

2017 SPRING WILD TURKEY REGULATIONS

TURN IN POACHERS - TIPS Hotline 1-888-OVERBAG (1-888-683-7224)

It is important that you read and understand all regulations before your hunt. The following regulations apply to taking, possessing, transporting and storing big game during established seasons. Questions on specific regulations should be directed to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

THE LICENSE

The license is an "all-in-one" form. The lower portion is the tag. The upper portion contains general information. You must carry both portions while hunting the specified season. You may retain the top portion of this license and use it through Jan. 31, 2018 to hunt prairie dogs, coyotes, red or gray fox, skunks, gophers, jackrabbits, crow (in open season), chipmunk, ground squirrels, porcupines and marmots. License and tag cannot be transferred, and the license must be in your possession while hunting.

WHAT A LICENSE ALLOWS A HUNTER TO TAKE: No person may kill a big game animal for another hunter except for designated shooters for blind or quadriplegic hunters who have obtained a special permit from the GFP office in Pierre. No person may kill more big game than allowed by the license or kill a big game animal not specifically authorized by the license. Big game hunters who have filled their tag(s) may continue to carry a firearm with their group for the purpose of hunting coyotes, fox or other allowed species, but they cannot kill additional big game.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Any Wild Turkey:** a dark turkey that bears the characteristics of a Merriam's, Rio Grande or Eastern turkey.

- **Male turkey:** a wild turkey with a visible beard or spurs. The beard is a feathered appendage protruding from the breast.

- **Hen turkey:** a wild turkey without a visible beard or spurs.

- **Firearm big game license:** defined as any license that authorizes the licensee to use a firearm, including a muzzleloading firearm, in the taking of big game animals.

TAGGING AND TRANSPORTATION: The tag you receive with your license must be signed, dated and securely attached to the leg of the big game animal at the time it is brought to a road or into any hunting camp, farmyard, or residence, or before it is placed in or on a vehicle.

- The locking seal issued with each big game license is an adhesive tag. You must sign your tag, and date it by cutting out completely the month and date of kill only. Attach the tag securely around one leg of a turkey.

- Tagging allows a big game animal to be transported and stored by the hunter or another person for the hunter.

- Wild turkeys, unless processed at a wildlife processing facility and accompanied by the receipt, or at the domicile of the possessor, shall include the attached leg and foot bearing the tag issued with the license. Any wild turkey without spurs lawfully taken under a male turkey license, shall also have the visible beard attached. The leg and foot, and beard if required, shall remain naturally attached to the carcass at all times while being transported from the place where taken until the carcass has arrived at the permanent residence of the possessor.

- Big game taken in another state or on an Indian tribal license must be properly tagged when transported within South Dakota. If no tag was issued, the person in possession of the animal must provide proof the animal was lawfully taken.

NONLICENSEES/ACCOMPANIMENT

(Firearm Big Game Licensee):

No person possessing a firearm, including a muzzleloading firearm, or a bow and arrow may accompany a big game hunter in the field or cooperate as part of a big game hunting group unless the accompanying person possesses a big game license that is valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the licensee. This restriction does not apply to any person who is carrying a pistol and possesses a valid concealed pistol permit, nor does it apply to a person who is legally licensed to hunt small game (or exempt from license requirements as provided by SDCL 41-6-2) and hunting only with a shotgun using shotshells. A person hunting small game and accompanying a licensed firearm big game hunter in the field may not use dogs while accompanying a big game hunter.

(Archery-only Big Game Licensee):

No person who is licensed in a season restricted to archery only may:

- (1) Possess a firearm in the field while hunting with bow and arrow, except if the person is carrying a pistol and possesses a valid concealed pistol permit;
- (2) Be accompanied in the field by a person possessing a firearm except if the person is carrying a pistol and possesses a valid concealed pistol permit; or
- (3) Be accompanied in the field by a person carrying a bow and arrow (or crossbow) if the person does not possess an archery big game license that is valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the licensee.

JUVENILES: Juveniles under age 16 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other responsible adult while hunting. The adult must be unarmed except if the adult possesses a firearm big game license that is valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the youth hunter or the adult is carrying a pistol and possesses a valid concealed pistol permit. Adults supervising a mentored hunt may not carry a firearm except as allowed by a concealed pistol permit.

LEGAL FIREARMS

No self-loading or auto-loading firearm that holds more than six cartridges may be used to hunt, pursue, shoot at, shoot, kill, or wound any big game animal. No firearm that is capable of being operated as a full automatic may be used to hunt, shoot, shoot at, wound, kill, or pursue any big game or small game animal. For shotguns that discharge a single ball or rifled slug, the single ball or rifled slug must weigh at least one-half ounce. Buckshot is prohibited.

Any person holding a license to take a wild turkey during the firearm season may take the animal by using a crossbow in lieu of a firearm. Crossbow is defined as a device for propelling a bolt by means of traverse limbs mounted on a stock and string. The crossbow may be drawn, held, and released by a mechanical device and must have at least 125 pounds pull and have a working mechanical safety.

Turkey - Shoulder-held firearms 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 may be used to hunt of wild turkeys. Muzzleloading firearms of at least .44 caliber and muzzleloading shotguns may also be used in the hunting of wild turkeys.

Note: Hunters filling big game tags that are not restricted to archery may use any of the weapons described under "Legal Firearms" or "Archery" or any combination of weapons.

ARCHERY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

-While hunting, the use or possession of compound bows shorter than 28 inches as measured from the top of the upper wheel or cam to the bottom of the lower wheel or cam or with a let-off of more than 80 percent is prohibited.

-The shaft of the arrow, defined as the area from the notch of the nock to the end of the arrow minus the blunt or broadhead, must be at least 26 inches long.

-Broadheads must be made of metal and must have at least two cutting edges.

-Blunt points may be used when hunting turkeys, small game or as practice arrows.

-An arrow and attached broadhead must weigh a minimum of 275 grains to hunt big game.

-Arrow rests with more than three inches of continuous contact with the arrow are prohibited.

-The use or possession while hunting of explosive, poisonous, hydraulic, or pneumatic points is prohibited.

-The use or possession while hunting of electronic bow-mounted devices that aid in the taking of game is prohibited. Cameras, video cameras or cell phones used exclusively for photographic purposes, lighted sight pins and illuminated arrow nocks are allowed.

-The use or the possession of electronic releases of any kind while hunting is strictly prohibited. Also, crossbows and string locks or similar mechanical devices that hold a bow at draw are prohibited except for individuals who qualify and possess a valid crossbow/draw-lock permit.

-The use of telescopic sights is prohibited.

BOWHUNTER EDUCATION REQUIREMENT: All big game archery licensees under 16, all first-time archery big game licensees regardless of age must possess a National Bowhunter Education Foundation certificate or certificate of completion from a bowhunter education course approved by any state or provincial government. Those under 16 must also possess the standard HuntSAFE Card.

TREE STANDS: Permanent tree stands, permanent blinds and climbing devices are prohibited on lands owned, leased or controlled by GFP as well as the Fort Meade Recreation Area. Portable tree stands, portable blinds and climbing devices that do not use nails, wire or bolts for attachment are allowed from Aug 25-Feb 15. Portable blinds may also be used during the spring turkey seasons by licensed spring turkey hunters. One screw-in "T" may be used to stabilize the stand.

Removable screw-in steps may be used to access the stand. The name and address of the year and current big game license number of the owner or user must be on the exterior of an unoccupied portable blind and legible from the ground on a tree stand. Other elevated platform devices not attached to a tree must also meet the requirements for permitted dates and labeling if left overnight or unattended. The use of nails, wires, screws, bolts, or screw-in type steps is prohibited on National Wildlife Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas, both managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

- No one may hunt big game on interstate highways or controlled access facilities.

- No one may discharge a firearm, muzzleloader, crossbow or bow and arrow at any big game animal, except turkey to be taken with a shotgun using shotshells or with a bow and arrow, from within the right-of-way of an improved public highway.

- No person may use a bait station, including salt or a salt lick, when hunting big game animals (including turkey). A bait station is a place where edible foodstuffs or minerals are placed or maintained as an attractant to game animals. The use of scents alone does not constitute a bait station. No person may construct, occupy, or use any screen, blind, or scaffold or other device at or near any salt or salt lick for the purpose of enticing or baiting big game animals to the salt or salt lick for the purpose of hunting, watching for, or killing of big game.

- No one may use a dog or electronic call when hunting turkey. However, a dog on a leash can be used to track and retrieve wounded big game animals.

- From sunset to sunrise, no one may use or possess night-vision equipment or throw or cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight, or other artificial light on a highway or in a field, pasture, woodland, forest, or prairie to spot, locate, take or attempt to take or hunt an animal while having in possession or control a firearm, bow, or other implement with which game could be killed (scopes with an illuminated reticle are allowed). However, (1) a person may use a hand held light while on foot, to take raccoons after they have been treed by dogs; (2) a landowner/lessee and no more than two guests accompanied by the landowner/lessee may use an artificial light and night vision equipment on the landowner/lessee's land, with a shotgun using shotshells only or a firearm using a rimfire cartridge in the taking of jackrabbits, coyotes, beaver (during season), foxes, raccoons, opossums, badgers, skunks, or rodents; (3) a landowner/lessee, 18 years of age or older, and no more than two guests accompanied by the landowner/lessee may use night vision equipment on the landowner/lessee's land, a firearm using a cartridge with a bullet diameter below .225 inches, in the taking of jackrabbits, coyotes, beaver (during season), foxes, raccoons, opossums, badgers, skunks, or rodents.

- No one may possess a loaded firearm while intoxicated.

- No one may hunt big or small game animals in groups of more than 20 people.

- No one may wantonly waste game, destroy a big game animal not in season, or destroy a big game animal in season and not tag and claim the animal.

- No one may sell or barter big game, except the head, hide and antlers. Legally taken velvet antlers may be sold or offered for sale if tagged by a conservation officer before sold or offered for sale.

- No one may recklessly discharge a firearm or bow.

- No one may hunt within any federal refuge, national park or monument, or state game refuge unless specific seasons have been established for these areas. (See also Land Restrictions section below.)

- No one may use or possess firearms in the Fort Meade Recreation Area, South Unit, and the signed portion of the North Unit.

MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

This includes snowmobiles, motorcycles and off-road (ATV/UTV) vehicles.

- No one may use a motor vehicle to chase, harass, intercept, pursue or disturb big game.

- No one may send or receive a message by cellular telephone or other electronic form of communications while in or on a motor vehicle for the purpose of hunting big game.

- No one who is in or on a motor vehicle, except hunters with Disabled Hunter Permits, may discharge a firearm or bow at any wild animal, except coyotes, jackrabbits, rodents, skunks, badgers, raccoons and foxes.

- No one may allow a firearm to protrude from a motor vehicle or a conveyance attached to it while the vehicle is on a public highway. However, a firearm may protrude from a stationary vehicle when shooting at coyotes, jackrabbits, rodents, skunks, badgers, raccoons and foxes.

- No one may possess a firearm while riding on or operating a snowmobile, motorcycle, or off-road vehicle unless the firearm is unloaded and completely enclosed in a carrying case. This does not apply to persons using off-road vehicles or snowmobiles on their own land or on land they lease. This section does not apply to any person who is carrying a pistol and possesses a permit to carry a concealed pistol issued pursuant to chapter 23-7.

- No person may chase, drive, harass, kill or attempt to kill any wild animal with or from a snowmobile; however, coyotes may be shot by a landowner or lessee on the landowner's property from a stationary snowmobile as long as no more than one person is aboard the snowmobile and that person is at least 18 years old.

- No one may operate motorized vehicles on lands owned, leased or controlled by GFP, except on designated motor vehicle roads and parking areas; federal Waterfowl Production Areas, except designated parking areas; or private land without permission from the owner or lessee of the land.

- Hunters planning to use U.S. Forest Service or National Grassland public lands should contact the Forest Service or Grasslands office for details on travel restrictions.

- No one may use aircraft to hunt, take, concentrate, drive, stir up, locate or spot game animals.

- No person may use a motor vehicle to hunt, fish or trap on any land under the control of the Commissioner of School and Public Lands, except for roads, trails or parking areas designated and signed by the GFP.

LAND RESTRICTIONS

TRESPASS: No one may hunt on private land or retrieve big game animals from private land without permission from the owner or lessee except in the Black Hills Fire Protection District. In that part of the Black Hills Fire Protection District lying south of Interstate Highway 90, no person may enter upon any private land with intent to take or kill any bird or animal, after being notified by the owner or lessee not to do so. Such notice may be given orally or by posting written or printed notices to that effect at the residence or where the buildings are located on the private land, at the gates or entering places to the private land, and in conspicuous places around the land posted.

- The Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District is within the following boundary: Beginning at a point on the WY-SD state line at the junction of I-90 at the state line; then east and southeast along I-90 via Rapid City to the intersection of U.S. Highway 16B; then south and southwest along U.S. 16B to the intersection of SD 79; then south along SD 79 to the intersection of U.S. 18; then south along U.S. 18 to the Cheyenne River; then west and northwest along the Cheyenne River to the WY-SD state line; then north along state line to the place of beginning.

- If a person is convicted of knowingly trespassing, that person's hunting privilege shall be revoked for one year.

TRIBAL LANDS: State licenses are not valid on tribal lands unless authorized by the tribal council. Individual tribes may require a tribal permit to hunt on their lands. Court decisions and possible state-tribal agreements may change hunting status on tribal lands. Individuals hunting these areas are encouraged to contact appropriate tribal offices.

RESTRICTIONS IN PARK AND RECREATION AREAS: Uncased firearms, crossbows and bows are prohibited in all state parks, recreation areas, nature areas and lakeside use areas with the following exceptions:

- A person who possesses a valid concealed pistol permit may carry a concealed pistol at any time.

- Uncased .22 caliber rimfire firearms are prohibited on all state park and recreation area lands and on the George S. Mickelson Trail the year around. However, uncased .22 caliber rimfire firearms are permitted within North Point and Oahe Downstream recreation areas the year around on rifle ranges designated by the department.

- Uncased firearms, crossbows and bows are permitted on designated rifle and archery ranges the year around.

- Hunters licensed for the special Custer State Park hunting seasons may have uncased firearms, crossbows and bows in Custer State Park during the season for which they are licensed.

- Only shotguns using shot shells, muzzleloading shotguns, crossbows and bows are permitted in Custer State Park during the park's spring turkey season.

- Uncased firearms, crossbows and bows are permitted from Sept. 1-May 21, within the Sheps Canyon Lakeside Use Area.

- From Oct. 1-Apr. 30, uncased firearms, crossbows and bows are authorized for licensed hunters in all state parks, recreation areas, nature areas and lakeside use areas during established hunting seasons with the following restrictions:

- Uncased firearms, crossbows and bows are prohibited the year around in all established campgrounds, designated day use areas, and at Beaver Creek Nature Area, Lake Herman State Park, Spring Creek Recreation Area, Spirit Mound Historic Prairie, Bear Butte State Park east of Highway 79, Oahe Downstream Recreation Area except for a hunter who possesses a valid turkey license for Unit PST-58B, and Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve and Good Earth State Park except for a resident hunter who possesses a valid archery spring turkey license and an access permit.

- Only bow and arrow are permitted in Big Sioux Recreation Area, the Forest Drive Unit of Richmond Lake Recreation Area, Palisades State Park, LaFramboise Island, Chief White Crane and Clay County recreation areas and the mouth of Spearfish Canyon.

- Only shotguns using shot shells, crossbows and bows are permitted in West Whitlock, West Pickerel, Mina Lake, Okobojo, Farm Island, Angostura and Cow Creek recreation areas, and the portions of North Point Recreation Area which are situated to the west of 381st St. and north of 297th Ave. and situated west of 382nd Ave. and north of 297th St., and situated south of 297th St. and west of Prairie Dog Bay.

- Only shotguns using shot shells, crossbows and bows for the wild turkey hunting seasons and bows for archery deer and wild turkey hunting seasons are permitted in that portion of Newton Hills State Park which is situated to the west of County Road 135 and north of County Road 140.

- A person who possesses a valid turkey license for unit PST-48A is permitted to have an uncased shotgun using shotshells, crossbow, a bow or a muzzleloading shotgun within the boundary of Sica Hollow State Park through May 21.

-The discharge of firearms or bows on or across the George S. Mickelson Trail right-of-way is prohibited.

RESTRICTIONS ON OTHER STATE-OWNED LANDS:

- Uncased firearms are prohibited on the East Pelican Lake Access in Codington County; that portion of the Beilage Game Production Area north of Christensen Drive located in Sec.24 and 25, T6N, R2E, in Lawrence County; Hazel's Haven Fishing Access in Moody County; that portion of the Marcotte Game Production Area in S16, T5N, R5E, in Meade County; Kelley's Cove Fishing Access Area in Yankton County; and the Hwy 38/James River Fishing Access in Davison County.

- No person may possess an uncased firearm on the New Underwood Lake Access in Pennington County except any licensed hunter while lawfully engaged in hunting game.

- No person may possess an uncased firearm on the Rollings Game Production Area in Lincoln County except for any licensed hunter, using a shotgun with shotshells only, while hunting small game or wild turkey and individuals who are using the shooting range when it is open.

- No person may possess an uncased firearm on the Lake Henry Fishing Access in Bon Homme County except any licensed hunter, using a shotgun with shotshells only, while hunting small game or wild turkey.

- Only shotguns using shot shells, crossbows and bows are permitted on lands owned by the Otter Tail Power Company and leased by the department as a Game Production Area in Grant County and the Lake Andes Unit's game production areas in Charles Mix County.

- Centerfire rifles are prohibited on the Lechtenberg Game Production Area in Hand County and Cottonwood Lake Hatchery State Game Bird Refuge in Spink County.

- You may not ride or allow horses on land owned, leased or controlled by GFP except on designated bridle trails or equestrian areas.

GUIDING ON PUBLIC LANDS: No person acting as a hunting guide may guide any hunting activity on state-owned or managed Game Production Areas, state parks, recreation areas, and lakeside use areas, federal land leased or under agreement to SD and posted as a Game Production Area and managed for wildlife purposes, or private land leased or under agreement to GFP for the purpose of providing public access, or on highways or other public rights-of-way within this state

that otherwise meet the requirements except that a hunting guide or employees of a hunting guide may guide a hunting activity on the road rights-of-way immediately adjacent to property owned or leased by the hunting guide. A hunting guide is defined as a person who holds himself or herself out to the public as a hunting guide and, for compensation or remuneration, directs or provides services to any person for the purpose of hunting any wild animals. Contact the respective agency for information about possible restrictions pertaining to guiding/outfitting on federal lands.

MISCELLANEOUS

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

INSPECTION: Any motor vehicle, camper or trailer may be stopped for such inspection and count at the request of any uniformed law enforcement officer. You may not refuse inspection and count of game.

REPORTING: If you receive a hunter report form, you must complete and mail it as requested. These items are valuable tools in gathering information to manage turkeys, and your cooperation is an important contribution to our wildlife resources.

FEDERAL LACY ACT: No person may transport or ship to another state wildlife taken unlawfully in South Dakota.

HARASSMENT: No one may intentionally interfere with other persons lawfully engaged in taking or attempting to take game, engage in an activity specifically intended to harass or prevent the lawful taking of game, or engage in an activity to scare or disturb game with specific intent to prevent its lawful taking.

PENALTIES: Violations of most big game regulations are Class 1 misdemeanors, punishable by fine and/or imprisonment and mandatory loss of hunting privileges for one year. Loss of privileges may extend to all other Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact states as well. In addition to criminal penalties, a person taking or killing big game illegally may be assessed civil damages in the amount of \$200 for each turkey. If a person has taken or is in possession of more than two times the lawful daily or possession limit of a regulated wild animal, such person may be liable for twice the civil damages.

SUNRISE - SUNSET SCHEDULE

All times are daylight savings time.

DATE	CENTRAL TIME			MOUNTAIN TIME	
	Sioux Falls Rise-Set	Huron Rise-Set	Pierre Rise-Set	Philip Rise-Set	Rapid City Rise-Set
Apr 1	7:09-7:53	7:14-7:59	7:23-8:08	6:28-7:13	6:35-7:19
Apr 4	7:04-7:56	7:09-8:03	7:17-8:11	6:23-7:16	6:29-7:23
Apr 7	6:58-8:00	7:03-8:07	7:10-8:17	6:18-7:20	6:24-7:26
Apr 10	6:53-8:03	6:58-8:10	7:07-8:19	6:12-7:24	6:19-7:30
Apr 13	6:48-8:07	6:53-8:14	7:01-8:22	6:07-7:27	6:13-7:34
Apr 16	6:43-8:10	6:48-8:18	6:56-8:26	6:02-7:31	6:08-7:37
Apr 19	6:38-8:14	6:43-8:21	6:51-8:30	5:57-7:35	6:03-7:41
Apr 22	6:33-8:18	6:38-8:25	6:46-8:34	5:52-7:38	5:58-7:45
Apr 25	6:28-8:21	6:33-8:29	6:41-8:37	5:47-7:42	5:54-7:48
Apr 28	6:22-8:26	6:28-8:32	6:37-8:41	5:43-7:46	5:49-7:52
May 1	6:20-8:28	6:24-8:36	6:32-8:45	5:38-7:49	5:45-7:55
May 3	6:17-8:31	6:21-8:38	6:29-8:47	5:36-7:52	5:42-7:58
May 6	6:13-8:34	6:17-8:42	6:25-8:51	5:32-7:55	5:38-8:01
May 9	6:09-8:37	6:13-8:46	6:21-8:54	5:26-7:59	5:34-8:05
May 12	6:06-8:41	6:09-8:49	6:18-8:58	5:24-8:02	5:30-8:08
May 15	6:02-8:44	6:06-8:53	6:14-9:01	5:21-8:05	5:27-8:12
May 18	5:59-8:47	6:03-8:56	6:11-9:04	5:18-8:09	5:24-8:15
May 21	5:56-8:50	6:00-8:59	6:08-9:07	5:15-8:12	5:21-8:18

BASIC RULES FOR SAFE TURKEY HUNTING

The following are some basic rules for safe turkey hunting.

Never identify a legal turkey by sound or movement. Always see the bird clearly and in spring use the head, beard and strutting as a means of identifying your target as a safe, legal target. (NOTE: Hen turkeys do occasionally display strutting behavior.)

Never wave, whistle or make turkey calls to alert an approaching hunter to your presence. Always shout or speak loudly to reveal your presence to an approaching hunter. Avoid movement when doing so.

Never shoot at a turkey out of your shotgun's effective range. Pattern your shotgun, learn its effective range and learn to accurately judge distances. Always shoot at the head and neck and remember that 30 yards is about the limit for a clean kill.

Never wear red, white, blue or black in the turkey woods. Dress defensively and remember that partial or improper camouflage or appropriate clothing can be just as dangerous in the turkey woods as red, white, blue or black.

Never try to sneak up on or drive wild turkeys during the spring season. Always call the turkey to you. The less moving you do the more safe and effective you will be.

Be extremely careful when using a gobble call during the hunt. A gobble call may draw other hunters into your area and lead to a dangerous encounter.

Never let excitement, nerves, or panic guide your behavior. Always strive to remain calm and rational. Remember, there is not a turkey in the woods worth a human life or injury.

Never assume you are the only hunter in the area. Assume every sound or movement is another hunter until you can safely identify it as otherwise.

HOW TO TELL A GOBBLER FROM A HEN

Large size, black body and long beard are marks of the gobbler. Both gobblers and hens will respond to turkey calls so identify your target. Hens sometimes have beards, but color, size and behavior distinguish them from gobblers. Hens are smaller, brown birds, with feathered heads.

