

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Apprentice Hunter Deer Season

Chapter 41:06:44

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 4-5, 2021	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 6, 2021	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 6-7, 2021	Custer State Park

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2021 and 2022 hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 11, 2021 – January 1, 2022
September 10, 2022 – January 1, 2023

Open Areas: Unit APD-03: West River Units 02A, 15A, 15B, 31A, 35A, 35C, 35L, 49A, 49B, 53A, 53C and 64A (See map for open area)
Unit APD-13: That portion of the state not included in Unit APD-03 (See map for open area)

Licenses: Unit APD-03: Single tag “any antlerless deer” license
Unit APD-13: Single tag “antlerless whitetail deer” license

Requirements and Restrictions:

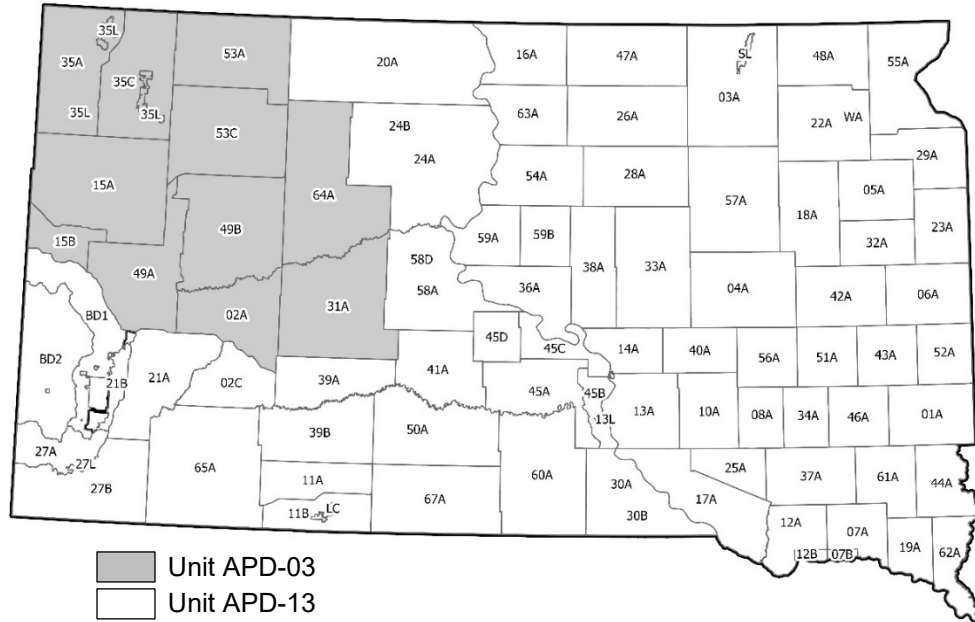
1. Both residents and nonresidents that have not reached the age of 18 years old on June 30 may purchase an apprentice hunter deer license. In addition, any resident hunter who has not previously held a license to hunt deer during the previous 10 years in South Dakota may purchase an apprentice hunter deer license.
2. Each hunter must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
3. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
4. Receipt of a license does not affect eligibility for other seasons.
5. Hunters may purchase one (1) apprentice hunter deer license valid for either Unit APD-03 or Unit APD-13.
6. Custer State Park, Waubay State Game Bird Refuge and the Fort Meade Bureau of Land Management South unit and the signed portion of the North unit are closed to those with an apprentice hunter deer license.

Proposed change from last year:

1. Modify the statewide unit and “any antlerless deer” license to the following:
 - a. Unit APD-03: West River Units 02A, 15A, 15B, 31A, 35A, 35C, 35L, 49A, 49B, 53A, 53C and 64A (See map for open area)
 - i. Single tag “any antlerless deer” license
 - b. Unit APD-13: That portion of the state not included in Unit APD-03 (See map for open area)
 - i. Single tag “antlerless whitetail deer” license

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____

Apprentice Deer Unit Map



SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The establishment of these units and license types will reduce harvest of antlerless mule deer in select hunting units to increase mule deer population growth rates, while maintaining current apprentice deer harvest and desired growth rates in other hunting units. Provided the population is growing, increasing growth rates will reduce time to achieve management objectives where the desire is to increase the mule deer population. On average, during 2017 to 2020, about 450 female mule deer were harvested by mentored or apprentice hunters in proposed unit APD-13. The proposed management change to create a whitetail only mentor and apprentice hunting unit will reduce statewide mule deer female harvest by about 30%.

Of the 4,302 apprentice hunter deer licenses issued for the 2020 deer hunting season, 674 licenses (16%) were issued to residents that were 18 years of age or older.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Not applicable
2. Historical Considerations – Not applicable
3. Biological Considerations – Not applicable
4. Social Considerations – Not applicable
5. Financial considerations – Not applicable

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Not applicable.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Not applicable.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact to the Department.

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____