

2026 SPECIAL BUCK



	Application Opens	Application Closes	Results Available
First East River (ESD), West River (WSD)	03/11/2026	04/14/2026, 08:00 AM CDT	04/15/2026
Second West River (WSD)	04/16/2026	05/14/2026, 08:00 AM CDT	05/15/2026
Third West River (WSD) *if available	08/13/2026	08/27/2026, 08:00 AM CDT	08/28/2026

LICENSE AVAILABILITY

Unit	Type	Resident	Nonresident
ER1 (ESD)	01	500 ▲	
WR1 (WSD)	01	500 ■	500 ■
	11	500 ■	500 ■

LICENSE CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR

▲ Increase ■ No Change ▼ Decrease

DRAW GUIDELINES

Applicant may submit only one application per person.

Applicants may receive only one Special Buck license. The draw for East River Special Buck licenses will be conducted first. Residents who draw an East River Special Buck license will not be eligible for a West River Special Buck license.

Landowner Permission: Special buck licenses are valid on private land only, excluding lands leased by SDGFP for public hunting access (i.e., Walk-In Areas and CHAP). You must include the name (first and last name) and phone number of a landowner who has given you permission to hunt for the season. This information is required during the application process.

License Eligibility

- Successful resident West River Special Buck license applicants are NOT eligible to apply for a *regular West River Deer* license in the first, second, or third drawings, but can apply beginning with the fourth drawing for additional licenses.
- Successful resident East River Special Buck license applicants are NOT eligible to apply for a *regular East River Deer* license in the first, second, or third drawings, but can apply beginning with the fourth drawing for additional licenses.
- Successful nonresident West River Special Buck applicants are NOT eligible to apply for a *regular West River Deer* license in the first, second, third, or fourth drawings, but can apply after the fourth drawing for additional licenses.
- Successful West River or East River Special Buck license applicants are NOT eligible for Landowner Own Land licenses.
- Unsuccessful applicants may apply in the regular East River Deer and/or West River Deer first draws.

FEE SCHEDULE

License Types	Resident	Nonresident
01 - any deer	\$200	\$650
11 - any whitetail deer	\$200	\$650

RETURN POLICY (NEW FOR 2026)

Deadline: August 1, 2026

Fee: \$10 - Residents | \$30 - Nonresidents

A fee will be assessed if a customer returns their license and they are not eligible for subsequent draws for that respective season.

SEASON DATES

West River (WSD): November 14-29, 2026

Gregory County only: November 7-10, 14-29, 2026

East River (ESD): November 21, 2026 to December 6, 2026

Special Buck licenses are NOT valid during the antlerless-only deer season in December.

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/hunt-fish-license/> to view application information, residency and age requirements, landowner preference, preference points, and license fee explanations.

[Unit Descriptions and Map](#)

[Interactive Hunting Unit Map](#)

CONTACT US

GFP LICENSING OFFICE
20641 SD Hwy 1806, Fort Pierre, SD 57532
605.223.7660 | TTY: 605.223.7684
Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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