

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

West River Deer Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:20

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: All units excluding Gregory County: November 13-28, 2021
Gregory County (Unit 30A): November 6-9 and November 22-28, 2021
Gregory County (Unit 30B): November 13-28, 2021
Antlerless deer tags only: December 11-19, 2021

All units excluding Gregory County: November 12-27, 2022
Gregory County (Unit 30A): November 5-8 and November 21-27, 2022
Gregory County (Unit 30B): November 12-27, 2022
Antlerless deer tags only: December 10-18, 2022

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. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference applicants.
3. 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.
4. Only persons using a wheelchair may apply for the licenses in Stanley County (Unit 58D) designated as a special "Hunters with Disabilities Unit."

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Adjust resident license numbers from no more than 12,308 one-tag, 5,220 two-tag deer licenses and 400 three-tag deer licenses to 20,000 one-tag, 15,000 two-tag deer licenses and 10,000 three-tag deer licenses.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed maximum number of one-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 2020 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.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
----------------------	---------------------	---------------------	------------------------

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%

2020 harvest estimates are preliminary.

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? Not applicable.
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 _____