

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS**

A Public Hearing will be held in the at the Swiftel Center, 824 – 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Brookings, South Dakota, on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, at 2:00 o'clock P.M. (CDT), to consider adoption, amendment, and repeal of Rules pertaining to:

1. Amend ARSD 41:03:03 – Park Licenses.

Effect: Increases the daily fee for not displaying a valid park entrance license from \$10 to \$15 in Custer State Park (fee remains \$10 per day in all other state parks); and allows the operator or registered owner of a vehicle to apply the entire amount of the cost assessed for not displaying a valid park entrance license toward the purchase of an annual park entrance license.

Reason: The daily park entrance license fee is \$4.00 for each person or \$6.00 per vehicle except at Custer State Park where the temporary park entrance license is \$15.00 per vehicle or \$10.00 per motorcycle for a visit of one to seven consecutive days. Increasing the daily fee from \$10 to \$15 for not displaying a valid park entrance license in Custer State Park will ensure that the fee is at least equal to the cost of a temporary park entrance license. Allowing visitors the option to apply 100% rather than a portion of the charge towards purchase of an annual park entrance license would an incentive to purchase an annual license and utilize the park system more often.

2. Amend ARSD 41:06:26 – Black Hills Elk Hunting Season

Effect: The proposed amendments would adjust the number of licenses available from 470 “any elk” and 395 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 865 licenses) to 395 “any elk” and 260 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 655 licenses); and adjust the boundary of Unit 7 to include the area located within a line beginning at I-90 and Pleasant Valley Rd., then east and south on Pleasant Valley Rd. to Tilford Rd., then west on Tilford Rd. to I-90.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

3. Amend ARSD 41:02:27 – Custer State Park Elk Hunting Season (Any Elk)

Effect: The proposed amendment would adjust the number of licenses available from 11 “any elk” licenses to 4 “any elk” licenses. The license allocation of 4 includes one license made available through a special raffle conducted by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with park wildlife management and wildlife viewing objectives.

4. Amend ARSD 41:06:41 – Custer State Park Deer Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would eliminate the 35 one-tag “muzzleloader antlerless whitetail deer licenses” in Unit CUD-CU3; and remove the language in existing rule which establishes a 300 foot no hunting zone along paved public access roadways in Custer State Park.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with park wildlife management and wildlife viewing objectives. The language in the current rule (ARSD 41:06:41:01) which establishes the 300 foot no hunting zone along CSP paved roadways is unnecessary as it is contained in another rule (ARSD 41:06:07:10).

5. Amend ARSD 41:06:43 – Archery Elk Hunting Season

Effect: The proposed amendments would adjust the number of licenses available from 89 “any elk” and 37 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 126 licenses) to 82 “any elk” and 25 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 107 licenses); adjust the boundary of Unit 7 to include the area located within a line beginning at I-90 and Pleasant Valley Rd., then east and south on Pleasant Valley Rd. to Tilford Rd., then west on Tilford Rd. to I-90; and eliminate the archery season for Unit 30A.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

6. Amend ARSD 41:06:48 – Custer State Park Late Archery Elk Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendment would reduce the number of “any elk” licenses available from 15 licenses to no licenses, closing the CSP late archery elk hunting season.

Reason: Close the season in an effort to enhance the elk population within CSP to meet park wildlife management and wildlife viewing objectives.

7. Amend ARSD 41:06:56 – Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

Effect: The proposed amendment would reduce the number of licenses available from 2 “any bighorn sheep” licenses to 1 “any bighorn sheep” license in Unit 1.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

8. Amend ARSD 41:06:59 – Prairie Elk Hunting Season

Effect: The proposed amendments would adjust the total number of licenses available from 49 “any elk” and 79 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 128 licenses) to 47 “any elk” and 53 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 100 licenses); add Unit 27 (Fall River County) to include that portion of Fall River County south of the Cheyenne River and west of Highway 385 (Season dates: September 1-October 31); adjust the season dates for Unit 09A (portions of Butte and Lawrence Counties) from September 1-October 31 to provide for a split season of September 15-October 31 and December 1-15; and adjust the season dates for Unit 30A (portions of Gregory County, SD, and portions of Boyd County, NE) for the 2012 season to September 29-October 28 and December 1-21, making the season dates coincide with the dates established by Nebraska for this shared elk hunting unit.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

The above rule proposals may be modified or amended following receipt of public comment at the hearing to include or exclude matters that are described in this Notice of Hearing. The hearing may be continued from time to time until its business has been completed and may be rescheduled.

Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit data, opinions, arguments and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) at the hearing. Persons unable to attend the hearing may mail data, opinions, arguments, and their views to the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, or transmit by email to Wildinfo@state.sd.us. All persons who desire to submit written data, opinions, arguments, and their views by mail or email are encouraged to mail or transmit the same in sufficient time so that it is received by and in the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks on or before 12:00 o'clock P.M. three (3) days prior to the date of hearing. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit data, opinions, arguments and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) to the Commission for their consideration. All written and email comments must include the name and mailing address of the person submitting the comments.

Copies of the proposed rules may be requested from the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. Handicapped persons may contact the undersigned for assistance.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2012.

  
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Jeffrey R. York, Department Secretary

This Notice of Public Hearing is published at the approximate cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_.