

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

National Wildlife Refuge Deer Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:36 & 41:06:22

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	April 4-5, 2019	Rapid City
	Public Hearing	May 2, 2019	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 2-3, 2019	Custer State Park

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: 2019 and 2020 hunting seasons

2019 Season Dates: Sand Lake NWR November 9-13, November 14-18, November 19-24, November 25 – December 1, December 2-8, and December 9-17 (unfilled antlerless licenses only).
 Lacreek NWR October 16-22 and November 27 – December 3.
 Waubay NWR* November 16-24 and November 30 – December 8.
 * includes Waubay State Game Refuge

2020 Season Dates: Sand Lake NWR November 14-18, November 19-23, November 24-29, November 30 – December 6, December 7-13, and December 14-22 (unfilled antlerless licenses only).
 Lacreek NWR October 21-27 and November 25 – December 1.
 Waubay NWR* November 14-22 and November 28 – December 6.
 * includes Waubay State Game Refuge

Licenses: Sand Lake NWR Resident: 80 “any deer” and 25 “any antlerless deer” licenses
 Nonresident: 8 “any deer” and 2 “any antlerless deer” licenses
 Lacreek NWR Residents: 20 “any deer” licenses
 Nonresidents: 2 “any deer” licenses
 Waubay NWR Residents: 20 “any deer” licenses
 Nonresidents: 2 “any deer” licenses

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. The first season on Sand Lake NWR, all seasons on Lacreek NWR and Waubay NWR are restricted to muzzleloaders.
2. Applicants may apply for only one refuge unit (season) in the first application period.
3. Licenses remaining after the first application period may be purchased by any resident or nonresident on a first-come, first serve basis.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. For Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, adjust the number of resident licenses from no more than 25 one-tag deer licenses to no more than 20 one-tag licenses.
2. For Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, adjust the number of resident licenses from no more than 150 one-tag deer licenses to no more than 105 one-tag licenses.
3. For Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, modify the season dates as follows: WA1 would open for ~~8~~ 9 consecutive days beginning seven days before the beginning of the East River deer season; WA2 would open for ~~8~~ 5 consecutive days beginning on day following the end of WA1; and WA3 would open for ~~7~~ 9 consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of WA2.
4. Make an allowance for antlerless archery deer licenses to be valid for the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge.
5. For unfilled antlerless deer licenses for the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, change current rule from “nine consecutive days beginning on the Saturday following December 25” to “nine consecutive days beginning on the day following the end of the Unit RFD-SL5 season”.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Waubay National Wildlife Refuge currently has 2 of 3 seasons open. The recommended changes to the respective season dates would allow for the current open seasons to run for 9 consecutive days and include two full weekends for licensed hunters.

Table includes harvest data from Sand Lake, Lacreek and Waubay National Wildlife Refuges.

Year	Licenses	Bucks Harvested	Does Harvested	Total Harvest	Hunter Success
2011	329	55	67	122	37%
2012	248	64	31	95	38%
2013	213	63	23	85	37%
2014	200	60	6	66	33%
2015	212	59	6	65	31%

Year	Licenses	Bucks Harvested	Does Harvested	Total Harvest	Hunter Success
2014	200	60	6	66	33%
2015	212	59	6	65	31%
2016	200	40	11	51	26%
2017	215	57	19	76	35%
2018	195	60	21	81	42%

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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