

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Prairie Elk Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:59

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:

Unit	2020 Hunting Season Dates	2021 Hunting Season Dates
9A	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1 - 31	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1 - 31
11A	July 15 - August 31	July 15 - August 31
11B	September 1 - October 16	September 1 - October 15
11C	October 17 - November 30	October 16 - November 30
11D	September 1 - December 31	September 1 - December 31
15A	September 1 - October 31 AND December 1 -31	September 1 - October 31 AND December 1 -31
27A	October 1 - 31 AND December 1 -31	October 1 - 31 AND December 1 -31
35A	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1 - 31	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1 - 31
West River	September 1 - December 31	September 1 - December 31

Open Area:

Unit 09A	Portions of Butte, Lawrence and Meade counties
Unit 11A,B,C,D	Bennett County; portions of Jackson and Mellette counties
Unit 15A	Portions of Butte and Lawrence counties
Unit 27A	Portions of Fall River County
Unit 35A	Harding County
Unit WRA	Those portions of South Dakota west of the Missouri River not associated with another prairie elk unit, excluding Corson, Dewey, Oglala Lakota, Todd and Ziebach counties.

Licenses: 78 “any elk” and 75 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 153 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 prairie 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 number of licenses available from 68 “any elk” and 73 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 141 licenses) to 78 “any elk” and 75 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 151 licenses).
2. Establish a new unit (PRE-WRA) for those portions of South Dakota west of the Missouri River not associated with another prairie elk unit, excluding Corson, Dewey, Oglala Lakota, Todd and Ziebach counties with season dates of September 1 to December 1-31 (see attached map).

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

3. Modify those portions of Unit 9 in Butte and Lawrence counties to include that area within a line beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highways 85 and 212, then east on Highway 212 to Whitewood Valley Road, then south on Whitewood Valley Road to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to U.S. Highway 85, then north on U.S. Highway 85 to point of origin. That portion of Unit 9 in Meade County would remain unchanged.
4. Modify Unit 15A to include those portions of Butte and Lawrence counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border, east on Sourdough Road to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then north to the point of origin.
5. Modify Unit 27A to include all of Fall River County not included in BHE-H3.
6. Eliminate Unit 30A (portions of Gregory County) and include this geographic area into the West River prairie unit.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

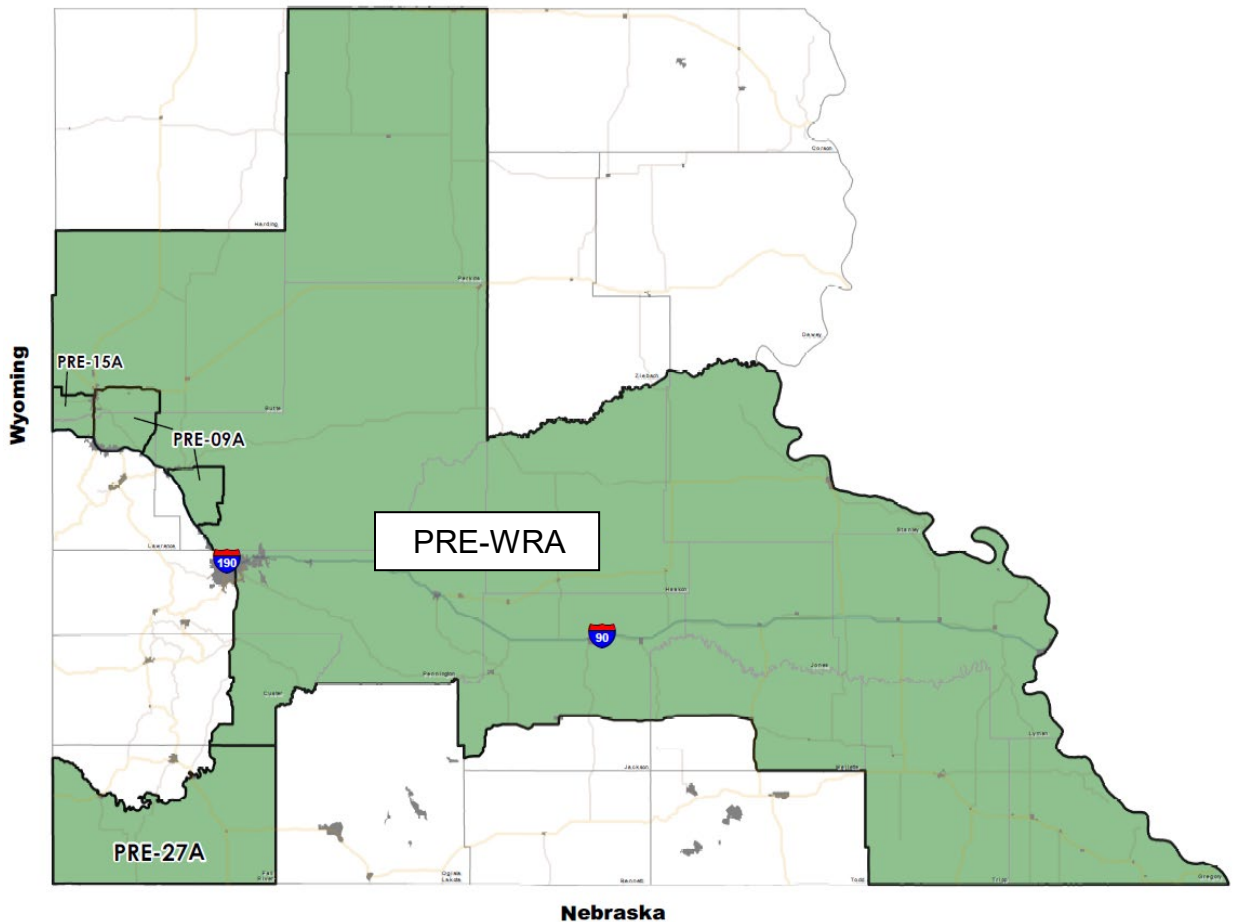
The intent of the changes being recommended are to allow an opportunity for adjustments to be made at finalization during the Commission meeting in March and in administrative rule to maximize hunter opportunity based on the results of the upcoming aerial survey and to meet population objectives identified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

Year	Licensed Hunters	Hunter Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	92	68%	30	31
2015	98	55%	29	25
2016	148	40%	32	27
2017	149	54%	41	39
2018	139	79%	59	51

2018 Unit	"Any Elk"				"Antlerless Elk"			
	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
09A	10	80%	8	0	10	50%	0	5
11A	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	93%	0	16
11B	16	100%	16	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
11C	16	69%	10	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
11D	NA	NA	NA	NA	30	70%	0	26
15A	8	100%	8	0	10	0%	0	0
27A	10	80%	8	0	10	40%	1	3
30A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
35A	8	100%	8	0	NA	NA	NA	NA

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

Prairie Elk Units



RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not Applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No. With the recommended West River prairie elk unit (PRE-WRA), the Department is also recommending modifying the unit boundaries of some other units to simplify their respective unit boundary descriptions.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - The proposed changes to license allocation would slightly increase elk hunting opportunities.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Increases opportunity for elk hunting in western South Dakota and simplifies prairie elk hunting units.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Increases opportunity for elk hunting in western South Dakota.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____