

# GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:13

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

### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2025 and 2026 hunting seasons

**Season Dates:**

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

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

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

**Open Area:** See Figure 1.

**Licenses:** During Spring 2024 there were:  
Black Hills: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses  
Prairie: 6,357 resident and 262 nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses  
700 resident and 56 nonresident two-tag “male turkey” licenses  
Archery: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses  
Mentored: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses

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

**Access permits:**

Good Earth State Park: 5 archery  
Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve: 30 archery; 20 mentored youth

### **Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. No more than 10,000 one-tag male turkey and 2,500 two-tag male turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the prairie spring turkey hunting season. Specific license numbers will be recommended during the July and September Commission meetings.
2. A person may apply for and receive one license in the prairie season in the first and second lottery drawings.
3. A person may apply for one license in the third drawing and apply for an unlimited number of licenses on a first-come first-served basis in the fourth, leftover license drawing. In the third and fourth drawings, resident and nonresident licenses are pooled.
4. A person may purchase only one Black Hills and one Archery male turkey license and the license number for these seasons is unlimited.
5. One-half of the limited licenses in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference.
6. No person may shoot a turkey in a tree or roost.
7. A person may use only bow and arrow, a shotgun using shot shells or a muzzleloading shotgun to hunt turkeys during the spring turkey season.
8. The season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day of an open season.

### **Proposed changes from last year:**

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

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL**

1. Edit § 41:06:13:01 to create a cap of 2,225 one-tag male turkey licenses for nonresidents in the Black Hills Turkey unit.

### **SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Nonresident turkey hunters are currently unlimited in the Black Hills and their numbers have been consistently increasing over the past 10 years and licenses sold to nonresidents for 2024 outnumbered licenses sold to residents.

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

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

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

Figure 1. Map of recommended 2025 and 2026 spring wild turkey hunting season units. Archery hunting is proposed to be 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. The department recommendation is to open all of Lake County to archery hunting.

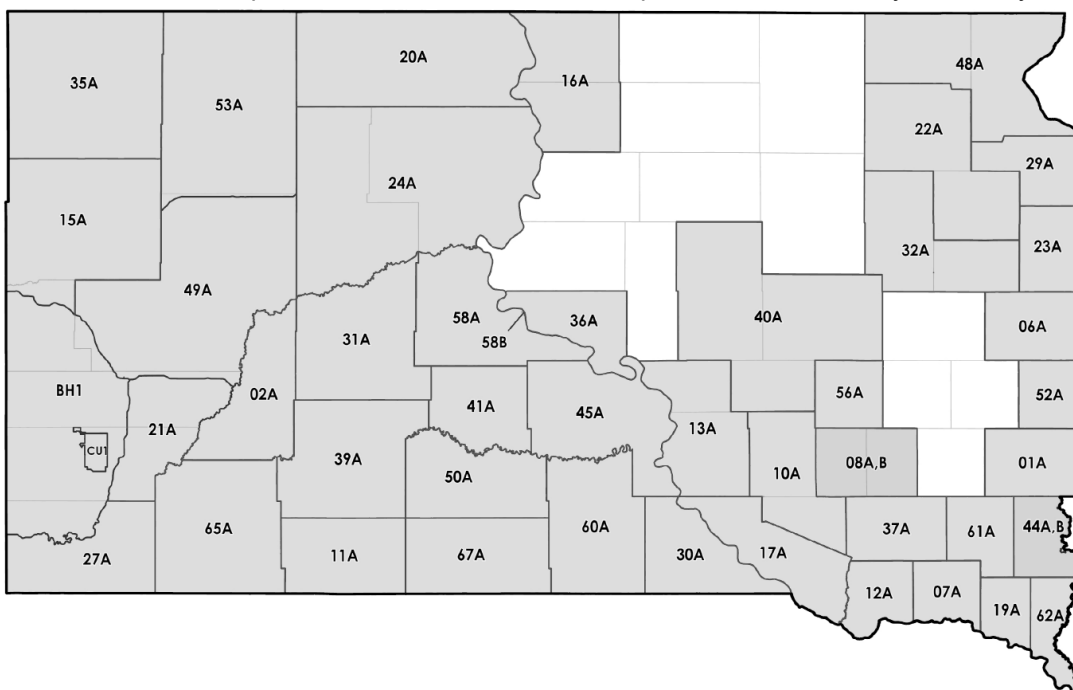


Table 1. Spring prairie turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

Year	Resident Licenses	Nonres Licenses	Tags	Harvest		Success	Avg Days Hunted	Satisf
				Males	Hens			
2014	5,888	1,301	8,962	3,491	106	40%	2.40	5.26
2015	5,604	1,357	8,470	3,555	10	42%	2.64	5.34
2016	5,648	1,202	7,907	2,482	4	31%	2.72	5.49
2017	5,364	1,213	7,371	3,323	5	45%	2.50	5.55
2018	5,364	1,146	7,287	2,724	9	38%	2.18	5.49
2019	5,250	1,125	6,977	2,722	5	39%	2.14	5.39
2020	5,500	955	7,103	3,107	6	44%	2.70	5.48
2021	5,444	1,255	7,348	3,748	0	51%	2.57	5.75
2022	4,834	1,824	7,305	3,725	2	51%	2.69	5.61
2023	5,878	1,432	8,048	3,647	0	45%	2.65	5.40

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

<i>Year</i>	<i>Licenses Issued</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Tag Success</i>	<i>Avg Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Satisfaction</i>
2014	3,944	1,258	32%	3.19	4.99
2015	3,877	1,258	32%	3.44	4.89
2016	4,056	1,575	39%	3.38	5.21
2017	4,401	1,701	39%	3.48	5.30
2018	4,567	1,441	32%	3.38	5.15
2019	4,545	1,365	30%	3.61	4.93
2020	4,733	1,287	27%	3.64	4.90
2021	6,303	1,776	28%	3.44	4.87
2022	5,133	1,563	30%	3.46	4.92
2023	5,328	2,073	39%	3.37	5.20

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

<i>Year</i>	<i>Licenses Sold</i>		<i>Male Harvest</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Avg Days Hunted</i>	<i>Satisfaction</i>
	<i>Resident</i>	<i>Nonresident</i>				
2014	2,335	387	695	26%	3.41	5.17
2015	2,604	315	790	27%	3.59	5.36
2016	2,844	358	885	28%	3.90	5.39
2017	2,925	373	912	28%	3.87	5.47
2018	2,914	350	719	22%	3.43	5.33
2019	3,129	338	915	26%	3.47	5.51
2020	4,063	396	1,340	30%	4.10	5.47
2021	4,306	593	1,607	33%	4.23	5.42
2022	4,181	570	1,310	28%	3.60	5.37
2023	4,276	676	1,247	25%	3.26	5.19

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

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>Licenses Sold</i>	<i>HARVEST</i>				<i>Avg Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Satisfaction</i>
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Hens</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%Success</i>		
2014	679	211	0	211	31%	2.30	5.54
2015	654	205	0	205	31%	2.41	5.70
2016	734	277	0	277	38%	2.68	5.78
2017	799	310	0	310	39%	2.70	5.85
2018	735	261	0	261	35%	2.32	5.82
2019	1,024	295	0	295	29%	2.03	5.63
2020	1,356	507	2	508	37%	3.04	5.76
2021	1,422	523	0	523	37%	2.54	5.71
2022	1,632	558	0	558	34%	2.47	5.55
2023	1,702	489	2	491	29%	2.52	5.53

## DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:13:01. Spring wild turkey hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available. The spring prairie wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the second Saturday of April through May 31. The spring Black Hills wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the fourth Saturday of April through May 31. The spring archery wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day during the open dates of the prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively. The number of one-tag male turkey licenses issued is unlimited for residents and nonresidents in ~~both the Black Hills and archery spring turkey hunting seasons~~. The number of one-tag male turkey licenses issued is unlimited for residents in the Black Hills turkey hunting unit and no more than 2,225 one-tag male turkey licenses may be issued in the Black Hills turkey hunting unit. 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.

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

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

(2) Unit PST-01A: Minnehaha County;

(3) Unit PST-02A: that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River;

(4) Unit PST-06A: Brookings County;

(5) Unit PST-07A: Yankton County;

(6) Unit PST-08A: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April 30;

(7) Unit PST-08B: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08B is open beginning on May 1 through May 31;

(8) Unit PST-10A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;

~~(8)-(9)~~ Unit PST-11A: Bennett County;

~~(9)-(10)~~ Unit PST-12A: Bon Homme County;

~~(10)-(11)~~ Unit PST-13A: Brule and Buffalo Counties;

~~(11)-(12)~~ Unit PST-15A: Butte County and that portion of Lawrence County north of Interstate 90;

~~(12)-(13)~~ Unit PST-16A: Campbell and Walworth Counties;

~~(13)-(14)~~ Unit PST-17A: Charles Mix County;

~~(14) Unit PST-18A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;~~

(15) Unit PST-19A: Clay County;

(16) Unit PST-20A: Corson County;

(17) Unit PST-21A: that portion of Custer County east of State Highway 79 and that portion of Pennington County south of Interstate 90 between State Highway 79 and the Cheyenne River;

(18) Unit PST-22A: Day and Codington Counties;

(19) Unit PST-23A: Deuel County;

(20) Unit PST-24A: Dewey and Ziebach Counties;

(21) Unit PST-27A: that portion of Fall River County not included in Unit BST-BH1;

(22) Unit PST-29A: Grant County;

(23) Unit PST-30A: Gregory County;

(24) Unit PST-31A: Haakon County;

(25) Unit PST-32A: Hamlin and Clark Counties;

- (26) Unit PST-35A: Harding County;
- (27) Unit PST-36A: Hughes County;
- (28) Unit PST-37A: Hutchinson County;
- (29) Unit PST-39A: Jackson County;
- (30) Unit PST-40A: Beadle, Hand, and Jerauld Counties;
- (31) Unit PST-41A: Jones County;
- (32) Unit PST-44A: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April 30;
- (33) Unit PST-44B: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44B is open beginning on May 1 through May 31;
- (34) Unit PST-45A: Lyman County;
- (35) Unit PST-48A: Marshall County and Roberts County;
- (36) Unit PST-49A: those portions of Meade County not included in Units BST-BH1 and PST-53A, and that portion of Pennington County north of Interstate 90, west of the Cheyenne River;
- (37) Unit PST-50A: Mellette County;
- (38) Unit PST-52A: Moody County;
- (39) Unit PST-53A: Perkins County and that portion of Meade County north of U.S. Highway 212;
- (40) Unit PST-56A: Sanborn County;
- (41) Unit PST-58A: Stanley County;
- (42) Unit PST-58B: that portion of Stanley County located at the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area to include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Land which is east and southeast of Powerhouse Road. This unit is bordered by the Missouri River to the east and the emergency spillway canal to the south. Unit PST-58B-is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April 30, but only to licensed persons who use a wheelchair;
- (43) Unit PST-60A: Tripp County;
- (44) Unit PST-61A: Turner County;
- (45) Unit PST-62A: Union County;
- (46) Unit PST-65A: Oglala Lakota County;
- (47) Unit PST-67A: Todd County; and
- (48) Unit AST-ST1: statewide for archery turkey, except in Custer State Park and south of state Highway 34 in Lake County.

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

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

None.

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? Less nonresidents will be able to purchase a license in the Black Hills.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? The change will open a new area to archery turkey hunting.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

**FISCAL IMPACT**

A reduction in nonresident license sales will reduce revenue.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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