

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

West River Prairie Deer Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:20

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 9-10, 2023	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 4, 2023	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 4-5, 2023	Custer State Park

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2023 and 2024 hunting seasons

Season Dates: All units excluding Gregory County: November 11-26, 2023
Gregory County (Unit 30A): November 4-7 and November 20-26, 2023
Gregory County (Unit 30B): November 11-26, 2023
Antlerless deer tags only: December 9-17, 2023

All units excluding Gregory County: November 16-December 1, 2024
Gregory County (Unit 30A): November 9-12 and November 25-December 1, 2024
Gregory County (Unit 30B): November 16-December 1, 2024
Antlerless deer tags only: December 14-22, 2024

Open Area: See the attached map

Licenses: Specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation for resident and nonresidents will be recommended by the Department to the GFP Commission at the April Commission meeting.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. 500 resident and 500 nonresident "any deer" licenses AND 500 resident and 500 nonresident "any whitetail deer" licenses are available through the "Special Buck" application.
2. No more than 20,000 one-tag deer licenses, 15,000 two-tag deer licenses and 10,000 three-tag licenses.
3. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference applicants.
4. Landowners may also purchase an "any deer" or "any deer + any antlerless deer" license that is valid only on their property as long they do not hold a regular West River deer license that allows the harvest of a buck.
5. Only persons using a wheelchair may apply for the licenses in Stanley County (Unit 58D) designated as a special "Hunters with Disabilities Unit."

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes:

1. Edit "Custer Count Road 319" error to "Custer County Road 317" in Unit WRD-27A description.
2. Remove Fort Meade exception in Unit WRD-49A description.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The unit description for WRD-27A incorrectly referenced Custer County Road 319 and should reference Custer County Road 317.

Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management property in West River deer hunting unit 49A is already limited to archery only equipment and additional hunting opportunity can be provided for hunters because of the limited success based on the weapon restriction.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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The recommended maximum number of one-tag, two-tag and three-tag deer licenses will be established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission via administrative rule will determine specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation amongst residents and nonresidents.

Preliminary harvest data for the 2022 deer hunting seasons just became available. Department staff will review all harvest and other biological data, population modeling outputs, determine population objectives for whitetail and mule deer, and then bring recommendations for unit-specific license numbers and types to the GFP Commission at the April Commission meeting.

Year	Licenses Sold	WT Bucks Harvested	WT Does Harvested	MD Bucks Harvested	MD Does Harvested	All Deer Harvested	Tag Success
2016	21,237	7,600	3,557	2,869	257	14,283	53%
2017	20,142	6,896	2,799	3,373	213	13,280	56%
2018	20,163	6,696	2,916	3,320	250	13,182	56%
2019	19,349	6,618	3,340	2,874	256	10,089	59%
2020	19,382	7,285	4,028	3,077	219	14,610	63%
2021	21,072	6,710	4,941	3,026	336	15,013	58%
2022	21,944	6,364	4,941	3,020	398	14,724	56%

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

1. 41:06:20:02

(12) Unit WRD-27A: those portions of Custer and Fall River Counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 18, then easterly along U.S. Highway 18 to its junction with the Cheyenne River, then easterly along the Cheyenne River to its junction with U.S. Highway 18 and 385, then northerly along U.S. Highway 18 and 385 to its junction with State Highway 79 and continuing along State Highway 79 to its junction with the section line between section 19 and section 18, township 6 south, range 7 east, then westerly along this section line to its junction with section 13 and section 24, township 6 south, range 7 east, then southerly along the section line between section 19 and section 24, township 6 south, range 7 east to its junction with Custer County Road 101, then westerly along Custer County Road 101 to its junction with U.S. Highway 385, then southerly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with Fall River County Road 18 (Argyle Road), then northwesterly along Fall River County Road 18 and Custer County Road 333 to its junction with State Highway 89, then southerly along State Highway 89 to its junction with Fall River County Road 12, then westerly along Fall River County Road 12 to its junction with Custer County Road 319, then westerly along Custer County Road 319 to its junction with Custer County Road 715, then westerly along Custer County Road 715 to its junction with Custer County Road 769, then westerly along Custer County Road 769 through Dewey to its junction with the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then southerly along the South Dakota-Wyoming border to its junction with U.S. Highway 18, the point of beginning, except the portion included in WRD-27L;

2. 41:06:20:02

(28) Unit WRD-49A: the portion of Meade County east of Interstate 90, ~~except the Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management South Unit and the signed portion of the North Unit,~~ south of U.S. Highway 212, and west of a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 212 and Meade County Road 23, then southerly along Meade County Road 23 to its junction with Meade County Road 28, then easterly along Meade County Roads ~~23-28~~, then southerly along Meade County Road 23 to its junction with State Highway 34, then southerly along Meade County Road 21 (New Underwood Road) to its junction with the Pennington County line and that portion of Pennington County west of Pennington County 160th Avenue (New Underwood Road) and north of Interstate 90;

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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- 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?
 - NA
2. Historical Considerations
 - NA
 3. Biological Considerations
 - What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations?
 - 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? NA
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

No fiscal impact is expected to the Department.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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