

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Black Hills Elk Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:26

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 16-17, 2020	Pierre
	Public Hearing	March 5, 2020	Pierre
	Finalization	March 5-6, 2020	Pierre

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2020 and 2021 hunting seasons.

Season Dates:

Units	2020 Hunting Season Dates	2021 Hunting Season Dates
Any Elk Units	October 1 - 31	October 1 - 31
Antlerless Elk Units: H1B, H7B and H9B	October 15 - 31 AND December 1 - 16	October 15 - 31 AND December 1 - 16
Antlerless Elk Units: H2B, H2E, H2H, H3B and H3E	October 15 - 31	October 15 - 31
Antlerless Elk Units: H2C, H2F, H2I, H3C and H3F	December 1 - 16	December 1 - 16
Antlerless Elk Units: H2D, H2G, H2J, H2D and H3G	December 17 - 31	December 17 - 31

Open Area: See attached maps.

Licenses: 430 "any elk" and 715 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,145 licenses)

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
2. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
3. Except for landowner/operator preference applicants, no person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season shall be eligible to apply for a Black Hills elk license in first drawings for the next 9 years.
4. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference. One member of each qualifying landowner/operator household may apply every year.
5. Each elk harvested must be inspected by a Conservation Officer or designee within 24 hours after kill.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Adjust the total number of available licenses from 425 "any elk" and 700 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,125 licenses) to 430 "any elk" and 715 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,145 licenses).

APPROVE _____
 MODIFY _____
 REJECT _____
 NO ACTION _____

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The intent of the changes being recommended are to allow an opportunity for adjustments to be made at finalization during the Commission meeting in March and in administrative rule to maximize hunter opportunity based on the results of the upcoming aerial survey and to meet population objectives identified in the elk management plan.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Hunter Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	664	71%	299	174
2015	922	71%	312	345
2016	1,745	62%	363	724
2017	1,581	66%	366	684
2018	1,124	64%	315	402

2018	"Any Elk"					"Antlerless Elk" (All Units Combined)				
Unit	Appl.1st Choice	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested	Appl.1st Choice	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
H1	1,131	60	73%	44	0	53	20	33%	0	7
H2	8,534	249	77%	179	13	453	445	62%	5	269
H3	1,190	80	77%	58	3	55	195	48%	3	90
H4	54	10	90%	9	0	3	10	70%	0	7
H5	58	5	60%	3	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
H7	278	10	90%	9	0	8	10	40%	0	4
H9	51	10	40%	3	1	3	20	45%	1	8

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

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?
 - The proposed changes to license allocation would slightly increase elk hunting opportunity.
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.

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____