

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:13; 41:03:01

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>July 16-17, 2020</b>	<b>Virtual Meeting</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>September 2, 2020</b>	<b>Virtual Meeting</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>September 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Virtual Meeting</b>

### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2021 and 2022 seasons (only 2021 season dates listed below)

<b>Season Dates:</b>	April 3 – May 31, 2021	Archery
	April 10 – May 31, 2021	Black Hills regular and single-season Prairie units
	April 10 – April 30, 2021	Split-season early Prairie units
	May 1 – May 31, 2021	Split-season late Prairie units; Black Hills late season

<b>Licenses:</b>	Black Hills: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
	Prairie: 5,797 resident and 246 nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses 600 resident and 48 nonresident two-tag “male turkey” licenses
	Archery: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses

<b>Access Permits:</b>	Access permits valid April 3-30
	Good Earth State Park: 5 archery turkey access permits
	Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve: 30 archery turkey access permits
	Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve: 20 mentored turkey access permits

### **Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Turkey hunters may apply for and receive one license in each of the Black Hills regular season, Black Hills late season, Prairie and Archery Units in the first and second lottery drawings.
2. Turkey hunters may purchase only one regular Black Hills and one archery turkey license.
3. Residents may purchase one late Black Hills late season license.
4. One-half of the licenses in each prairie unit are available for landowner/operator preference.
5. Prairie units adjoining the White River and Cheyenne River also include an adjacent area one mile wide on the opposite side of the river.
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.

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

1. Offer residents 140 more one-tag “male turkey” licenses for the Prairie Units than 2020.
2. Add Clark County to Hamlin County unit.
3. Remove Douglas County from Charles Mix County unit.
4. Create Unit 10A that includes both Aurora and Douglas counties.
5. Add Buffalo County to Brule County unit.
6. Add Beadle and Hand counties to Jerauld County unit.
7. Increase the number of archer turkey access permits for Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve from 20 to 30.
8. Establish 20 mentored turkey access permits for Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve that would be limited to a bow or crossbow.
9. For Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve, allow for uncased bows and crossbows for a resident hunter who possesses a valid mentored spring turkey license and an access permit.

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Year	Licenses			Harvest			Success		
	BH	Prairie	Archery	BH	Prairie	Archery	BH	Prairie	Archery
2015	3,877	6,961	2,919	1,258	3,565	790	32%	42%	27%
2016	4,056	6,850	3,202	1,575	2,486	885	39%	31%	28%
2017	4,401	6,577	3,847	1,701	3,328	912	39%	45%	28%
2018	4,274	6,510	3,264	1,441	2,733	719	32%	38%	22%
2019	4,545	6,375	3,129	1,365	2,72	915	30%	39%	26%

\*Includes both resident and nonresident harvest statistics.

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

1. The Issue
  - Why make the change, what are the change alternatives, how will public/stakeholder input be solicited, and how will the change be evaluated if implemented?
    - i. Turkey hunting opportunities are available in marginal habitats for these added counties in eastern South Dakota.
    - ii. Input will be solicited during the public comment period and GFP Commission public hearing.
2. Historical Considerations – Not Applicable
3. Biological Considerations
  - What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations?
    - i. While no population estimates exist for prairie turkeys, there are opportunities that can be made available to hunters.
4. Social Considerations
  - Enhanced hunting opportunities.
5. Financial considerations – Not Applicable

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

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
  - Expanding open areas and increasing access to Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve increases hunting opportunity and will provide a unique experience for mentored turkey hunters.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?
  - Enhanced hunting opportunities.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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