06A, PFT-08A, PFT-23A, PFT-37A, PFT-48A, and PFT-52A.
8. The season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day of an open season.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to exclude Douglas County from Unit PFT-17A (Charles Mix County).
2. Edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to change Unit PFT-18A to PFT-10A to have the unit label represent one of the counties (Aurora) contained in the unit that includes Aurora and Douglas counties. Clark County is county number 18.
3. Edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to add Unit PFT-58A Stanley County.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The minor rule changes remove an error that included Douglas County in Unit PFT-17A (Charles Mix County) and would make the unit label that includes Aurora and Douglas counties more logical because it will now include the county number for one of the counties (Aurora; 10) contained within the unit.

The recommendation to add Stanley County (PFT-58A) as an open unit would be necessary based on the Department’s recommendation for 25 fall prairie turkey licenses in Stanley County.

Final license numbers will be recommended during the July Commission meeting.

Figure 1. Map of 2023 fall wild turkey hunting season units.

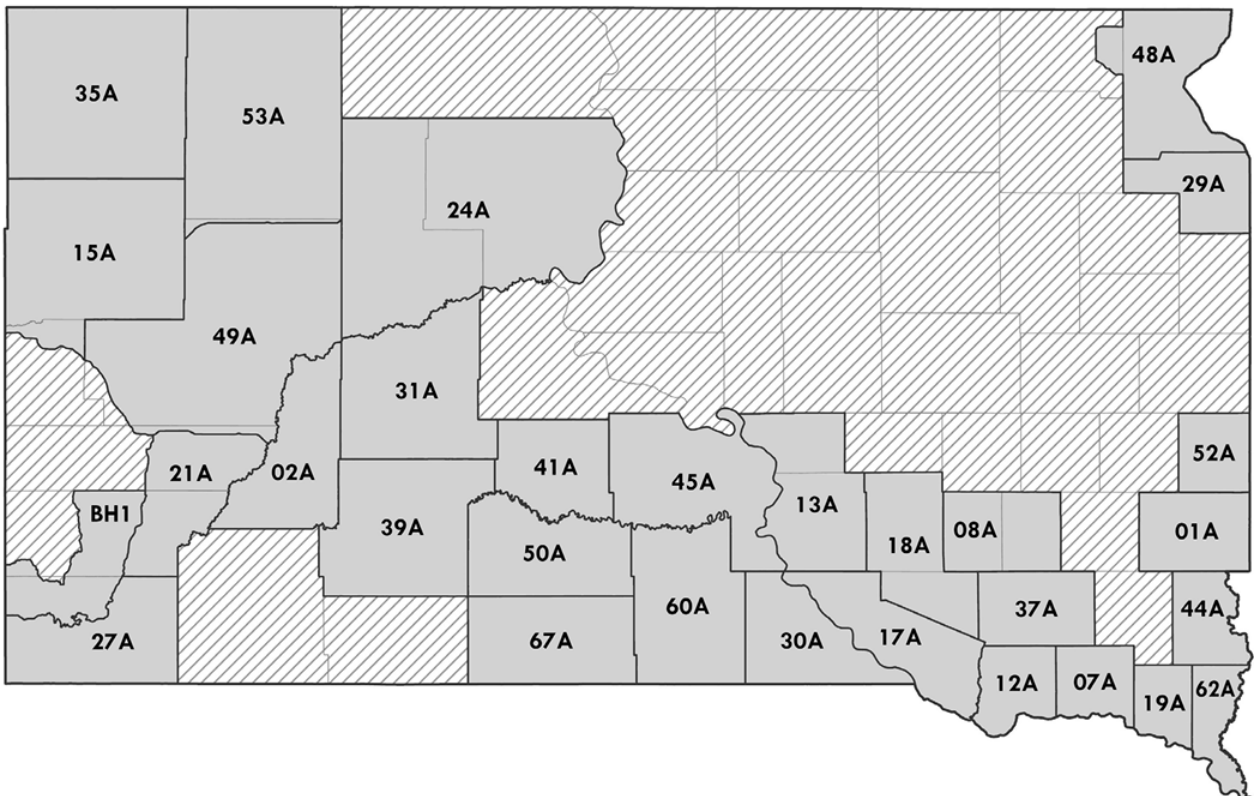


Table 1. Fall prairie turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

Year	Licenses	Tags	HARVEST				Avg Days	Average
	Sold	Sold	Males	Hens	Total	% Success	Hunted	Satisfactn
2014	1,910	1,960	422	224	645	33%	2.26	4.91
2015	1,936	1,986	422	227	649	33%	2.56	4.80
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

Table 2. Fall Black Hills turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

YEAR	LICENSES SOLD		HARVEST				Avg Days	Average
	Resident	Nonresid	Males	Hens	Total	%Success	Hunted	Satisfaction
2014	764	46	100	114	215	27%	3.24	4.54
2015	406	27	66	62	127	29%	3.44	4.58
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	45	82	38%	2.72	5.08

Table 3. Fall mentor turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

YEAR	Licenses	HARVEST				Avg Days	Average
	Sold	Males	Hens	Total	%Success	Hunted	Satisfaction
2014	390	46	29	75	19%	1.72	5.19
2015	370	58	39	98	21%	1.87	5.17
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

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:14:02.01. Prairie units. The following is a description of the open prairie units for the fall wild turkey hunting season:

- (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: that portion of Brookings County east of Interstate 29. 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;
- ~~(6)~~ (7) Unit PFT-12A: Bon Homme County;
- ~~(7)~~ (8) Unit PFT-13A: Brule and Buffalo Counties;
- ~~(8)~~ (9) Unit PFT-15A: Butte County and that portion of Lawrence County north of Interstate 90;
- ~~(9)~~ (10) Unit PFT-17A: Charles Mix County, excluding Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge, ~~and Douglas County;~~
- ~~(10) Unit PFT-18A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;~~
- (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;
- ~~(32)~~ (33) Unit PFT-60A: Tripp County;
- ~~(33)~~ (34) Unit PFT-61A: Turner County;

~~(34)~~ (35) Unit PFT-62A: Union County; and
~~(35)~~ (36) Unit PFT-67A: Todd County.

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

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:14

Commission Meeting Dates:	Public Hearing Finalization	July 11, 2024 July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls Sioux Falls
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COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Recommended license number changes for the Fall Wild Turkey hunting season units. Detailed license number recommendations by type are included in supportive information tables. License number recommendations will continue to be evaluated during June and final license number recommendations will be provided at the July Commission meeting.

Unit #	Unit Name	2022-23 Resident Licenses	2024-25 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2022-23 Resident Tags	2024-25 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	0	20	20	NA	0	20	20	NA
07A	Yankton	175	175	0	0%	175	175	0	0%
08A	Davison/Hanson	75	75	0	0%	75	75	0	0%
10A*	Aurora/Douglas	50	25	-25	-50%	50	25	-25	-50%
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	50	75	25	50%	50	150	100	200%
17A	Charles Mix	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
19A	Clay	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%
27A	Fall River	25	0	-25	-100%	25	0	-25	-100%
29A	Grant	100	125	25	25%	100	125	25	25%
30A	Gregory	100	50	-50	-50%	100	50	-50	-50%
31A	Haakon	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
35A	Harding	25	50	25	100%	25	50	25	100%
37A	Hutchinson	25	25	0	0%	25	25	0	0%
39A	Jackson	50	75	25	50%	100	150	50	50%
41A	Jones	25	25	0	0%	25	25	0	0%
44A	Lincoln	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
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	50	25	-25	-50%	50	25	-25	-50%
52A	Moody	25	25	0	0%	25	25	0	0%
53A	Perkins	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
58A	Stanley	0	25	25	NA	0	25	25	NA
60A	Tripp	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
62A	Union	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
67A	Todd	25	0	-25	-100%	25	0	-25	-100%
BH1	Black Hills	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
TOTAL		1,950	1,945	-5	0%	2,000	2,095	95	5%

* Recommended change Aurora/Douglas Unit from 18A to 10A to better represent county number.

Note: an additional 8% of the number of licenses will be available to nonresidents for the Black Hills and West River prairie units.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Harvest data are not yet available and final fall turkey license number recommendations will be made available at the July 2024 Commission meeting.

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident		Nonresident		License Totals							
		AnyT 31	2 AnyT 37	AnyT 31	2 AnyT 37	RES 1-Tag	RES 2-Tag	RES Licenses	RES Tags	NR 1-Tag	NR 2-Tag	NR License	NR Tags
01A	Minnehaha	25				25		25	25				
02A	Pennington	50		4		50		50	50	4		4	4
06A	Brookings	20				20		20	20				
07A	Yankton	175				175		175	175				
08A	Davison/Hanson	75				75		75	75				
10A*	Aurora/Douglas	25				25		25	25				
12A	Bon Homme	175				175		175	175				
13A	Brule/Buffalo	50				50		50	50				
15A	Butte/Lawrence		75		6		75	75	150		6	6	12
17A	Charles Mix	50				50		50	50				
19A	Clay	50				50		50	50				
21A	Custer/Pennington	50		4		50		50	50	4		4	4
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	50		4		50		50	50	4		4	4
29A	Grant	125				125		125	125				
30A	Gregory	50		4		50		50	50	4		4	4
31A	Haakon	50		4		50		50	50	4		4	4
35A	Harding	50		4		50		50	50	4		4	4
37A	Hutchinson	25				25		25	25				
39A	Jackson		75		6		75	75	150		6	6	12
41A	Jones	25		2		25		25	25	2		2	2
44A	Lincoln	50				50		50	50				
45A	Lyman	50		4		50		50	50	4		4	4
48A	Marshall/Roberts	100				100		100	100				
49A	Meade	50		4		50		50	50	4		4	4
50A	Mellette	25		2		25		25	25	2		2	2
52A	Moody	25				25		25	25				
53A	Perkins	50		4		50		50	50	4		4	4
58A	Stanley	25		2		25		25	25	2		2	2
60A	Tripp	50		4		50		50	50	4		4	4
62A	Union	50				50		50	50				
BH1	Black Hills	200		16		200		200	200	16		16	16
TOTAL		1,795	150	62	12	1,795	150	1,945	2,095	62	12	74	86
						RES & NR:	1,857	162	2,019	2,181			

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Park Entrance License Fees Chapter 41:03:03:05 and 41:03:03:06

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 2, 2024	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls

INFORMATION

Senate Bill 55 was introduced by the Department during the 2024 Legislative Session, and was passed and signed by the Governor. The new law amended SDCL 41-17-13 to eliminate the option to purchase a discounted second annual park entrance license through the stub/coupon method and also eliminated the ability to buy multiple discounted annuals through common vehicle registration.

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

This rule proposal would remove ARSD 41:03:03:05 which authorizes the provision of a discounted half price second annual license, and the provisions for securing multiple discounted additional licenses through common vehicle registration. The proposal also amends 41:03:03:06 to formalize the availability of a double license option (one full price license and one half price license when purchased together). There are no limits on how many double licenses may be purchased.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. The popularity of using the coupon method has been declining for years. People often lose their stubs, throw them away, or give them away to other people. Eighty-five percent of these stubs go unused. Second annual sales have dropped by nearly 36% over the past 5 years.
2. The popularity of purchasing the second discounted license through the “combo” or “double” license has increased significantly. Double license sales have increased by more than 23% over the last five years.
3. Both of these options require the physical transfer of the coupon or the presentation of specific documentation that frequently causes customer frustration and dissatisfaction. Furthermore, neither of these options can be sold through the electronic kiosks, fee collection tubes, or online purchases.
4. There are still discount options for multiple car households such as buying the double licenses or the transferable license, both of which can be purchased at the kiosks or online.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

~~41:03:03:05. Limitations on half-price annual park entrance license. Purchases of the annual park entrance license at full price and the first half price license may be made at any designated~~

~~license vendor without submitting vehicle registration certificates. All half-price annual park entrance licenses purchased must be affixed to vehicles owned by and registered in the name of the same person as the purchaser of the full-price annual park entrance license.~~

~~— An owner of two or more vehicles may buy the first half-price park entrance license by submitting the receipt from the purchase of the full-price park entrance license to a designated license vendor.~~

~~— An owner of more than two vehicles may buy the second half-price park entrance license and any subsequent half-price licenses at department offices by submitting copies of valid vehicle registration certificates for the owner's first two vehicles, whether or not park entrance licenses have already been purchased for them, and for the additional vehicles for which the owner wishes to buy half-price park entrance licenses. If park entrance licenses have already been purchased for the first two vehicles, the serial numbers of the park entrance licenses must accompany the applicable vehicle registrations. Repealed~~

Source: 10 SDR 120, effective May 16, 1984; 17 SDR 188, effective July 1, 1991; 46 SDR 74, effective December 2, 2019.

~~— **General Authority:** SDCL [41-17-13](#).~~

~~— **Law Implemented:** SDCL [41-17-13](#).~~

41:03:03:06. Park entrance license fees. Park entrance license fees are as follows:

(1) The fee for an annual park entrance license is ~~\$36 for the first vehicle~~ thirty-six dollars and ~~18~~ fifty-four dollars for two annual park entrance licenses when purchased together ~~each additional vehicle registered to the same owner;~~

(2) The fee for a transferable annual park entrance license is ~~\$80~~ eighty dollars;

(3) The temporary park entrance license fee at Custer State Park is ~~\$20~~ twenty dollars for a vehicle or a motorcycle and is valid for seven consecutive days from the date of purchase in any state park or recreation area;

(4) Except at Custer State Park, the daily park entrance license fee is ~~\$8~~ eight dollars per vehicle;

(5) For a vehicle that does not have a valid park entrance license displayed as required in § 41:03:03:02, the operator or the registered owner of the vehicle shall pay ~~\$15~~ fifteen dollars for a daily park entrance license for each day the vehicle is in the park, except at Custer State Park where the fee is ~~\$20~~ twenty dollars. The operator or registered owner may apply the entire amount of the cost of the daily park entrance license towards the purchase of an annual park entrance license;

(6) In lieu of the annual, daily, or temporary park entrance license fee, each person, except the driver and step-on guide, occupying a commercial motorcoach with a seating capacity of eight people or more in any state park or recreation area shall pay a park entrance license fee of ~~\$3~~ three dollars per person per day; and

(7) Any group or organization that hosts a private one-day event at any state park or recreation area may pay, in lieu of any other park entrance license fee, a special one-day events park entrance license fee of ~~\$50~~ fifty dollars for each increment of ~~50~~ fifty attendees, or any portion of attendees. The total fee is payable in advance and no partial refunds may be given. The fee does not extend overnight. One-day events must have written consent of the park manager at least ~~15~~ fifteen days prior to the event. Organized or hosted special one-day events include weddings, wedding receptions, meetings, class or family reunions, corporate or organizational picnics, and banquets. Competitive events are not eligible for a one-day events permit.

Source: 10 SDR 120, effective May 16, 1984; 11 SDR 69, effective November 21, 1984; 12 SDR 151, effective March 16, 1986; 13 SDR 128, effective March 22, 1987; 15 SDR 139, effective March 20, 1989; 16 SDR 114, effective January 18, 1990; 16 SDR 135, effective February 18, 1990; 17 SDR 78, effective December 10, 1990; 17 SDR 170, effective May 14, 1991; 18 SDR 223, effective July 13, 1992; 19 SDR 82, effective December 7, 1992; 20 SDR 87, effective December 13, 1993; 20 SDR 150, effective March 23, 1994; 21 SDR 86, effective November 10, 1994, and May 1, 1995; 22 SDR 89, effective December 26, 1995; 25 SDR 108, effective February 28, 1999; 26 SDR 85, effective December 26, 1999; subdivision (5), adopted December 26, 1999, effective May 1, 2000; 26 SDR 162, effective June 14, 2000; 27 SDR 85, effective February 26, 2001; 28 SDR 103, effective January 30, 2002; 29 SDR 147, effective May 6, 2003; 30 SDR 99, effective December 22, 2003; 32 SDR 31, effective August 29, 2005; 33 SDR 225, effective June 25, 2007; 34 SDR 179, effective December 24, 2007; 35 SDR 184, effective February 2, 2009; 36 SDR 112, effective January 11, 2010; 37 SDR 112, effective December 8, 2010; 38 SDR 213, effective June 19, 2012; 39 SDR 100, effective December 3, 2012; 42 SDR 97, effective January 5, 2016; 44 SDR 93, effective December 4, 2017; 46 SDR 74, effective December 2, 2019.

General Authority: SDCL [41-17-13](#).

Law Implemented: SDCL [41-17-13](#).

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

2023 Annual License Sales

License Type	Number Sold	Revenue
Annual	60,628	\$2,182,602
Second Annual	9,485	\$170,734
Double License	39,106	\$2,111,718

Projected Fiscal Impact

	2023 Actual	2023 Revenue	Total # Stickers	Projected Adjustment	Total Adjusted Permits	Adjusted Revenue	Net Revenue	Total # Stickers	Percent Change
Single	60,628	\$ 2,182,608	60,628	-6485	54,143	\$ 1,949,148	\$ (233,460)	54,143	
Stub Option	9,485	\$ 170,730	9,485	-9485	-	\$ -	\$ (170,730)	-	
Double	39,106	\$ 2,111,724	78,212	10500	49,606	\$ 2,678,724	\$ 567,000	99,212	
Total		\$ 4,465,062	148,325			\$ 4,627,872	\$ 162,810	153,355	3.4%

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Archery Antelope Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:24

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 2-3, 2024	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates: 2024 1st interval: August 17 – September 27
 2024 2nd interval: October 14 – 31

 2025 1st interval: August 16 – October 3
 2025 2nd interval: October 20 – 31

Open Area: See Figure 1.

- Licenses:** Last year there were:
1. Unlimited number of resident one-tag archery antelope licenses valid on public and private land;
 2. Unlimited number nonresident one-tag archery antelope licenses valid on private land not leased by the Department for public hunting;
 3. No more than four hundred and fifty nonresident one-tag archery antelope licenses valid on public and private land;
 4. Five resident access permits by lottery drawing.

The Department will recommend specific number of licenses by tag types for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons at the July Commission meetings.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. A person may apply for and receive no more than one archery antelope license.
2. The archery antelope hunting season is open in those areas of the state with a firearm antelope season and in the portions of Custer and Pennington counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District with access permits from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day.
3. Archery antelope hunting is closed in Custer State Park.

Changes from last year:

1. Edit § 41:06:24:01 to remove five access permits for Custer and Pennington Counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Limited public hunting access to the low number of antelope in the Black Hills, mostly on Reynolds Prairie, provides very little harvest opportunity and the Department recommendation is to discontinue hunting this small antelope population.

License numbers and tag type recommendations for the next two years will be provided during the July Commission meetings, after population surveys have been completed.

Figure 1. Map of Archery Antelope hunting season units during 2022 and 2023. The portions of Custer and Pennington counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District where access permits are required are not depicted on the map.

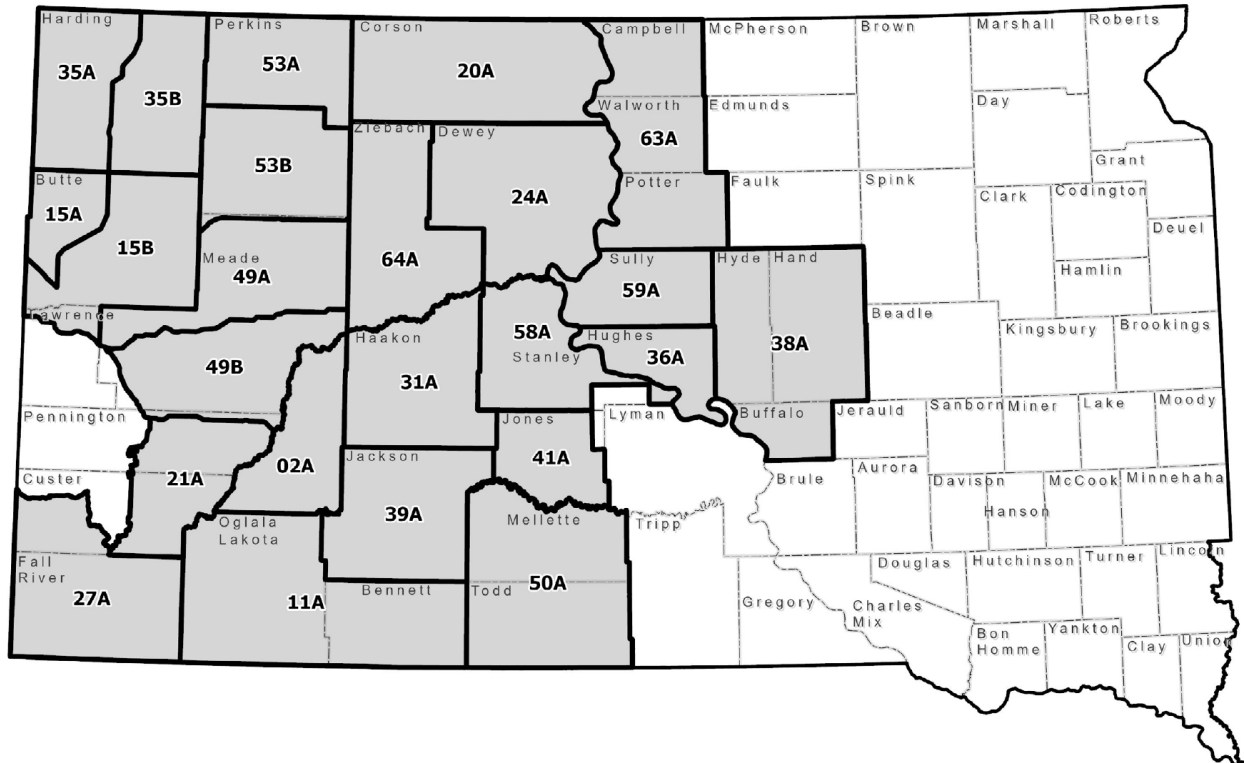


Table 1. Number of antelope licenses sold, tags issued, harvest and harvest success by year during the Archery Antelope hunting season.

Year	Resident Licenses	Nonresident Licenses	Bucks Harvested	Doe/Fawn Harvested	Total Harvest	Success
2019	1,781	663	533	72	605	25%
2020	2,141	720	719	92	810	28%
2021	2,142	877	642	94	736	24%
2022	1,830	1,021	671	16	687	24%
2023	2,127	832	590	16	606	20%

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:24:01. Archery antelope hunting season established -- Open area -- Number and type of licenses available. The archery antelope hunting season is open in those areas of the state with a firearm antelope season and in the portions of Custer and Pennington counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District with access permits from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day beginning on the third Saturday of August through October thirty-first, except during the firearm antelope season. Archery antelope hunting is closed in Custer State Park.

The department may issue:

- (1) An unlimited number of resident one-tag antelope licenses valid on public and private land;
- (2) An unlimited number of nonresident one-tag archery antelope licenses valid on private land not leased by the department for public hunting; and
- (3) No more than four hundred and fifty nonresident one-tag archery antelope licenses valid on public and private land; and
- ~~(4) Access permits by lottery drawing.~~

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? There will no longer be hunting opportunity for antelope in the Black Hills.
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? There will be no antelope hunting in the Black Hills.
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? No hunting in the Black Hills for antelope could result in better potential for this herd to grow and provide viewing opportunity or potential future hunting opportunity.

4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? If this allows the population in the Black Hills to grow, individuals may be more likely to go outdoors and view these antelope.

FISCAL IMPACT

Fewer licenses may be sold because hunting will no longer occur in the Black Hills.

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

Antelope (Firearm) Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:23

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 2-3, 2024	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 28 – October 13, 2024
October 4 – 19, 2025

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: Last year there were 2,335 “buck antelope” licenses and 100 “special antelope” licenses.

The Department will recommend specific number of licenses by tag types for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons at the June and July Commission meetings.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference.
2. No more than 50 “special antelope” licenses may be issued to residents and no more than 50 “special antelope” licenses may be issued to nonresidents for the antelope hunting season.
 - a. If a person applies for a “special antelope” license, the person may not apply for another antelope license until the third lottery drawing. A successful “special antelope” applicant may not apply for a leftover “special antelope” license.

Changes from last year:

1. Edit § 41:06:23:01 to allow an individual that applies for a “special antelope” license to apply for another antelope license in the second lottery drawing instead of the third lottery drawing.
2. Edit § 41:06:23:02
 - a. Minor unit boundary adjustment to use Interstate 90 instead of the Black Hills National Forest as the boundary for unit PRA-15B in Butte County.
 - b. Rule clean-up for unit boundary descriptions to exclude unit PRA-45B (Ft. Pierre National Grasslands) from PRA-41A (Jones County) and PRA-58A (Stanley County).

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years will be provided during the June and July commission meetings, after population surveys have been completed.

Figure 1. Map of Antelope (Firearm) hunting season units during 2022 and 2023.

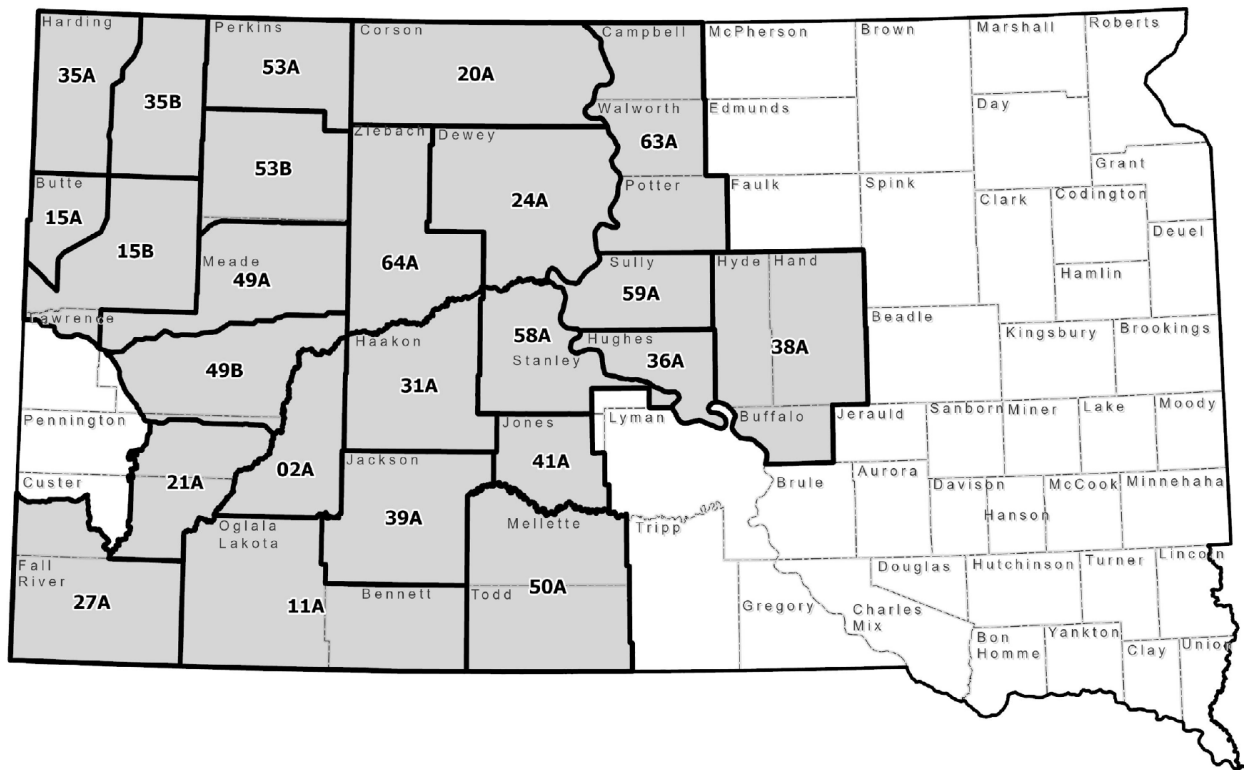


Table 1. Number of antelope licenses sold, tags issued, harvest and harvest success by year during the Antelope (Firearm) hunting season.

Year	Resident Licenses	Nonresident Licenses	Tags Issued	Bucks Harvested	Doe/Fawn Harvested	Total Harvest	Success
2019	5,096	139	6,054	2,629	1,249	3,784	64%
2020	5,139	140	6,101	2,415	1,272	3,845	64%
2021	5,047	160	6,029	2,401	1,152	3,878	59%
2022	2,684	61	2,881	1,690	117	1,807	63%
2023	2,672	58	2,873	1,687	101	1,788	62%

*Includes Landowner-Own-Land licenses.

Figure 2. Firearm antelope draw structure and proposed change.

Draw	Current	Proposed
Special Antelope	1 application	No Change
1 & 2	1 application per draw 1 license limit through 1 st two draws Cannot apply for antelope in 1 st or 2 nd draw if applied for special antelope	1 application per draw 1 license limit through 1 st two draws Cannot apply for antelope in 1 st draw if applied for special antelope
3	Resident and nonresident licenses pooled 1 application limit	No Change
4	Unlimited applications	No Change

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:23:01. Antelope hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses. The antelope hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day for ~~46~~ sixteen consecutive days beginning on the Saturday closest to October ~~4~~ first, unless prohibited in the unit descriptions in §§ 41:06:23:02. No more than ~~8,000~~ eight thousand one-tag antelope licenses, no more than ~~3,000~~ three thousand two-tag antelope licenses, and no more than ~~50~~ fifty "special antelope" licenses may be issued to residents for the antelope hunting season. No more than ~~50~~ fifty "special antelope" licenses may be issued to nonresidents for the antelope hunting season. If a person applies for a "special antelope" license, the person may not apply for another antelope license until the ~~third~~ second lottery drawing. A successful "special antelope" applicant may not apply for a leftover "special antelope" license.

41:06:23:02. Open units -- Exceptions. The following is a description of the open units for the antelope hunting season:

- (1) Unit PRA-02A: that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River;
- (2) Unit PRA-11A: Bennett and Oglala Lakota Counties;
- (3) Unit PRA-15A: that portion of Butte County enclosed by a line beginning at the junction of the Harding-Butte County line and the South Dakota-Montana state line; then east on the county line to U.S. Highway 85; then south on U.S. Highway 85 to the junction of U.S. Highway 212; then west on U.S. Highway 212 to the South Dakota-Wyoming line; then north on the state line to the Harding-Butte county line, the point of beginning;
- (4) Unit PRA-15B: that portion of Butte County not included in Unit PRA-15A and Lawrence County north of the ~~Black Hills National Forest boundary~~ Interstate 90;
- (5) Unit PRA-20A: Corson County;

- (6) Unit PRA-21A: that portion of Custer County east of Highway 385 and the eastern boundaries of Wind Cave National Park and Custer State Park and that portion of Pennington County south of Interstate 90, east of the eastern boundary of the Black Hills National Forest boundary, and east of U.S. Highway 16;
- (7) Unit PRA-22A: those portions of Brown, Clark, Day, and Spink Counties east of State Highway 37, south of U.S. Highway 12, west of State Highway 25, and north of U.S. Highway 212;
- (8) Unit PRA-24A: Dewey County;
- (9) Unit PRA-27A: Fall River County and that portion of Custer County south of U.S. Highway 16 and west of U.S. Highway 385;
- (10) Unit PRA-31A: Haakon County;
- (11) Unit PRA-35A: that portion of Harding County west of U.S. Highway 85;
- (12) Unit PRA-35B: that portion of Harding County east of U.S. Highway 85;
- (13) Unit PRA-36A: Hughes County;
- (14) Unit PRA-38A: Buffalo, Hand, and Hyde Counties;
- (15) Unit PRA-39A: Jackson County;
- (16) Unit PRA-41A: Jones County excluding that portion described in PRA-45B;
- (17) Unit PRA-45A: Lyman County except for United States Corps of Engineers land and excluding that area described in Unit PRA-45B;
- (18) Unit PRA-45B: those portions of Lyman, Stanley, and Jones Counties enclosed by a line beginning at the northwest corner of the Lower Brule Indian Reservation, then west ~~18~~ eighteen miles, then south ~~20~~ twenty miles, then east ~~19~~ nineteen miles, then north ~~4 1/2~~ one and one-half miles to the southwest corner of the Lower Brule Indian Reservation, then northerly along the reservation boundary to the northwest corner of the reservation, the point of beginning;
- (19) Unit PRA-48A: that portion of Marshall County north of State Highway 10;
- (20) Unit PRA-49A: that portion of Meade County north of State Highway 34 and south of U.S. Highway 212;
- (21) Unit PRA-49B: that portion of Meade County east of Interstate 90 and south of State Highway 34 and that portion of Pennington County east and north of Interstate 90 and west of the Cheyenne River;
- (22) Unit PRA-50A: Mellette and Todd Counties;
- (23) Unit PRA-53A: that portion of Perkins County north of State Highway 20;
- (24) Unit PRA-53B: that portion of Perkins County south of State Highway 20 and that portion of Meade County north of U.S. Highway 212;

(25) Unit PRA-58A: Stanley County excluding that portion described in PRA-45B;

(26) Unit PRA-59A: Sully County;

(27) Unit PRA-60A: Tripp County;

(28) Unit PRA-63A: Campbell, Potter, and Walworth Counties;

(29) Unit PRA-64A: Ziebach County; and

(30) Unit PRA-PR: Private property not leased by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks for public hunting in any open unit identified in this section for the use of a special antelope license.

If no license is allocated for a specific hunting unit, that unit is dissolved for the purposes of designating areas open to hunting, as they pertain to the archery antelope season, and areas open to hunting under SDCL 41-6-19.3.

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

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Antelope (Firearm) Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:23

Commission Meeting Dates: **Public Hearing** July 11, 2024 **Sioux Falls**
Finalization July 11-12, 2024 **Sioux Falls**

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Recommended license number changes for firearm antelope hunting season units will be provided during the July 2024 Commission meeting.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Aerial survey data and final recommendations are still being evaluated.

2023 Antelope (Firearm) licenses numbers by unit

Unit	Unit Name	% NR	Resident Licenses		Nonresident Licenses		Totals	
			AnyA 41	Buck 42	AnyA 41	Buck 42	RES Tags	NR Tags
02A	Pennington East	2%	0	50	0	1	50	1
11A	Bennett/Oglala Lakota	2%	0	50	0	1	50	1
15A	Butte NW	2%	0	50	0	1	50	1
15B	Butte/Lawrence	2%	0	200	0	4	200	4
20A	Corson	2%	0	70	0	2	70	2
21A	Custer/Pennington Central	2%	0	100	0	2	100	2
24A	Dewey	2%	0	50	0	1	50	1
27A	Fall River/Custer Southwest	2%	0	400	0	8	400	8
31A	Haakon	2%	0	50	0	1	50	1
35A	Harding West	2%	0	150	0	3	150	3
35B	Harding East	2%	0	150	0	3	150	3
36A	Hughes	2%	0	15	0	1	15	1
38A	Hyde/Hand/Buffalo	2%	0	10	0	1	10	1
39A	Jackson	2%	0	50	0	1	50	1
41A	Jones	2%	0	40	0	1	40	1
45A	Lyman	CLOSED						
45B	Ft. Pierre National Grasslands	CLOSED						
49A	Meade North	2%	0	300	0	6	300	6
49B	Meade South	2%	0	200	0	4	200	4
50A	Mellette/Todd	4%	0	30	0	2	30	2
53A	Perkins North	2%	0	50	0	1	50	1
53B	Perkins South	2%	0	100	0	2	100	2
58A	Stanley	2%	0	40	0	1	40	1
59A	Sully	2%	0	20	0	1	20	1
60A	Tripp	CLOSED						
63A	Campbell/Potter/Walworth	2%	0	10	0	1	10	1
64A	Ziebach	2%	0	150	0	3	150	3
PR	Special Antelope	N/A	50		50	0	50	50
TOTAL			50	2,335	50	52	2,385	102

Archery Antelope: Unlimited, single-tag buck only license valid in any open firearm hunting unit (resident and nonresident).

Mentored Antelope: Unlimited, single-tag doe/kid license valid in any open firearm hunting unit west of the Missouri River and for private land only (resident and nonresident).

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Application for License 41:06:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 2-3, 2024	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 28 – October 13, 2024
October 4 – 19, 2025

Open Area: Mentored youth antelope licenses are valid in any open firearm hunting unit west of the Missouri River and for private land only (resident and nonresident).

Landowner own land licenses are valid in any open firearm hunting unit.

Licenses: Unlimited, single-tag doe/kid mentored antelope license. No youth participating in a mentored big game hunt may apply for a regular season license for that corresponding species and season.

Unlimited, “any antelope” or a two-tag “any antelope” + “doe/fawn antelope” license that is valid on landowner or landowner-operator’s land provided the individual does not possess a license that allows the harvest of a buck antelope.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Mentored youth antelope and landowner own land antelope licenses are available to residents and nonresidents.

Changes from last year:

1. Rule clean-up to § 41:06:01:12 to specify mentored youth antelope licenses are only valid on private land that is not leased by the Department for public hunting access.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

1. Restrict landowner own land license types from one “any antelope” or one two-tag “any antelope” and “any doe-fawn antelope” to one “buck antelope” only (§ 41:06:01:07.03).
2. Close mentored youth antelope season (§ 41:06:01:12).

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Aerial survey data and final recommendations for all antelope seasons are still being evaluated and will be provided during the July Commission meeting. However, preliminary results suggest no growth since

the last aerial survey in 2022, despite reductions in harvest of female antelope. These recommended changes will effectively eliminate legal harvest of doe and kid antelope with the intent to promote population growth across the range.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:01:07.03. Landowner own land license types. For the West River, East River, and Black Hills firearm deer hunting seasons, a qualifying landowner or owner-operator may purchase one "any deer" license or one two-tag "any deer" and "any antlerless deer" license. For the antelope firearm hunting season, a qualifying landowner or owner-operator may purchase one "buck antelope" ~~"any antelope" license or one two-tag "any antelope" and "any doe fawn antelope" license.~~

41:06:01:12. Mentored youth big game license -- Restrictions. A resident parent or guardian may purchase no more than one mentored "any antlerless deer" license or "antlerless whitetail deer" license, ~~one "doe fawn antelope" license,~~ one fall "any turkey" license, and one spring "male turkey" license for a designated mentored youth as provided in SDCL 41-6-81. The mentored antelope season is closed. ~~Mentored antelope licenses are valid in any open firearm hunting unit west of the Missouri River on private land not leased by the Department for public hunting access only.~~ No youth participating in a mentored big game hunt may apply for a regular season license for that corresponding species and season.

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? Yes, landowners and mentored youth will have less opportunity to harvest an antelope.
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? Mentored youth will no longer be able to harvest a doe or kid antelope. However, this recommendation is designed to increase the antelope population for the next generation.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? This will provide more hunting opportunity in the future by increasing antelope populations.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Furbearer Seasons and Methods Chapter 41:08:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	April 4-5, 2024	Pierre
	Public Hearing	June 6, 2024	Yankton
	Finalization	June 6-7, 2024	Yankton

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: Beginning in 2024

Season Dates and Open Areas:

- Statewide:
- Residents – year-round.
- Nonresidents – December 1 to March 15.

Licenses: Unlimited

Daily and Possession Limit: Unlimited

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Hunting and trapping are legal methods of take for raccoons.
2. Nonresidents may not use a dog as an aid in the taking of a raccoon.
3. A habitat stamp and one of the following licenses is required to hunt raccoons: predator/varmint license, furbearer license, any hunting license other than nonresident private shooting preserve license.
4. A habitat stamp and a furbearer license are required to trap raccoons.
5. Exceptions when residents do not need a license to hunt or trap raccoons:
 - a. Youth under 18 years of age.
 - b. Between April 1 and August 31.
 - c. Landowners or lessees upon land they own or lease.

Proposed Changes:

1. Allow nonresidents to use a dog as an aid in the taking of a raccoon.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

A petition (#203) was received during the October 2023 GFP Commission meeting stating the desire to allow nonresidents to use dogs as an aid in tracking raccoons during competitions to count the number of raccoons that could be bayed, usually in a tree, by a dog within a certain time interval. While this activity is currently legal for residents, the use of dogs as an aid in the taking of raccoons is not allowed per administrative rule § 41:08:01:12. Removal of this restriction will allow nonresidents with the appropriate licenses to use dogs in tracking competitions, in addition to

attempted harvest of raccoons. Although the change is not expected to result in notably increased competition with resident hunting opportunities nor an increased raccoon harvest, any additional raccoon harvest may result in benefits to waterfowl and upland bird nesting success.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:08:01:12. Nonresident restrictions. Notwithstanding the season dates established in this chapter, no nonresident may take any mink or weasel from February ~~4 first~~ through November ~~30 thirtieth~~, or take any muskrat, beaver, or raccoon from March ~~16 sixteenth~~ through November ~~30 thirtieth~~, or take any bobcat from February ~~16 sixteenth~~ through the Friday preceding the second Saturday of January. ~~No nonresident may use a dog as an aid in the taking of a raccoon.~~

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue
 - Nonresidents are not allowed to use dogs to aid in the taking of a raccoon.
2. Historical Considerations NA
3. Biological Considerations
 - Removal of additional raccoons may enhance waterfowl and game bird nesting success rates.
4. Social Considerations
 - Nonresidents will aid in the removal of nest predators by removing restrictions of their methods of take.
5. Financial considerations
 - More nonresidents may purchase habitat stamps, hunting, and furbearer licenses.

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? Yes, it provides additional opportunity for nonresidents to take raccoons.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? This regulation would provide an increase in opportunity for current and new raccoon trappers and hunters.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

FISCAL IMPACT

Additional revenue may be generated if additional nonresidents purchase habitat stamps, hunting, and furbearer licenses.

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

Custer State Park Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:27

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 2-3, 2024	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	June 6, 2024	Yankton
	Finalization	June 6-7, 2024	Yankton

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: Beginning in 2024

Licenses: One elk license available by raffle.

One of the elk licenses allowed in § 41:06:27:01 may be provided to a successful entrant in a raffle to be conducted by a nonprofit organization organized for and devoted to providing big game management, preservation, propagation, habitat, and research and recognized as an exempt organization under § 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. A successful entrant is not eligible again for any Custer State Park rifle elk license obtained through a raffle similar to the raffle contained in this chapter.
2. The license received from this raffle does not bar future eligibility for a Custer State Park rifle elk license issued through the lottery selection process by the licensing division of the department.
3. The recipient of the license from the raffle may not apply for or obtain a Custer State Park rifle elk license through the state lottery for the same year.

Changes from last year:

1. Repeal § 41:06:27:02.07 to allow an individual to obtain more than one elk raffle license in a lifetime. All applicants will remain limited to only one elk license in a single year.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

With only one elk license available for draw from a nonprofit organization, the odds of drawing this license are very low and it is difficult for the nonprofit organization to determine whether or not an individual has obtained one of these licenses in the past and bar them from purchasing raffle tickets. In some years more than 7,000 raffle tickets are sold for this single license. The intent of this raffle license is to generate revenue for a nonprofit organization devoted to providing big game management, preservation, propagation, habitat, and research, and as such, the recommendation of the Department is to remove potential limitations to revenue generated by this raffle.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:27:02.07. Eligibility of successful entrant for other elk licenses. ~~A successful entrant is not eligible again for any Custer State Park rifle elk license obtained through a raffle similar to the raffle contained in this chapter. The license received from this raffle, however, does not bar eligibility for a Custer State Park rifle elk license issued through the lottery selection process by the licensing division of the department. The restrictions of chapter 41:06:07 do not disqualify the successful entrant from obtaining a license through this raffle, but the recipient of the license from the raffle may not apply for or obtain a Custer State Park rifle elk license through the state lottery for the same year.~~ Repealed.

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

Removing this restriction will allow individuals that have previously been successful in obtaining this license to purchase raffle tickets in the future and potentially generate additional revenue for the nonprofit organization selected to administer this raffle.

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

Application for License
Chapter 41:06:00, 41:06:01, 41:06:20, 41:06:21, and 41:06:23

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	April 4-5, 2024	Pierre
	Public Hearing	June 6, 2024	Yankton
	Finalization	June 6-7, 2024	Yankton

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

There is currently no landowner own land elk season.

During the 2024 South Dakota Legislative session, Senate Bill 173 enrolled an act to provide a landowner own land elk license for antlerless elk in the prairie elk season by adding a NEW SECTION to chapter 41-6:

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission shall, by rules promulgated to chapter 1-26:

- (1) Establish the number of resident landowner own land licenses available for the taking of antlerless elk;
- (2) Establish eligibility criteria for the license; and
- (3) Establish the fee for the license.

Upon receipt of an application, as prescribed by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, and payment of the requisite license fee, the department shall issue a landowner-on-own-land license that authorizes the holder to take one antlerless elk, from land owned or leased by the holder, for agricultural purposes, within a designated unit, during the prairie elk hunting season.

Duration of Proposal: Beginning in 2024

Changes from last year:

- (1) Describe a new prairie elk hunting season resident antlerless elk landowner own land license type in § 41:06:01:07.03.
 - a. The landowner own land elk license is valid in Prairie Elk hunting season units in Bennett and Jackson County (PRE-11D and PRE-11E) and the West River Area (PRE-WRA) as described in § 41:06:59.
- (2) Describe a qualifying landowner own land landowner or landowner-operator in § 41:06:01:15 (4).
 - a. A minimum of 240 acres of land within an elk unit.
 - b. Members of the qualifying landowner-operator's family including grandparents, parents, spouse, children, children's spouse, or grandchildren who live on the ranch or in the closest community and have an active role in the ranch operation also qualify.
 - c. Only one qualifying applicant per ranch unit per year may purchase a landowner own land elk license.
 - d. A qualifying applicant for a ranch unit may not purchase a landowner own land elk license if any qualifying member of the ranch unit holds an elk license valid in the prairie elk hunting season.
 - e. A ranch unit is described as all private property owned and leased for agricultural purposes by written agreement by an individual qualifying landowner in the state.
 - f. A ranch unit may not be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one landowner own land elk license.
- (3) Establish a fee for landowner on own land antlerless elk license of one-half the fee of the antlerless elk license in § 41:06:02:03 (15).

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

1. Add both Harding County units, PRE-35A and PRE-35B, to the prairie elk units in which a landowner on own land antlerless elk license would be valid.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Currently, there are landowners that are not successful in drawing an “any elk” license in the Prairie Elk hunting season units (Figure 1, Table 1) where GFP is seeking to mitigate depredation and landowner conflicts with elk. GFP recommends establishing a landowner own land antlerless elk license to ensure that landowners can hunt antlerless elk on lands they own or operate within some Prairie Elk hunting season units (Figure 1). Landowner licenses help to build social tolerance for elk on private lands, promote elk hunter access and serve to demonstrate the appreciation that GFP has for landowners and producers that help support elk populations.

Because antlerless elk harvest with the proposed landowner own land licenses is currently unknown, the Department recommendation is to be conservative initially. The Department recommends opening the Bennett and Jackson County units (PRE-11D and PRE-11E), Harding County units (PRE-35A and PRE-35B) and the West River Area unit (PRE-WRA) for landowner own land antlerless elk licenses. These prairie units have established elk populations on private land and have a high potential for elk-landowner conflicts from agricultural crop depredation.

Figure 1. Map of Prairie elk season hunting units.

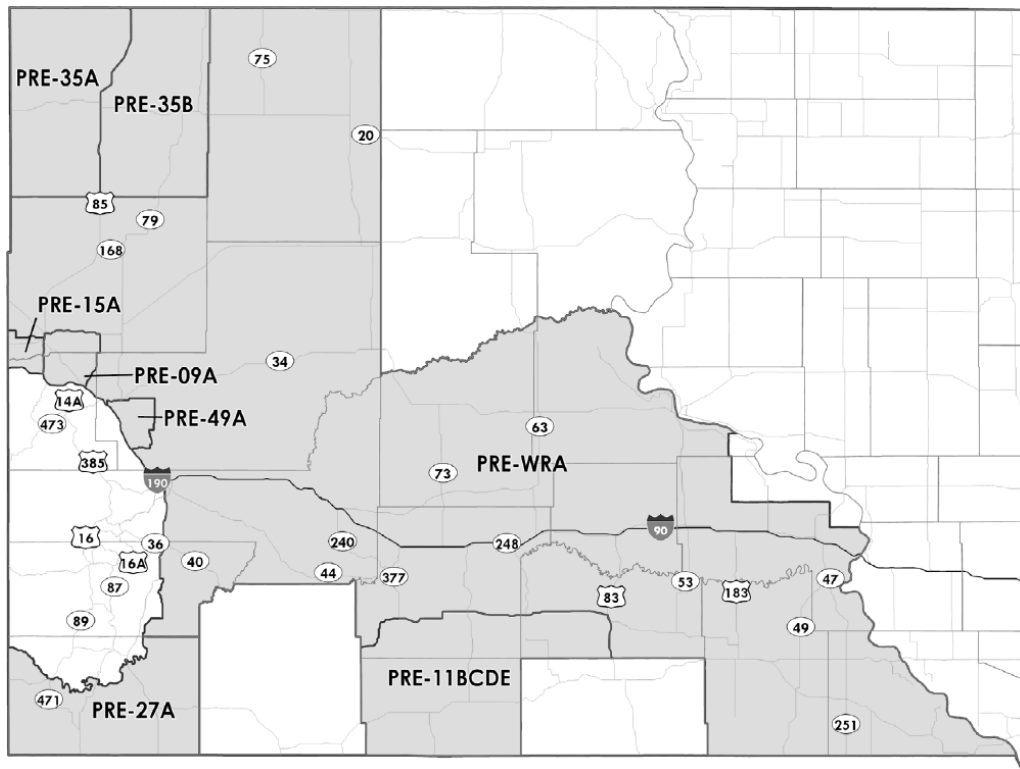


Table 1. 2024 and 2025 Prairie antlerless elk landowner own land open units and season dates

Units	Season Dates
PRE-11D	Sep 1 - Oct 31
PRE-11E	Nov 1 - Dec 31
PRE-35A	Sep 15 – Dec 31
PRE-35B	Sep 15 – Dec 31
PRE-WRA	Sept 1 - Dec 31

Figure 2. Landowner elk comparison

LICENSE COMPARISON	LANDOWNER PREFERENCE (Current)	LANDOWNER OWN LAND (New)
Applicant Eligibility	Qualifying resident landowner-operators and qualifying family members whose owned or leased property is used for agricultural purposes	
Land Eligibility Requirements	Applicant must own or operate a minimum of 240 acres of land within elk unit	
Elk Use Requirement	Qualifying land must have experienced 500 days of elk use since the last day of the previous application period	None
Open Areas	Any land within the respective hunting unit	Elk must be harvested on applicant's land that is owned or leased within the respective Prairie Elk hunting unit
Number of Elk Hunting Licenses	No more than one license among qualifying members of ranch unit from limited draw elk licenses in that unit and landowner own land licenses. No individual may obtain more than one elk license in a single year, including landowner own land licenses.	
License Availability	Available for hunting units with an allocation of elk licenses	Available for Prairie Elk hunting season and units 11D, 11E, and WRA
License Type	Any elk or antlerless elk	Antlerless elk
License Fee	50% of regular license fee	
Season Dates	Regular season dates for the respective season and hunting unit	Any regular antlerless elk season and dates within the respective unit in designated Prairie Elk units

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:01:07.03. Landowner own land license types. For the West River, East River, and Black Hills firearm deer hunting seasons, a qualifying landowner or owner-operator may purchase one "any deer" license or one two-tag "any deer" and "any antlerless deer" license. For the antelope firearm hunting season, a qualifying landowner or owner-operator may purchase one "any antelope" license or one two-tag "any antelope" and "any doe-fawn antelope" license. For the prairie elk hunting season units PRE-11D, PRE-11E, PRE-35A, PRE-35B, and PRE-WRA, as described in chapter 41:06:59, a qualifying landowner or lessee, as described in subdivision 41:06:01:15(4), may purchase one "antlerless elk" license.

41:06:01:15. Elk application requirements. The following requirements and restrictions apply to all license applications for elk seasons:

- (1) Only a resident of the state may apply for a license;

(2) Except for a qualifying landowner-operator applicant described in subdivisions (3) and (4), and except as provided in § 41:06:01:09, a person who received an elk hunting license for this season in the first lottery drawing or the second drawing by using preference points in any of the nine preceding years may not apply for a license under this chapter for the next nine years; and

(3) ~~Fifty percent of the licenses are available to persons who qualify for landowner-operator preference under the provisions of operate or live as owner or tenant on agricultural, timber, or grazing lands pursuant to SDCL 41-6-21. A To qualify as a landowner-operator applicant, the person must own or lease a minimum of 240 two hundred forty acres of land within an elk unit which that has had at least 500 five hundred days of elk use since the last day of the previous application period is required to qualify. An elk use day. A day of elk use is any day an elk feeds or waters on private land. For purposes of elk preference eligibility, members of the qualifying landowner-operator's family including grandparents, parents, spouse, children, children's spouse, or grandchildren. Any qualifying landowner or operator's grandparent, parent, spouse, child, child's spouse, or grandchild who live lives on the ranch unit or in the closest community and have has an active role in the ranch operation also qualify qualifies. Only one qualifying applicant per ranch unit per year may apply for a landowner-operator preference elk license in the first draw. A For purposes of this subdivision, a ranch unit is described as means all private property owned and or leased for agricultural, timber, or grazing purposes by written agreement by an individual a qualifying landowner in the state. A ranch unit may not be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one landowner-operator preference; and~~

(4) A person is eligible for a landowner-on-own-land license, pursuant to SDCL 41-6- 19.9, by owning or leasing a minimum of two hundred forty acres of land within an open prairie elk hunting season unit. Any qualifying landowner's grandparent, parent, spouse, child, child's spouse, or grandchild who lives on the ranch unit or in the closest community and has an active role in the ranch operation also qualifies. Only one qualifying applicant per ranch unit per year may purchase the license. A qualifying applicant for a ranch unit may not purchase the license if any qualifying member of the ranch unit holds an elk license obtained using landowner-operator preference, as provided in subdivision (3), in the prairie elk hunting season. For purposes of this subdivision, a ranch unit means all private property owned or leased for agricultural purposes by written agreement by an individual qualifying landowner in the state. A ranch unit may not be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one landowner-on-own-land elk license. The elk may be harvested only on land that is owned or leased by the qualifying landowner within the designated open prairie elk hunting season unit.

41:06:02:03. Hunting license fees. Hunting license fees are as follows:

- (1) Resident predator/varmint license, five dollars;
- (2) Resident small game license:
 - (a) Eighteen years of age and older, ~~\$27~~ twenty-seven dollars; and
 - (b) ~~Under 18~~ eighteen years of age, five dollars;
- (3) Resident one-day small game license, ~~\$12~~ twelve dollars;
- (4) Resident combination license, ~~\$49~~ forty-nine dollars;
- (5) Senior combination license, ~~65~~ sixty-five years of age and older, ~~\$34~~ thirty-four dollars;
- (6) Resident furbearer license, ~~\$30~~ thirty dollars;
- (7) Nonresident furbearer license, ~~\$275~~ two hundred seventy-five dollars;
- (8) Resident spring one-tag wild turkey license, ~~\$19~~ nineteen dollars;
- (9) Resident spring two-tag wild turkey license, ~~\$29~~ twenty-nine dollars;
- (10) Resident fall one-tag wild turkey license, nine dollars;
- (11) Resident fall two-tag wild turkey license, ~~\$14~~ fourteen dollars;
- (12) Resident deer or antelope one-tag license, ~~\$34~~ thirty-four dollars;
- (13) Resident deer or antelope two-tag license, ~~\$44~~ forty-four dollars;
- (14) Resident antelope three-tag license, ~~\$44~~ forty-four dollars;
- (15) Landowner-on-own land elk, deer, or antelope license, one-half the fee of the elk, deer, or antelope license that has been applied for;
- (16) Resident one-tag antlerless deer or doe-fawn antelope license, ~~\$14~~ fourteen dollars;
- (17) Resident two-tag antlerless deer or doe-fawn antelope license, ~~\$24~~ twenty-four dollars;
- (18) Resident three-tag any deer and two any antlerless deer license, ~~\$44~~ forty-four dollars;
- (19) Resident three-tag three any antlerless deer license; ~~\$24~~ twenty-four dollars;
- (20) Resident three-tag any whitetail and two antlerless whitetail deer license, ~~\$44~~ forty-four dollars;

- (21) Resident three-tag three antlerless whitetail deer license, ~~\$24~~ twenty-four dollars;
- (22) Resident three-tag doe-fawn antelope license, ~~\$24~~ twenty-four dollars;
- (23) Resident elk license:
 - (a) Any elk or bull elk, ~~\$169~~ one hundred sixty-nine dollars; and
 - (b) Antlerless elk, ~~\$140~~ one hundred ten dollars;
- (24) Resident landowner depredation elk, one-half the fee of the elk license that has been applied for;
- (25) Resident mountain goat license, ~~\$274~~ two hundred seventy-four dollars;
- (26) Resident Black Hills bighorn sheep license, ~~\$274~~ two hundred seventy-four dollars;
- (27) Canada goose special unit permit, ten dollars;
- (28) Nonresident small game license:
 - (a) Eighteen years of age and older, ~~\$115~~ one hundred fifteen dollars; and
 - (b) Under ~~18~~ eighteen years of age, ten dollars;
- (29) Special nonresident waterfowl license, ~~\$140~~ one hundred ten dollars;
- (30) Fall three-consecutive days temporary nonresident waterfowl license, ~~\$75~~ seventy-five dollars;
- (31) Spring snow goose temporary nonresident license:
 - (a) Eighteen years of age and older, ~~\$39~~ thirty-nine dollars; and
 - (b) Under ~~18~~ eighteen years of age, ~~\$15~~ fifteen dollars;
- (32) Early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident license, ~~\$39~~ thirty-nine dollars;
- (33) Nonresident youth waterfowl season hunting license under ~~18~~ eighteen years of age, five dollars;
- (34) Nonresident spring one-tag wild turkey license, ~~\$94~~ ninety-four dollars;
- (35) Nonresident spring two-tag wild turkey license, ~~\$119~~ one hundred nineteen dollars;
- (36) Nonresident fall one-tag wild turkey license, ~~\$84~~ eighty-four dollars;
- (37) Nonresident fall two-tag wild turkey license, ~~\$94~~ ninety-four dollars;
- (38) Nonresident deer or antelope one-tag license, ~~\$280~~ two hundred eighty dollars;
- (39) Nonresident deer or antelope two-tag license, ~~\$330~~ three hundred thirty dollars;
- (40) Nonresident antelope three-tag license, ~~\$330~~ three hundred thirty dollars;
- (41) Nonresident one-tag antlerless deer or doe-fawn antelope license, ~~\$74~~ seventy-four dollars;
- (42) Nonresident two-tag antlerless deer or doe-fawn antelope license, ~~\$144~~ one hundred fourteen dollars;
- (43) Nonresident three-tag doe-fawn antelope license, ~~\$144~~ one hundred fourteen dollars;
- (44) Nonresident three-tag any deer and two any antlerless deer license, ~~\$330~~ three hundred thirty dollars;
- (45) Nonresident three-tag three any antlerless deer license, ~~\$114~~ one hundred fourteen dollars;
- (46) Nonresident three-tag any whitetail and two antlerless whitetail deer license, ~~\$330~~ three hundred thirty dollars;
- (47) Nonresident three-tag three antlerless whitetail deer license, ~~\$144~~ one hundred fourteen dollars;
- (48) Nonresident predator license, ~~\$40~~ forty dollars;
- (49) Custer State Park elk license:
 - (a) Custer State Park rifle any elk license, ~~\$300~~ three hundred dollars;
 - (b) Custer State Park early archery elk license, ~~\$300~~ three hundred dollars;
 - (c) Custer State Park late archery elk license, ~~\$200~~ two hundred dollars; and
 - (d) Custer State Park special antlerless elk license, ~~\$200~~ two hundred dollars;
- (50) Custer State Park deer license:
 - (a) Custer State Park any deer license, ~~\$150~~ one hundred fifty dollars;
 - (b) Custer State Park one-tag any whitetail deer license, ~~\$150~~ one hundred fifty dollars; and
 - (c) Custer State Park one-tag muzzleloader whitetail antlerless deer license, ~~\$25~~ twenty-five dollars;
- (51) Custer State Park bison license:
 - (a) Custer State Park trophy bull bison license, ~~\$6,500~~ six thousand five hundred dollars;
 - (b) Custer State Park nontrophy bull bison license, ~~\$3,250~~ three thousand two hundred fifty dollars; and

- (c) Custer State Park cow bison license, ~~\$1,750~~ one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars;
- (52) Custer State Park bighorn sheep license, ~~\$500~~ five hundred dollars;
- (53) Custer State Park coyote license, ten dollars;
- (54) Custer State Park antelope license:
 - (a) Custer State Park any antelope license, ~~\$150~~ one hundred fifty dollars; and
 - (b) Custer State Park doe-fawn license, ~~\$25~~ twenty-five dollars;
- (55) Nonrefundable application fee:
 - (a) Archery and rifle elk, ten dollars;
 - (b) Mountain goat, ten dollars;
 - (c) Bighorn sheep, ten dollars;
 - (d) Resident hunt for habitat, ten dollars; and
 - (e) Nonresident hunt for habitat, ~~\$20~~ twenty dollars;
- (56) Resident special any deer, any whitetail deer, or any antelope license, ~~\$169~~ one hundred sixty-nine dollars;
- (57) Nonresident special any deer, any whitetail deer, or any antelope license, ~~\$554~~ five hundred fifty-four dollars;
- (58) Youth deer license:
 - (a) Resident, five dollars; and
 - (b) Nonresident, ten dollars;
- (59) Tundra swan permit:
 - (a) Resident, ~~\$12~~ twelve dollars; and
 - (b) Nonresident, ~~\$19~~ nineteen dollars;
- (60) Migratory bird certification permit, five dollars;
- (61) Nonresident shooting preserve license:
 - (a) One-day, ~~\$40~~ forty dollars;
 - (b) Five-consecutive days, ~~\$70~~ seventy dollars; and
 - (c) Annual, ~~\$115~~ one hundred fifteen dollars;
- (62) Mountain lion license, ~~\$22~~ twenty-two dollars;
- (63) Mentored youth deer, antelope, or turkey license:
 - (a) Resident, five dollars; and
 - (b) Nonresident, ten dollars;
- (64) Resident ~~Apprentice~~ apprentice hunter deer license, five dollars; and
- (65) Any unit, other than elk, bighorn sheep, or mountain goat, for which no licenses have been allocated for the purpose of acquiring a preference point or any unit for which a preference point is awarded for an unsuccessful application for license:
 - (a) Resident, five dollars; and
 - (b) Nonresident, ten dollars.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – The licenses are only available to residents.
2. Historical Considerations – Elk licenses have been available to residents only.
3. Biological Considerations – Little biological impact to elk populations is expected.
4. Social Considerations – Resident landowners will have additional hunting opportunity.
5. Financial considerations – There may be additional license sales from this license type.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None

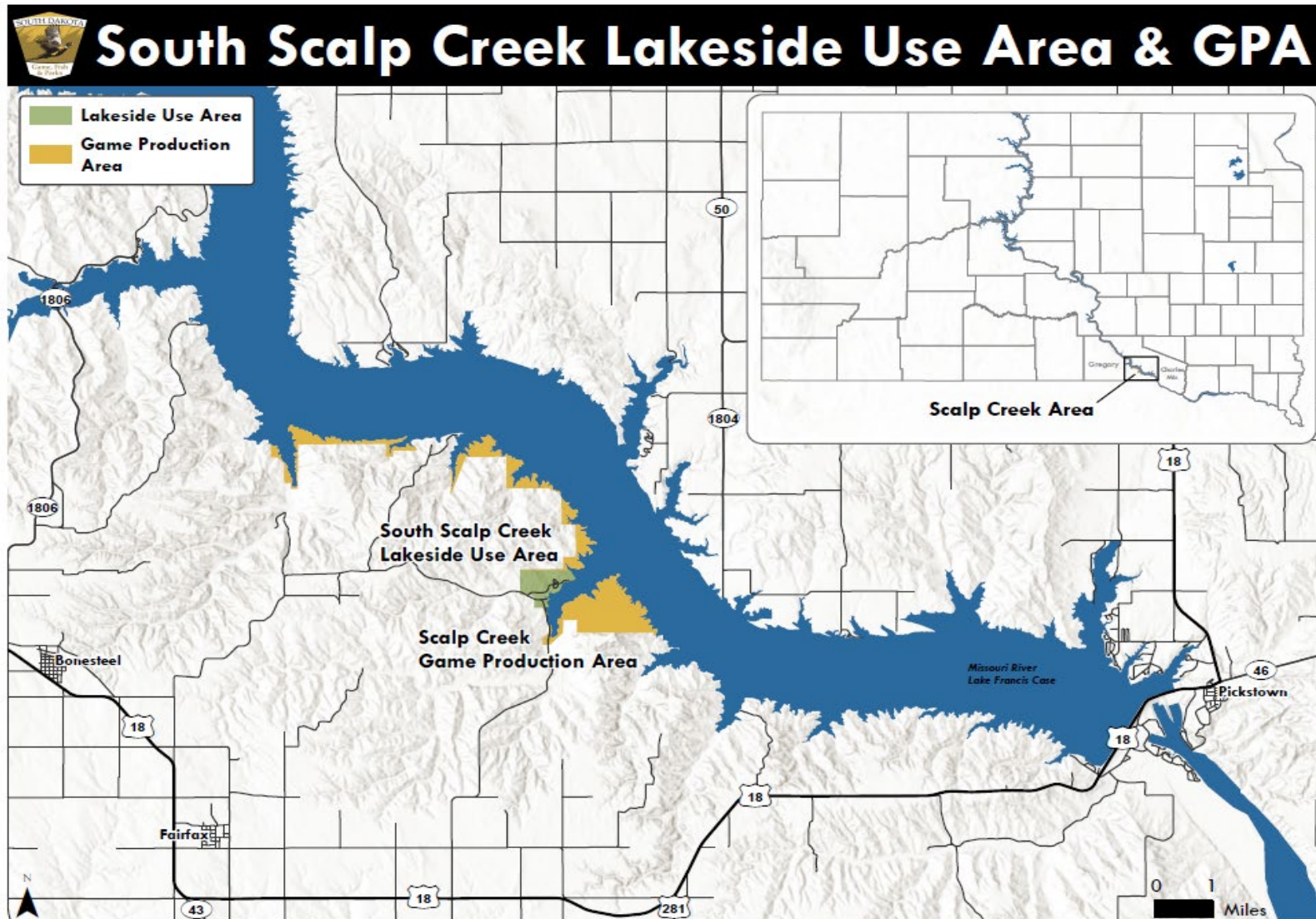
FISCAL IMPACT

Additional revenue will be generated from the sale of half price landowner own land resident only antlerless elk licenses.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

South Scalp Creek Lakeside Use Area and Game Production Area will be renamed Star Valley Lakeside Use Area and Game Production Area.

Star Valley is the name of the township in Gregory County where these properties are located.



South Dakota State Park Camper Survey

Purpose and Goals:

- To better understand state park campers and what their preferences are.
- Identify and prioritize facilities, amenities, and services that campers expect
- Begin to understand the camper market in South Dakota in comparison to other markets such as the growing private campground industry and help clarify GFP's role.

Delivery method: Online survey through email and advertised through media outlets

Target survey recipients: Sample will come from the state park updates list, which will allow us to target general state park users. We will pull a random sample of ~3500 participants from the list of ~147,000, as we anticipate a ~30% response rate (i.e., 1000 complete surveys) which will provide us a 95% level of confidence in the results. Survey distribution will follow a tailored method design, whereby researchers will provide 3 email invitations plus one follow up mail invitation to boost response rates. Participation in the survey will be completely voluntary. All responses will be anonymous and non-responses to questions will not necessarily invalidate the survey.

Delivery dates: June and July

Cost: Staff time, estimated at about 40 hours

1. Do you camp?
 - Yes
 - No → Skip to Q#3

2. How many times per year do you camp?
 _____ times per year

3. If you don't camp, why not? Select all that apply.
 - No interest
 - Dislike of heat, bugs, etc.
 - Nobody to camp with
 - I don't have the equipment
 - I don't have the time
 - Too expensive
 - Other: _____

4. If you don't camp, what might help get you started in camping? Select all that apply.
 [Skip to demographics: Q2 = No]
 - If friends or family would invite me

- If there were educational programs available to teach the basics
- Availability of equipment to rent
- If there were more opportunities to camp
- A major change in life, such as career, family, etc.
- I don't want to get started
- Other: _____

5. Do you hunt?

- Yes
- No

6. Do you fish?

- Yes
- No

7. How often do you consider the following qualities when camping or visiting a South Dakota state park?

	Never consider	Sometimes Consider	Always Consider
Trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restroom facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peace and quiet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Variety of commercial services in the area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grass and turf areas/landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helpful and friendly staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water quality in lakes and streams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunity for social interaction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Something for everyone to do	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access for people with disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Things for the kids to do	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety of the area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities to learn something new	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closeness to home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pet friendly accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enough space for each campsite	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Enough parking for boats, vehicles,
 ATV/OHV

8. Where do you prefer to camp? Rank from most preferable (1) to least preferable (5).

- _____ State parks
- _____ National parks and forests
- _____ Municipal campgrounds
- _____ Private campgrounds, nightly basis
- _____ Private seasonal campgrounds

9. What type of camping do you prefer? Rank from most preferable (2) to least preferable (6)

- _____ Tent camping in a primitive setting
- _____ Tent camping with some amenities such as showers and electricity
- _____ Glamping (a tent with modern accommodations such as a bed, nightstand, etc.)
- _____ RV or trailer camping (Skip to Q#11)
- _____ Camping cabins (no bath or kitchen facilities) (Skip to Q#11)
- _____ Lodges (Skip to Q#11)

10. If you prefer tent camping, how important is having electricity to you?

Not at all important	Slightly Important	Somewhat important	Moderately important	Extremely important
1	2	3	4	5

11. How far in advance do you prefer to make your camping reservations?

- Same-day reservation for day-of arrival only
- 1 week in advance
- 1 - 3 months in advance
- 4-6 months in advance
- More than 6 months in advance

12. What impacts how far in advance you prefer to make your camping reservations?

- Weather
- Work schedule
- Kids activities
- Vacations/seasons
- Quality of preferred rec activities?
- Other: _____

13. When did you first start camping? Select all apply.

- Ever since I was a child

- Ever since I was a young adult
- During the COVID 19 pandemic
- When I had kids
- When my kids were grown
- When a friend or family member introduced me to it
- Other _____

14. What motivates you to go camping? Select all that apply.

- Spending time in the outdoors
- Spending time with family and friends
- Just being able to relax
- Sitting around the campfire
- Getting away from crowds
- An affordable way to travel farther distances from home
- Having time to expose kids to the outdoors
- Visiting new places
- Experiencing nature (e.g., seeing wildlife, plants, etc.)
- The food
- Being able to camp close to home
- Participating in other outdoor activities
- Meeting new people
- Mental/physical health and wellbeing

15. What recreational activities do you like to do when camping? Select all that apply.

- Fishing
- Canoeing/kayaking/paddle boarding
- Hiking
- Wildlife viewing
- Biking
- Hunting
- Taking scenic drives/Sight-seeing
- Mountain biking
- Visiting historical sites
- Golfing
- Disc golf
- Playcourts such as basketball, tennis, or pickleball
- Running/Trail running
- Geo-caching/Orienteering
- Horseback riding
- Rock climbing or bouldering
- Water sports

- Off-highway vehicle use
- Organized team sports
- Stand-up paddle boarding
- Snow skiing or snowboarding
- Archery
- Playgrounds
- Horseshoes
- Volleyball
- Swimming at a beach
- Splash parks

16. Do you camp with pets? Select all that apply.

- No
- Yes, with dogs
- Yes, with cats
- Yes, other: _____

17. How important is it to have pet friendly facilities when you camp?

Not at all important	Slightly Important	Somewhat important	Moderately important	Extremely important
1	2	3	4	5

18. How much do you expect to camp in the next five years?

I will quit camping completely	Much less than I do now	Somewhat less than I do now	About the same as I do now	Somewhat more than I do now	Much more than I do now
0	1	2	3	4	5

19. What factors are most likely to make you camp less or quit camping? Select all that apply.

- Other interests and hobbies
- My kid's or grandkid's activities
- Economic factors
- Lack of access to the type of camping I prefer
- Health and physical limitations
- Increased competition to get a site at the time and place I prefer
- Other: _____

20. Do you work at your job while you are camping?

- Yes

No

21. How would the availability of wi-fi in the campgrounds affect your frequency of camping?

I would camp much less	I would camp a little less	I would camp the same amount	I would camp a little more	I would camp much more
1	2	3	4	5

22. Would you be willing to pay a nominal fee for wi-fi access in campgrounds?

Yes

No

23. Would the availability of wi-fi in campgrounds increase the amount of camping you would do on weekdays?

Yes

No

24. When thinking about the number of campgrounds in SD state parks, how do you feel about the amount of opportunity to camp in South Dakota state parks?

Not enough opportunity	Low opportunity	The right amount of opportunity	Moderate opportunity	High opportunity
1	2	3	4	5

25. Do you support the addition of more state park camping opportunity?

Yes

No → Skip to Q#27

No opinion → Skip to Q#27

26. If yes, in which regions would you like to see more campgrounds? See map below.

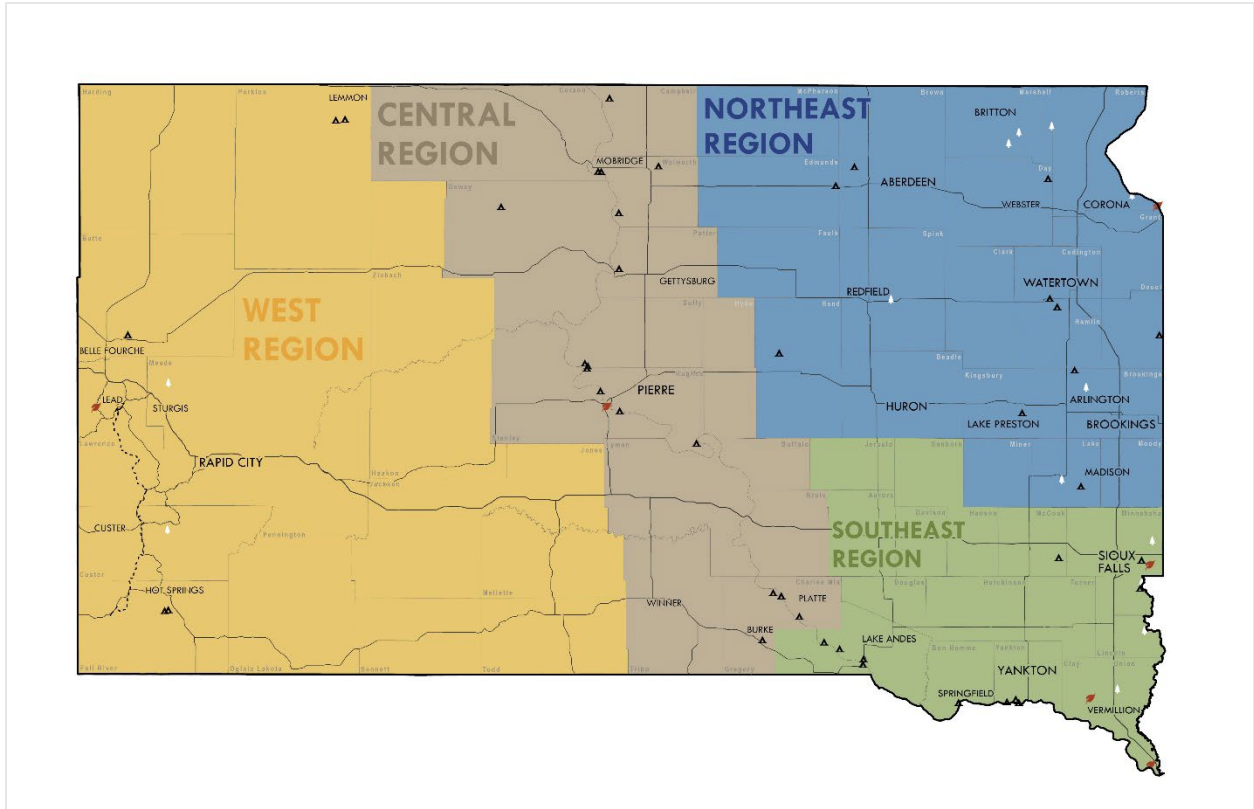
Select all that apply.

West Region

Central Region

Northwest Region

Southeast Region



27. Do you think state park camping fees are a good value?

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5

28. Why or why not?

29. What is the most important thing to you as a camper?

30. How can we improve South Dakota state parks?

31. Is there any specific park we need to improve?

32. Any other comments you would like to provide?

33. What is your age?

- Born 1925 – 1945
- Born 1946 – 1964
- Born 1965 – 1979
- Born 1980 – 1994
- Born 1995 – 2012

34. What is your household income?

- \$100,000 +
- \$25,000 – \$99,999
- < \$25,000

35. What is your zip code?

36. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

37. How do you prefer to receive information about SD state parks?

- Facebook
- X (formerly known as Twitter)
- Instagram
- YouTube
- Newspapers
- Television
- Radio
- Email
- Websites (e.g., SDGFP, CampInSouthDakota.com, KOA, Campground Owners Assoc.)
- Brochures (e.g., Park Times, SD Vacation Guide)
- Other: _____

SOUTH DAKOTA PRONGHORN ACTION PLAN 2024 – 2028



**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA**

WILDLIFE DIVISION REPORT 2024-02

June 2024

This document is for general, strategic guidance for the Division of Wildlife and serves to identify what we strive to accomplish related to Pronghorn Management. This process will emphasize working cooperatively with interested publics in both the planning process and the regular program activities related to pronghorn management.

This action plan will be utilized by Department staff on an annual basis and will be formally evaluated at least every 5 years. Plan updates and changes, however, may occur more frequently as needed.

All text and data contained within this document are subject to revision for corrections, updates, and data analyses.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This action plan is a product of substantial discussion and input from many wildlife professionals. In addition, those comments and suggestions received from private landowners, hunters, and those who recognized the value of pronghorn and their associated habitats were also considered.

Action Plan Coordinator – Andy Lindbloom, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP).

GFP Pronghorn Action Plan Team that assisted with plan writing, data review and analyses, critical reviews and/or edits to the South Dakota Pronghorn Action Plan, 2024 - 2028 – Nathan Baker, Byron Buckley, Stephanie Buckley, Steve Griffin, Trenton Haffley, John Kanta, Julie Lindstrom, Andrew Norton, Dan Sternhagen, and Lauren Wiechmann.

Recommended Citation:

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INTRODUCTION

The pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) is the only member of the family Antilocapridae and is native only to North America. South Dakota's diverse landscapes of grassland, rangeland, and cropland areas are home to pronghorn across areas primarily adjacent to and west of the Missouri River. It has been estimated that over 700,000 pronghorn ranged in South Dakota prior to 1800 (Bever undated), but pronghorn were nearly extirpated due to unregulated harvest and market hunting by the turn of the 20th century. Legislation created in the 1900s and hunting seasons established by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) Commission allowed pronghorn populations to recover from historic lows. Pronghorn hunting seasons have occurred regularly since the 1940s, with pronghorn hunters harvesting approximately 18,000 pronghorn during the recent record year of 2008.

South Dakota has the 5th largest pronghorn population in North America with an estimated 41,533 animals in 2021 (Norton and Lindbloom 2024). Pronghorn hunting is a popular and much-awaited outdoor activity for many sportsmen and women in South Dakota. Within South Dakota, approximately 4,785 residents and 950 non-residents hunted pronghorn in 2023, with a recent peak pronghorn hunter participation occurring in 2008 when approximately 13,000 residents and non-residents pursued pronghorn. Hunting remains the number one tool for managing pronghorn populations across South Dakota and harvest strategies are intended to ensure the well-being of the species and its habitat while maintaining populations at levels compatible with human activity and land use.

The GFP manages wildlife and associated habitats for their sustained and equitable use, and the benefit, welfare and enjoyment of the citizens of this state and its visitors. South Dakota's pronghorn resources demand prudent and increasingly intensive management to accommodate numerous and varied public demands and growing impacts from people. The "*South Dakota Pronghorn Action Plan, 2024-2028*" will serve as the guiding document for decision making and implementation of actions to ensure pronghorn populations and their habitats are managed appropriately, addressing both biological and social tolerances, while considering the needs of all stakeholders. Additional information regarding pronghorn management, research, and history can be found in the *South Dakota Pronghorn Management plan, 2019-2029*" (SDGFP 2019; https://qfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/docs/PronghornPlan_FINAL.pdf.)

POPULATION MONITORING

Numerous surveys are completed by GFP to manage pronghorn populations for both consumptive and non-consumptive users. Pronghorn surveys in South Dakota include hunter harvest surveys, aerial surveys, herd composition surveys, survival monitoring, disease monitoring, winter severity and drought evaluation, and population modeling for 27 pronghorn game management units within seven Data Analysis Units (DAUs) that comprise the state's

pronghorn range (Figure 1). A DAU is an aggregate of management units that serves as the definition of the geographic extent of a biological population, but potentially large amounts of heterogeneity may exist in animal abundance within a DAU. For the latest survey data and population updates, see GFP’s Biennial Status Updates (Lindbloom et al. 2024).

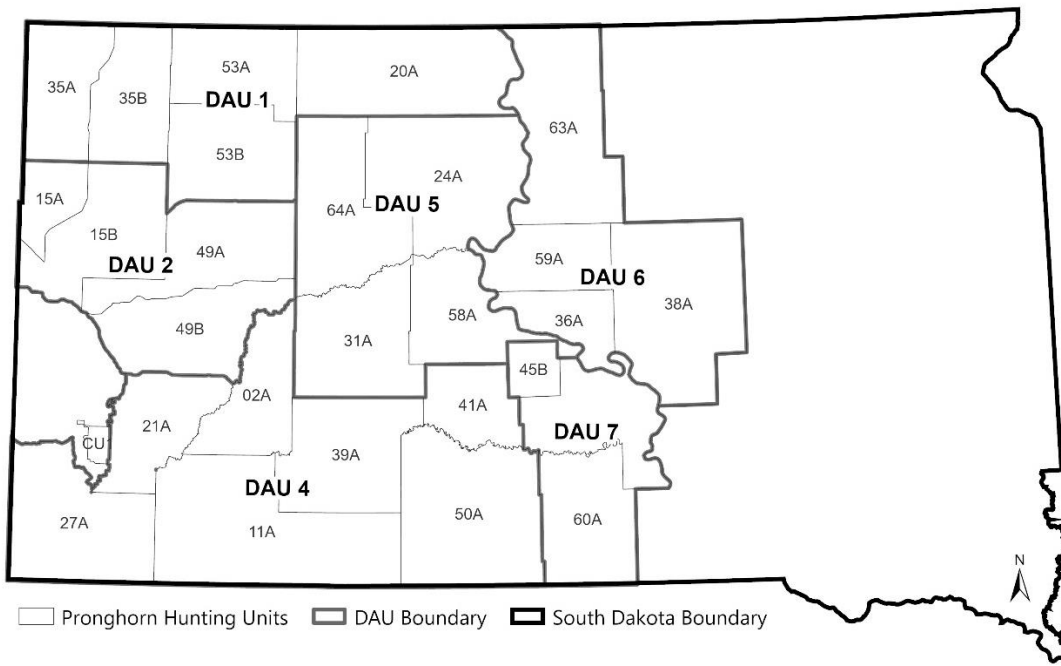


Figure 1. Data Analysis Units (DAUs) and firearm hunting units in South Dakota, 2024.

Harvest Surveys

The pronghorn hunter harvest survey is conducted annually via emailed surveys. Currently, hunters are surveyed for each pronghorn season available; firearm, archery, landowner, mentored youth, and CSP. Prior to 2019, hunters were sampled using mail and email mixed-mode methodology. Post 2019, 100% of license holders are sampled via email, which has substantially increased hunter samples.

Aerial Surveys

Spring adult pronghorn estimates are generated biennially using a fixed-winged aircraft flown at speeds <100 mph and altitudes between 100 to 200 feet above ground level. In units west of the Missouri River, aerial strip transects are flown 1.5 miles apart, with transect widths of 0.5 miles. Results from sampled areas (an approximate systematic third of each unit) are used to estimate pronghorn densities in un-sampled areas (Figure 2). In units east of the Missouri River, the entire area is surveyed, but transect widths are increased to 1 mile. No sightability

correction factor is used to account for potential pronghorn missed during the survey, resulting in an assumption of 100% detection probability. Assuming independence among hunting units, the total statewide and DAU spring population estimates are calculated by summing the total population and variance across hunting units (Thompson 2002).

2024 Spring Pronghorn Density

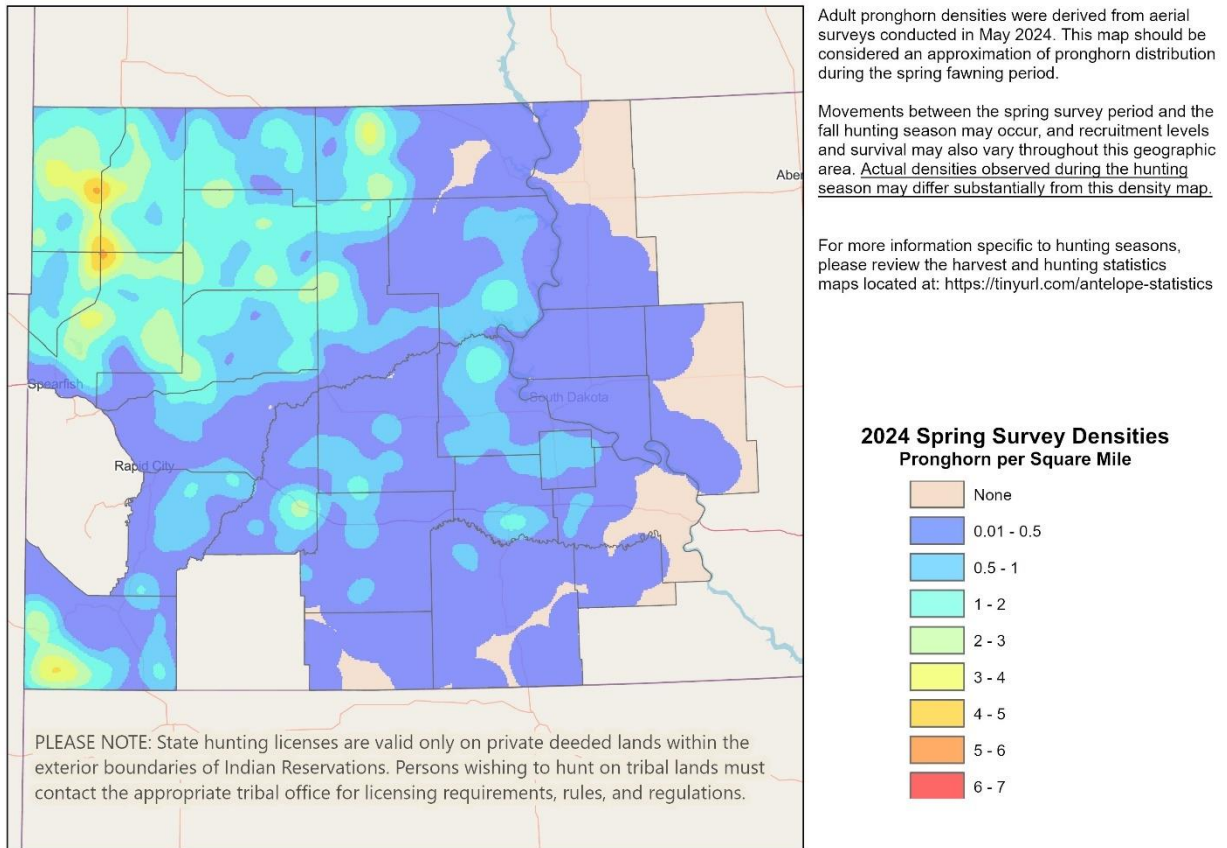


Figure 2. Adult pronghorn density estimates derived from spring aerial surveys in South Dakota, 2024.

Herd Composition Surveys

Pre-season herd composition ground surveys are completed by driving roads or hiking in areas of known pronghorn concentrations in September. All pronghorn herds that are observed in their entirety are classified to numbers of fawns, does, and bucks. A minimum sample size of 200-400 independent group observations per DAU is currently the goal to ensure sufficient precision in herd composition estimates.

Survival Monitoring

Understanding population dynamics of pronghorn and determining annual rates of population change (λ) requires knowledge of juvenile and adult survival rates. Annual rates of change within a pronghorn population are influenced primarily by adult survival and the number of fawns that reach one year of age. GFP staff are currently monitoring GPS-collared pronghorn in DAUs 1 and 6. Survival studies have been instrumental in providing area specific biological data for GFP to use in evaluating pronghorn populations and management options.

Disease

Pronghorn, as with other wildlife species, have the potential to acquire and transmit diseases from other wildlife or domestic species. In South Dakota, there are few diseases documented within pronghorn herds, and most diseases do not cause major concerns regarding the sustainability of pronghorn populations within the State. The most common disease that could likely affect pronghorn in South Dakota is hemorrhagic disease. Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) and bluetongue (BT), collectively called Hemorrhagic Disease, are caused by *orbiviruses* that are spread by biting flies of the genus *Culicoides* (Davidson 2006). Hemorrhagic disease is the most commonly found disease in white-tailed deer in South Dakota and has occasionally been documented in pronghorn and no significant die-offs have been reported.

Winter Severity Evaluation

Winter severity is an important metric that can impact survival of pronghorn across South Dakota. Weather data are obtained through an annual data request via the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Program R, a statistical software package (R Core Team 2015), is used to extrapolate weather data across all pronghorn units using an inverse distance weighted interpolation function. In addition, GFP collects and maintains a database of pronghorn mortalities reported to staff from the public during hard winters. Weather and mortality data combined provide a relative assessment of overwinter mortalities and represent an approximate spatial distribution of where those losses occur.

Population Modeling

Biennial DAU pre-hunt pronghorn estimates are projected from adult spring aerial survey estimates using fall herd composition data from the most recent 3 years available. Assuming no adult mortality occurs between the spring survey to the hunting season, fall pre-hunt adult male and female cohorts are projected by multiplying the spring estimate by adult sex ratios, calculated from the most recent 3-year average of herd composition data. Pre-hunt fawns are estimated by multiplying pre-hunt adult females by fawns per adult female (age ratio), calculated from the most recent 3-year average of herd composition data. Male and female recruitment from birth to fall is assumed to be equal. Because aerial surveys for pronghorn are conducted biennially, pre-hunt population abundance and trends for DAUs are projected during years without surveys using herd composition and winter severity data.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

Effective decision-making by wildlife agencies necessitates the need to consider public perceptions, opinions, and potential responses to management policies. Along with hunter harvest and biological data collected, public involvement is an important component in developing and implementing a Pronghorn Management Plan in South Dakota. Public participation helps ensure decisions are made in consideration of public needs and preferences. It can help resolve conflicts, build trust, and inform the public about pronghorn management in South Dakota. Successful public participation is a continuous process, consisting of a series of activities and actions to inform the public and stakeholders, as well as obtain input regarding decisions that affect them. Public involvement strategies provide more value when they are open, relevant, timely, and appropriate to the intended goal of the process. It is important to provide a balanced approach with representation of all stakeholders. A combination of informal and formal techniques reaches a broader segment of the public; therefore, when possible, combining different techniques is preferred to using a single public involvement approach.

When it comes to public involvement, one-size does not fit all. Every situation is different and each approach to a specific situation will be unique. No single citizen or group of citizens can represent the views of all citizens. Multiple avenues for public involvement and outreach were used in the development of the Pronghorn Management Plan. These approaches were designed to involve the public at various stages of plan development and to ensure opportunities for participation were accessible to all citizens. Specific strategies to gather public input in the future are outlined in the *Management Objectives and Strategies* section.

POPULATION OBJECTIVES

GFP manages pronghorn populations and habitats consistent with ecological, social, aesthetic, and economic values of South Dakota citizens while addressing the concerns and issues of both residents and visitors of South Dakota. Multiple sources of public opinion are used to assess management objectives and include personal contacts with landowners and hunters, open houses, hunter and landowner opinion surveys, hunter harvest surveys quantifying success and satisfaction ratings, and other submitted comments. GFP also considers pronghorn population abundance levels, pronghorn depredation issues, landowner tolerance, hunter comments, and harvest results from the previous season to set quantitative management objectives for each firearm management unit (Appendix A). Staff then evaluate current pronghorn abundance estimates and define a qualitative management objective direction (i.e., substantially decrease, slightly decrease, maintain current level, slightly increase, substantially increase). The development of objective directions is important in better defining management intentions with the public and provides more transparency (Figure 3).

The current statewide population objective is approximately 69,000 total pre-season pronghorn, but actual population abundance may range from 59,000 to 80,000. The statewide objective is a summation of all hunting unit objectives. The GFP will adopt harvest strategies that will allow the pronghorn population to stay within the objective range.



South Dakota Pronghorn Unit Objectives (2024-2025)

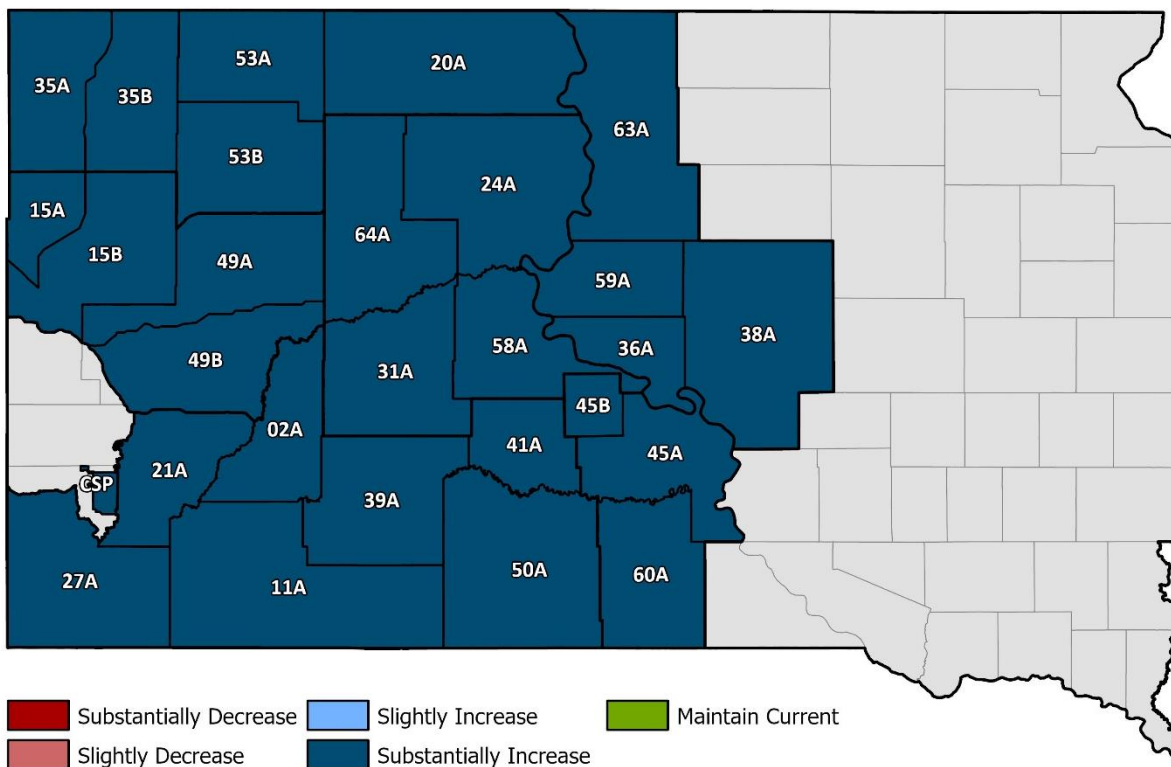


Figure 3. South Dakota pronghorn hunting unit population objectives, 2024-2025.

HARVEST STRATEGIES

Once population objectives are defined, GFP staff develop season recommendations that strive to provide the most hunting opportunity, while shifting the population towards management objectives. Depending on population densities and objectives within each pronghorn management unit, GFP staff uses harvest strategies to guide management decisions (Table 1). This table is presented as a guide to appropriate harvest options available for local herds based on unit objectives and herd status. This table defines harvest strategies presently available and will be modified as needed if other options become available in the future.

Table 1. Harvest management strategies dependent on unit objectives and population estimates.

	RESTRICTIVE	MODERATE	LIBERAL
“TOOLS”	Objective: Increase Population	Objective: Maintain Population	Objective: Decrease Population
Doe harvest rate ¹	0-10% of adult doe population	10-20% of adult doe population	20-40% of adult doe population
License numbers	None – limited	Moderate	Liberal
License types	Any antelope Buck only Single tag	Any antelope Doe/kid Single/double tag	Any antelope Doe/kid Single/double/triple tags
Firearm license eligibility	Residents and Nonresidents (2%)	Residents and Nonresidents (4%)	Residents and Nonresidents (8%)
Season structure	Single season Closed season	Single season	Single season Split seasons
Extra seasons	None	None	Doe/kid legal during deer season
Archery ²	Limited archery ³	Limited archery ³	Unlimited archery ³
Mentored Youth ²	Unlimited youth	Unlimited youth	Unlimited youth

¹ See population growth table for more specific harvest rate information (SDGFP 2019; Table 12).

² Archery and mentored youth seasons will be closed in units closed to firearm.

³ Archery hunters limited to 1 single-tag (buck-only) antelope license.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Objective 1: Manage for biologically and socially acceptable pronghorn populations in each firearm management unit within South Dakota.

- a) Where habitat and social tolerances allow, manage pronghorn in South Dakota for a pre-season population abundance of approximately 68,350 (58,000-79,000) pronghorn.
- b) Gather hunter input on pronghorn population unit objectives.
 - Annually survey hunters to assess objectives as desired by hunters.
- c) Gather input from landowners and the general public on pronghorn population unit objectives.
 - Evaluate the current database for contacts, sampling strategies, and costs needed to collect data at the unit level.
 - Biennially survey landowners and the general public to further evaluate pronghorn populations, objectives, management needs, and social tolerance.
- d) Survey hunters to estimate annual pronghorn harvest statistics.
- e) Biennially conduct spring aerial surveys in all management units.
- f) Annually model pronghorn abundance and growth rates.
- g) Conduct and assess annual fall herd composition surveys in each Data Analysis Unit.
- h) Investigate and collect biological samples from reported or observed sick and/or dead pronghorn demonstrating symptoms of concern.

Objective 2: Manage pronghorn populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs.

- a) Modify and adopt future hunting season structure as needed to maximize hunting opportunities for unique hunters, minimize regulation complexity, and maximize population growth to meet objectives as soon as possible.
- b) Manage pronghorn in Custer State Park (CSP) to balance quality wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities as follows:
 - “Buck-only” licenses will be set at a base percentage of the pre-season CSP pronghorn population estimate.
 - “Doe/kid” licenses will be set at 3% of the pre-season CSP pronghorn population estimate. No licenses will be issued if the CSP pre-season population estimate is < 250 pronghorn.

Objective 3: Cooperatively work with private landowners, organizations, and other agencies to resolve pronghorn depredation to agricultural crops and other social conflict issues.

- a) Respond to all pronghorn depredation concerns on private land promptly.
- b) Encourage the enrollment of willing landowners who are experiencing chronic pronghorn depredation issues into Walk-In Area and Controlled Hunting Access Programs to allow public hunting access.
- c) Utilize pool hunts when warranted to address pronghorn depredation concerns.
- d) Expand hunting opportunities, when possible, to address depredation on private lands.
- e) Where needed, evaluate additional depredation management strategies to increase acceptance of pronghorn population goals.

Objective 4: Cooperatively work with private landowners and public land managers to create, enhance, restore, and protect pronghorn habitat.

- a) Develop program options to restore pronghorn forage and security cover in shrub-steppe habitats through plantings and management assistance.
 - Investigate and identify forb and browse enhancement options that are specific to pronghorn.
- b) Annually strive to restore and establish 1,000 acres of new grassland habitat west of the Missouri River.
- c) Annually strive to improve and enhance 50,000 acres of grassland habitat in western South Dakota by supporting improved grazing systems on private lands.
- d) Annually strive to replace a minimum of 40 miles of woven wire or other non-wildlife-friendly fences with wildlife-friendly fences.

Objective 5: Cooperatively work with private landowners and public land managers to provide and enhance hunting access for pronghorn.

- a) Annually lease an additional 20,000 acres of private land for pronghorn hunting opportunities through GFP access programs.

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Appendix A. Population objectives for pronghorn management units in South Dakota, 2024-2025.

Unit	Unit#	sq mi	Population Objective			
			Objective	Range (+/- 15%)		Density/sq mi
Pennington	02A	1,263	2,000	1,700	2,300	1.58
Bennett/Oglala Lakota*	11A	1,191	200	170	230	0.17
NW Butte	15A	624	2,500	2,130	2,880	4.01
Butte	15B	1,808	8,000	6,800	9,200	4.42
Corson	20A	2,529	2,500	2,130	2,880	0.99
Custer	21A	1,322	2,500	2,130	2,880	1.89
Dewey	24A	1,657	2,500	2,130	2,880	1.51
Fall River	27A	2,213	5,000	4,250	5,750	2.26
Haakon	31A	1,828	2,000	1,700	2,300	1.09
West Harding	35A	1,351	8,000	6,800	9,200	5.92
East Harding	35B	1,332	6,000	5,100	6,900	4.50
Hughes	36A	1,666	400	340	460	0.24
Hyde/Hand/Buffalo	38A	2,796	150	130	170	0.05
Jackson	39A	1,872	1,500	1,280	1,730	0.80
Jones	41A	924	800	680	920	0.87
Lyman	45A	1,499	400	340	460	0.27
FPNG	45B	373	500	430	580	1.34
North Meade	49A	1,722	6,000	5,100	6,900	3.48
South Meade	49B	1,706	2,000	1,700	2,300	1.17
Mellette/Todd	50A	1,309	900	770	1,040	0.69
North Perkins	53A	1,359	4,000	3,400	4,600	2.94
South Perkins	53B	1,599	5,000	4,250	5,750	3.13
Stanley	58A	1,398	1,300	1,110	1,500	0.93
Sully	59A	1,070	400	340	460	0.37
Tripp	60A	1,616	150	130	170	0.09
Walworth/Potter/Campbe	63A	1,642	300	260	350	0.18
Ziebach	64A	1,972	3,000	2,550	3,450	1.52
CSP	CSP	110	350	300	400	3.18
Total		41,751	68,350	58,000	79,000	1.64

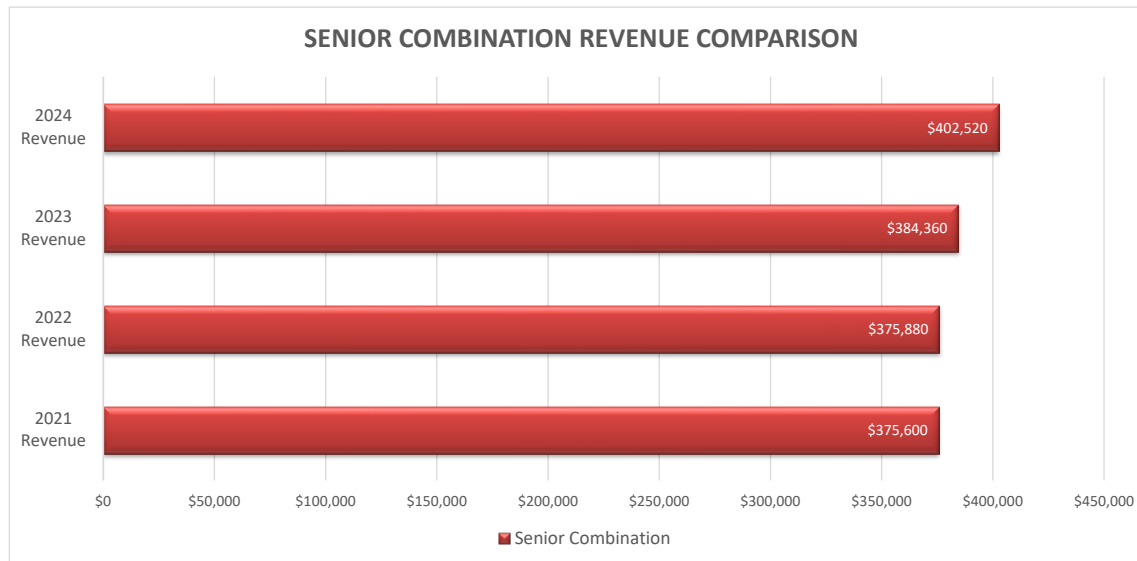
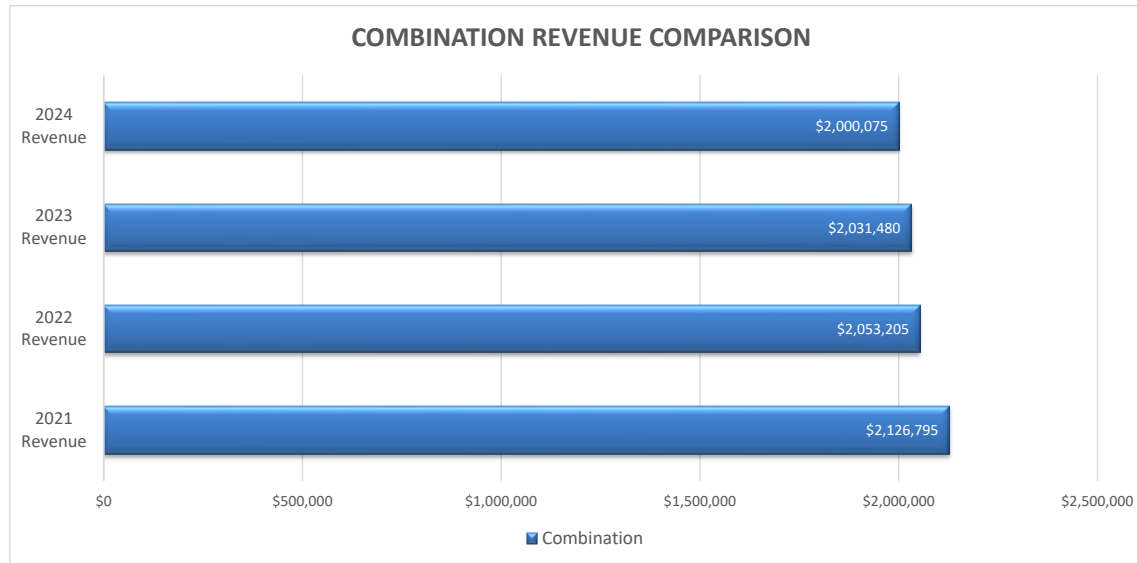
*flight area reduced to Bennett county only, objective reduced



COMBINATION LICENSES

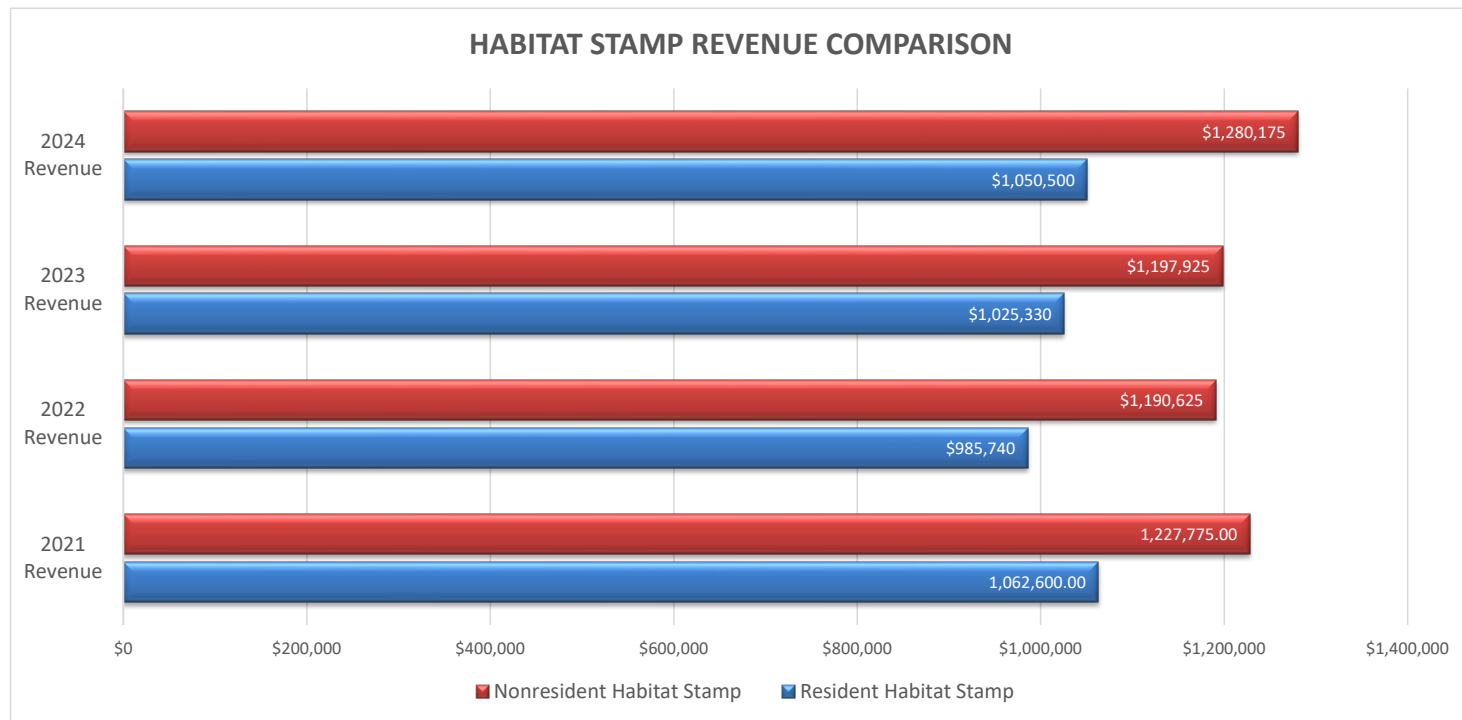
December 15 - May 31

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	from 3 Yr. Avg
Combination	38,669	37,331	36,936	37,645	36,365	\$2,000,075	(571)	(1,280)	(\$31,405)	(\$70,418)	-3%
Senior Combination	9,390	9,397	9,609	9,465	10,063	\$402,520	454	598	\$18,160	\$23,907	6%
Combination License Totals	48,059	46,728	46,545	47,111	46,428	\$2,402,595	(117)	(683)	(\$13,245)	(\$46,512)	2.91%



HABITAT STAMP December 15 - May 31

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	from 3 Yr. Avg
Resident Habitat Stamp	106,260	98,574	102,533	102,456	105,050	\$1,050,500	2,517	2,594	\$138,435	\$142,688	3%
Nonresident Habitat Stamp	49,111	47,625	47,917	48,218	51,207	\$1,280,175	3,290	2,989	\$131,600	\$119,573	6%
Habitat Stamp Totals	155,371	146,199	150,450	150,673	156,257	\$2,330,675	5,807	5,584	\$270,035	\$262,262	4%

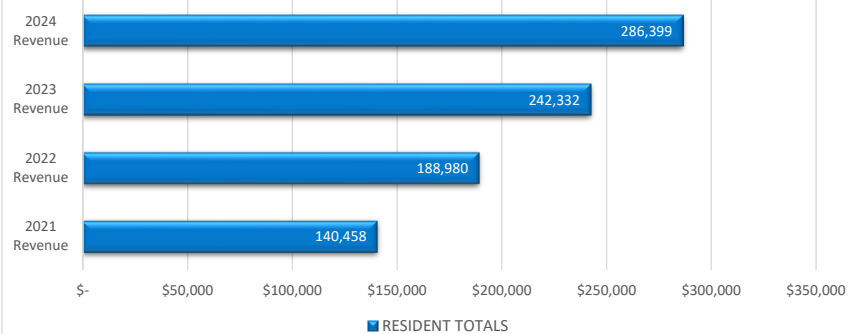


SMALL GAME LICENSES

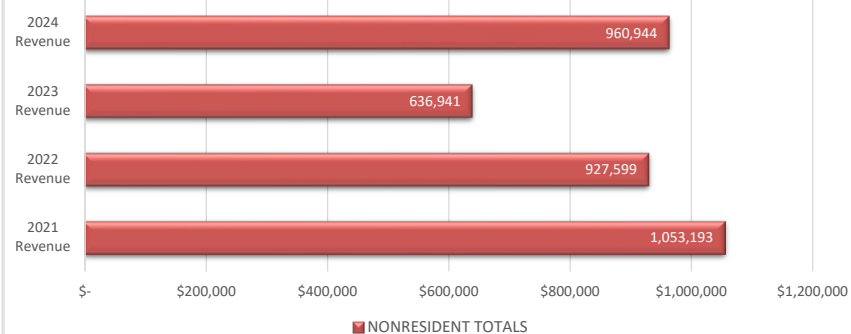
December 15 - May 31

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
Small Game	1,511	2,613	4,427	2,850	5,578	\$184,074	1,151	2,728	\$37,983	\$90,013	96%
1-Day Small Game	368	153	98	206	205	\$2,460	107	(1)	\$1,284	(\$16)	-1%
Youth Small Game	804	1,251	1,118	1,058	1,221	\$6,105	103	163	\$515	\$1,960	15%
Furbearer	3,248	2,909	2,757	2,971	2,933	\$87,990	176	(38)	\$5,280	(\$1,150)	-1%
Predator/Varmint	903	1,478	1,353	1,245	1,154	\$5,770	(199)	(91)	(\$995)	(\$453)	-7%
RESIDENT TOTALS	6,834	8,404	9,753	8,330	11,091	\$286,399	1,338	2,761	\$44,067	\$90,354	33.14%
Small Game	5,401	4,328	2,582	4,104	4,878	\$590,238	2,296	774	\$277,816	\$93,694	19%
Youth Small Game	243	298	171	237	327	\$3,270	156	90	\$1,560	\$897	38%
Shooting Preserve 1-Day Nonresident	181	198	102	160	169	\$7,774	67	9	\$3,082	\$399	5%
Shooting Preserve 5-Day Nonresident	1,011	1,183	802	999	993	\$75,468	191	(6)	\$14,516	(\$431)	-1%
Shooting Preserve Annual Nonresident	74	96	63	78	60	\$7,260	(3)	(18)	(\$363)	(\$2,138)	-23%
Furbearer	4	3	1	3	5	\$1,375	4	2	\$1,100	\$642	88%
Predator/Varmint	1,836	1,715	1,986	1,846	2,178	\$87,120	192	332	\$7,680	\$13,293	18%
Spring Light Goose	4,488	4,249	3,626	4,121	4,034	\$181,530	408	(87)	\$18,360	(\$3,915)	-2%
Youth Spring Light Goose	161	324	317	267	329	\$6,909	12	62	\$252	\$1,295	23%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	13,399	12,394	9,650	11,814	12,973	\$960,944	3,323	1,159	\$324,003	\$103,736	9.81%
COMBINED TOTALS	20,233	20,798	19,403	20,145	24,064	\$1,247,343	4,661	3,919	\$368,070	\$194,090	19.46%

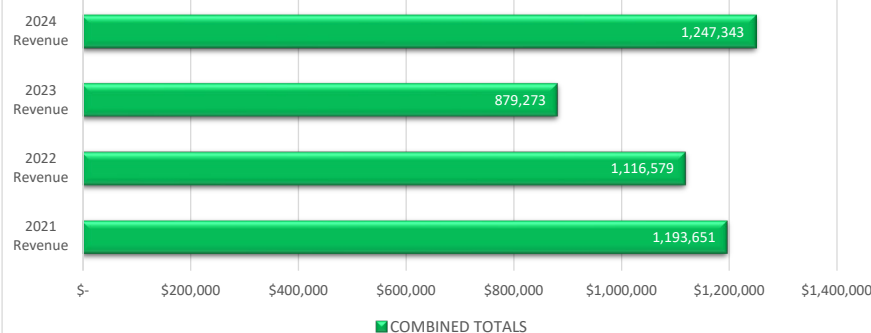
RESIDENT SMALL GAME REVENUE COMPARISON



NONRESIDENT SMALL GAME REVENUE COMPARISON



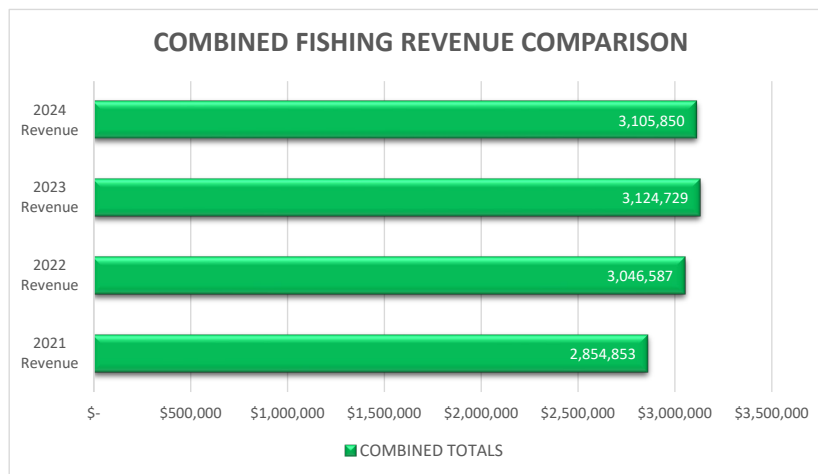
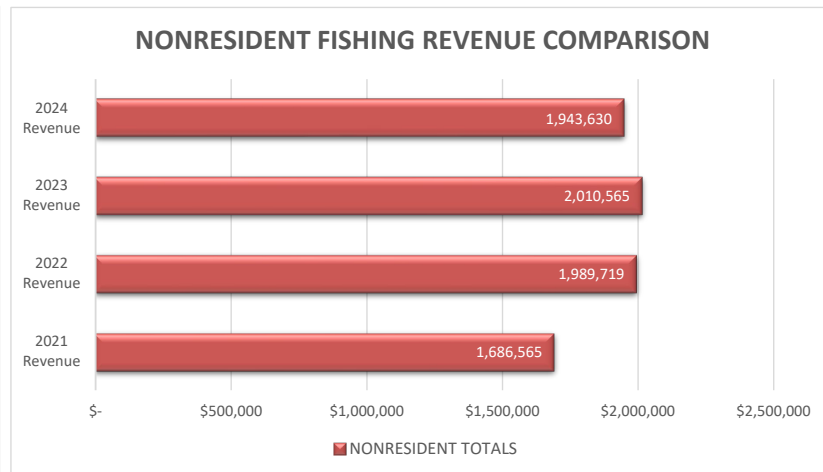
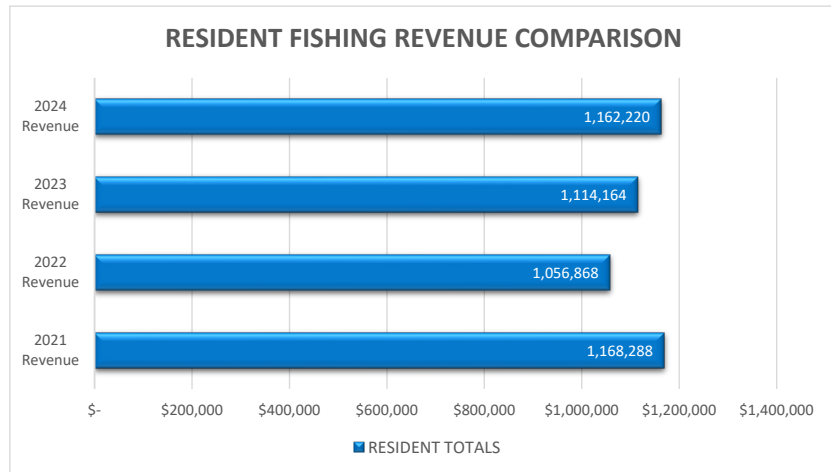
COMBINED SMALL GAME REVENUE COMPARISON



FISHING LICENSES

December 15 - May 31

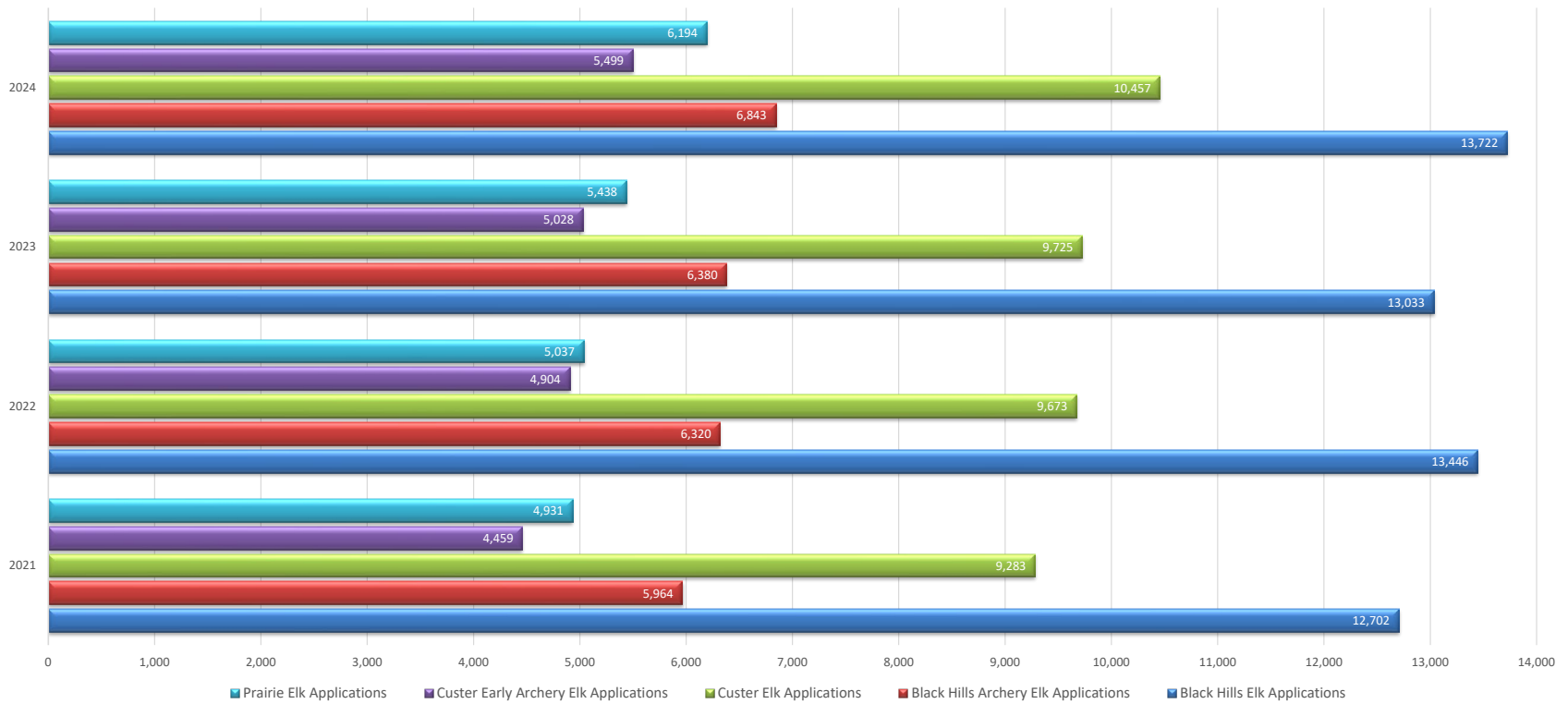
License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
1-Day Fishing	1,805	1,481	1,844	1,710	2,039	\$16,312	195	329	\$1,560	\$2,632	19%
Annual Fishing	36,933	33,366	35,099	35,133	36,520	\$1,022,560	1,421	1,387	\$39,788	\$38,845	4%
Senior Fishing	9,977	9,231	9,720	9,643	10,279	\$123,348	559	636	\$6,708	\$7,636	7%
RESIDENT TOTALS	48,715	44,078	46,663	46,485	48,838	\$1,162,220	2,175	2,353	\$48,056	\$49,113	5.06%
1-Day Fishing	11,696	10,284	9,917	10,632	10,083	\$161,328	166	(549)	\$2,656	(\$8,789)	-5%
3-Day Fishing	6,471	6,507	6,876	6,618	6,107	\$225,959	(769)	(511)	(\$28,453)	(\$18,907)	-8%
Annual Fishing	18,806	23,648	23,843	22,099	23,229	\$1,556,343	(614)	1,130	(\$41,138)	\$75,710	5%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	36,973	40,439	40,636	39,349	39,419	\$1,943,630	(1,217)	70	(\$66,935)	\$48,014	0.18%
COMBINED TOTALS	85,688	84,517	87,299	85,835	88,257	\$3,105,850	958	2,422	(\$18,879)	\$97,127	2.82%



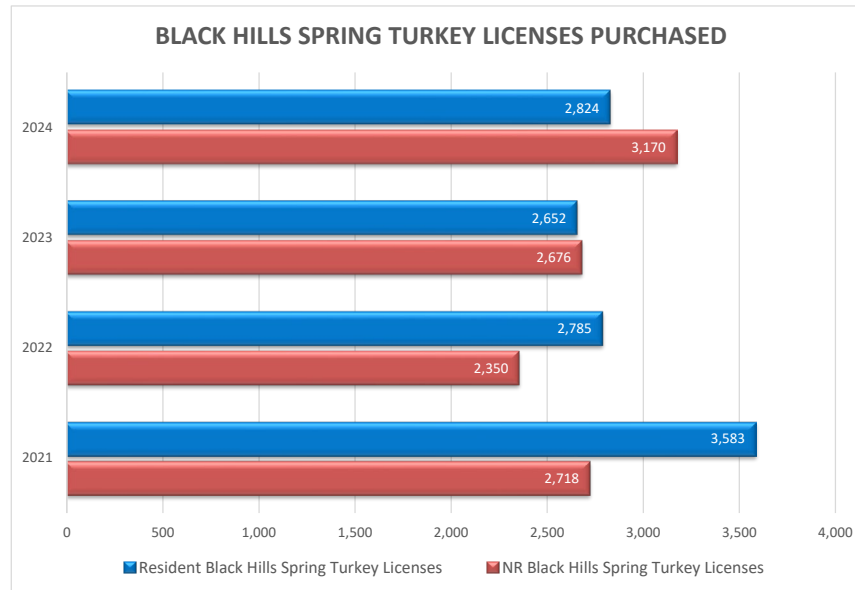
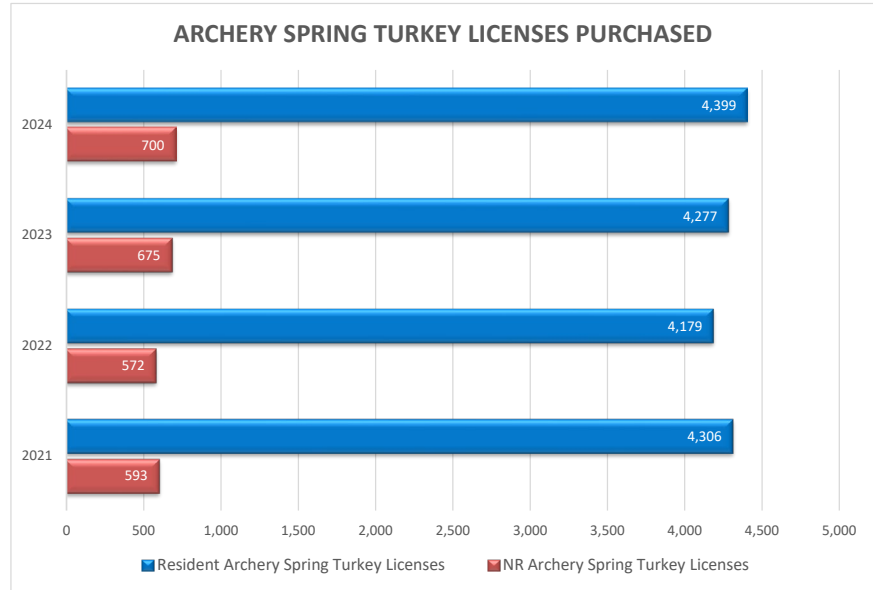
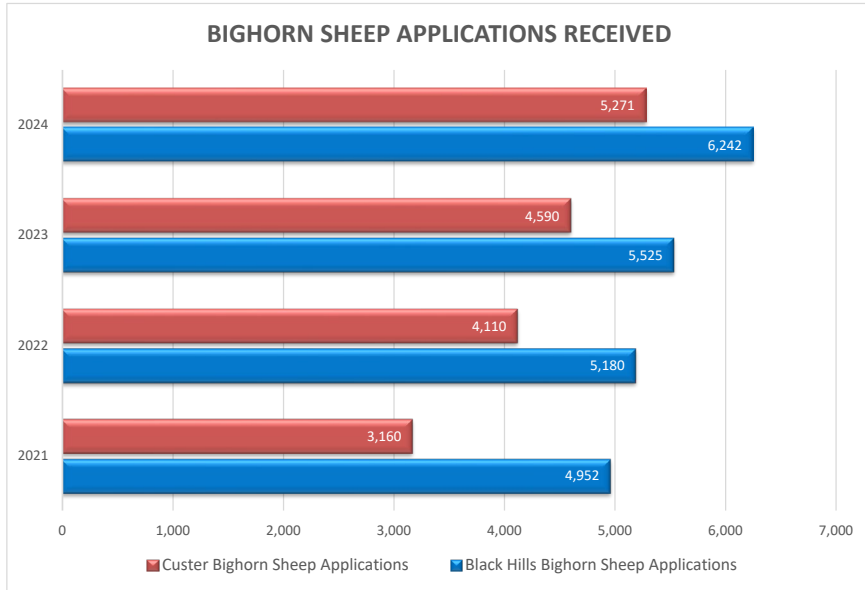
2024 BIG GAME LICENSES

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
Resident Mentored Spring Turkey Licenses	1,422	1,570	1,631	1,541	1,739	\$8,695	108	198	\$540	\$990	13%
NR Mentored Spring Turkey Licenses	n/a	66	66	n/a	106	\$1,060	40	n/a	\$400	n/a	n/a
Resident Archery Spring Turkey Licenses	4,306	4,179	4,277	4,254	4,399	\$109,975	122	145	\$3,050	\$3,625	3%
NR Archery Spring Turkey Licenses	593	572	675	613	700	\$70,000	25	87	\$2,500	\$8,667	14%
Resident Black Hills Spring Turkey Licenses	3,583	2,785	2,652	3,007	2,824	\$70,600	172	(183)	\$4,300	(\$4,567)	-6%
NR Black Hills Spring Turkey Licenses	2,718	2,350	2,676	2,581	3,170	\$317,000	494	589	\$49,400	\$58,867	23%
Black Hills Elk	934	926	934	931	980	\$136,016	46	49	\$7,293	\$31,223	5%
Black Hills Archery Elk	219	243	237	233	257	\$39,450	20	24	\$1,927	\$6,617	10%
Custer Elk	8	11	11	10	15	\$4,590	4	5	\$1,224	\$1,530	50%
Custer Early Archery Elk	3	4	4	4	5	\$1,530	1	1	\$306	\$408	36%
Prairie Elk	257	256	283	265	325	\$40,070	42	60	\$9,294	\$11,115	22%
Black Hills Bighorn Sheep	6	7	7	7	5	\$1,400	(2)	(2)	(\$560)	(\$467)	-25%
Custer Bighorn Sheep	1	3	3	2	4	\$1,120	1	2	\$280	\$467	71%
1st Draw Applications Submitted											
Black Hills Elk Applications	12,702	13,446	13,033	13,060	13,722		689	662			5%
Black Hills Archery Elk Applications	5,964	6,320	6,380	6,221	6,843		463	622			10%
Custer Elk Applications	9,283	9,673	9,725	9,560	10,457		732	897			9%
Custer Early Archery Elk Applications	4,459	4,904	5,028	4,797	5,499		471	702			15%
Prairie Elk Applications	4,931	5,037	5,438	5,135	6,194		756	1059			21%
Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Applications	4,952	5,180	5,525	5,219	6,242		717	1023			20%
Custer Bighorn Sheep Applications	3,160	4,110	4,590	3,953	5,271		681	1318			33%

ELK APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

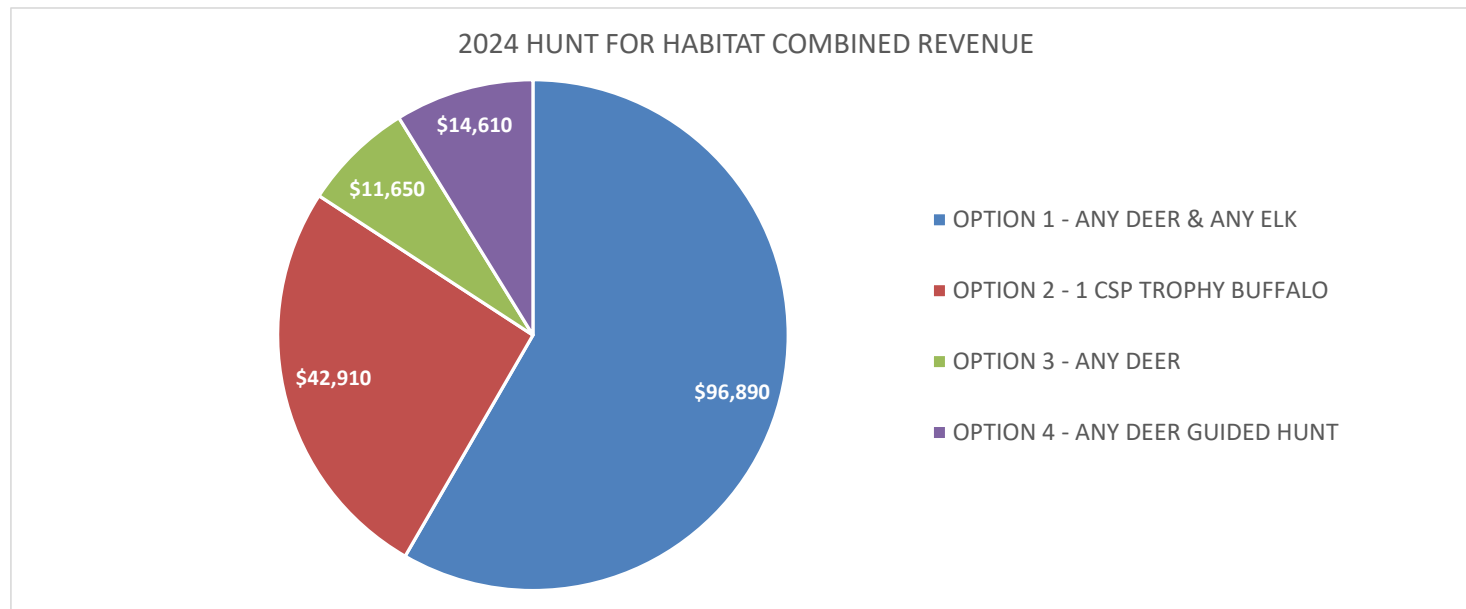
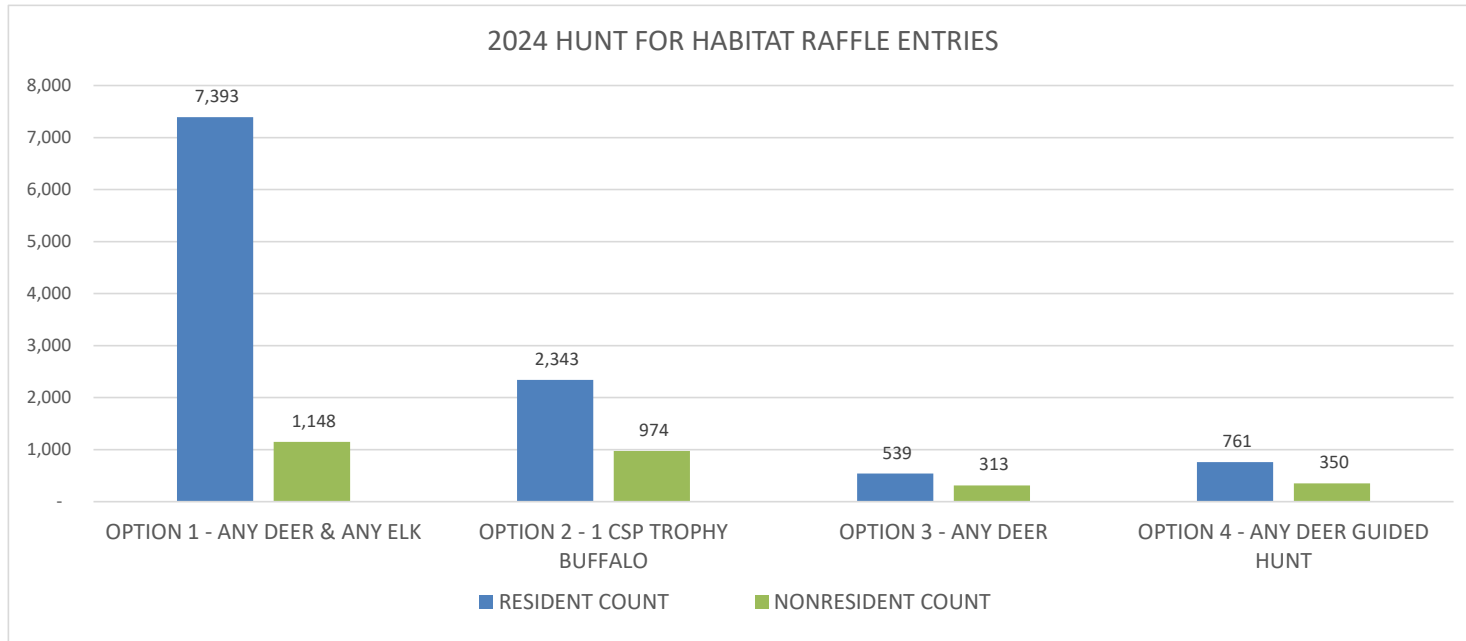


2024 BIG GAME LICENSES



* Black Hills Spring Turkey Season opened 2 weeks later starting in 2023 compared to previous years.
 * Unit BH2 is closed in 2023. Residents are only permitted one tag vs two in previous years.

2024 HUNT FOR HABITAT RAFFLE SALES THROUGH MAY 31, 2024



Public Comments - May 6 to June 2, 2024

Elk

Paul Lepisto

Attachment #12600

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please see attached comment letter from the SD Division of Izaak Walton League of America.

Other

Benjamin Brown

Pierre SD

Position: other

Comment:

Has there been any thought of having the Black Hills Spring Turkey season be a limited draw for residents and nonresidents? Or just nonresidents at a minimum?

I've been hunting turkeys in the Hills since 1999 and have seen many changes over the years. The highs and lows of the turkey populations. The change of the use of rifles to shotgun only. The limit to one tag and no longer being able to get a second tag after May 1st. To the most recent changes of pushing opening day of the Hills season to the fourth weekend in April. (As well as pushing archery season back to the opening of the shotgun seasons.) There has been an increase in popularity of hunting in the Hills mainly because of social media (YouTube, Facebook, etc.). With the abundance public land and unlimited tags for all, I can't say I blame them for coming to our great state.

The last few years there has been more and more hunters, in particular more nonresidents. It has become very apparent that the supply and demand is getting out of control. Last weekend I was hunting turkeys with family and friends in the Hills, but the amount of hunters is unbelievable. One particular area we hunt had 11 vehicles all of which were nonresidents... Another area had 7 vehicles with one South Dakota license plate. This went on and on everywhere we went with a total of 47 out of state vehicles and 4 resident vehicles in one weekend in a rather small area. There definitely was not enough toms for the amount of tags. It seems to get worse every year.

Please consider making the Black Hills Spring Turkey season a limited draw.

Thank you for your time.

Benjamin Brown

Jim Hagen

Britton SD

Position: support

Comment:

Time to change the law, outdated, can't hold pkc or ukc licensed coonhunting events, common sense tells us to allow out of state hunters to participate, year around as hunts are held most months, weather permitting, thank you

Jeff Poschwatta

Kent WA

Position: support

Comment:

I support the preservation of Custer State Park Airport, 3V0 as I am an airplane camper. I have been to this airstrip and it is much needed as an access point to the park. I support the Recreational Aviation Foundation.

Leisa Bailey

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am against the Rule Proposal/Finalization to allow for out-of State hunters to use hounds to hunt raccoons to facilitate large raccoon hound hunting events here in South Dakota. I oppose collective hound hunting of small animals as a recreational sport in our State of South Dakota.

Carey Smalley

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am in opposition to the petition that would allow nonresidents to hunt raccoons with the aid of hounds. Hounding not only results in the injury & death of the wild animal, but sometimes the dogs themselves. Animals are run to exhaustion & sometimes mauled. Most people, including many sportsmen, consider hounding unethical & not "fair chase" hunting.

Yvonne Lange

Groton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm writing in opposition to the petition that would allow non-residents to hunt raccoons with the aid of hounds.

Chris Krohmer

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hound / Coon hunting. It's frightening to think about what kind of a human would find this to be any type of sport or entertainment. Are we even going to have an animal that is native to SD soon? Please don't allow this. It's just awful.

Cheriee Watterson

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose allowing non-residents hunting raccoons with dogs.

Tyler Donahue

Hermosa SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like to see BLack Hills Turkey transition to a draw and have the opener put back to match the prairie opener. More non resident tags are being sold than resident tags which is an issue I don't think the 8% cap makes sense for it as there are still good numbers of birds and would fully support resident tags going to a draw or remaining otc. I would much prefer a more quality hunting experience than being granted a tag every year.

Mary Mcwhorter

Woonsocket SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

John Ames shot 5 blue geese off Lake Prior in Woonsocket

Michael Dunlevie

Eagle CO

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the closing/decommissioning of Custer State Airport. For my trips to the area the airport offers options exclusive from others in the area. If closed I would likely stop visiting the area.

Annette Hof

Crooks SD

Position: other

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Kent Walz

Harrisburg SD

Position: support

Comment:

Why does GFP not have a verified scale to weigh fish in case of a state record. Nor do you have a listing of the places that do have verified scales. How is it then that we can keep accurate records and legitimate verifications of state records.

Julia Natvig

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Most people, including me, think hound hunting is unethical and not "fair chase" hunting. Packs of dogs chasing wild animals is also a public safety and private property issue. Dogs can run miles away from their handlers and are not under their control. Finally, this so-called "sport" is just plain cruel, sadistic and unnecessary. Leave animals in nature unharmed and keep your dogs at home by the hearth.

Tori Miles

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is cruel and unnecessary to hunt raccoons with dogs.

Alexey Egorov

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I vote against hunting raccoons with dogs. We live in the third millennium, not the Middle Ages. We have no shortage of hides or food. Killing wild animals just for the sake of killing is not modern and not even savage. This medieval tradition instills cruelty in people and should remain in the past. Taking care of the wildlife and environment rather than shooting everything that moves should become a priority. GFP is already carrying out an all-out predator genocide across South Dakota through its bounty program. Why can't you leave them alone and let them live their lives in peace on their land? South Dakota wildlife and public lands belong to all South Dakotans, not just a small group of hunters.

So, I am writing in opposition to the petition that would allow nonresidents to hunt raccoons with the aid of hounds.

Heidi Madsen

Carpenter SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing in opposition to the petition that would allow nonresidents to hunt raccoons with the aid of hounds.

Renee Lefthand

Freeman SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Do not agree with allowing raccoons to be more hunted. Just stop

Adrian Forrette

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Not only am I opposed and dismayed by the petition to allow non-residents permit to hunt raccoons with dogs, I am opposed to the hunting of raccoons. The wanton culture of animal cruelty promoted by our governor must be replaced with compassion, here and now. Thank you!

Adrian Forrette

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Not only am I opposed and dismayed by the petition to allow non-residents permit to hunt raccoons with dogs, I am opposed to the hunting of raccoons. The wanton culture of animal cruelty promoted by our governor must be replaced with compassion, here and now. Thank you!

Jeanette Williams

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

For God's sake please do not allow dogs to hunt raccoons.

Chandra Knowles-Dicus

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Out of state hunters should not be allowed to come.in with dogs to hunt raccoons.

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

At 5:52 pm MT on June 2nd (written comment deadline day) you don't have a field for the finalization to the fur-bearer season: the rule change for raccoon season to allow out-of-state hound hunters.

You don't have an agenda up or an early version of the Commission Book or a copy of the public notice of the hearing.

In recent months, you have stopped publishing the proposals as separate items, and people have to find them in the Commission Book. So people wanting to learn if they need comment on raccoons, they have to download the whole May Commission book from the archives and search for proposals.

This is inadequate notice.

Dean Parker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm writing in opposition of the petition that would allow nonresidents to hunt raccoons with dogs. Hound hunting not only results in the injury and death of the wild animal, but sometimes the dogs themselves.

Animals are run to exhaustion and can be mauled if not able to climb a tree in time. Most people, including many sportsmen, consider hounding unethical and not "fair chase" hunting.

South Dakotans do not want more hound hunting opportunities in our state.

Sara Parker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a life-long resident of South Dakota, I'm writing in opposition of the rule/proposal that would allow out-of-state hunters to use dogs to hunt raccoons.

Hound hunting is inhumane – it not only results in the injury and death of the wild animal, but sometimes the dogs themselves. Animals are run to exhaustion and can be mauled if unable to climb a tree in time. Hound hunting of raccoons is animal cruelty, and hound hunting by groups of hunters in competitions creates cumulative cruelty.

Packs of dogs chasing wild animals are also a public safety and private property issue - dogs can run miles away from their handlers and are not under their control. Dogs can't read No Trespassing or Private Property signs....

Please don't let the agenda of a special interest group dictate the policy of our wildlife. South Dakota wildlife and public lands belong to all South Dakotans to enjoy, not just a select few.

Wolfgang & Kathleen Schmidt

Nemo SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Is it really necessary to allow out-of-state hunters to hunt raccoons with hounds? Haven't enough raccoons been killed this year with the cruel Nest Predator Bounty Program? From what we can tell on the GF&P site, over 22,600 raccoons have been trapped and killed in 2024 alone. Our state has become nationally known lately for animal cruelty. It is about time we turn this negative publicity around and stop all of this senseless killing of the wildlife that inhabits our state.

John Hauge

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing to express my complete opposition to allowing non-residents to hunt raccoons with the aid of hounds. I have not seen a live raccoon for years. There just doesn't seem to be any around. I also judge the number by the amount of roadkill I see while driving around the state. I see far less roadkill of raccoons than I did 10 years ago. A rough method, but should be proportional to the density of raccoons. The NPBP has reduced the population considerably.

Thank you,
John Hauge

Suzan Nolan

Rapid City TX

Position: oppose

Comment:

I vehemently oppose hunting of mountain lions and raccoons with hounds. This is cruel and inhumane. It's only done for sport and the wanton killing of animals upsets the balance of nature. I also oppose allowing this for out of state hunters as well as in state hunters. Honestly, what depths people will sink to!

Julie Anderson

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose allowing non residents to hound hunt raccoons.

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Nancy Hilding
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
Black Hawk, SD 57718

Attachment #12617

We attach our comment letter on the proposal to allow out-of-state hound hunters for raccoon

Vickie Hauge

Deadwood SD

Position: other

Comment:

I am writing about your proposal to allow out of state hunters with hounds, to come here & hunt raccoons. I feel like you are making these decisions to keep your positions in GFP, at the expense of the animals in this state. Cruelty knows no limit in the decisions that have been made in this state, since our current governor has been in office. I use to feel that you in the GFP world, did your best to manage our wildlife for future generations enjoyment. Bringing hounds & hunters into this state for the money, is so sad. Our state is better than this I hope! I ask you to reconsider this proposal. Thank you.

South Dakota Division



The Izaak Walton League of America

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters, and Wildlife

May 31, 2024

Re: Landowner on Own Land or Operator Leased Antlerless Elk Tag Proposal

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America (Division) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposal to create a landowner on own land or operator leased antlerless elk tag in the Prairie Elk Unit.

The passage of Senate Bill 173 authorized the creation of a new landowner on own land, or an operator leased, antlerless elk license. SB 173 charged you with promulgating rules that establish the number of licenses, determine eligibility criteria, and set the fee for this license.

During the legislative session, the Division asked that SB 173 be amended and specify that the license could only go to a person that owns, or leases, land “for agricultural purposes”. We felt that clarifying language was critically important to ensure that a person could not lease land in the prairie unit and then be “automatically” eligible to purchase an antlerless elk tag every year.

We believe the amendment to SB 173 was a fairness issue. We think the amendment helps maintain the integrity of the state’s elk license draw and prevents a person from circumventing the license draw process. As you are aware, an elk tag is the most coveted big game license in the state. Last year over 47,000 applications were received for the state’s elk licenses.

During the session, the Division opposed SB 173. We believed the bill, as written, was too broad and not based on science. No population survey is conducted in the prairie elk unit. Currently there isn’t any scientific data or an accurate assessment of elk numbers in the prairie management unit.

Under this proposal, fifty percent of an approved unit’s licenses would be available to persons who qualify for landowner owned land or leased operator preference under the provisions of SDCL 41-6-21.

To qualify for this license a person must own, or lease, agricultural land within an elk unit that has at least 500 elk use days since the last day of the previous application period. An elk use day is defined as any day an elk feeds or waters on private land.

The South Dakota Division opposes this proposal if it continues to include the entire West River Area (PRE-WRA). As previously stated, it’s unknown if the elk population in that huge management unit are above, or below, any population objectives.

Establishing a new license for that entire management unit, without a scientifically obtained population estimate, we think is putting the cart in front of the horse.

The Division believes it's imperative that an accurate population survey be conducted, and be fully assessed, before the step of landowner on own land or leased operator license is taken. If this proposal were limited to only include elk units PRE-11D and PRE-11E in Bennett and Jackson counties, where elk crop depredation has been documented, we could support it

Regarding the eligibility criteria for a landowner on owned land or leased operator to qualify for an antlerless elk tag, the Division recommends changing the minimum number of acres required for a person to qualify. We urge changing that requirement from the proposed 240 acres to 480 acres. The reason being is that elk constantly move. They are here today and are 10-20 miles away tomorrow.

As stated earlier, an elk tag is the most sought-after big game license in the state. Increasing the minimum acreage requirement for this license would make more tags available in the public draw. That means more South Dakota hunters will have the chance to purchase those tags and get to experience the thrill of hunting elk in South Dakota.

We support the provision in this proposal that states only one qualifying applicant per ranch per year may purchase a landowner own land or operator leased elk license. The qualifying applicant for a ranch unit may not purchase a landowner own land or operator leased elk license if any qualifying member of that ranch unit holds a valid elk license for that management unit.

We support the proposal that states that a ranch unit cannot be subdivided to qualify more than one landowner own land or leased operator antlerless elk license. We also support the proposal that has the cost for a landowner on own land or leased operator antlerless elk license at one-half the fee of the antlerless elk license in § 41:06:02:03.

This proposal states there were landowners who did not receive an antlerless elk license in 2023 for the Prairie Elk hunting season. During the past Legislative Session not one landowner testified in support of SB 173, either in-person or remotely. No landowner expressed their support for the measure during the bill's public hearings. No landowner testified about their inability to purchase an antlerless elk license in the prairie unit.

The Division understands GFP is attempting to mitigate elk depredation issues and ease landowner-elk conflicts. However, the Division reminds you that the Department has already established methods, through the Animal Damage Control Program, to do just that. This includes the use of protective fencing and, when needed, establishing special depredation hunts to reduce local elk numbers.

Finally, we concur with the Department and what is stated in the proposal, that because antlerless elk harvest with landowner own land or operator leased licenses is a complete unknown, if this license is approved, we agree that this must be done very conservatively.

Prairie elk population numbers are unknown. To expand elk populations and create additional

hunting opportunities for all South Dakotans, the last thing you want to do is to facilitate the harvest too many cow elk in the Prairie Management Unit.

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America thanks you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal and for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Lepisto".

Paul Lepisto
Regional Conservation Coordinator
Izaak Walton League of America
1115 South Cleveland Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-4456
plepisto@iwla.org

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
June 2nd, 2024

SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Game, Fish and Parks Commission

RE: Proposal to **allow out-of-state hound hunters to hunt raccoon** in SD. https://phas-wsd.org/wp-content/uploads/Raccoons.Hound_HuntRule.June23Commission.pdf

We are opposed to all hound hunting of wildlife, except for that related to research efforts, removal of conflict animals and perhaps in some instances where an endangered or threatened species is at risk. We believe hound hunting can result in animal cruelty to both the target wildlife and the dogs. If you persist with promotion and increasing of hound hunting, you need to balance that with regulations to minimize potential for animal cruelty to wildlife and/or dogs. We suggested some as petitions for rule-making in fall 2023, but unfortunately those were rejected.

The original petitioner in the fall of 2023 wanted out-of-state hound hunters so as to accompany locals and to attend raccoon hound hunting competitions.

We **object to hunting competitions**, whose methods involve killing and/or chasing target animals. We are aware that some raccoon hound hunting competitions kill the treed raccoons and some don't. We are aware that some barking contests suspend live raccoons in cages above barking dogs and some suspend dead raccoons. We don't believe that SD has any regulations to govern raccoon hound hunting competitions, so as to address animal cruelty issues, and if you are going to promote animal hunting competitions, you should create some regulation of competitions.

We are aware that some folks training dogs to hunt raccoon, engage in "blooding", where dogs learn to kill a raccoon in a flimsy cage. We include a link to a video on raccoon hound hunting that shows hunters repeatedly shooting raccoons at night in trees, which raccoons fall to the ground alive to be mauled by dogs, and in one instance, hunter pulls dog away to allow raccoon to go up the tree and be shot, to protect the dog from the raccoon bites/scratches.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUIK-Scw1eY>

There is no statewide law requiring **rabies shots** for local in-state dogs. This is left up to the counties or cities. There is however a state law or rule that requires rabies shots for out-of-

state dogs who will be here for a month or longer. In southern and eastern USA raccoons are one of several wildlife species, where rabies is a concern. Due to risk of hounds who hunt raccoons being bitten by the raccoons and the potential for trespass by hounds, we request the raccoon hunting season rule be amended to:

1) require rabies shots of any hound used for hound hunting of raccoons, whether the hound lives in or out-of-state.

2) We also request distemper shots be required, as both species get distemper, as do so many other mammals.

3) require micro-chips so dogs can be identified

4) require e-collars so they can be better controlled

Requiring the dog owners to invest dollars in the health of their dogs, may dampen the practice of killing dogs between hunting seasons to save money caring for them.

We are opposed to hound hunting for the risk of trespass and disturbance to non-target wildlife. Raccoon hunting happens at night so there is more risk of non-target wildlife, domestic animals or property being shot or disturbed.

We include a link to an article where raccoons in European Zoo are shown to preferentially eat zebra mussels. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23308249.2023.2235437>
European raccoons are exotic transplants from America.

Raccoons will be targeted by both the new coon hunters and the Nest Predator Bounty Program (NPBP), where raccoons are taken the most (42,300 raccoons or 83% of predators trapped for NPBP in 2023). Raccoon pelts on the fur market are worth less than the \$10 the NPBP pays, which may reflect why so many are killed in the NPBP. It seems SDGFP disregards raccoons, their intelligence and their importance.

If you move forward with this rule, we suggest you amend it to outlaw raccoon hunting or trapping in the immediate vicinity of any lake or surface water infested by zebra mussels.

Raccoons have very sensitive hands and their hands are more sensitive when wet (which is why they seem to be always washing things). We believe the very long 3 and a partial day and 2 and a partial day, trap check times of SD, while egregious for all SD wildlife, they are especially egregious for raccoons.

Thanks,



Nancy Hilding

DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

This meeting will be held in person, via zoom/conference call, and Livestream. Listen to the meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. CST via Livestream at <https://www.sd.net/remote1/> or join via zoom by clicking on the link below. Depending on your application, you may be required to enter the meeting ID and password. Remember to **enter your display name and mute your microphone**. To help keep background noise and distractions to a minimum, make sure you **mute your microphone and turn off your video** when you are not speaking.

Thursday, June 6, 2024, starting at 1 pm CST and Friday, June 7, 2024, starting at 8 am CST,

Zoom Meeting Link <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/92827772568?pwd=cHByUFlQNi8rRXJ0dGIEazNRbjBqZz09>

or join via conference call Dial 1 253 205 0468 Meeting ID: 928 2777 2568 Passcode: 421262

Public Input: To provide comments, join the meeting in person, via zoom, or via conference call per the info above. To conduct the public hearing and/or open forum as efficiently as possible, we ask those wishing to testify to **register by 1:00 pm CST the day of the meeting by email to Liz.Kierl@state.sd.us**. Testifiers should provide **their full names, whom they represent, their city of residence, and which proposed topic they will address**.

Written comments can be submitted at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record, comments must include the complete name and city of residence and meet the **submission deadline of seventy-two hours before the meeting (not including the day of the meeting)**.

Dated this 30th day of May 2024.

Stephanie Rissler

Stephanie Rissler, GFP Commission Chair