

2025 WATERFOWL, CANADA GOOSE, TUNDRA SWAN



APPLICATION DEADLINE

Nonresident Waterfowl.....	July 8, 8 a.m. CDT
Nonresident Youth Waterfowl.....	No Deadline
Resident & Nonresident Tundra Swan.....	August 14, 8 a.m. CDT
Nonresident September Goose	No Deadline

HUNTER RESPONSIBILITY TO OBTAIN HUNTING

ACCESS: Prior to applying for a license, a hunter is strongly encouraged to ensure they have access to hunting areas and understand potential game availability for those hunting areas and seasons. In addition to obtaining a license, a hunter must obtain permission if they wish to access private land. Access is not guaranteed on private land and hunters are also required to determine if the managing entity of public land expressly prohibits hunting. The Game, Fish and Parks Department is not responsible for ensuring hunting access for hunters simply because licenses are available. Hunters can call Game, Fish and Parks offices to learn more about hunting opportunities before applying for a license.

APPLY ONLINE: gfp.sd.gov

Visit gfp.sd.gov, click “Licenses,” and then “Purchase License.” From there, the system walks you through step by step. If you do not already have an account, you will be required to create one. You will begin by selecting a season to apply for and your first-choice hunting unit. Please note that you are required to provide a credit or debit card number to finish the transaction. Upon completion and submission of your application, you are then placed directly into the drawing for the unit you selected. Preference points are automatically included if you had any from previous years.

NOTE: All applications must be submitted [online](#).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Drawing Statistics: Past drawing information is available at gfp.sd.gov. The 2025 season information will be available once the drawing is complete.

Residency

To apply for a resident license, a person must:

- Have a domicile (a person’s established, fixed, and permanent home to which the person, whenever absent, has the present intention of returning) within South Dakota for at least 90 consecutive days immediately preceding the date of application for purchasing, or attempting to purchase any hunting, fishing, or trapping license/permit, and;
- Make no claim of residency in any other state or foreign country for any purpose;
- Claim no resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in any other state or foreign country;
- Prior to any application for any license, transfer to South Dakota the person’s driver’s license and motor vehicle registrations.

EXCEPTION: The following persons are eligible for resident licenses:

- Any person who previously had a domicile in South Dakota who is absent due to business of the United States or South Dakota, or is serving in the armed forces of the US or the spouse of an active duty military person;
- Any person who previously had a domicile in this state who is absent due to regular attendance at a post-high school institution as a full-time student or in a medical or dental residency program;
- Any person in the active military of the U.S. or that person’s spouse who is continuously stationed in South Dakota;
- Any patient in any war veterans’ hospital within South Dakota;
- Any employee of the veterans’ administration or any veterans’ hospital in South Dakota;
- Any person residing on restricted military reservations in South Dakota;
- Any person attending regularly a post-high school institution in South Dakota as a full-time student for 30 days or more immediately preceding the application;
- Any foreign exchange student over 16 years of age attending a public or private high school who has resided in the state for 30 days or more preceding the application;
- Any foreign exchange student who is between the ages of 12 and 16 who has completed GFP’s course of instruction in the safe handling of firearms and has been issued a certificate of competency upon completion of instruction and who has resided in South Dakota for 30 days or more preceding application for a license;

- Any person who is a minor dependent of a resident of South Dakota.

Termination of Residency

A person (*other than a person who fits into one of the previous EXCEPTIONS*) is deemed to have terminated their South Dakota resident hunting, fishing, and trapping status if the person does any of the following:

- Applies for, purchases, or accepts a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license issued by another state or foreign country;
- Registers to vote in another state or foreign country;
- Accepts a driver’s license issued by another state or foreign country;
- Moves to any other state or foreign country and makes it the person’s domicile or makes any claim of residency for any purpose in the other state or foreign country.
- Resides in any other state, territory or country for an aggregate of 180 or more days in a calendar year

However, a person who has lawfully acquired a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license and who leaves the state after acquiring the license to take up residency elsewhere may continue to exercise all the privileges granted by the license until the license expires if the person’s respective privileges are not revoked or suspended.

Social Security Number

The last four digits of your Social Security Number are required. The Social Security Number information is required from all U.S. residents before this application will be processed [SDCL 25-7A-56.2]. This information will be kept confidential. The information is required to be in compliance with state law on collection of delinquent child support payments.

South Dakota law prohibits the issuance or renewal of any hunting or fishing license if an individual owes \$1,000 or more in past-due child support unless the individual enters into a repayment agreement with the Dept. of Social Services for payment of the delinquent child support [SDCL 25-7A-56; 25-7A-1(28)]. There is a requirement to enter into a repayment agreement with the Dept. of Social Services even if the individual is presently making child support payments, or if child support is being withheld from wages or income. To enter into the required repayment agreement, individuals must contact the Dept. of Social Services - Office of Child Support Enforcement, 700 Governor’s Drive - Kneip Building, Pierre SD 57501, or call 605.773.6456.

Age Eligibility

- Except for Mentor Hunter applications, residents and nonresidents must be 12 years old by Dec. 31, 2025.
- Residents under age 16 must successfully complete a HuntSAFE course.
- Nonresidents under age 16 must include the certificate number from their hunter safety card, or a current or previous hunting license issued to them from any state.
- Residents and nonresidents who have not completed the HuntSAFE course at the time of application must leave their HuntSAFE number blank within their profile, but they can still apply. If successful in the draw, their license will be held until the GFP License Office is notified of the HuntSAFE card number once the course has been successfully completed.

Fees

Payment for online applications must be made with a valid credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express). Your credit/debit card will not be charged the full fee until, and only if you are successful in the drawing or selected to purchase a preference point. Nonpayment in the form of a cancelled credit/debit card will result in your license being withheld and the blocking of any future license purchases until the unpaid fee, along with any penalties, is paid in full.

Application Rules

- Individuals may submit only one application per season for the first drawing and receive no more than one license. See “Application Deadlines” for rules allowing additional licenses.
- Licenses may not be transferred to another person.
- Applicants wishing to receive a preference point for seasons in which they are unsuccessful in their first choice, must select the option to purchase a preference point during the application process.

Group Applications

- Applications with matching first and second choices, submitted in the same group, will be treated as a group application. All applicants will either be successful or unsuccessful in the drawings.
- No more than six applications may be submitted in the same group.
- Applicants with preference points should be aware when applying with applicants with fewer preference points, the lowest preference point balance is then represented across the entire group.

- Residents and nonresidents may apply together in the same group when licenses are available for each. All in the group will be either successful or unsuccessful. Residents will be charged the resident fee and nonresidents will be charged the nonresident fee. This is valid only in seasons and units where both resident and nonresident licenses are available for a specific drawing. It should be noted that in most instances, residents who apply with nonresidents will have a diminished chance of drawing a first-choice license.

Submitting Applications

Applications must be submitted online. If you do not have internet access you can apply by calling 605.223.7660 or visiting any GFP Wildlife Division office.

Successful Applicants

Successful applicants for limited licenses are selected at random by computer lottery. If the license is not paid for by September 1, 2025, it will be removed from your profile and allocated to the next person. Any preference used to obtain the license will not be reinstated.

Unsuccessful Applicants

Unsuccessful applicants' credit/debit cards will only be charged for a preference point if it was selected during the application process.

Preference Points

A fee (\$5 resident, \$20 nonresident) is required for all preference points. Purchasing a preference point is optional. Unsuccessful first choice applicants will not receive a preference point unless checked during the online application process.

Seasons with a limited number of licenses have a preference point system for applicants who are unsuccessful on their first choice in the first drawing. One preference point may be purchased each year the applicant is unsuccessful. Preference point use is required on all first choices in the first drawing. Preference point use in subsequent drawings is optional. Preference points cannot be transferred to another person. If you have any questions about your preference points, please contact GFP's Licensing Office at 605.223.7660.

SEASON APPLICATION INFORMATION

A person 18 years of age or older is required to purchase a Habitat Stamp (\$10 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents) when applying for or purchasing any hunting, fishing, or trapping license. A person is not required to purchase more than one Habitat Stamp within a license year.

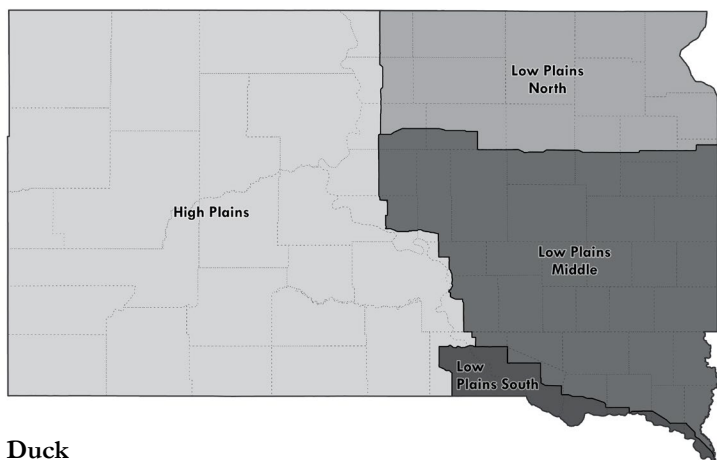
License fees include a \$6 surcharge established by the South Dakota Legislature. Surcharge monies are divided between programs for wildlife damage management and public hunting land access, programs that benefit both landowners and hunters.

TRIBAL LANDS. State licenses are valid on private, deeded lands within the exterior boundaries of Indian reservations. Persons planning to hunt on tribal lands should contact the appropriate tribal office concerning tribal hunting licenses.

NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL

Duck Daily Bag Options for Hunters: In South Dakota, duck hunters have two options for daily bag limits, which must be selected when purchasing the State Migratory Bird Certification and will apply for the entire hunting season. Option 1 is the Traditional License, which follows the standard daily bag limits and includes all species and sex-specific restrictions. Option 2 is the Three-Duck License, which allows hunters to harvest up to three ducks per day, regardless of species or sex, with no additional restrictions.

Season Dates: See respective season or hunting license. In addition, waterfowl hunting season dates will be published in the Hunting and Trapping Handbook and are available online.

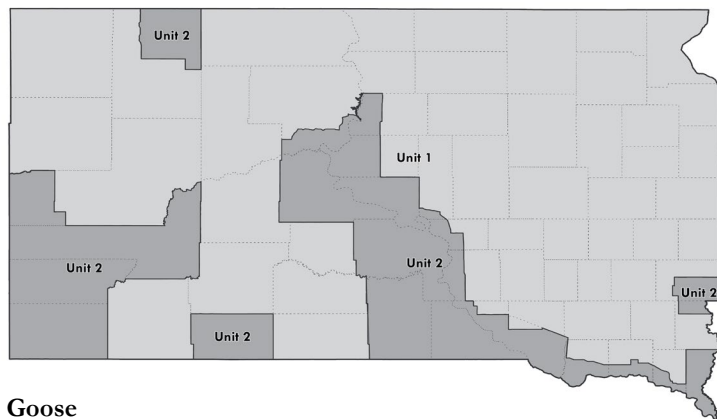


Duck

High Plains Zone: Oct. 11, 2025 – Jan. 15, 2026

Low Plains North & Middle Zone: Sept. 27, 2025 – Dec. 9, 2025

Low Plains South Zone: Oct. 25, 2025 – Jan. 6, 2026



Goose

Early Fall Canada Goose: Sept. 1-30, 2025

Goose Unit 1: Oct. 1 – Dec. 16, 2025

Goose Unit 2: Nov. 3, 2025 – Feb. 15, 2026

Light Goose: Sept. 27, 2025 – Jan. 9, 2026

White-fronted Goose: Sept. 27 – Dec. 9, 2025

Additional Requirements

In addition to a nonresident waterfowl license, the following two items are required:

1) Migratory Bird Certificate. There are two options—Traditional or Three-Duck limit. This is available at the time of purchase, and the selected option applies to the entire season.

2) Federal Waterfowl Stamp. A valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp is required for hunters 16 and older. The Federal Waterfowl Stamps are valid from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp will not have the physical stamp mailed to the purchaser until March 15, 2026. An electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp can be presented to a wildlife conservation officer upon request via the states' licensing system under which it was purchased or present a paper license (issued to the hunter/purchaser) that includes the purchase of an electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Physical Federal Waterfowl Stamps must be signed while in possession to be legal.

Individual License Quota: Applicants may receive:

- No more than one Nonresident Waterfowl license before Nov. 1.
- Beginning Nov. 1, there is no limit to the number of Nonresident Waterfowl licenses a hunter may possess.
- Applicants are also eligible for one Nonresident September Canada Goose license, which does not count against the quota of regular Nonresident Waterfowl licenses.

Start Date Requirements: Nonresident Waterfowl licenses in Unit NRW-00B are valid for two 5-day periods, and those in NRW-00V, NRW-00X, NRW-00Y and NRW-00Z are valid for 3 consecutive days, all beginning on the "Start Date" you provide during the application process. If an applicant is unsure of their start date, set the date to the last few days of the season. When hunt dates are established, the hunter may adjust (or change at any time before the start date on the license commences) their hunt dates online. Sign back into the license profile on the GFP online license system, under "Current Licenses/Permits," click the "Date Exchange" button on the right-hand side, then select the new hunt dates. The hunter may then print their updated license for use. Hunters also have the option to email wildinfo@state.sd.us or call GFP at 605.223.7660 to adjust hunt dates.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

First Deadline - Apply online by 8 a.m. CDT July 8. Applicants may submit one application. Results available online by July 15.

Second Deadline - Apply online by 8 a.m. CDT August 5. Those who do not already have a license may submit one application for one license. Results available online by August 8.

Leftover Licenses - After the second deadline drawing, licenses remaining will be issued first-come first-served. Check for leftover licenses online at gfp.sd.gov/leftovers.

NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL (continued)

SEASON/UNIT/TYPE CHOICES

NRW-00A-86: BON HOMME, CHARLES MIX, CLAY, UNION, and YANKTON counties. License valid for entire season.

250 nonresident licenses available (\$145)

NRW-00B-86: STATEWIDE, except area in unit NRW-00A. License valid for up to two 5-day periods.

3,950 nonresident licenses available (\$145)

NRW-00V-86: License valid on private land only in Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, and Walworth counties. License valid for 3 consecutive days.

550 nonresident licenses available (\$106)

NRW-00X-86: License valid on private land only in Hughes, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, and Sully counties. License valid for 3 consecutive days.

750 nonresident licenses available (\$106)

NRW-00Y-86: License valid on public and private land in Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts, and Spink counties. License valid for 3 consecutive days.

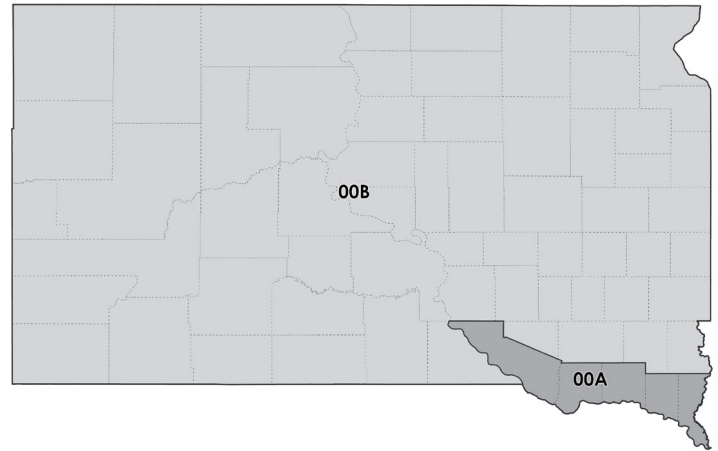
500 nonresident licenses available (\$106)

NRW-00Z-86: STATEWIDE, except area in units 00A, 00X, 00V, and 00Y. Valid on private land only. License valid for 3 consecutive days.

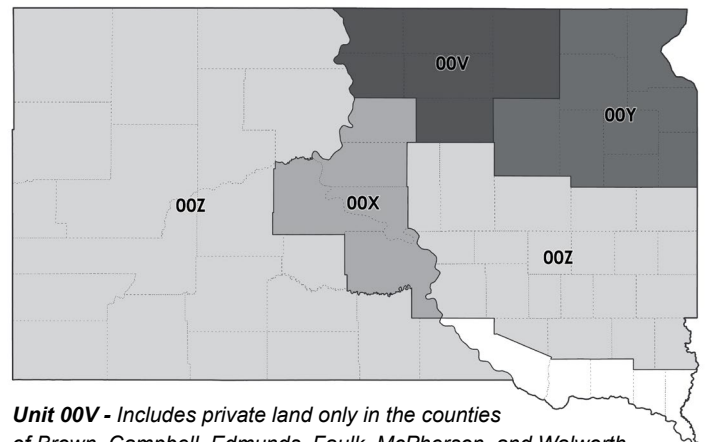
300 nonresident licenses available (\$106)

Preference Points: People can purchase preference points (\$20 Nonresident) from September 15 - December 15, through GFP's online licensing system at license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com.

Nonresident 10-Day and Season-Long Waterfowl Unit Map



Nonresident 3-Day Waterfowl Unit Map



Unit 00V - Includes private land only in the counties of Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, and Walworth. Licenses valid for 3 consecutive days.

Unit 00X - Includes private land only in the counties of Hughes, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, and Sully. Licenses valid for 3 consecutive days.

Unit 00Y - Includes private land and public land in the counties of Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts, and Spink. Licenses valid for 3 consecutive days.

Unit 00Z - STATEWIDE, except area in units 00A, 00X, 00V, and 00Y. Valid on private land only. License valid for 3 consecutive days.

NONRESIDENT MENTOR/YOUTH WATERFOWL

Season Dates: Nonresident Mentor/Youth Waterfowl season dates are September 13 and 14 only.

NEW for 2025: The nonresident mentor/youth waterfowl license will be issued to the mentee.

Mentored License Eligibility: Nonresidents under the age of 16 are eligible for the mentored hunter license. A mentored hunter shall be under the immediate physical control, direct supervision, and responsibility of a hunting mentor. A hunting mentor can accompany no more than one child, shall be unarmed, and be the child's parent or guardian, or an adult who has consent of the child's parent or guardian. The hunting mentor shall have completed a hunter safety or education course.

Youth License Eligibility: Nonresidents who will reach the age of 12 before December 31 and have not reached the age of 18 by the first day of the season are eligible for the youth license. If the individual is under 16 years of age they must have a certificate verifying successful completion of a hunter safety or education course or have held a hunting license previously. A person under sixteen years of age shall be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or responsible adult.

Additional Requirements

In addition to a waterfowl license, the following two items are required:

1) Migratory Bird Certificate. There are two options—Traditional or Three-Duck limit. This choice is selected during the purchase of a State Migratory Bird Certificate and applies to the entire season.

OPTION 1

Traditional license: Normal daily bag with all applicable species and sex restrictions.

OPTION 2

Three-Duck license: Three ducks per day of any species or sex.

2) Federal Waterfowl Stamp. A valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp is required for hunters 16 and older. The stamp is valid from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp will not have the physical stamp mailed to the purchaser until March 15, 2026. An electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp can be presented to a wildlife conservation officer upon request via the states' licensing system under which it was purchased or present a paper license (issued to the hunter/purchaser) that includes the purchase of an electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Physical Federal Waterfowl Stamps must be signed while in possession to be legal.

Individual License Quota: Applicants may purchase one license for this season. The fee applies to nonresident mentor/youth who purchase a license valid for the mentor/youth season only. Youth who receive a

nonresident license valid during the regular season would continue to pay the same fee as adults. Mentored license hunters are only eligible to hunt during the youth/mentored season dates.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applicants may apply for a license at any time; however, please note eligibility requirements. Licenses may be purchased on July 1 and are available throughout the end of the season (September 13, 2025).

SEASON/UNIT/TYPE CHOICES

NYW-YW1-86: License is valid statewide.

100 Nonresident Mentor/Youth Waterfowl licenses available (\$5)

NONRESIDENT SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE

Season Dates: September 1-30, 2025

License Duration: Valid for this entire season.

Additional Requirements

In addition to a Nonresident September Canada Goose license, the following two items are required:

1) Migratory Bird Certificate. There are two options—Traditional or Three-Duck limit. This is available at the time of purchase and the selected option applies to the entire season.

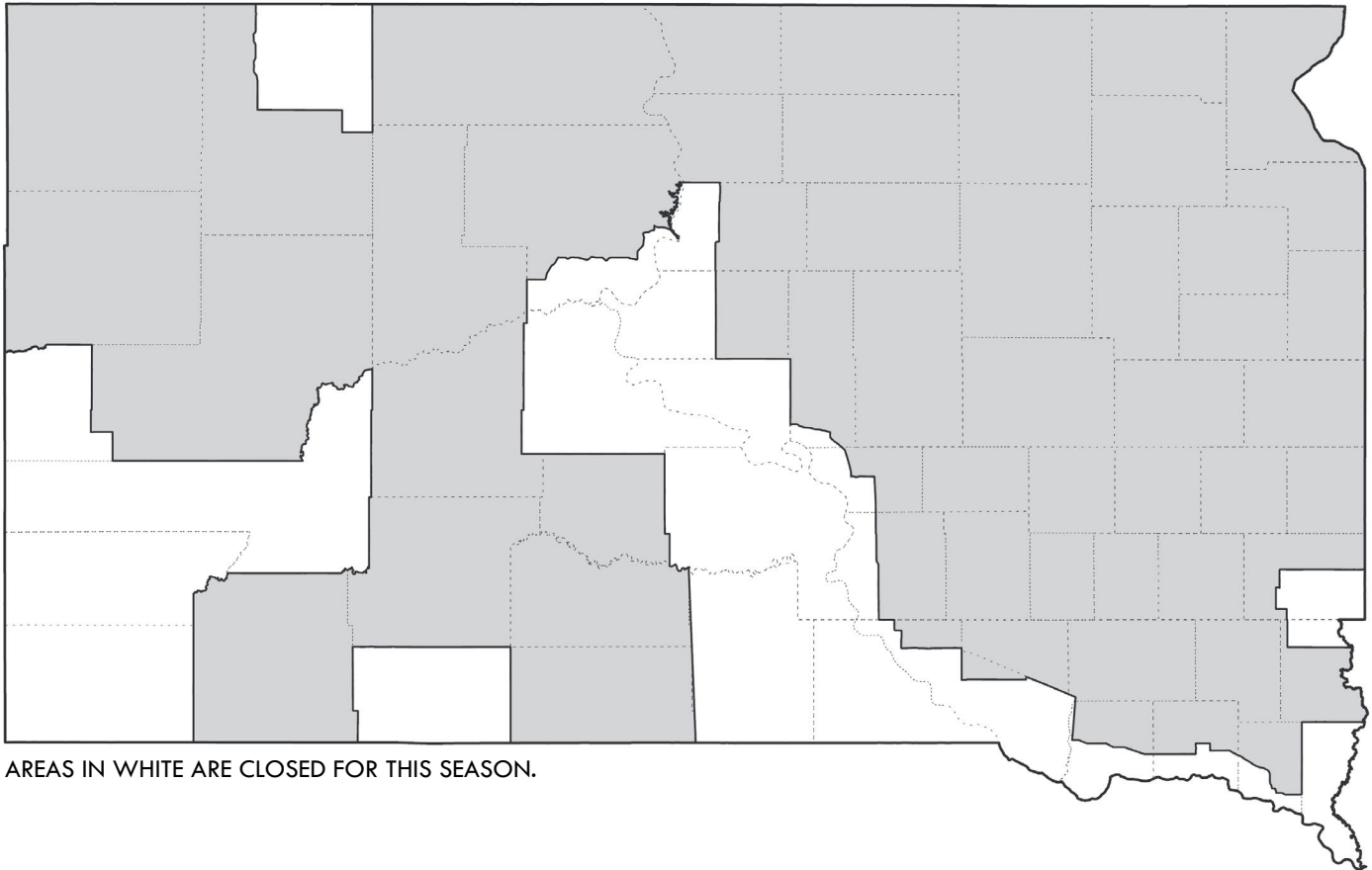
2) Federal Waterfowl Stamp. A valid waterfowl stamp is required for hunters 16 and older. The stamp is valid from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp will not have the physical stamp mailed to the purchaser until March 15, 2026. An electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp can be presented to a wildlife conservation officer upon request via the states' licensing system under which it was purchased or present a paper license (issued to the hunter/purchaser) that includes the purchase of an electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Physical Federal Waterfowl Stamps must be signed while in possession to be legal.

Individual License Quota: Applicants may submit one application and receive one license for this season. Nonresidents may receive this license and also one of the other Nonresident Waterfowl licenses. Licenses will be issued first-come, first-served beginning July 22.

SEASON/UNIT/TYPE CHOICES

NGW-ST1-86: See the Hunting and Trapping Handbook for unit boundaries.

License fee \$51.



AREAS IN WHITE ARE CLOSED FOR THIS SEASON.

RESIDENT TUNDRA SWAN

License Eligibility: South Dakota residents only. Nonresidents see “Nonresident Tundra Swan Season” information in this pamphlet.

Individual License Quota: Applicants may have up to two (2) Tundra Swan licenses taken in accordance with the “Application Deadline” rules below.

Season Dates: October 4, 2025 - January 9, 2026

Additional Requirements

The following two items are required:

1) Migratory Bird Certificate. There are two options—Traditional or Three-Duck limit. This is available at the time of purchase and the selected option applies to the entire season.

2) Federal Waterfowl Stamp. A valid waterfowl stamp is required for hunters 16 and older. The stamp is valid from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp will not have the physical stamp mailed to the purchaser until March 15, 2026. An electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp can be presented to a wildlife conservation officer upon request via the states’ licensing system under which it was purchased or present a paper license (issued to the hunter/purchaser) that includes the purchase of an electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Physical Federal Waterfowl Stamps must be signed while in possession to be legal.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

First Deadline - Apply online by 8 a.m. CDT August 15. Applicants may submit one application. Results available online by August 20.

Second Deadline - Apply online by 8 a.m. CDT September 3. Those who do not already have a license may submit one application for one license. Results available online by September 9.

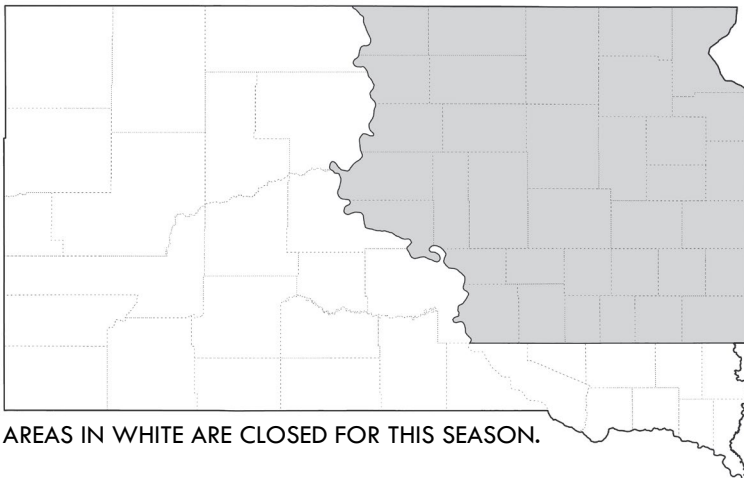
Leftover Licenses - After the second deadline drawing, unsold licenses will be issued first-come first-served with a maximum of two (2) licenses per hunter. Check for leftover licenses online at gfp.sd.gov/leftovers.

SEASON/UNIT/TYPE CHOICES

TSW-00A-81: INCLUDES Aurora, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Clark, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Hand, Hanson, Hughes, Hyde, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, McPherson, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Potter, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Sully, and Walworth counties.

Valid for one Tundra Swan.; 1,100 resident licenses available (\$21).

Preference Points: People can purchase preference points (\$5 Resident) from September 15 - December 15, through GFP’s online licensing system at license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com.



NONRESIDENT TUNDRA SWAN

Requirements: Tundra swan permits are valid ONLY in the Tundra Swan hunting unit. Nonresidents must also have a valid NRW-00B, NRW-00V, NRW-00X, NRW-00Y or NRW-00Z license. The tundra swan permit is valid only in the geographic area that the hunter’s regular Nonresident Waterfowl license is valid, and only for the date and number of days their Nonresident Waterfowl license is valid. The Tundra Swan deadline is at a later date than regular Nonresident Waterfowl licenses.

Season Dates: October 4, 2025 - January 9, 2026

Permit Duration: A nonresident Tundra Swan permit is valid only for the duration of the regular nonresident waterfowl license. For example, a nonresident with a NRW-00B license who has indicated a start date of Nov. 1 may hunt tundra swan and other waterfowl from Nov. 1-10.

Additional Requirements

In addition to a waterfowl license, the following two items are required:

1) Migratory Bird Certificate. There are two options—Traditional or Three-Duck limit. This is available at the time of purchase and the selected option applies to the entire season.

2) Federal Waterfowl Stamp. A valid waterfowl stamp is required for hunters 16 and older. The electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp will not have the physical stamp mailed to the purchaser until March 15, 2026. An electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp can be presented to a wildlife conservation officer upon request via the states’ licensing system under which it was purchased or present a paper license (issued to the hunter/purchaser) that includes the purchase of an electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Physical Federal Waterfowl Stamps must be signed while in possession to be legal.

Leftover Permits: No person may apply for and receive more than two (2) permits, taken in accordance with the “application deadline” rules below. If there are Tundra Swan permits leftover after the second drawing for residents, they will also become available to nonresidents. In order to receive one of these leftover permits, a nonresident must either possess a valid Nonresident Waterfowl license with a hunting period that has not expired, or apply for a leftover Nonresident Waterfowl license along with an application for the Tundra Swan permits.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

First Deadline - Apply online by 8 a.m. CDT August 15. Applicants may submit one application. Results available online by August 20.

Second Deadline - Apply online by 8 a.m. CDT September 3. Those who do not already have a license may submit one application for one license. Results available online by September 9.

Leftover Licenses - After the second deadline drawing, licenses remaining will be issued first-come first-served with a maximum of two (2) licenses per hunter. Check for leftover licenses online at gfp.sd.gov/leftovers.

SEASON/UNIT/TYPE CHOICES

TSW-00A-81: INCLUDES Aurora, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Clark, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Hand, Hanson, Hughes, Hyde, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, McPherson, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Potter, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Sully, and Walworth counties.

Valid for one Tundra Swan.

200 nonresident licenses available (\$40)

Preference Points: People can purchase preference points (\$20 Nonresident) from September 15 - December 15, through GFP’s online licensing system at license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com.