



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

JUNE 11 AND 12, 2026 | MADISON, SD
HEARTLAND ENERGY

MEETING INFO

This agenda is subject to change without prior notice.

Date and Time: June 11, 2026, from 1-5 pm CST and June 12, 2026, from 8 am-12 pm CST

Meeting Location: Heartland Energy, 423 SE 12th Street, Madison, SD 57042

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

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

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

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

Meeting ID: 912 6417 6710

Passcode: 970458

Call In: +17193594580,,91264176710# US

Video Conference ID: 91264176710@zoomcrc.com

AGENDA

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

Division of Administration

Action Items

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
4. License List Request – Hunt Lead Free
5. 2027 Budget Approval

Informational Items

6. Staff Introductions

Public Hearing

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

Open Forum (2 pm CST / 1 pm MT)

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

Petitions

7. Petition 256 – Tagging of Harvested Preserve Birds
8. Petition 257 – Preserve Transportation Permit

Proposals

9. General License Provisions - Definitions
10. Spring and Fall Turkey Seasons

Finalizations

11. Youth, Mentor, and Apprentice Deer

Division of Wildlife

Action Items

12. Antelope Survey and License Allocation
13. Big Game Depredation Hunts

Informational Items

14. Law Enforcement Overview of Recruiting and Training
15. Outdoor Campus East Update
16. 2025 Small Game Harvest Report
17. Walleye Genetics
18. Youth Trapping Recruitment Program and Coyote Bounty Updates
19. Community Fishery Study
20. Private Lands Habitat Program
21. License Sales Report

Division of Parks and Recreation

Informational Items

22. Strategic Marketing Using Dashboard Data
23. Custer State Park Resort Lease RFP
24. Park Division Assets
25. North Point Breakwater Project
26. America 250 Update
27. May and Year to Date Camping and Revenue 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 9 and 10, 2026 starting at 1 pm CST at The Galley in Webster, SD.

The main reason for this letter is the unfair deer license application process.

Example: SD citizens can apply for every elk license available but can ONLY get one permit.

Why not have a similar program for deer hunters. Apply for several but only accept two.

My preference points:

Black Hills:	8
CSP:	22
East River	2
Muzzleloaders	6
Refuge	3
WR special buck	1

Some are very competitive so I apply for ER and WR usually.

And I wish the special buck drawing was AFTER the regular one so if I didn't draw, I would have another chance.

Look at the ^{revenue} (\$4's) GFP could make following my suggestions.

COMPLAINT #1.

There are many road killed deer just left to rot. Even some flagged are NEVER picked up.

COMPLAINT #2.

I hate the predator control program. It is ill advised and corrupt.

First, the killing of critters in the spring would have a killing ratio of 50 percent females. This means for every female killed, thousands of young are left in their den to die of starvation. This is absolutely ANIMAL CRUELTY. A pet owner doing the same thing would be fined and, possibly, jailed. There are also thousands of road kill tails turned in. A "friend" bragged about collecting the maximum for him and his dad, just by stopping along the road.

I would suggest an insert in hunting licenses stating hunters can kill varmints on public land and, with land owners permission, on private land.

COMPLAINT #3

Everyone, and I MEAN EVERYONE, I know absolutely HATES the license application process. This includes old codgers like me, 82yo, and also youngsters! And my credit card is charged to an outfit in Florida.

This is like Kristi Noem saying South Dakota doesn't have a dentist ~~good~~ good enough for her. South Dakota doesn't have anyone with the technical knowledge to create a user friendly web site.

There should also be an insert about protected birds. There seems to be the old mindset for some that every hawk or owl is a killer of pheasants. I've seen crippled hawks and was with a group when a white owl was shot. It sickened me — but the shooter was the landowner.

Curtis J Pansch
605 940-1788
curtis.pansch@gmail.com



Curtis J Pansch
8602 E Saddle Creek Rd
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Public Comments

Apprentice, Mentor, and Youth Deer Licenses

Nicholas Nielson

Alexandria SD

Position: other

Comment:

I understand the need to reduce antlerless tags in the area, but disagree with removing youth opportunities. I propose keeping youth season and remove mentored and apprentice as a compromise.

Other

Andrew Nielson

Lennox SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I suggest cancel mentor and apprentice but keep youth as compromise.

Jim Gruber

Estelline SD

Position: other

Comment:

Some change to the youth hunting is understandable. But, I feel that this 50 percent allocation of licenses to land owners needs adjusting. In order to qualify for a landowner or free license the property owner should be required to leave a specific amount of good plot til April the following spring. NE SD had turned into a biological desert from dec to may every year. How can you continue to try to increase numbers when wildlife has no way to survive for 7 months. Farming practices have changed. The landscape habitat is disappearing , yet the hunting numbers are not declining.

Justin Allen

Pierre SD

Position: other

Comment:

Topic: Archery Antelope

Please at least discuss limited draw for archery antelope. Last year (2025) had the lowest firearm licenses available in 30 years but at the same time sold the most antelope archery licenses EVER! It also had the highest harvest of antelope by archery hunters EVER! SD GFP and bowhunters can talk all they want about ways to increase antelope numbers but when you have ZERO management of archery harvest and pressure its a mood point. GFP and bowhunters need to start realizing (they do but won't admit it) that archery harvest of deer and antelope has a significant effect on populations and management of the species Step up and be a leader. You can do better.

Justin Allen
Pierre, SD

Jenny Hamran

Canton SD

Position: other

Comment:

Why can't there be longer docks put in on Lake Madison when levels are so low????!!!been awful for 4 years.

Jenny Hamran

Canton SD

Position: other

Comment:

Why can't there be longer docks put in on Lake Madison when levels are so low????!!!been awful for 4 years.

Eugene Opbroek

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

why are depredation payments being made to landowners who do not allow the public to hunt free. This was against the GF&P guidelines at one time and still should be!! Why are my license fees paying someone to charge for hunting and getting payments as well. Many sportsmen cannot afford to pay to hunt and would happily reduce the numbers to assist with depredation. Looks like this is poor management of our fee dollars to a lot of residents!

Denny Rowley

Madison SD

Position: other

Comment:

Denny rowley president / moderator lake county pro pheasants. Joint venture at reynolds slough lake county sd on public shooting are enhancement. Your scheduled to view project and representatives with pro pheasants would like to attend and provide positive comments (if requested) on funding and enhancement of the public shooting area .. please advise if that possible

Spencer Poel

Aberdeen SD

Position: other

Comment:

I would like to voice my opinion on the restocking of Richmond Lake in Brown county after the dam is rebuilt in a few years. I would love to see this managed as a primarily panfish lake. This would be nice change of pace from the normal walleye stocking that don't seem to naturally reproduce there. I feel there is plenty of evidence to support the natural reproduction of crappies and bluegills along with community support of adding a primarily panfish lake in the area. Regards, Spencer Poel

Dane Jensen

Buffalo SD

Position: other

Comment:

Archery antelope tags need to be reduced greatly in Harding and surrounding counties. The amount of hunters in August/September is out of hand and has had a large impact on antelope numbers. Gun licenses have been reduced but not archery. Makes no sense.

Paul Gibb

Biggsville IL

Position: other

Comment:

Concerning campground reservations, why can't you view a specific site number in a campground to see the dates that are available to reserve that site? If that feature is available it should be more obvious to the user.



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

May 7-8, 2026 | Custer State Park Event Barn, Custer, SD

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 8 am MT at the Custer State Park Event Barn, in Custer, SD on May 7, 2026. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Bruce Cull, and Travis Theel, Kevin Nyberg, Julie Bartling, Dean Kirkeby, Robert Whitmyre and Chuck Spring 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 97 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.

Governance

[Info Item]

Nick Michels, General Counsel for the department, conducted a governance meeting to educate the commissioners about their role in state government. Topics included the history of the Commission, conflict of interest laws, the Commission's quasi-legislative functions, the Commission's quasi-judicial functions, and the Commission's meeting format in relation to South Dakota's open meeting laws. Callyn Donald, Deputy Finance Director, spoke on the topic of the Department's budget, and Kevin Robling, Department Secretary, spoke on the topic of the North American Wildlife Conservation Model.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

[Action Item]

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

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO APPROVE THE APRIL 2026 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Additional Salary Days

[Action Item]

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

Public Hearing

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor at 2:04 pm MT for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda as finalization.

Agenda Item #4: Black Hills Firearm Elk Season

2:04 pm MT: Dana Rogers of Hill City, SD representing the South Dakota Wildlife Federation testified in person in support of increasing the elk management objective.

2:06 pm MT: Mike Kintigh of Hermosa, SD representing the Schlecht Ranch testified in person in favor the Black Hills firearm elk season.

2:10 pm MT: Clinton Rittburger, landowner from Hermosa, SD, testified in person in favor of the Black Hills firearm elk season.

2:13 pm MT: Travis Hartshorn, landowner from Hermosa, SD, testified in person in favor of the Black Hills firearm elk season.

2:14 pm MT: Jesse Sorenson, landowner from Hermosa, SD, testified in person in favor of the Black Hills firearm elk season.



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2:15 pm MT: Chris Vinatieri, Rapid City, SD testified in person in support of increasing the elk management objective.

Agenda Item #5: Deer Licenses

No testimony provided.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the public hearing closed at 2:18 pm MT.

Open Forum

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor at 2:18 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.

2:19 pm MT: Jeff Olson of Rapid City, SD representing the Black Hills Sportsmen, testified in person to thank the department for continued support for Sportsmen Against Hunger. He also spoke in support of the Elk Management Plan.

2:21 pm MT: Craig Hindle of Custer, SD representing the Custer County Commission, testified in person requesting support for the Custer Fairgrounds shooting range.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the open forum at 2:23 pm MT.

4. Black Hills Firearm Elk Season

[Action Item: Finalization]

The commission was petitioned at the April commission meeting to change the antlerless elk season dates in Black Hills firearm elk unit H4 to run concurrent with any elk season dates in October. The commission adopted the petition and made it a proposal. Season dates for antlerless elk licenses for the 2026 season will be October 1 – 31 and December 1 – 16.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO FINALIZE THE PROPOSAL. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Deer Licenses

[Action Item: Finalization]

The commission finalized administrative action to specify the number and type of licenses for the Archery, Muzzleloader, East River, and West River Deer hunting seasons. Archery and muzzleloader licenses were changed from any deer to any buck license types and licenses for East River and West River Deer hunting seasons were reduced by 1,400.

The commission also proposed a change to administrative rule that would close the Youth, Mentored, and Apprentice Deer hunting seasons in nine hunting units in southeastern South Dakota with an objective to reduce doe harvest and increase population growth in these areas. The commission will take final action on this rule change proposal at the June commission meeting.

MOTIONED BY SPRING, SECONDED BY CULL TO AMEND THE FINALIZATION FOR UNIT 49B.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO TABLE THE MOTION FOR THE AMENDMENT. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY SPRING TO TAKE THE MOTION OFF THE TABLE. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY KIRKEBY TO RECIND THE MOTION. Motion carried unanimously.



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MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY NYBERG TO APPROVE THE DEER LICENSE FINALIZATION. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY NYBERG SECONDED BY CULL TO APPROVE THE RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL FOR YOUTH, MENTORED, AND APPRENTICE DEER HUNTING SEASONS. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Elk Action Plan

[Action Item: Wildlife]

The commission adopted changes to the elk action plan to increase the proportion of archery licenses in the Black Hills, remove the hunter success criteria for any elk license recommendations, and modify the Black Hills population objective from 6,000-8,000 to 6,000-9,000.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO APPROVE THE ELK ACTION PLAN. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Antelope Hunting Season License

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Andrew Norton, Wildlife Program Administrator, shared information about Prairie and Custer State Park Antelope hunting season license numbers from 2025. Staff are currently completing the biennial fixed-wing aerial survey which will be used to recommend license types and numbers that will be finalized at the June commission meeting.

8. Hatchery Development Update

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Mike Barnes, Program Administrator, gave a presentation describing the hatchery-staff initiated improvements in recirculating aquaculture (RAS) infrastructure occurring at the three state fish hatcheries over the past 12 months. Of primary focus was the engineering background and plans for Blue Dog State Fish Hatchery, including drilling new wells, installing a new main water line, replacing aging water filtration units and associated plumbing, and the construction of a new RAS building. Cost estimates for the next four fiscal years were also provided.

9. Walleye Spawning and Spring Stocking Update 2026

[Info Item: Wildlife]

An update was given by Jake Davis, Program Administrator, to summarize walleye spawning operations in eastern South Dakota, which provided fertilized eggs for hatching, raising and subsequent stocking of walleye and saugeye into over 90 state waters. During spawning, staff collected over 97 million eggs from 8 waters in the eastern portion of the state. A brief update was also provided that staff have stocked a number of sportfish species, such as channel catfish and crappie, into 94 waters in the state.

10. AIS Operation Plan

[Info Item: Wildlife]

An update was given by Jake Davis, Program Administrator, to provide an update on upcoming AIS activities, which included both details on the annual Communications Plan, as well as the Operational Plan. The Communications Plan will again use a variety of techniques to disseminate AIS information to users, including gas station TV's, emails and social media posts. The Operations Plan outlined the detection and monitoring efforts as well as the watercraft inspection program for the 2026 field season.

11. Belle Fourche Walleye Regulation Evaluation

[Info Item: Wildlife]

An update was given by Gene Galinat, Wildlife Biologist, about the recently changed walleye regulation at Belle Fourche Reservoir. The regulation was changed to a 15-inch minimum, two fish daily limit with one allowed over 20 inches. Around 1,000 walleye were tagged in spring of 2025 and 2026 to determine



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exploitation (harvest) rates under the new regulation. Harvest has been estimated at <20% in the first year after the change and the tagging evaluation will continue for one more year.

12. Region 1 Habitat Highlights

[Info Item: Wildlife]

David Mallet, Wildlife Biologist, presented updates of habitat projects conducted by Region 1 habitat staff on GPAs. Projects discussed were food plot plantings, native grass restoration, deciduous tree release projects in the Black Hills, pine thinning, non-native species removal, and tree and shrub planting projects.

13. License Sales Reports

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Director Kirschenmann provided a short summary of license sales through the month of April. License sales remain good with fishing licenses a little behind last year compared to this time. Weather during the month of April could have played a key role in licenses sales and as an agency we are conducting key marketing and outreach to our anglers. Not many changes in small game license sales.

14. Bison Hunt License Allocation for Trophy and Non-trophy

[Info Item: Parks]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation, provided the Commission with the resident and non-resident allocation breakouts for both Custer State Park Trophy and Non-trophy Bison hunting seasons for 2026 and 2027.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY NYBERG TO APPROVE LICENSE ALLOCATIONS. The motion carried unanimously.

15. CSP Park & Resort Summer Outlook

[Info Item: Parks]

Matt Snyder, Regional Park Administrator, and Josh Schmaltz, Regency Company CEO, shared information on the upcoming season. Camping reservations are strong the parks in the West Region. They discussed efforts to do more regional marketing efforts to combat the higher gas prices currently being experienced. The Resorts are seeing strong reservations with an uptick in weddings and corporate events this summer and into the fall. Overall, staff are excited and ready to welcome another tourism season.

16. Projects in the West Region

[Info Item: Parks]

Matt Snyder, Regional Park Administrator, presented several projects that have been recently completed or in the planning stages. Projects range from a new park shop at Shadehill Recreation area to bridge repair and maintenance on the Mickelson Trail. Custer State Park saw some much-needed water improvements to French Creek Horse Camp along with planning for a new comfort station at Sylvan Lake. Angostura staff have several camping cabin improvements going on as well as planting 1,100 trees along with a drip irrigation system.

17. CSP Fire Protection Partner

[Info Item: Parks]

Sterling Smith, Staff Forester, and Jason Gooder, Division Staff Specialist, shared information on how the wildland fire command structure works within Custer State Park and the surrounding area. They discussed qualifications needed for firefighting and how resources are dispatched to fires. The different complexity levels of both wildfire and prescribed fire were also discussed.

18. Bison Herd and Range Conditions

[Info Item: Parks]

Bailey Eitel, Wildlife Biologist and Chad Kremer, Bison Herd Manager shared information on drought conditions in Custer State Park with one of the driest springs the park has ever experienced. Discussion was had about forage availability through the summer as well as how many bison are planned to be surplus between hunts and the fall auction due to the drought.



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19. Mickelson Trail Events for 2026

[Info Item: Parks]

Shannon Percy, District Park Supervisor-District 14 of Parks & Recreation, provided the Commission with an update on the four Marathons, Summer/Fall Trail Trek events and all the winter/spring events on the trail. Shannon also informed the Commission that the interpretive signs and trail maps are being updated this year.

20. Veterans Experiencing the Outdoors Donation Program

[Info Item: Parks]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented a new initiative "Operation Outdoors" that the department is planning to roll out in the next month that will provide for a donation platform for the public who utilize State Parks. The goal of the program is to assist with outdoor recreation program partnerships with local communities and organizations for Veterans seeking therapeutic/wellness opportunities using State Parks. Currently, the department hosts several of these opportunities annually and believe there is a demand for more of these across the State. State Parks will serve as the host for these with local service clubs, veteran groups, etc. serving as the event leads.

21. Marketing Plan for 2026

[Info Item: Parks]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the 2026 marketing plan along with Amy Bailey who is currently contracted with GFP to provide marketing assistance to the Parks Division for the 2026 season. Amy provided the Commission with the goals, tactics, target groups and other information related to the 2026 marketing campaign.

22. April and YTD Camping Unit and Revenue Reports

[Info Item: Parks]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the April monthly and year-to-date report numbers for the Division of Parks & Recreation related to camping units and revenue. April camping units were down 18% for the month due to poor weekend weather and 4% YTD. The Parks Division revenue was down 9% overall for the month of April and 2% YTD. Annual park entrance license sales remain very strong especially double license sales that have been promoted this spring to customers making camping reservations. The 3-year historical comparisons indicating revenue and permit sales were shared along with data on lodging and camping units.

23. Adjourn

[Action Item]

A Regular Commission Meeting will be held on June 11-12 at Heartland Energy, Madison, SD starting at 1 pm CST.

MOTIONED BY NYBERG, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:07 AM MT ON May 8, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,

Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

Request #GOVCS0128587 - GFP - Game, Fish and Parks Request

First Name	Chris
Last Name	Gukeisen
Email	chris.gukeisen@gmail.com
Telephone Number	(605) 680-0878
Type of List Requested	Mailing addresses of tag holders for deer, elk, & antelope in part of western SD
Purpose for which list will be used	Hunt Lead-Free SD has partnered with the SD Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers to provide a free box of ammunition to tag holders for deer, elk, & antelope in the following western SD units. This is a pilot program and completely voluntary. Deer Units: BH1, CU1, 15A, 15B, 21A, 21B, 27A, 27B, 27L, 35A, 35C, 35L, 49A. Elk Units: CU1, H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H7, H9, 09A, 15A, 27A, 35A, 35B, 49A. Antelope Units: CU1, 15A, 15B, 21A, 27A, 35A, 35B, 49A, 49B. The attached brochure also shows all units targeting the western border of the State and the Black Hills area.

Rolling Budget Summary Report

Agenda Item #5

FY 2027

Center 06	GAME, FISH, AND PARKS							
	Actual FY24	Actual FY25	Budgeted FY26	Inflation FY27	Exp/Red FY27	Request FY27	Recommended FY27	Rec. Inc/Dec FY27
Personal Services								
EMPLOYEE SALARIES	35,214,454	36,215,453	37,381,998	0	484,300	37,343,315	37,866,298	484,300
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	10,057,053	10,529,121	10,934,980	0	122,126	10,973,663	11,057,106	122,126
FTE	576.8	579.4	583.9		0.0	583.9	0.0	
Funding Types								
GENERAL	4,038,780	4,208,054	3,769,558	0	39,472	3,769,558	3,809,030	39,472
FEDERAL	9,959,424	10,127,782	10,475,715	0	514,660	10,852,440	10,990,375	514,660
OTHER	31,273,303	32,408,738	34,071,705	0	52,294	33,694,980	34,123,999	52,294
Total PS	<u>45,271,507</u>	<u>46,744,574</u>	<u>48,316,978</u>	0	606,426	48,316,978	48,923,404	606,426
Operating Expenses								
TRAVEL	4,898,228	4,873,034	5,180,359	0	107,825	5,288,184	5,288,184	107,825
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	37,260,310	38,995,283	37,032,506	0	870,485	37,862,354	37,902,991	870,485
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	8,327,577	8,702,377	8,404,854	0	874,260	9,279,114	9,279,114	874,260
GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	1,556,501	2,010,267	2,506,600	0	-288,244	2,218,356	2,218,356	-288,244
CAPITAL OUTLAY	25,030,088	27,755,519	28,094,830	0	1,055,798	29,150,628	29,150,628	1,055,798
OTHER	1,641,435	552,512	687,000	0	0	687,000	687,000	0
Funding Types								
GENERAL	3,279,384	3,272,195	2,476,195	0	-4,179	2,472,016	2,472,016	-4,179
FEDERAL	22,742,313	23,404,531	27,847,242	0	-3,851,191	23,994,116	23,996,051	-3,851,191
OTHER	52,692,444	56,212,265	51,582,712	0	6,475,494	58,019,504	58,058,206	6,475,494
Total OE	<u>78,714,140</u>	<u>82,888,991</u>	<u>81,906,149</u>	0	2,620,124	84,485,636	84,526,273	2,620,124
TOTAL FOR 06								
Funding Types								
GENERAL	7,318,163	7,480,248	6,245,753	0	35,293	6,241,574	6,281,046	35,293
FEDERAL	32,701,737	33,532,313	38,322,957	0	(3,336,531)	34,846,556	34,986,426	-3,336,531
OTHER	83,965,747	88,621,003	85,654,417	0	6,527,788	91,714,484	92,182,205	6,527,788
Total	<u>123,985,647</u>	<u>129,633,565</u>	<u>130,223,127</u>	0	3,226,550	132,802,614	133,449,677	3,226,550

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2027

Center 0610		Wildlife - Info							
	Actual	Actual	Budgeted	Inflation	Exp/Red	Request	Recommended	Rec. Inc/Dec	
	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY27	FY27	FY27	FY27	
Personal Services									
EMPLOYEE SALARIES	20,499,555	21,213,049	21,862,861	0	267,000	21,824,178	22,129,861	267,000	
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	6,153,207	6,442,639	6,605,945	0	88,380	6,644,628	6,694,325	88,380	
FTE	291.3	292.1	297.5		0.0	297.5	0.0		
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FEDERAL	8,411,981	8,428,925	8,748,393	0	489,691	9,123,868	9,238,084	489,691	
OTHER	18,240,781	19,226,763	19,720,413	0	-134,311	19,344,938	19,586,102	-134,311	
Total PS	26,652,762	27,655,688	28,468,806	0	355,380	28,468,806	28,824,186	355,380	
Operating Expenses									
TRAVEL	3,333,561	3,155,568	3,326,867	0	38,325	3,365,192	3,365,192	38,325	
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	25,080,121	26,043,359	25,604,661	0	1,001,655	26,581,336	26,606,316	1,001,655	
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	4,242,159	4,665,413	4,092,770	0	756,510	4,849,280	4,849,280	756,510	
GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	689,011	469,357	1,259,100	0	-288,244	970,856	970,856	-288,244	
CAPITAL OUTLAY	1,423,448	3,952,584	2,395,003	0	93,800	2,488,803	2,488,803	93,800	
OTHER	828,611	291,205	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FEDERAL	14,348,899	15,228,960	15,342,477	0	1,027,024	16,367,801	16,369,501	1,027,024	
OTHER	21,248,012	23,348,527	21,335,924	0	575,022	21,887,666	21,910,946	575,022	
Total OE	35,596,912	38,577,486	36,678,401	0	1,602,046	38,255,467	38,280,447	1,602,046	
TOTAL FOR 0610									
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FEDERAL	22,760,880	23,657,884	24,090,870	0	1,516,715	25,491,669	25,607,585	1,516,715	
OTHER	39,488,794	42,575,290	41,056,337	0	440,711	41,232,604	41,497,048	440,711	
Total	62,249,674	66,233,174	65,147,207	0	1,957,426	66,724,273	67,104,633	1,957,426	

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2027

Center 0612	Wildlife -Development/Improvement - Info							
	Actual	Actual	Budgeted	Inflation	Exp/Red	Request	Recommended	Rec. Inc/Dec
	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY27	FY27	FY27	FY27
Personal Services								
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	
Operating Expenses								
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	757,685	877,078	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	0	718,305	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL OUTLAY	6,605,190	9,579,618	11,175,000	0	-2,075,000	9,100,000	9,100,000	-2,075,000
Funding Types								
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL	697,875	2,712,500	6,712,500	0	-4,724,000	1,988,500	1,988,500	-4,724,000
OTHER	6,665,000	8,462,500	4,462,500	0	2,649,000	7,111,500	7,111,500	2,649,000
Total OE	7,362,875	11,175,000	11,175,000	0	-2,075,000	9,100,000	9,100,000	-2,075,000
TOTAL FOR 0612								
Funding Types								
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL	697,875	2,712,500	6,712,500	0	(4,724,000)	1,988,500	1,988,500	-4,724,000
OTHER	6,665,000	8,462,500	4,462,500	0	2,649,000	7,111,500	7,111,500	2,649,000
Total	7,362,875	11,175,000	11,175,000	0	(2,075,000)	9,100,000	9,100,000	(2,075,000)

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2027

Center 0622	Snowmobile Trails - Info								
	Actual FY24	Actual FY25	Budgeted FY26	Inflation FY27	Exp/Red FY27	Request FY27	Recommended FY27	Rec.	Inc/Dec FY27
Personal Services									
EMPLOYEE SALARIES	182,042	327,210	420,869	0	5,897	420,869	426,766		5,897
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	59,461	84,770	101,631	0	956	101,631	102,587		956
FTE	4.0	6.1	9.1		0.0	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	241,503	411,980	522,500	0	6,853	522,500	529,353		6,853
Total PS	241,503	411,980	522,500	0	6,853	522,500	529,353		6,853
Operating Expenses									
TRAVEL	32,759	32,369	64,359	0	0	64,359	64,359		0
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	99,779	94,606	148,309	0	336	148,309	148,645		336
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	126,423	190,540	184,750	0	0	184,750	184,750		0
GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	166,444	120,263	312,500	0	0	312,500	312,500		0
CAPITAL OUTLAY	216,912	82,217	264,000	0	0	264,000	264,000		0
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
FEDERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
OTHER	642,316	519,995	973,918	0	336	973,918	974,254		336
Total OE	642,316	519,995	973,918	0	336	973,918	974,254		336
TOTAL FOR 0622									
Funding Types									
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
FEDERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
OTHER	883,819	931,976	1,496,418	0	7,189	1,496,418	1,503,607		7,189
Total	883,819	931,976	1,496,418	0	7,189	1,496,418	1,503,607		7,189

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2027

Center 0601	Administration								
	Actual	Actual	Budgeted	Inflation	Exp/Red	Request	Recommended	Rec.	Inc/Dec
	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY27	FY27	FY27	FY27	FY27
Personal Services									
EMPLOYEE SALARIES	1,629,123	1,713,442	1,821,396	0	25,519	1,821,396	1,846,915		25,519
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	476,307	482,317	637,133	0	4,032	637,133	641,165		4,032
FTE	21.7	20.7	23.3		0.0	23.3	0.0		
Funding Types									
GENERAL	189,444	196,539	199,911	0	2,455	199,911	202,366		2,455
FEDERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
OTHER	1,915,986	1,999,220	2,258,618	0	27,096	2,258,618	2,285,714		27,096
Total PS	2,105,431	2,195,759	2,458,529	0	29,551	2,458,529	2,488,080		29,551
Operating Expenses									
TRAVEL	151,937	115,332	208,065	0	0	208,065	208,065		0
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	1,788,623	2,199,438	1,315,361	0	6,456	1,315,361	1,321,817		6,456
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	345,086	310,741	350,065	0	0	350,065	350,065		0
CAPITAL OUTLAY	40,765	39,522	24,215	0	0	24,215	24,215		0
OTHER	0	158	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000		0
Funding Types									
GENERAL	825,842	824,086	30,059	0	0	30,059	30,059		0
FEDERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
OTHER	1,500,569	1,841,107	1,869,647	0	6,456	1,869,647	1,876,103		6,456
Total OE	2,326,411	2,665,192	1,899,706	0	6,456	1,899,706	1,906,162		6,456
TOTAL FOR 0601									
Funding Types									
GENERAL	1,015,287	1,020,624	229,970	0	2,455	229,970	232,425		2,455
FEDERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
OTHER	3,416,555	3,840,326	4,128,265	0	33,552	4,128,265	4,161,817		33,552
Total	4,431,842	4,860,951	4,358,235	0	36,007	4,358,235	4,394,242		36,007

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2027

Center 0620	State Parks and Recreation							
	Actual FY24	Actual FY25	Budgeted FY26	Inflation FY27	Exp/Red FY27	Request FY27	Recommended FY27	Rec. Inc/Dec FY27
Personal Services								
EMPLOYEE SALARIES	12,903,734	12,961,752	13,276,872	0	185,884	13,276,872	13,462,756	185,884
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	3,368,077	3,519,395	3,590,271	0	28,758	3,590,271	3,619,029	28,758
FTE	259.7	260.6	254.0		0.0	254.0	0.0	
Funding Types								
GENERAL	3,849,335	4,011,515	3,569,647	0	37,017	3,569,647	3,606,664	37,017
FEDERAL	1,547,443	1,698,857	1,727,322	0	24,969	1,728,572	1,752,291	24,969
OTHER	10,875,033	10,770,775	11,570,174	0	152,656	11,568,924	11,722,830	152,656
Total PS	16,271,811	16,481,147	16,867,143	0	214,642	16,867,143	17,081,785	214,642
Operating Expenses								
TRAVEL	1,379,971	1,569,764	1,581,068	0	69,500	1,650,568	1,650,568	69,500
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	9,273,509	9,549,826	9,964,175	0	-137,962	9,817,348	9,826,213	-137,962
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	3,613,909	3,535,681	3,777,269	0	117,750	3,895,019	3,895,019	117,750
GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	701,047	702,341	935,000	0	0	935,000	935,000	0
CAPITAL OUTLAY	1,188,366	1,618,057	891,612	0	-44,602	847,010	847,010	-44,602
OTHER	812,825	261,148	685,000	0	0	685,000	685,000	0
Funding Types								
GENERAL	2,453,542	2,448,109	2,446,136	0	-4,179	2,441,957	2,441,957	-4,179
FEDERAL	2,686,539	1,548,571	2,042,265	0	58,985	2,101,015	2,101,250	58,985
OTHER	11,829,547	13,240,137	13,345,723	0	-50,120	13,286,973	13,295,603	-50,120
Total OE	16,969,627	17,236,817	17,834,124	0	4,686	17,829,945	17,838,810	4,686
TOTAL FOR 0620								
Funding Types								
GENERAL	6,302,877	6,459,624	6,015,783	0	32,838	6,011,604	6,048,621	32,838
FEDERAL	4,233,982	3,247,429	3,769,587	0	83,954	3,829,587	3,853,541	83,954
OTHER	22,704,580	24,010,912	24,915,897	0	102,536	24,855,897	25,018,433	102,536
Total	33,241,438	33,717,965	34,701,267	0	219,328	34,697,088	34,920,595	219,328

Rolling Budget Summary Report

FY 2027

Center 0621	State Parks and Recreation - Dev/Imp							
	Actual	Actual	Budgeted	Inflation	Exp/Red	Request	Recommended	Rec. Inc/Dec
	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY27	FY27	FY27	FY27
Personal Services								
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	
Operating Expenses								
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	260,592	230,976	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL OUTLAY	15,555,408	12,483,524	13,345,000	0	3,081,600	16,426,600	16,426,600	3,081,600
Funding Types								
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL	5,009,000	3,914,500	3,750,000	0	-213,200	3,536,800	3,536,800	-213,200
OTHER	10,807,000	8,800,000	9,595,000	0	3,294,800	12,889,800	12,889,800	3,294,800
Total OE	15,816,000	12,714,500	13,345,000	0	3,081,600	16,426,600	16,426,600	3,081,600
TOTAL FOR 0621								
Funding Types								
GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL	5,009,000	3,914,500	3,750,000	0	(213,200)	3,536,800	3,536,800	-213,200
OTHER	10,807,000	8,800,000	9,595,000	0	3,294,800	12,889,800	12,889,800	3,294,800
Total	15,816,000	12,714,500	13,345,000	0	3,081,600	16,426,600	16,426,600	3,081,600

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: 256

Petitioner Name: Sal Roseland

Address: 33624 171st st
Seneca , SD 57473

Email: salroseland@gmail.com

Phone: 605-216-2436

Rule Identification: Rule Identification: 41:09:01:04. Tagging of bagged birds.

Describe Change: Delay tagging until birds are cleaned to prevent contamination. Please see change request below: 41:09:01:04. Tagging of bagged birds. Serially numbered tags, supplied by the department, must be securely attached around the leg or neck of all harvested bird species that are listed on the preserve permittee's permit. All pen-reared and wild birds harvested on a preserve shall be tagged by the shooting preserve permittee, or the permittee's employees or agents, upon any of the following circumstances: (1) Prior to leaving the preserve acreage; (2) At the time the birds are cleaned or processed; (3) Prior to the birds being placed in a cooling or freezing facility; or (4) Prior to midnight of the day that the birds were harvested. CHANGE: Harvested birds may be transported directly to a lodge or cleaning facility not located on permitted acres prior to tagging if: (1) All birds being transported were harvested on preserve acres; (2) No hunting may have occurred off preserve acres; (3) Birds are transported directly to the processing facility or lodge; (4) Birds are transported by the preserve operator or employee. (5) Birds must be accompanied by the necessary kill tags; (6) Complete harvest information must be loaded into

the private shooting preserve database supplied by the Department prior to leaving preserve acres; and (7) All other transportation requirements as defined in ARSD 41:09:01:04.01 must be followed. The head, leg, or sufficient plumage must remain attached to the bird to identify the sex and species of the bird. The kill tag must remain attached to the bird while the bird is possessed, placed in public storage, transported, or shipped by anyone. However, the head, leg, and sufficient plumage may be detached from the bird and discarded if the bird is processed at a wildlife processing facility, if the bird is immediately packaged by a transparent vacuum-sealed or shrink-wrap packaging process, and if the kill tag is encased in the same package and clearly legible. The package shall contain only those individual bird parts associated with the original kill tag. No more than two birds may be enclosed in the same package. Except as provided in this section, the provisions of chapter 41:06:03 apply to the possession, processing, and transportation of game birds harvested on a preserve. Source: SL 1975, ch 16, § 1; 10 SDR 76, 10 SDR 102, effective July 1, 1984; 12 SDR 170, effective April 28, 1986; 13 SDR 26, effective September 10, 1986; 16 SDR 148, effective March 21, 1990; 23 SDR 20, effective August 13, 1996; 32 SDR 55, effective October 17, 2005; 37 SDR 18, effective August 16, 2010; 38 SDR 8, effective August 3, 2011; 43 SDR 31, effective September 14, 2016. General Authority: SDCL 41-2-18(2)(10)(16). Law Implemented: SDCL 41-2-18(2)(16), 41-10-2, 41-10-16.

Reason for Change: Immediate tagging can result in tags coming into contact with meat during cleaning, creating potential contamination issues. Allowing tagging after processing improves food safety and enhances the overall experience for hunters and operators, while still maintaining proper accountability.

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: 257

Petitioner Name: Sal Roseland

Address: 33624 171st st
Seneca , SD 57473

Email: salroseland@gmail.com

Phone: 605-216-2436

Rule Identification: 41:09:01:04.01. Private shooting preserve transportation permit -- Exception.

Describe Change: mend rule to allow transportation of birds prior to tagging. Please see suggestion below; we put * around suggested change: 41:09:01:04.01. Private shooting preserve transportation permit -- Exception. A licensed private shooting preserve permittee may obtain a transportation permit for processing purposes from the department. The permit allows the transportation of birds legally harvested on the shooting preserve to another location for processing. The kill tags must be attached to the birds *except as provided for in ARSD 41:09:01:04.* The permit must include the preserve name; the hunter's name; *the hunter's driver's license number, state issued identification number, or youth hunter safety number*; the species and number of birds transported; and the date of processing. In lieu of the transportation permit, a permittee or employee may transport permitted species harvested on a shooting preserve to another location for processing, if the carrier of the birds has a duplicate copy of the guest register required by SDCL 41-10-17. The permittee may use computer formats that list hunter and harvest information for the birds being transported for processing with prior department approval. The carrier of

the permit or guest register must be an employee of the preserve and must possess the processing permit or a copy of the guest register while in possession of the birds enroute to or from the processor. Source: 22 SDR 16, effective August 15, 1995; 33 SDR 43, effective September 18, 2006; 38 SDR 8, effective August 3, 2011; 47 SDR 27, effective September 15, 2020. General Authority: SDCL 41-2-18(2)(16). Law Implemented: SDCL 41-2-18(2)(16).

Reason for Change: This change aligns with the revised tagging requirement by ensuring birds can be legally transported to cleaning facilities before tags are applied. It maintains regulatory consistency while supporting practical handling procedures and improved meat quality.

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

General Provisions – Buck and Bull Definitions

Chapter 41:06:00

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

RECOMMENDED CHANGES

Duration: Beginning in 2026

Changes from last year:

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

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

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

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

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

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

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Custer State Park Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:15

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

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Proposal: 2027 and 2028 hunting seasons

Season Dates: April 24 – May 23, 2027 and April 22 – May 21, 2028
** No mentored hunting season in Custer State Park*

Open Area: Custer State Park

Licenses: During Spring 2026 there were 100 resident “male turkey” licenses available.
** Specific license numbers by unit are included in the administrative action item.*

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. No more than 200 one-tag male turkey may be issued to residents.
2. No person may shoot a turkey in a tree or roost.
3. 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.
4. The season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day of the season.

Recommended changes from last year: None.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Table 1. Custer State Park turkey harvest summary from 2016 to 2025.

Year	<i>Licenses Sold</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Avg. Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Satisfaction</i>
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
2024	100	26	26%	2.43	4.59
2025	99	60	60%	2.19	5.69

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

None.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

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 11-12, 2026	Madison
	Public Hearing	July 9, 2026	Webster
	Finalization	July 9-10, 2026	Webster

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Proposal: 2027 and 2028 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

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

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

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

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: During Spring 2026 there were:
Black Hills: Unlimited resident and 2,225 nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
Prairie: 9,830 resident and 318 nonresident “male turkey” licenses
Archery: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
Mentored: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses

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

Requirements and Restrictions:

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

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

Recommended changes from last year:

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

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

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

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

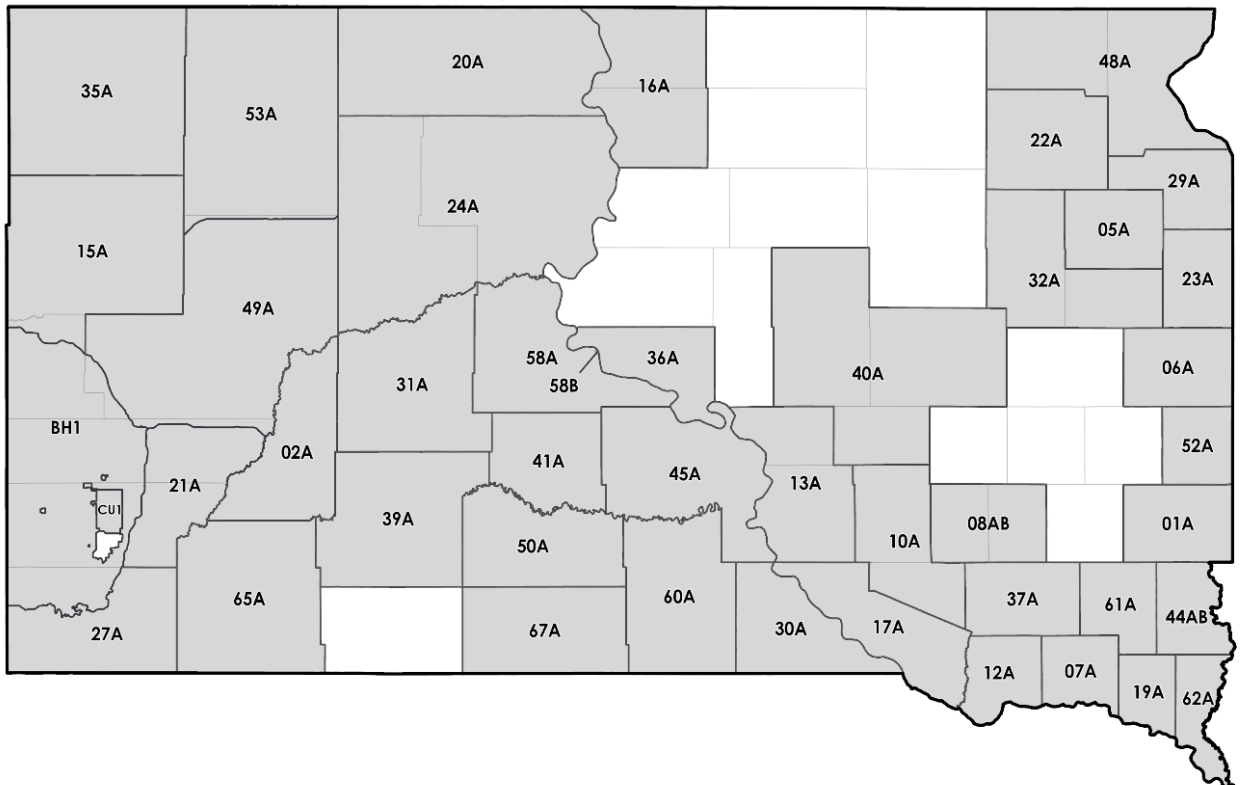


Table 1. Spring prairie turkey harvest summary from 2016 to 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

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

(1) Unit BST-BH1: excluding Custer State Park, ~~Wind Cave National Park, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and Jewel Cave National Monument~~, that portion of Lawrence County south of Interstate 90; that portion of Meade County west and south of Interstate 90; those portions of Pennington and Custer Counties west of State Highway 79; that portion of Fall River County north and west of a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 18, then east along U.S. Highway 18 to its junction with the Cheyenne River. then east along the Cheyenne River to its junction with State Highway 79; then north along State Highway 79 to its junction with the Custer County line;

(4) Unit PST-05A: Codrington County;

- ~~(4)~~ (5) Unit PST-06A: Brookings County;
- ~~(5)~~ (6) Unit PST-07A: Yankton County;
- ~~(6)~~ (7) Unit PST-08A: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April thirtieth;
- ~~(7)~~ (8) Unit PST-08B: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08B is open beginning on May first through May thirty-first;
- ~~(8)~~ (9) Unit PST-10A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;
- ~~(9)~~ (10) Unit PST-11A: Bennett County;
- ~~(10)~~ (11) Unit PST-12A: Bon Homme County;
- ~~(11)~~ (12) Unit PST-13A: Brule and Buffalo Counties;
- ~~(12)~~ (13) Unit PST-15A: Butte County and that portion of Lawrence County north of Interstate 90;
- ~~(13)~~ (14) Unit PST-16A: Campbell and Walworth Counties;
- ~~(14)~~ (15) Unit PST-17A: Charles Mix County;
- ~~(15)~~ (16) Unit PST-19A: Clay County;
- ~~(16)~~ (17) Unit PST-20A: Corson County;
- ~~(17)~~ (18) Unit PST-21A: that portion of Custer County east of State Highway 79 and that portion of Pennington County south of Interstate 90 between State Highway 79 and the Cheyenne River;
- ~~(18)~~ (19) Unit PST-22A: ~~Day County and Codrington Counties;~~
- ~~(19)~~ (20) Unit PST-23A: Deuel County;
- ~~(20)~~ (21) Unit PST-24A: Dewey and Ziebach Counties;
- ~~(21)~~ (22) Unit PST-27A: that portion of Fall River County not included in Unit BST-BH1;
- ~~(22)~~ (23) Unit PST-29A: Grant County;
- ~~(23)~~ (24) Unit PST-30A: Gregory County;
- ~~(24)~~ (25) Unit PST-32A: Hamlin and Clark Counties;
- ~~(25)~~ (26) Unit PST-35A: Harding County;
- ~~(26)~~ (27) Unit PST-36A: Hughes County;
- ~~(27)~~ (28) Unit PST-37A: Hutchinson County;
- ~~(28)~~ (29) Unit PST-39A: Jackson County;
- ~~(29)~~ (30) Unit PST-40A: Beadle, Hand, and Jerauld Counties;
- ~~(30)~~ (31) Unit PST-41A: Jones County;
- ~~(31)~~ (32) Unit PST-44A: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April thirtieth;
- ~~(32)~~ (33) Unit PST-44B: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44B is open beginning on May first through May thirty-first;
- ~~(33)~~ (34) Unit PST-45A: Lyman County;
- ~~(34)~~ (35) Unit PST-48A: Marshall County and Roberts County;
- ~~(35)~~ (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;
- ~~(36)~~ (37) Unit PST-50A: Mellette County;
- ~~(37)~~ (38) Unit PST-52A: Moody County;
- ~~(38)~~ (39) Unit PST-53A: Perkins County and that portion of Meade County north of U.S. Highway 212;
- ~~(39)~~ (40) Unit PST-56A: Sanborn County;

- ~~(40)~~ (41) Unit PST-58A: Stanley County;
~~(41)~~ (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 that is east and southeast of Powerhouse Road. This unit is bordered by the Missouri River to the east and the emergency spillway canal to the south. Unit PST-58B-is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April thirtieth, but only to licensed persons who use a wheelchair;
~~(42)~~ (43) Unit PST-60A: Tripp County;
~~(43)~~ (44) Unit PST-61A: Turner County;
~~(44)~~ (45) Unit PST-62A: Union County;
~~(45)~~ (46) Unit PST-65A: Oglala Lakota County;
~~(46)~~ (47) Unit PST-67A: Todd County; and
~~(47)~~ (48) Unit AST-ST1: statewide for archery turkey, except in Custer State Park.

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

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:14

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

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Proposal: 2026 and 2027 hunting seasons

Season Dates: Nov. 1 – Jan. 31

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: During Fall 2025 there were:

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

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

Requirements and Restrictions:

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

Changes from last year:

1. Modify § 41:06:14:02 to remove references to Federal property closures. The properties remain closed to hunting. Hunting access determinations are under the authority of the landowner.
2. Modify § 41:06:14:02.01 to remove the weapon limitation of only shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow in all units, with the exception of Minnehaha County.
3. Modify § 41:06:14:02.01 to remove the language of specific areas that are excluded in Charles Mix County (PFT-17A) to be consistent with other unit descriptions and also align all units for Spring Turkey and Fall Turkey, with the exception of unit BH1 in the Black Hills.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

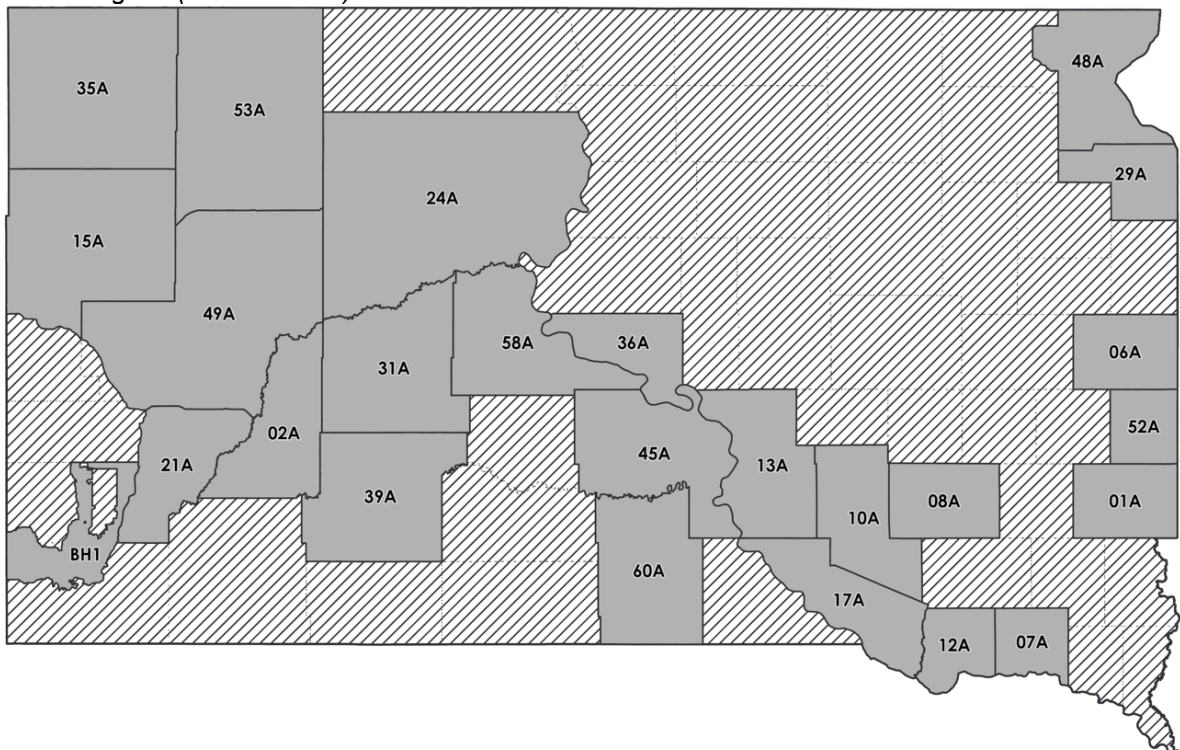


Table 1. Fall prairie turkey harvest summary from 2016 to 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

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

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

Road to the Wyoming-South Dakota state line, south on the Wyoming-South Dakota state line to U.S. Highway 18, east on U.S. Highway 18 to the Cheyenne River, east along the Cheyenne River to State Highway 79, north on State Highway 79 to the Custer/Pennington County line, and west to the Custer/Pennington County line, the point of beginning.

41:06:14:02.01. Prairie units. The following is a description of the open Except for the Black Hills fall turkey open unit and statewide spring archery turkey unit, the open prairie units for the fall wild turkey hunting season are the same geographic areas described as prairie spring turkey units in § 41:06:13:02. For the fall season, unit identifiers begin with "PFT", while spring turkey units use the "PST" prefix.

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

- (1) Unit PFT 01A: Minnehaha County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (2) Unit PFT 02A: that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River;
- (3) Unit PFT 06A: Brookings County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (4) Unit PFT 07A: Yankton County;
- (5) Unit PFT 08A: Davison and Hanson Counties. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (6) Unit PFT 10A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;
- (7) Unit PFT 12A: Bon Homme County;
- (8) Unit PFT 13A: Brule and Buffalo Counties;
- (9) Unit PFT 15A: Butte County and that portion of Lawrence County north of Interstate 90;
- (10) Unit PFT 17A: Charles Mix County, excluding Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge;
- (11) Unit PFT 19A: Clay County;
- (12) Unit PFT 21A: that portion of Custer County east of State Highway 79 and that portion of Pennington County south of Interstate 90 between State Highway 79 and the Cheyenne River;
- (13) Unit PFT 23A: Deuel County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (14) Unit PFT 24A: Dewey and Ziebach Counties;
- (15) Unit PFT 27A: that portion of Fall River County not included in Unit BFT-BH1;
- (16) Unit PFT 29A: Grant County;
- (17) Unit PFT 30A: Gregory County;
- (18) Unit PFT 31A: Haakon County;
- (19) Unit PFT 35A: Harding County;
- (20) Unit PFT 36A: Hughes County, excluding Farm Island Recreation Area, LaFramboise Island Nature Area, and department land from the Pierre city limits to Farm Island Recreation Area;
- (21) Unit PFT 37A: Hutchinson County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (22) Unit PFT 39A: Jackson County;
- (23) Unit PFT 40A: Jerauld County;
- (24) Unit PFT 41A: Jones County;
- (25) Unit PFT 44A: Lincoln County;
- (26) Unit PFT 45A: Lyman County;
- (27) Unit PFT 48A: those portions of Marshall County south and east of State Highway 25 and north of State Highway 10 and Roberts County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (28) Unit PFT 49A: those portions of Meade County not included in Units BFT-BH1 and PFT-53A, and that portion of Pennington County north of Interstate 90, west of the Cheyenne River;
- (29) Unit PFT 50A: Mellette County;
- (30) Unit PFT 52A: Moody County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (31) Unit PFT 53A: Perkins County and that portion of Meade County north of U.S. Highway 212;
- (32) Unit PFT 58A: Stanley County;
- (33) Unit PFT 60A: Tripp County;

- ~~—(34) Unit PFT-61A: Turner County;~~
- ~~—(35) Unit PFT-62A: Union County; and~~
- ~~—(36) Unit PFT-67A: Todd County.~~

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

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

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

Recommended 2027 and 2028 Spring Turkey Licenses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

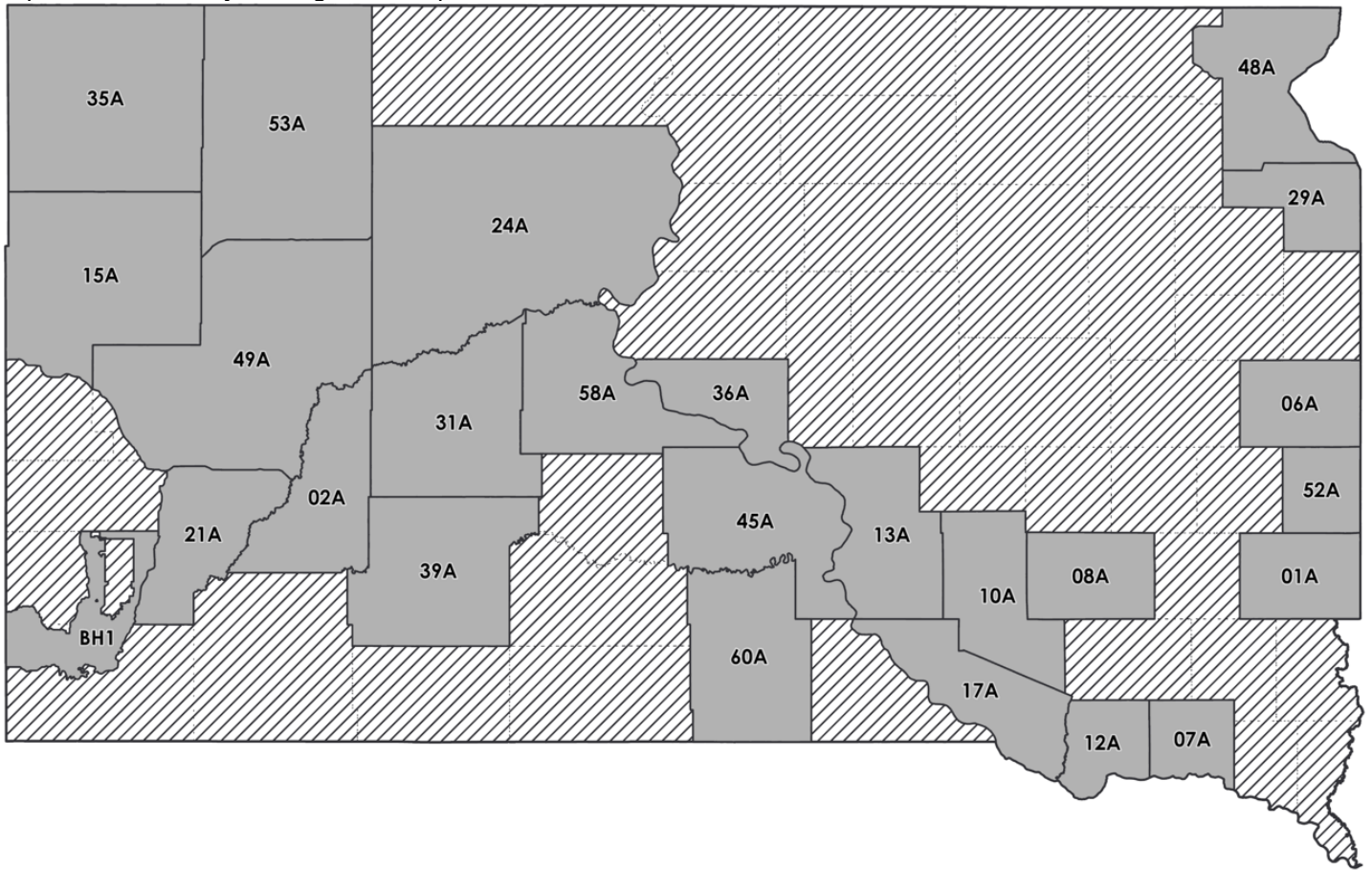
Recommended 2026 and 2027 Fall Turkey Licenses.

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

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

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

Map of fall wild turkey hunting season open units.



APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Apprentice, Mentored, and Youth Deer Hunting Seasons

Chapter 41:06:01, 41:06:44, 41:06:63

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 8, 2026	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	June 11, 2026	Madison
	Finalization	June 11-12, 2026	Madison

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration: 2026 hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 12, 2026 – January 1, 2027

Open Units: Unit APD-03 (Apprentice) and YOD-03 (Youth): West River Units 02A, 15A, 15B, 31A, 35A, 35C, 35L, 49A, 49B, 53A, 53C and 64A (See map for open area)*

Unit APD-13 and YOD-13: That portion of the state not included in Unit APD-03 and YOD-03 (See map for open area)*

**Department recommendation to close Apprentice, Mentored, and Youth Deer Hunting in nine hunting units.*

An individual with a Mentored Youth Deer (MHD) license shall adhere to date, weapon, and unit restrictions for the Youth Deer Season.

Custer State Park and National Wildlife Refuges, unless specified by the refuge, are closed to those with an Apprentice, Mentored, or Youth Deer Hunting License.

Licenses: Unit APD-03, MHD-03, and YOD-03: Single tag “any antlerless deer” license
Unit APD-13, MHD-13, and YOD-13: Single tag “antlerless whitetail deer” license

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Apprentice
 - a. Any resident hunter who has not held a license to hunt deer during the previous 10 years may purchase an Apprentice Hunter Deer License. Receipt of an Apprentice Hunter Deer License does not affect eligibility for a license in any other season.
 - b. Hunters may purchase one Apprentice Hunter Deer License valid for either Unit APD-03 or Unit APD-13.
2. Youth
 - a. Both residents and nonresidents who have reached the age of 12 years by September and have not reached the age of 18 years by June 30; and any person who has not received a Mentored Hunter Deer License may purchase a Youth Deer License. Successful applicants for the Youth Deer License are not eligible for the Mentored Hunter Deer License.
 - b. Each hunter under 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.

- c. Hunters may purchase one Youth Deer Hunting License valid for either Unit YOD-03 or Unit YOD-13.
3. Mentored
- a. Both residents and nonresidents with a Mentored Hunter license may not apply for or purchase another deer hunting license.
 - b. Mentee must purchase hunting license to hunt species and season.
 - c. Mentee must be fifteen years old or younger and accompanied by the child's parent, guardian, or other adult 18 years of age or older who has the consent of the child's parent or guardian, hereafter hunting mentor.
 - d. Mentee must be under the immediate physical, direct supervision, and responsibility of a hunting mentor, at the time the child discharges a firearm or operates a bow and arrow in the act of hunting.
 - e. Hunting mentor must be unarmed; except they may possess a concealed pistol or other legally possessed handgun.
 - f. Hunting mentor shall have successfully completed hunter safety or hunter education course (SDCL 41-7).
 - g. Hunting mentor may accompany no more than one mentee at any one time.
 - h. Mentees may purchase one Mentored Deer Hunting License valid for either Unit YOD-03 or Unit YOD-13.

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

- 1) Modify § 41:06:44 and § 41:06:63 to remove nine East River Deer Hunting units from the APD-13 and YOD-13 open unit. The following units would be removed: 07A/07B (Yankton), 08A (Davison), 12A/12B (Bon Homme), 19A (Clay), 34A (Hanson), 37A (Hutchinson), 44A (Lincoln), 61A (Turner), and 62A (Union). This will also result in a Mentored Deer (MHD-13) Hunting Season closure in these units.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Reports from the public, harvest estimates, and recruitment data for white-tailed deer in nine southeastern South Dakota hunting units suggest low deer numbers based on a severe winter, flooding, drought and multiple years of deer deaths reported as a result of hemorrhagic disease. Deer population objectives are to significantly increase in these areas.

With the expected female deer harvest from Apprentice, Mentored, and Youth deer hunters, the population is not expected to increase at population objective levels. In addition to East River Deer firearm license reductions in twelve units, a season closure for Apprentice, Mentored, and Youth Deer seasons is recommended in nine units. Among these nine units, the female deer harvest from the Apprentice, Mentored, and Youth Deer seasons was 255 in 2025 and accounted for 58% of the total female harvest.

Figure 1. Map of the recommended Youth Deer Hunting units YOD-03 and YOD-13. Mentored Deer, MHD-03 and MHD-13, and Apprentice Deer, APD-03 and APD-13, hunting units are the same as YOD-03 and YOD-13, respectively. The Department recommendation is to close the Youth, Mentor, and Apprentice Deer seasons in nine southeastern South Dakota hunting units.

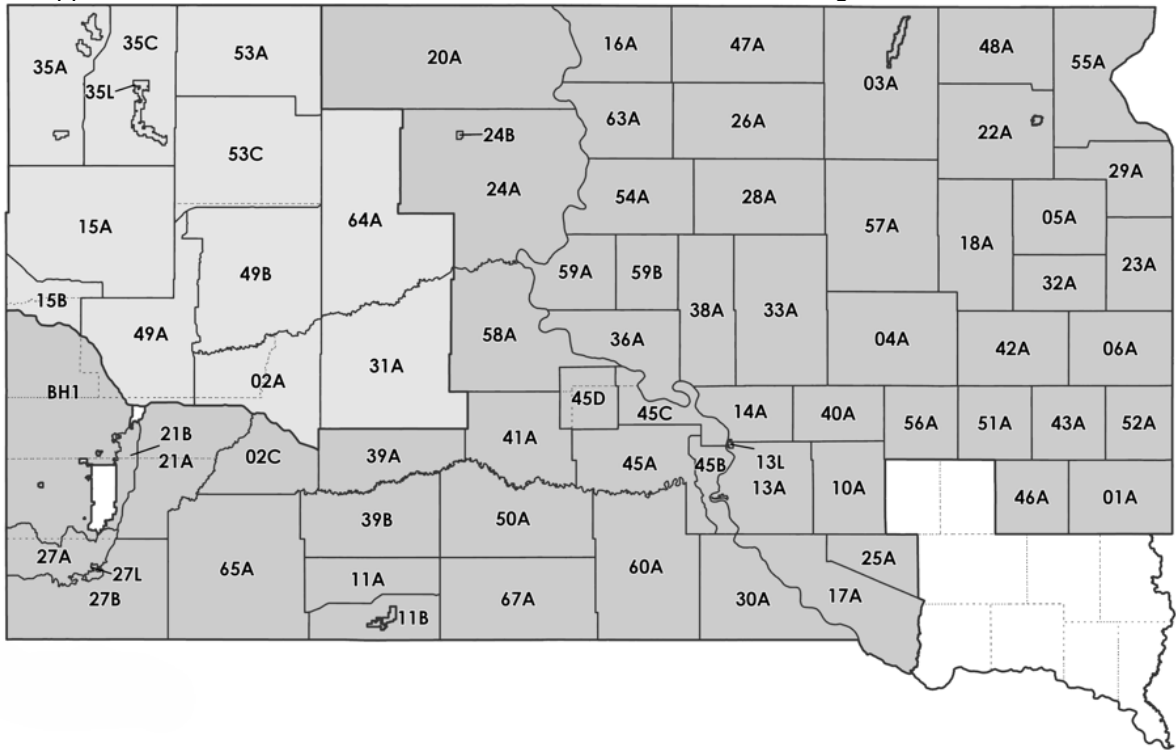


Table 1. Apprentice Deer Hunting season hunter and harvest information from 2018 to 2025.

YEAR	Licenses Sold	Harvest					Total	Success	Avg Days Hunted	Average Satisfctn
		Bucks		Does						
		WT	Mule	WT	Mule					
2018	4,845	264	35	1,823	377	2,499	52%	3.85	5.72	
2019	4,424	263	37	1,722	297	2,319	52%	3.93	5.70	
2020	4,302	249	26	1,846	372	2,493	58%	3.71	5.73	
2021	641	21	0	323	18	362	57%	3.09	6.10	
2022	527	29	4	210	22	263	50%	4.10	5.82	
2023	653	36	3	292	29	361	55%	4.27	5.69	
2024	567	25	6	276	12	318	56%	4.38	5.65	
2025	487	27	3	233	23	287	59%	3.76	5.88	

*The Apprentice season was separated into Youth and Apprentice seasons in 2021. See separate Youth season report for license sales and estimated harvest.

Table 2. Youth Deer Hunting season hunter and harvest information from 2016 to 2025.

YEAR	Licenses Sold	Harvest					Total	Success	Avg Days Hunted	Average Satisfctn
		Bucks		Does						
		WT	Mule	WT	Mule					
2016	4,861	322	29	1,896	324	2,571	53%	4.15	5.65	
2017	5,325	292	35	2,072	426	2,825	53%	4.17	5.65	
2018-20	Modified into Apprentice Deer season									
2021	3,812	175	8	1,523	156	1,861	49%	3.89	5.57	
2022	3,448	151	4	1,282	235	1,672	48%	4.08	5.38	
2023	3,286	145	3	1,191	121	1,460	44%	4.82	5.05	
2024	3,253	137	7	1,222	104	1,471	45%	4.77	4.96	
2025	3,049	168	7	1,214	96	1,484	49%	4.11	5.20	

* The Youth season was modified into the Apprentice season in 2018 and then separated from the Apprentice season in 2021. See Apprentice season report for license sales and estimated harvest for that season.

Table 3. Mentored Deer Hunting season hunter and harvest information from 2016 to 2025.

YEAR	Licenses Sold	Harvest				Total	Success	Avg Days Hunted	Average Satisfctn
		Bucks		Does					
		WT	Mule	WT	Mule				
2016	3,646	287	30	1,495	301	2,114	58%	3.56	5.85
2017	4,069	230	31	1,567	320	2,147	53%	3.78	5.83
2018	5,357	324	51	2,335	439	2,824	53%	3.61	5.89
2019	5,715	348	45	2,123	417	2,932	51%	3.52	5.79
2020	6,387	371	21	2,772	472	3,636	57%	3.77	5.77
2021	6,207	301	5	2,446	226	2,977	48%	3.92	5.69
2022	6,723	320	5	2,525	301	3,150	47%	3.88	5.59
2023	6,985	328	2	2,630	225	3,185	46%	4.08	5.24
2024	7,003	303	18	2,825	253	3,398	49%	4.32	5.21
2025	4,777	245	16	2,251	230	2,742	57%	3.58	5.53

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:44:02. Number and type of licenses available. An unlimited number of antlerless deer and antlerless whitetail deer licenses may be issued for the apprentice hunter deer hunting season. An apprentice hunter is limited to one antlerless deer or antlerless whitetail deer license for areas open to the apprentice hunter deer hunting season. The following describes the open units:

(1) Unit APD-03: West River Units 02A, 15A, 15B, 31A, 35A, 35C, 35L, 49A, 49B, 53A, 53C, and 64A, as described in § 41:06:20:02. Only a single tag any antlerless deer license is valid in this unit; and

(2) Unit APD-13: That portion of the state not included in Unit APD-03 and excluding East River Units 07A, 07B, 08A, 12A, 12B, 19A, 34A, 37A, 44A, 61A, and 62A, as described in § 41:06:21:02. Only a single tag antlerless whitetail deer license is valid in this unit.

41:06:63:03. Open units. The following is a description of the open units:

(1) Unit YOD-03: West River Units 02A, 15A, 15B, 31A, 35A, 35C, 35L, 49A, 49B, 53A, 53C, and 64A, as described in § 41:06:20:02. Only a single tag ~~"any antlerless deer"~~ any antlerless deer license is valid in this unit.

(2) Unit YOD-13: That portion of the state not included in Unit YOD-03 and excluding East River Units 07A, 07B, 08A, 12A, 12B, 19A, 34A, 37A, 44A, 61A, and 62A, as described in § 41:06:21:02. Only a single tag ~~"antlerless whitetail deer"~~ antlerless whitetail deer license is valid in this unit.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? The hunting unit is reduced.
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? Hunters for these seasons in the closed unit will need to hunt in different areas. Hunters are taught conservation of the resource during low deer populations.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

FISCAL IMPACT

Fewer licenses may be sold because of the unit reduction in size.

APPROVE	_____	MODIFY	_____	REJECT	_____	NO ACTION	_____
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2026 and 2027 Prairie Antelope (Firearm) resident and nonresident licenses numbers by unit.

Unit	Unit Name	Residents	Nonresidents
		Buck	Buck
		42	42
02A	Pennington East	50	1
11A	Bennett/Oglala Lakota	20	1
15A	Butte NW	50	1
15B	Butte/Lawrence	250	5
20A	Corson	60	2
21A	Custer/Pennington Central	125	3
24A	Dewey	50	1
27A	Fall River/Custer Southwest	350	7
31A	Haakon	25	1
35A	Harding West	150	3
35B	Harding East	150	3
36A	Hughes	5	1
38A	Hyde/Hand/Buffalo	5	1
39A	Jackson	50	1
41A	Jones	5	1
45A	Lyman	5	1
45B	Ft. Pierre National Grasslands	5	1
49A	Meade North	150	3
49B	Meade South	50	1
50A	Mellette/Todd	20	1
53A	Perkins North	75	2
53B	Perkins South	200	4
58A	Stanley	20	1
59A	Sully	5	1
60A	Tripp	5	1
63A	Campbell/Potter/Walworth	5	1
64A	Ziebach	100	2
PR	Special Antelope	50	50
TOTAL		2,035	101

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

RESOLUTION

BIG GAME DEPREDATION HUNTS

WHEREAS, pursuant to SDCL 41-6-29.1, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission may authorize the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks to issue a specific number of depredation permits to respond to property damage by game animals that cannot be resolved by any other method, and the Commission has promulgated rules to provide for big game depredation hunts designed to assist in reducing wildlife damage to property by big game species (deer, elk, antelope, and turkey); and

WHEREAS, applications for depredation permits have been received and a random drawing held to establish the lists of depredation pool hunters for each county or area; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that high populations of big game animals may cause property damage which in some instances cannot be resolved by any other method except by reducing the number of animals in a specific geographic area;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that for the next three years (2026, 2027, and 2028) the Game, Fish and Parks Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks or his designee to issue no more than 600 permits plus an additional 200 landowner/operator permits) for each species (deer, antelope and turkey) per year and no more than 100 elk depredation permits per year, as the Secretary may deem necessary to respond to property damage caused by big game animals.

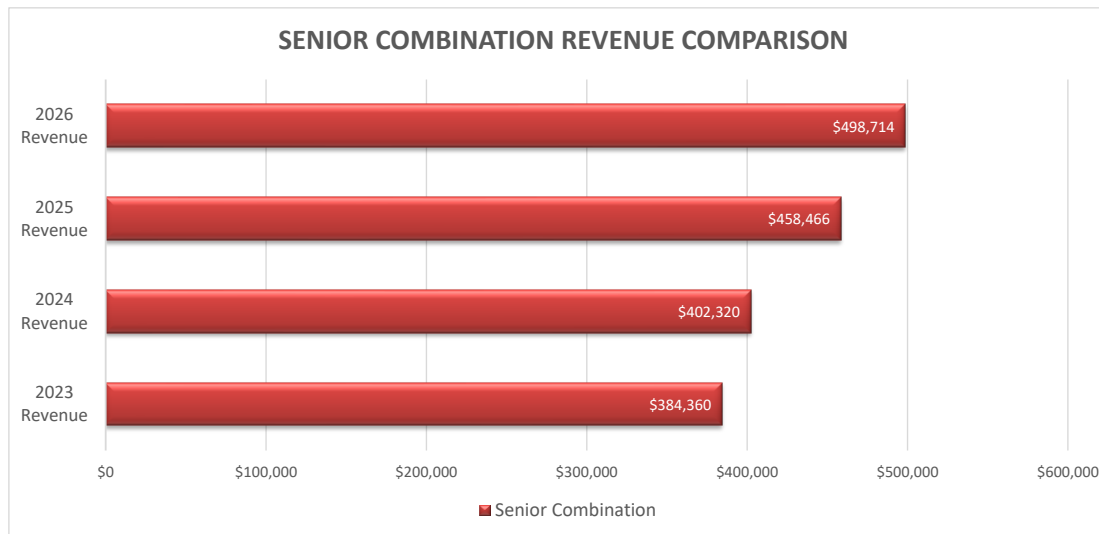
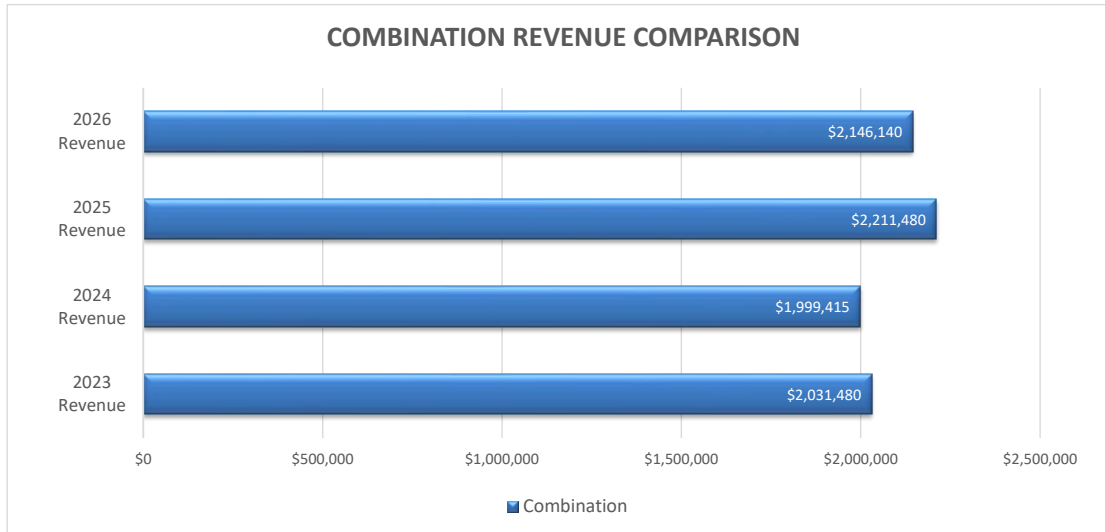
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in issuing all big game depredation permits, the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks or his designee is authorized to establish when and where each permit is valid and the number, species, and sex of the big game animals permitted to be taken by the holder of each big game depredation permit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall replace in its entirety Resolution No. 21-04 previously adopted by this Commission to authorize the Secretary to issue depredation permits to respond to property damage caused by big game animals.

COMBINATION LICENSES

December 15 - May 31

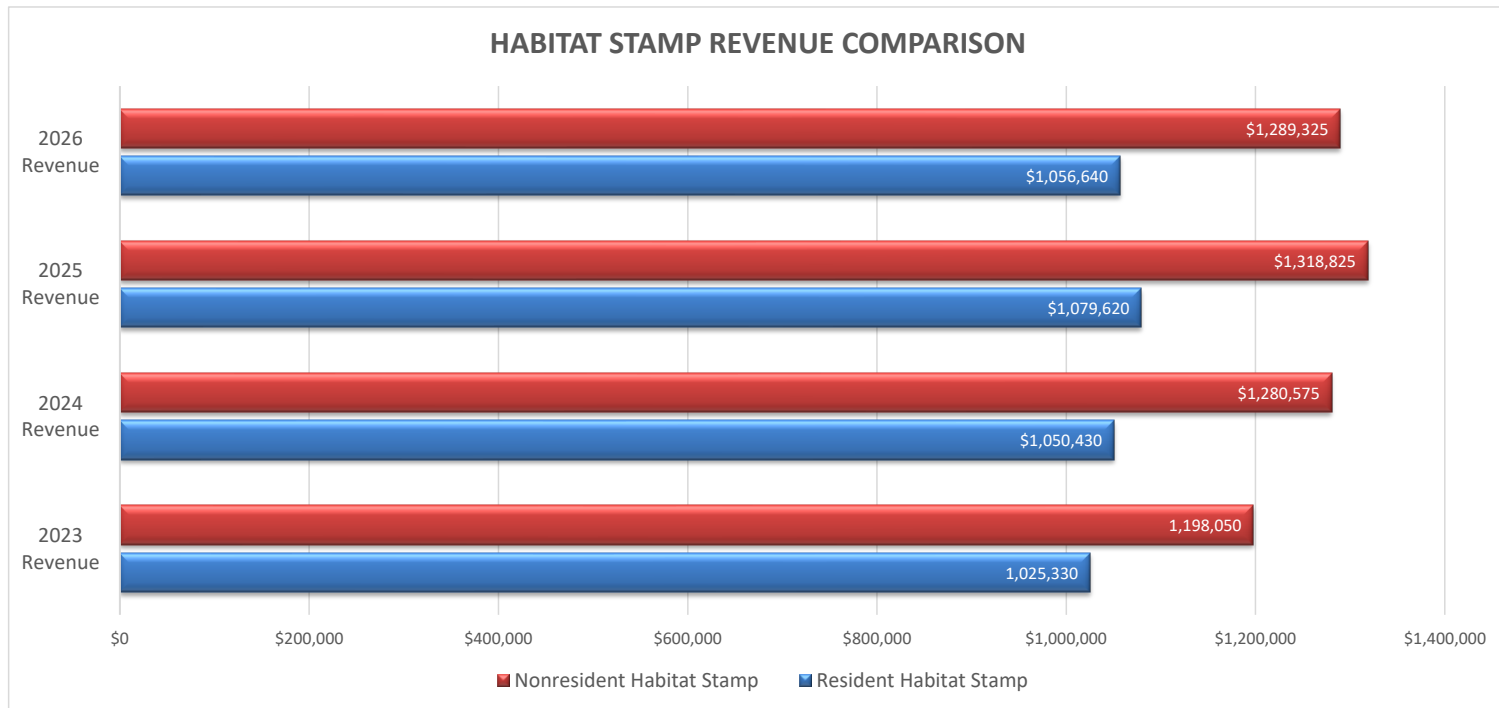
License Type	2023	2024	2025	3-yr Avg	2026	2026 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	
Combination	36,936	36,353	36,858	36,716	35,769	\$2,146,140	(1,089)	(947)	(\$65,340)	\$65,348	-3%
Senior Combination	9,609	10,058	10,662	10,110	11,598	\$498,714	936	1,488	\$40,248	\$83,665	15%
Combination License Totals	46,545	46,411	47,520	46,825	47,367	\$2,644,854	(153)	542	(\$25,092)	\$149,014	12%



HABITAT STAMP

December 15 - May 31

License Type						+/- Licenses				+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
	2023	2024	2025	3-yr Avg	2026	2026 Revenue	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026		
Resident Habitat Stamp	102,533	105,043	107,962	105,179	105,664	\$1,056,640	(2,298)	485	(\$22,980)	\$4,847	0%	
Nonresident Habitat Stamp	47,922	51,223	52,753	50,633	51,573	\$1,289,325	(1,180)	940	(\$29,500)	\$23,508	2%	
Habitat Stamp Totals	150,455	156,266	160,715	155,812	157,237	\$2,345,965	(3,478)	1,425	(\$52,480)	\$28,355	1%	

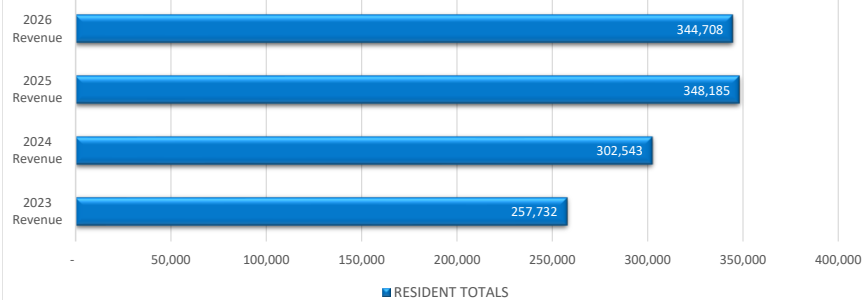


SMALL GAME LICENSES

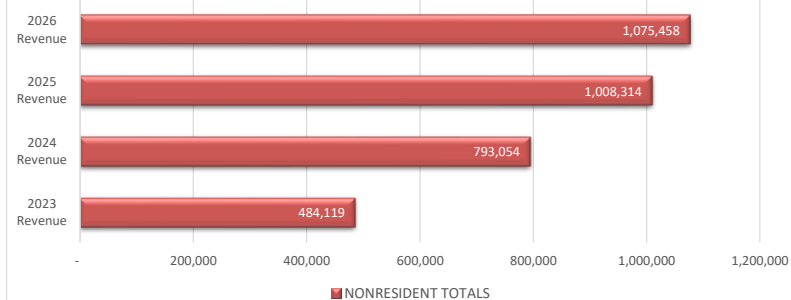
December 15 - May 31

License Type						+/- Licenses	+/- Revenue		% Change		
	2023	2024	2025	3-yr Avg	2026	2026 Revenue	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	from 3 Yr. Avg
Small Game	4,427	5,576	6,270	5,424	6,085	\$219,060	(185)	661	(\$6,660)	\$33,787	12%
1-Day Small Game	98	205	199	167	236	\$3,540	37	69	\$555	\$1,333	41%
Youth Small Game	1,118	1,220	1,098	1,145	1,176	\$5,880	78	31	\$390	\$153	3%
Mentor Small Game	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	201	\$1,005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Furbearer	2,757	2,931	3,104	2,931	3,194	\$99,014	90	263	\$2,790	\$10,059	9%
Predator/Varmint	1,353	1,153	876	1,127	904	\$5,424	28	(223)	\$168	(\$505)	-20%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck	242	200	115	186	102	\$510	(13)	(84)	(\$65)	(\$418)	-45%
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	2,838	3,056	2,387	2,760	2,055	\$10,275	(332)	(705)	(\$1,660)	(\$3,527)	-26%
RESIDENT TOTALS	12,833	14,341	14,049	13,741	13,953	\$344,708	(96)	95	(\$4,482)	\$40,883	0.69%
Small Game	2,582	4,877	5,283	4,247	5,589	\$793,638	306	1,342	\$43,452	\$279,711	32%
Youth Small Game	171	327	340	279	313	\$3,130	(27)	34	(\$270)	\$337	12%
Mentor Small Game	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	83	\$830	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shooting Preserve 1-Day Nonresident	102	169	192	154	238	\$11,900	46	84	\$2,300	\$4,801	54%
Shooting Preserve 5-Day Nonresident	802	993	1,204	1,000	1,346	\$129,216	142	346	\$13,632	\$53,241	35%
Shooting Preserve Annual Nonresident	63	60	65	63	86	\$12,556	21	23	\$3,066	\$4,973	37%
Furbearer	1	5	1	2	4	\$1,300	3	2	\$975	\$658	0%
Predator/Varmint	1,986	2,163	2,184	2,111	2,268	\$104,328	84	157	\$3,864	\$19,888	7%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck	30	32	113	58	104	\$520	(9)	46	(\$45)	\$228	78%
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	3,371	4,222	3,740	3,778	3,608	\$18,040	(132)	(170)	(\$660)	(\$848)	-4%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	9,108	12,848	13,122	11,693	13,639	\$1,075,458	517	1,863	\$66,314	\$362,989	15.94%
COMBINED TOTALS	21,941	27,189	27,171	25,434	27,592	\$1,420,166	421	2,158	\$61,832	\$403,872	8.49%

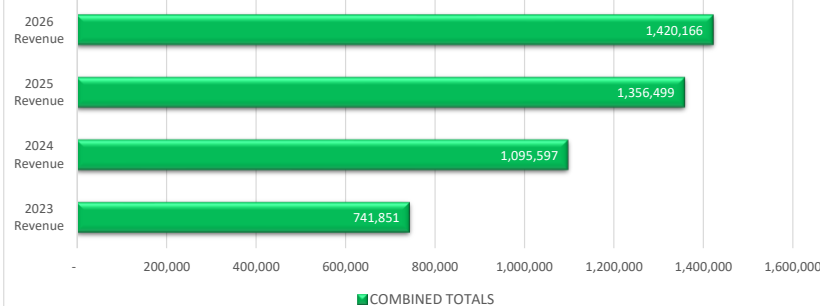
RESIDENT HUNTING REVENUE COMPARISON



NONRESIDENT HUNTING REVENUE COMPARISON



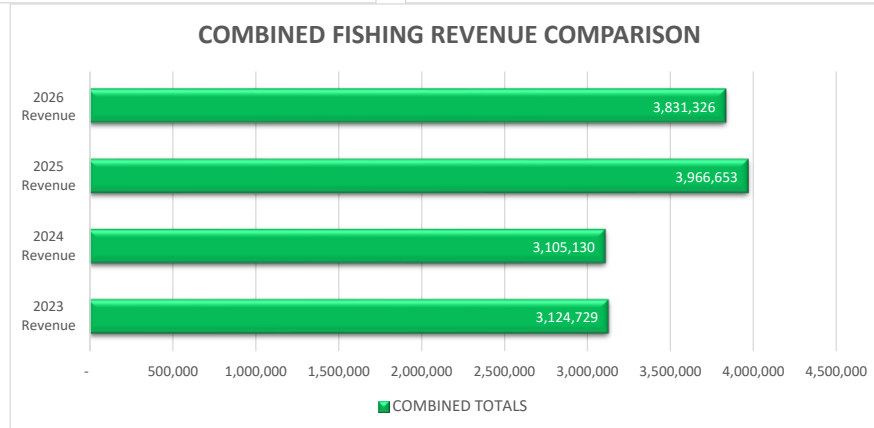
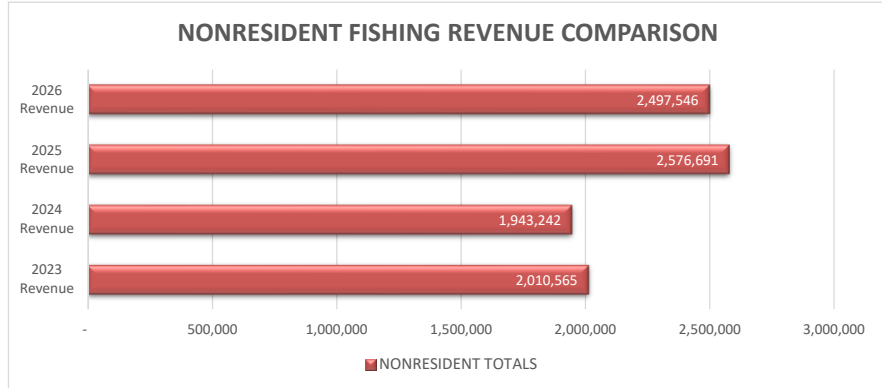
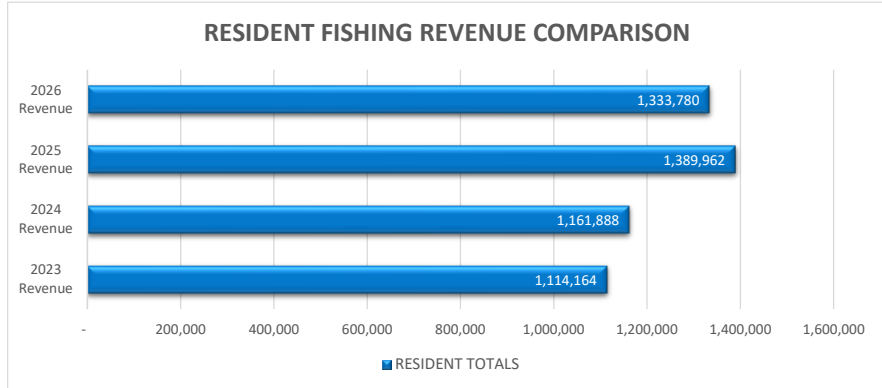
COMBINED HUNTING REVENUE COMPARISON



FISHING LICENSES

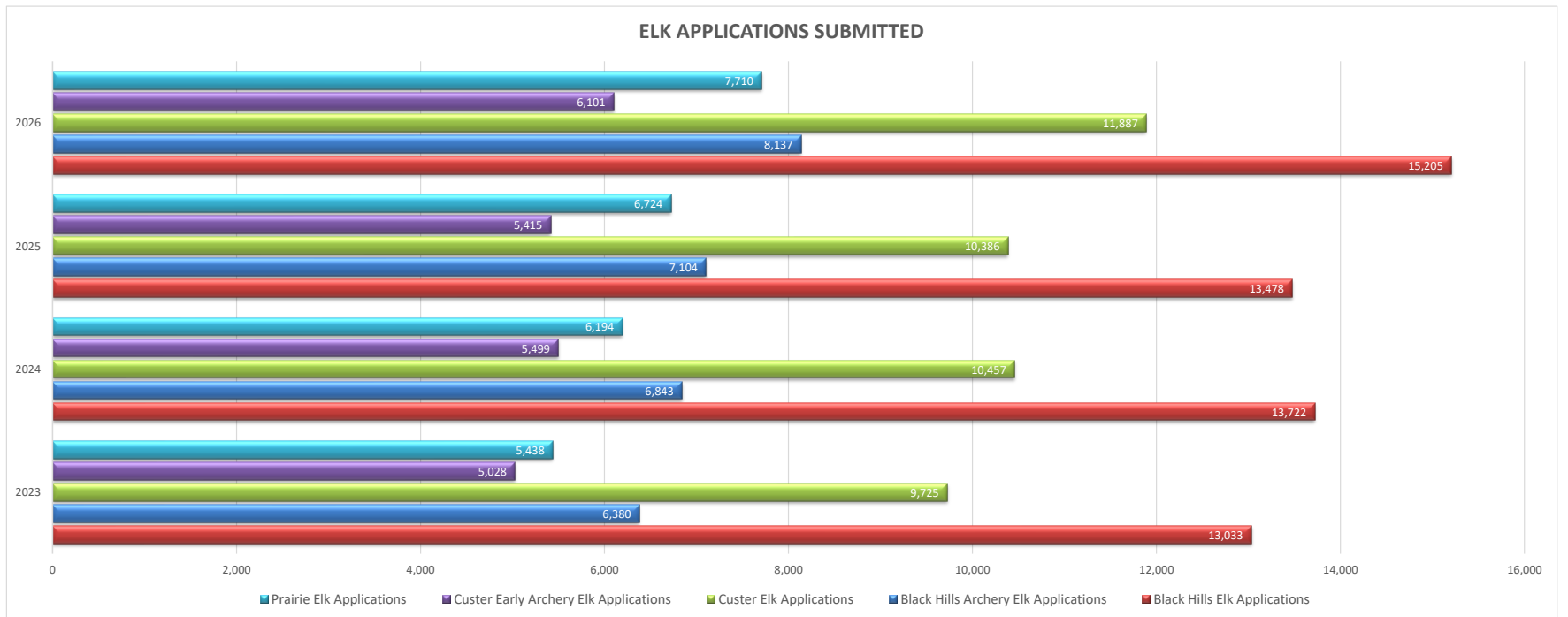
December 15 - May 31

License Type	2023	2024	2025	3-yr Avg	2026	2026 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	
1-Day Fishing	1,844	2,039	2,291	2,058	2,110	\$21,100	(181)	52	(\$1,810)	\$3,109	3%
Annual Fishing	35,099	36,509	38,438	36,682	37,114	\$1,150,534	(1,324)	432	(\$41,044)	\$85,000	1%
Senior Fishing	9,720	10,277	10,322	10,106	9,538	\$162,146	(784)	(568)	(\$13,328)	\$23,667	-6%
RESIDENT TOTALS	46,663	48,825	51,051	48,846	48,762	1,333,780	(2,289)	(84)	(\$56,182)	\$111,775	-0.17%
1-Day Fishing	9,917	10,082	8,031	9,343	7,276	\$189,176	(755)	(2,067)	(\$19,630)	\$12,913	-22%
3-Day Fishing	6,876	6,106	7,729	6,904	7,418	\$333,810	(311)	514	(\$13,995)	\$57,764	7%
Annual Fishing	23,843	23,224	25,251	24,106	24,682	\$1,974,560	(569)	576	(\$45,520)	\$250,037	2%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	40,636	39,412	41,011	40,353	39,376	\$2,497,546	(1,635)	(977)	(\$79,145)	\$320,713	-2.42%
COMBINED TOTALS	87,299	88,237	92,062	89,199	88,138	\$3,831,326	(3,924)	(1,061)	(\$135,327)	\$432,489	-1.19%



2026 BIG GAME LICENSES

License Type	2023	2024	2025	3-yr Avg	2026	2026 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	2025 vs 2026	3 Yr. Avg vs 2026	
Resident Mentored Spring Turkey Licenses	1,631	1,739	1,777	1,716	1,486	\$7,430	(291)	(230)	(\$1,455)	(\$1,148)	-13%
NR Mentored Spring Turkey Licenses	66	106	118	97	160	\$1,600	42	63	\$420	\$633	66%
Resident Archery Spring Turkey Licenses	4,277	4,399	4,013	4,230	4,118	\$115,304	105	(112)	\$14,979	\$9,562	-3%
NR Archery Spring Turkey Licenses	675	700	755	710	837	\$101,277	82	127	\$25,777	\$30,277	18%
Resident Black Hills Spring Turkey Licenses	2,652	2,824	2,883	2,786	3,099	\$86,772	216	313	\$14,697	\$17,114	11%
Black Hills Elk	934	980	1,289	1,068	1,151	\$204,641	(138)	83	\$9,564	\$177,949	8%
Black Hills Archery Elk	237	257	302	265	267	\$47,115	(35)	2	(\$4,672)	\$682	1%
Custer Elk	11	15	25	17	35	\$10,710	10	18	\$6,335	\$7,735	106%
Custer Early Archery Elk	4	5	10	6	15	\$4,590	5	9	(\$1,010)	\$1,043	137%
Custer Antlerless Elk	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	51	\$10,506	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Prairie Elk	283	325	397	335	464	\$77,813	67	129	\$24,315	\$35,331	39%
Black Hills Bighorn Sheep	7	5	4	5	5	\$1,500	1	(0)	\$380	\$100	-6%
Custer Bighorn Sheep	3	4	2	3	2	\$1,012	0	(1)	\$412	\$112	-33%
1st Draw Applications Submitted											
Black Hills Elk Applications	13,033	13,722	13,478	13,411	15,205		1,727	1,794	n/a	n/a	13%
Black Hills Archery Elk Applications	6,380	6,843	7,104	6,776	8,137		1,033	1,361	n/a	n/a	20%
Custer Elk Applications	9,725	10,457	10,386	10,189	11,887		1,501	1,698	n/a	n/a	17%
Custer Early Archery Elk Applications	5,028	5,499	5,415	5,314	6,101		686	787	n/a	n/a	15%
Custer Antlerless Elk Applications	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,645		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Prairie Elk Applications	5,438	6,194	6,724	6,119	7,710		986	1,591	n/a	n/a	26%
Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Applications	5,525	6,242	6,299	6,022	7,211		912	1,189	n/a	n/a	20%
Custer Bighorn Sheep Applications	4,590	5,271	5,324	5,062	6,040		716	978	n/a	n/a	19%



June 2026 Game, Fish and Parks Commission Meeting Custer State Park Resorts Prospectus Update

The Prospectus for the Custer State Park concession lease was issued on March 10, 2026 with a deadline to receive proposals of June 5, 2026. The Department received 4 proposals from the following firms:

- US Hotel and Resort Management (current concessionaire)
- LIV Hospitality
- Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Inc.
- ExplorUS

The proposal review process has begun which will result in a contract award recommendation for Commission action at their September 2026 meeting, with final contract approval at their October 2026 meeting. The process will involve selected GFP staff and Commissioners, with analysis and guidance from consultant CHM Government Services per the framework below:

- Proposal review: (June 8th - July 1st)
 - Proposals will be reviewed, scored and ranked per the 5 Selection Factors included in the prospectus:
 - Selection Factor 1 - Maintaining Facilities
 - Selection Factor 2 - Enhanced Visitor Experience
 - Selection Factor 3 - Experience and Background
 - Selection Factor 4 - Financial Capability
 - Selection Factor 5 - Franchise Fee
 - CHM will provide independent review of all proposals to result in a deliverable of a comparison matrix complete with scoring and ranking of all proposals received that will include all 5 selection factors.
 - GFP to conduct an internal review, score and ranking of all proposals received. Each of the 5 RFP selection factors will be reviewed individually by a team comprised of key relevant staff.
 - CHM and GFP will collaborate and compare their findings. GFP will preliminarily score and rank the proposals.
- Bidder Interviews: (Late July)
 - Select top proposals for interviews based on point spread of preliminary proposal scores.
 - Interviews will be conducted in person in Pierre, Rapid City or Sioux Falls.
 - GFP, CHM and Commission will have representatives on interview team.
 - Interviews will include general questions for all parties as well as questions specific to each party's proposal.
- Finalization of proposal selection recommendation. (August)
- Recommendation of contract award. (September Commission Meeting)
- Contract negotiations. (September)
- Final contract award. (October Commission Meeting)



2026 May Camping

Agenda Item #27

5/1/2025 - 5/31/2025	5/1/2026 - 5/31/2026
Camping Units	Camping Units
48898	49031

District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	163	153	-6%
	Pickereel Lake Recreation Area	712	618	-13%
	Roy Lake State Park	1048	945	-10%
	Sica Hollow State Park	35	56	60%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	55	48	-13%
	Fisher Grove State Park	133	139	5%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	393	314	-20%
	Mina Lake Recreation Area	575	538	-6%
2	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	217	208	-4%
	Hartford Beach State Park	992	943	-5%
	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	255	187	-27%
3	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	1051	1043	-1%
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	180	181	1%
	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	1065	977	-8%
4	Oakwood Lakes State Park	1329	1210	-9%
	Lake Carthage Lakeside Use Area	119	120	1%
5	Lake Herman State Park	895	903	1%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	1106	979	-11%
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	401	341	-15%
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	12	11	-8%
6	Buryanek Recreation Area	585	519	-11%
	Dude Ranch Lakeside Use Area	17	53	212%
	Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area	0	40	NA
	Platte Creek Recreation Area	376	225	-40%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	1235	1366	11%
	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	1038	1094	5%
7	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	1928	1926	0%
	Palisades State Park	1486	1564	5%
	Twin Lake Lakeside Use Area	0	1	NA
	Newton Hills State Park	1657	1459	-12%
8	Union Grove State Park	244	173	-29%
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	1794	1730	-4%
9	Clay County Park	337	386	15%
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	4895	4972	2%
	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	741	648	-13%
	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	49	34	-31%
	Springfield Recreation Area	221	196	-11%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	7	13	86%
	North Point Recreation Area	1229	1220	-1%
	North Wheeler Recreation Area	229	260	14%
	Pease Creek Recreation Area	273	274	0%
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	766	810	6%
10	South Shore Lakeside Use Area	46	67	46%
	Star Valley Lakeside Use Area	0	10	NA
	Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	119	112	-6%
	White Swan Lakeside Use Area	40	38	-5%
	Farm Island Recreation Area	1018	1184	16%
	West Bend Recreation Area	1477	1652	12%
11	Cow Creek Recreation Area	351	406	16%
	Minneconju Lakeside Use Area	0	10	NA
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	1828	1815	-1%
	Okobojo Point Recreation Area	147	114	-22%
	Spring Creek Recreation Area	120	183	53%
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	9	12	33%
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	1096	1393	27%
	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	34	36	6%
	Little Bend Lakeside Use Area	2	0	-100%
	Little Moreau Recreation Area	0	3	NA
12	Swan Creek Recreation Area	185	199	8%
	Walth Bay Lakeside Use Area	8	24	200%
	West Pollock Recreation Area	308	314	2%
	West Whitlock Recreation Area	579	525	-9%
13	Bear Butte State Park	117	68	-42%
	Hugh Glass Lakeside Use Area	21	43	105%
	Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area	53	26	-51%
14	Rocky Point Recreation Area	1088	1072	-1%
	Shadehill Recreation Area	930	1028	11%
	Custer State Park	6836	7297	7%
15	Angostura Recreation Area	2384	2212	-7%
	Bailey's Lakeside Use Area	11	0	-100%
	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	248	311	25%
16				
17				
Total:		48898	49031	0%



2026 May YTD Camping

1/1/2025 - 5/31/2025	1/1/2026 - 5/31/2026
Camping Units	Camping Units
56922	56795

District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	201	167	-17%
	Pickereel Lake Recreation Area	803	668	-17%
	Roy Lake State Park	1274	1166	-8%
	Sica Hollow State Park	41	63	54%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	56	52	-7%
	Fisher Grove State Park	150	146	-3%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	423	332	-22%
2	Mina Lake Recreation Area	654	656	0%
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	253	367	45%
	Hartford Beach State Park	1121	1042	-7%
3	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	260	194	-25%
	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	1163	1109	-5%
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	200	198	-1%
4	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	1125	1000	-11%
	Oakwood Lakes State Park	1436	1284	-11%
5	Lake Carthage Lakeside Use Area	119	127	7%
	Lake Herman State Park	1035	1163	12%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	1208	1074	-11%
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	502	354	-29%
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	17	14	-18%
6	Buryanek Recreation Area	654	604	-8%
	Dude Ranch Lakeside Use Area	29	75	159%
	Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area	0	44	NA
	Platte Creek Recreation Area	438	246	-44%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	1390	1515	9%
7	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	1570	1611	3%
	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	2257	2197	-3%
	Palisades State Park	2018	2122	5%
	Twin Lake Lakeside Use Area	0	1	NA
	Newton Hills State Park	1961	1793	-9%
8	Union Grove State Park	300	233	-22%
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	2049	1915	-7%
	Clay County Park	356	439	23%
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	5602	5815	4%
	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	841	736	-12%
9	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	62	44	-29%
	Springfield Recreation Area	277	242	-13%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	15	18	20%
	North Point Recreation Area	1350	1330	-1%
	North Wheeler Recreation Area	229	264	15%
10	Pease Creek Recreation Area	300	302	1%
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	822	862	5%
	South Shore Lakeside Use Area	46	67	46%
	Star Valley Lakeside Use Area	0	23	NA
	Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	138	133	-4%
11	White Swan Lakeside Use Area	40	38	-5%
	Farm Island Recreation Area	1204	1326	10%
	West Bend Recreation Area	1609	1786	11%
	Cow Creek Recreation Area	427	474	NA
	Minneconjou Lakeside Use Area	0	10	NA
12	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	2169	2100	-3%
	Okobojo Point Recreation Area	158	117	-26%
	Spring Creek Recreation Area	135	352	161%
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	12	15	25%
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	1198	1436	20%
13	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	41	38	-7%
	Little Bend Lakeside Use Area	2	0	-100%
	Little Moreau Recreation Area	0	10	NA
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	187	206	10%
	Walth Bay Lakeside Use Area	8	26	225%
14	West Pollock Recreation Area	318	330	4%
	West Whitlock Recreation Area	608	549	-10%
	Bear Butte State Park	182	95	-48%
15	Hugh Glass Lakeside Use Area	21	61	190%
	Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area	58	27	-53%
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	1284	1250	-3%
16	Shadehill Recreation Area	1064	1088	2%
	Custer State Park	8300	8568	3%
17	Angostura Recreation Area	2850	2709	-5%
	Bailey's Lakeside Use Area	11	0	-100%
	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	291	377	30%
Total:		56922	56795	0%

Division of Parks and Recreation					
May 2026 Revenue by Item					
	2025		2026		% Change
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Resident Annual	9,345	\$ 360,730	9,974	\$ 382,215	
Non-Resident Annual	2,697	\$ 154,515	2,644	\$ 152,600	
Resident Double	11,160	\$ 663,439	12,214	\$ 717,997	
Non-Resident Double	1,512	\$ 134,385	1,682	\$ 148,160	
Transferable	997	\$ 89,325	1,038	\$ 92,840	
GSM Annual Trail Pass	1,015	\$ 20,280	1,034	\$ 20,400	
Annual Licenses	26,726	\$ 1,422,674	28,586	\$ 1,514,212	6%
Resident Daily License	6,057	\$ 60,272	6,403	\$ 64,585	
Non-Resident Daily License	4,003	\$ 60,030	3,957	\$ 58,935	
Unattended Vehicle Daily	87	\$ 1,740	96	\$ 1,920	
GSM Daily Trail Pass	860	\$ 4,300	761	\$ 3,805	
Motorcoach Permit	1,359	\$ 5,436	2,026	\$ 8,104	
CSP 7 Day Pass	18,897	\$ 461,500	21,886	\$ 544,835	
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	814	\$ 16,180	1,011	\$ 20,180	
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
One-Day Special Event	11	\$ 1,100	5	\$ 500	
Festival Daily	-	\$ -	10	\$ 750	
Daily Licenses	32,088	\$ 610,558	36,155	\$ 703,614	15%
Licenses	58,814	\$ 2,033,232	64,741	\$ 2,217,826	9%
Camping Services		\$ 1,543,569		\$ 1,277,528	-17%
Pet Fees	287	\$ 2,863	282	\$ 2,816	-2%
LODGING		\$ 1,546,432		\$ 1,280,344	-17%
Picnic Shelters		\$ 2,095		\$ 2,921	39%
Boat Rentals		\$ 2,186		\$ 1,104	-50%
Firewood	6,382	\$ 42,718	5,116	\$ 34,056	-20%
Gift Card	11	\$ 961	63	\$ 1,920	100%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ 20,173		\$ -	-100%
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 3,651		\$ 3,852	6%
Retail		\$ 22,828		\$ 31,819	39%
Call Center Fee	2,162	\$ 12,866	1,727	\$ 10,038	-22%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ -		\$ 2,772	NA
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 107,478		\$ 88,482	-18%
TOTAL		\$ 3,687,143		\$ 3,586,652	-3%

Division of Parks and Recreation					
May YTD 2026 Revenue by Item					
	2025		2026		% Change
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Resident Annual	14,467	\$ 599,351	15,471	\$ 590,990	
Non-Resident Annual	4,612	\$ 266,870	4,604	\$ 266,140	
Resident Double	19,493	\$ 1,160,383	21,985	\$ 1,283,987	
Non-Resident Double	2,610	\$ 232,485	3,086	\$ 270,288	
Transferable	1,726	\$ 154,535	1,830	\$ 161,180	
GSM Annual Trail Pass	2,023	\$ 40,245	2,276	\$ 44,160	
Annual Licenses	44,931	\$ 2,453,869	49,252	\$ 2,616,745	7%
Resident Daily License	9,251	\$ 92,114	9,505	\$ 95,245	
Non-Resident Daily License	6,152	\$ 92,235	6,045	\$ 89,348	
Unattended Vehicle Daily	176	\$ 3,465	136	\$ 2,720	
GSM Daily Trail Pass	1,421	\$ 6,963	1,516	\$ 7,580	
Motorcoach Permit	1,463	\$ 5,761	2,068	\$ 8,272	
CSP 7 Day Pass	27,231	\$ 669,195	30,069	\$ 743,910	
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	796	\$ 15,820	1,100	\$ 21,940	
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
One-Day Special Event	4	\$ 2,900	11	\$ 1,075	
Festival Daily	-	\$ -	10	\$ 750	
Daily Licenses	46,494	\$ 888,453	50,460	\$ 970,840	9%
Licenses	91,425	\$ 3,342,322	99,712	\$ 3,587,585	7%
Camping Services		\$ 6,196,459		\$ 5,663,974	-9%
Pet Fees	630	\$ 6,289	1080	\$ 10,502	67%
LODGING		\$ 6,202,747		\$ 5,674,476	-9%
Picnic Shelter		\$ 6,245		\$ 9,435	51%
Boat Rentals		\$ 2,930		\$ 1,104	-62%
Firewood	6,942	\$ 46,448	5,488	\$ 36,475	-21%
Gift Card	75	\$ 6,911	110	\$ 5,786	-16%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ 143,979		\$ 162,353	13%
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 3,893		\$ 3,881	0%
Retail		\$ 28,224		\$ 40,978	45%
Call Center Fee	5,618	\$ 33,464	4,722	\$ 27,186	-19%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ 216,869		\$ 228,443	5%
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 488,962		\$ 515,641	5%
TOTAL		\$ 10,034,032		\$ 9,777,702	-3%

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

	2023		2024		2025*		3-Yr Avg		2026		% Change (3-Yr Avg)	
	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#
Annual Licenses	\$ 1,899,417	43752	\$ 2,088,075	48091	\$ 2,453,869	44931	\$ 2,147,120	45591	\$ 2,616,745	49252	21.9%	8.0%
Daily Licenses	\$ 582,595	37177	\$ 656,795	43510	\$ 888,453	46494	\$ 709,281	42394	\$ 970,840	50460	36.9%	19.0%
Camping/Lodging	\$ 5,492,365		\$ 5,653,558		\$ 6,202,747		\$ 5,782,890		\$ 5,674,476		-1.9%	
Miscellaneous	\$ 291,029		\$ 404,609		\$ 488,962		\$ 394,867		\$ 515,641		30.6%	
Total	\$ 8,265,405	80929	\$ 8,803,038	91601	\$ 10,034,032	91425	\$ 9,034,158	87985	\$ 9,777,702	99712	8.2%	13.3%

* Fee increase in 2025

	2023*	2024	2025	3-Yr Avg	2026	% (3-yr Avg)
Camping Units	53326	60373	56922	56874	56795	-0.1%
Modern Lodging Nights Booked January 1 through December 31						
Lake Thompson		106	100	103	99	-3.9%
Mina Lake		86	118	102	115	12.7%
Newton Hills (3 units)		230	244	237	216	-8.9%
Oahe Downstream (5 units)		596	605	601	515	-14.2%
Palisades		117	107	112	106	-5.4%
Pickerel Lake		70	128	99	132	33.3%
Roy Lake (12 units)		1050	1134	1092	1245	14.0%
Shadehill		124	160	142	143	0.7%
Sheps Canyon		86	73	80	74	-6.9%
Spring Creek (16 units)		618	671	645	1115	73.0%
All Parks Total		3083	3340	3212	3760	17.1%

* Modern Lodging numbers for 2023 not available