

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Hunt for Habitat Licenses

Chapter 41:06:61

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	September 7-8, 2023	Watertown
	Public Hearing	October 5, 2023	Deadwood
	Finalization	October 5-6, 2023	Deadwood

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: Beginning in 2024

Licenses: Licenses issued may not exceed 10 big game animals annually and currently include: one “any bison”; and three license packages each including one “any deer”, one “any antelope” and one “any elk”.

Season dates and open units: Valid during any dates and open units permitted by the requirements and restrictions for each hunting season.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. The Commission may provide for a special license that allows a person to hunt one or more game animals and shall promulgate rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26, to establish the season and guidelines for the season, and to establish the fee provisions.
2. The Commission may establish a nonrefundable application fee, not to exceed ten dollars for any resident and not to exceed twenty dollars for any nonresident, to apply for the special license.
3. Any resident or nonresident who is eligible to hold a hunting license in this state may submit an unlimited number of applications for Hunt For Habitat licenses. Unsuccessful applicants will not accrue preference points for these drawings.
4. Successful applicants shall be selected by drawing.
5. Tags issued with a Hunt For Habitat hunting license are valid during any hunting season provided in Article 41:06 that allows the licensee to take any animal that is permitted if the licensee abides by the requirements and restrictions for the hunting season.
6. Each Hunt For Habitat license/tag shall be valid during the calendar year of drawing or subsequent calendar year.
7. Proceeds from the application fee collected shall be used for habitat programs.
8. The Commission shall, before the fourth Tuesday in January of each year, report to the Senate and House standing committees on agriculture and natural resources and on appropriations regarding the activities authorized by this section. The report shall include a description of the season established, the number of licenses issued, the amount of revenue generated, and the progress of the habitat programs funded under this section.

Changes from last year: Modify administrative rule to adjust licenses that are issued in the Hunt For Habitat drawing. These adjustments include the creation of two “any deer” single-tag licenses and the removal of one “any antelope” license from the three-license package that is currently available, resulting in a two-license package including one “any deer” and one “any elk” tag. As a result, only nine tags will be issued to six individuals, including one “any bison”, two “any deer”, and three “any deer” plus “any elk” packages. Previously, ten tags were issued to four individuals, including one “any bison” and three license packages with three tags each.

License Package	Number of License Packages	
	Current	Proposed
Trophy Bison	1	1
Antelope, Deer and Elk (3 tags/package)	3	0
Deer	0	2
Deer and Elk (2 tags/package)	0	3

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: None.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The authority for the GFP Commission to create the Hunt For Habitat raffle was established by the South Dakota Legislature in 2019 to generate additional revenue for wildlife habitat. GFP anticipates the proposed modifications combined with enhanced marketing efforts will generate additional revenue towards GFP's raffle license revenue goal of \$500,000 in 2024. The "any antelope" tags will be removed from the three license packages and two "any deer" license packages will be added to provide an opportunity for two additional license packages with a total of nine licenses.

Nearly \$1.4 million has been generated from Hunt For Habitat raffle license application fees from 2019 to 2023.

Year	Revenue
2019	\$320,950
2020	\$392,210
2021	\$329,920
2022	\$194,580
2023	\$245,840

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:62:03. Number of licenses. One "any bison" license, two "any deer" licenses, and three license packages with one "any deer", ~~one "any antelope"~~ and one "any elk" license may be issued. Both residents and nonresidents shall be eligible to receive the single-tag deer licenses, the license packages and the "any bison" license ~~and the triple-tag licenses~~ although no more than one ~~triple-tag~~ license package may be issued to a nonresident.

Source: 45 SDR 155, effective June 24, 2019.

General Authority: SDCL 41-2-18(1)(2)(17), 41-6-84.

Law Implemented: SDCL [41-2-18\(1\)\(2\)\(17\)](#), 41-6-84.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Two more individuals may be successful for a Hunt For Habitat license.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

GFP anticipates approximately \$250,000 of additional revenue in 2024.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____