

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Antelope Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:23

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 6-7, 2021	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 8, 2021	Watertown
	Finalization	July 8-9, 2021	Watertown

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: 2021 hunting season

Season Dates: October 2-17, 2021

Open Area: See the attached map

Licenses: Total of 4,957 licenses
Residents: 4,165 one-tag licenses; 600 two-tag licenses
Nonresidents: 168 one-tag licenses; 24 two-tag licenses

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference.
2. Landowners not possessing a license that allows the harvest of a buck may purchase an "any antelope" or a two-tag "any antelope" + "doe/fawn antelope" license that is valid on their property only.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Allocate no more than 50 resident and 50 nonresident special antelope licenses.
2. The special antelope license would be valid only on private property not leased by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks for public hunting in any east river or west river antelope unit open to hunting.
3. A special antelope applicant may not apply for another antelope unit in the initial or second drawing for that season.
4. A successful special antelope licensee may not apply for a leftover special antelope license.
5. The application will require the applicant to provide the name and telephone number of the owner or lessee of the private property granting permission.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal:

1. Simplify administrative rule by combining West River and East River antelope units into one rule.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

As a result of prioritizing wildlife surveys given recent unknowns with budgets, mild winter conditions with no anticipated increase in overwinter mortality, and no concerns with any 2020 harvest survey data, the Department is recommending a one-year recommendation with no change to the regular season. The University of Montana, as part of an on-going research project, will be conducting aerial surveys this spring within the Grand River and Upper Missouri data analysis units with the objective of evaluating a systematic aerial survey design across the state in areas of varying antelope densities to improve future survey efforts. The Department is planning to conduct a survey again in 2022 across South Dakota's antelope range that will also contribute to the on-going research objective. Results of this range-wide survey next spring will guide Department recommendations for the 2022-2023 hunting seasons.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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The proposed change that includes resident and nonresident special antelope licenses is the result of a petition. The GFP Commission accepted the petition as a recommended change and is now accepting public comment.

Year	Licenses	Tags	Bucks	Doe/Fawn	Total	Success
	Sold	Issued	Harvested	Harvested	Harvested	
2016	3,328	3,328	2,112	350	2,461	70%
2017	5,432	5,933	2,692	1,093	3,784	64%
2018	5,539	6,078	2,845	1,000	3,845	63%
2019	5,235	6,054	2,629	1,249	3,878	64%
2020	5,279	6,101	2,415	1,272	3,687	64%

*Includes Landowner-Own-Land licenses.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Not applicable
2. Historical Considerations – Unlike the deer seasons where there is an allocation of Special Buck licenses for the West and East River deer hunting seasons that are valid on private land only, this option is currently not available for the firearm antelope hunting season. There have been discussions in the past few years, both internally as a Department during the last management plan revision and from stakeholders, regarding this concept. Accepting the petition as a Commission proposal will provide an opportunity to obtain public comment on this license concept.
3. Biological Considerations – Not applicable
4. Social Considerations – Would provide another license opportunity for both resident and nonresident applicants. These additional licenses will not impact the regular antelope season license availability at this level. These licenses valid on private land only, would not add to the hunting pressure on public lands. Like special buck deer licenses, the demand for such licenses could increase in time, thus potentially increasing the commercialization of antelope hunting in South Dakota. This allocation of special antelope license will be increasing resident opportunities by 1% (4,715 to 4,765), compared to 35% (142 to 192) for nonresidents. With potential increases to the special antelope licenses in the future, it is likely that regular antelope season licenses would be decreased.
5. Financial considerations – Not applicable

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? Not applicable.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, on private lands only.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Not applicable.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT

Minimal positive fiscal impact from petition. Using current license fees for special buck deer licenses of \$175 for residents and \$560 for nonresidents, the issuance of 50 resident and 50 nonresident licenses would equate to a revenue of \$36,750.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____