

**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL**

East River Deer Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:21

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

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Current Administrative Rule

41:06:21:02.01. Special any deer licenses -- Restrictions. The East River resident "special any deer" license allocation is the greater of four percent of the total East River deer licenses which included an "any deer" tag allocated in the previous year, or 500 resident licenses. These licenses are available by lottery and are valid only on private property not leased by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks for public hunting in any unit east of the Missouri River. The license is valid for one "any deer." An applicant may apply for both an East River special any deer license and a West River special any deer license, but may only receive one special any deer license in any given year. A successful East River special any deer licensee may not apply for an East River deer license in the initial or second drawing. A successful East River deer licensee may not apply for a leftover East River special any deer license. No person may make application for or receive the special any deer license provided for in this section unless the following conditions are met:

(1) The applicant has permission from an owner or lessee of private property to hunt deer on the owner's or lessee's property located within the permitted area during the deer hunting season for which the special any deer license is issued; and

(2) The applicant includes on the application for a special any deer license the name and telephone number of the owner or lessee of the private property granting the permission.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Establish a nonresident East River special "any whitetail" deer license and fee of \$554.
2. Annually allocate 500 nonresident East River special "any whitetail" deer licenses.
3. Applicants must have permission from an owner or lessee of private land before applying.
4. Applicants must also include the name and telephone number of the owner or lessee providing permission.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed change for an allocation of 500 nonresident East River special "any whitetail" deer licenses is the result of a petition for rule change. The petition was adopted as written by the Commission as a proposal. Public comment is encouraged, and the Commission will take final action on this proposal at the March 5-6 Commission meeting in Pierre, South Dakota.

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?
 - The proposed change is the result of a petition that was adopted by the Commission as a formal proposal to obtain public comment.
 - The intent of the petition was to make an allocation of East River firearm license available to nonresident applicants and to be valid on private land only. Other alternatives could include: no change to current system; the allocation of nonresident landowner-own-land licenses; an allocation of nonresidents licenses available during the regular lottery process; and likely other options.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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- Public input will be accepted and taken into consideration by the Commission and Department.
- At this time there is no formal evaluation planned if implemented, other than the evaluation of license sales and hunter harvest survey data

2. Historical Considerations

- Unlike an 8% allocation of licenses for nonresidents within the Black Hills, West River and Refuge deer seasons, there is no allocation of nonresident licenses for the East River deer season.
- Nonresidents are not allowed to apply for an East River deer licenses until after the fourth drawing.
- Archery deer licenses are currently unlimited for both resident and nonresident deer hunters.
- The demand by residents for the East River deer licenses has been the justification for this difference between other seasons when it comes to the allocation of nonresident license for the East River deer season.

3. Biological Considerations

- What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations?
 - The allocation of 500 “any whitetail” deer licenses would have no biological impact to the deer population.

4. Social Considerations

- As already indicated above, the demand by residents for East River deer licenses remains extraordinarily, especially for certain hunting units.
- Even with the cubing of preference points and the modified drawing structure process, 119 landowners using landowner preference and 10,584 resident applicants were unsuccessful in drawing their first-choice license for the first drawing of the East River deer season.

5. Financial considerations

- Department revenue generated from the sale of 500 “any whitetail” deer licenses at \$554 each would be \$277,000.
- The financial impact to landowners who could charge access fees to successful applicants and income generated by businesses is unknown.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate?
 - The allocation of 500 nonresident East River special “any whitetail” deer licenses would provide an opportunity for nonresidents to firearm deer hunt during the East River deer season.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - The proposed change would increase the opportunity for nonresidents interested in deer hunting in eastern South Dakota.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?
 - Again, does provide an opportunity for nonresidents interested in deer hunting in eastern South Dakota. In past discussions on this topic, there has been concern by some residents regarding the increased commercialization and potential effect this might have for some residents obtaining permission from private landowners.
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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