

**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL**

**Antelope Hunting Season
Chapter 41:06:23**

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 5-6, 2022	Custer State Park Spearfish Spearfish
	Public Hearing	July 7, 2022	
	Finalization	July 7-8, 2022	

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2022 and 2023 hunting seasons

Season Dates: October 1-16, 2022
September 30 – October 15, 2023

Open Area: See the attached map

Licenses: 2,335 “buck antelope” licenses
50 “special antelope” licenses

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference.
2. Landowners not possessing a license that allows the harvest of a buck may purchase an “any antelope” or a two-tag “any antelope” + “doe/fawn antelope” license that is valid on their property only.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Adjust the maximum number of licenses available in administrative rule from no more than 4,115 to 8,000 one-tag “any antelope” licenses and from no more than 600 to 3,000 two-tag antelope licenses.
2. Add Campbell County to Unit PRA-63A (Potter and Walworth counties).
3. Change one-tag “any antelope” antelope licenses to one-tag antelope licenses.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The pronghorn population in South Dakota has decreased since the last time the GFP Commission set hunting seasons in 2019. Lower survival rates of adults and lower recruitment have been keeping most herds in most hunting units well below objective. The estimated count of adult pronghorn from aerial surveys this year was 28,264, which is down 16% from the 33,760 in 2019. Recruitment in 2021 was at a record low of 48 fawns per 100 does. Using recent years’ population demographics based on survey and research data, model projections for pronghorn this fall are 36,900 total animals which is well below the overall objective of 59,000 – 80,000 and down 18% from the fall of 2019.

In order to address lower pronghorn populations across the state, the following recommended changes are being proposed to reduce harvest and increase growth rates:

1. Remove all general season Firearm Type 43, Type 48, and Type 49 licenses. This will result in a reduction of 1,503 licenses and 2,127 tags.
2. Change Type 41 licenses (any antelope) to Type 42 (buck antelope) for general Firearm and Archery hunting seasons.
3. Reduce 3,454 Type 41 licenses (3,315 res and 139 nr) to 2,386 Type 42 licenses (2,335 resident and 51 nonresident).
4. Modify Mentored antelope hunting season to be valid only on private land in units open to firearm hunting west of the Missouri River. This will result in the closure of Mentored antelope hunting east of the Missouri River and on all public lands and private lands leased for public hunting.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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Based on harvest rates documented in 2021, proposed changes 1-3 will reduce harvest by approximately 1,400 does and 700 bucks. Changes to the Mentored antelope season are more difficult to estimate but will eliminate all doe harvest east of the Missouri River and reduce doe harvest west of the Missouri River.

The proposed maximum number of antelope licenses will be established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission via administrative action will determine specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation amongst hunting units.

Updated population objectives and the recommended number of licenses will be shared at the June Commission meeting once preliminary aerial survey estimates have been obtained and population modeling exercises have been completed.

The addition of Campbell County to Unit PRA-63A will provide additional hunting opportunity.

Year	Licenses	Tags	Bucks	Doe/Fawn	Total	Success
	Sold	Issued	Harvested	Harvested	Harvested	
2017	5,432	5,933	2,692	1,093	3,784	64%
2018	5,539	6,078	2,845	1,000	3,845	63%
2019	5,235	6,054	2,629	1,249	3,878	64%
2020	5,279	6,101	2,415	1,272	3,687	64%
2021	5,207	6,029	2,401	1,152	3,552	59%

*Includes Landowner-Own-Land licenses.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the recommended changes adopted by the Commission.

41:06:23:01. Antelope hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses. The antelope hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day for 16 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday closest to October 1, unless prohibited in the unit descriptions in §§ 41:06:23:02. No more than ~~8,000~~ 4,115 one-tag ~~"any antelope"~~ antelope licenses, no more than ~~3,000~~ 600 two-tag antelope licenses, and no more than 50 "special antelope" licenses may be issued to residents for the antelope hunting season. No more than 50 "special antelope" licenses may be issued to nonresidents for the antelope hunting season. If a person applies for a "special antelope" license, the person may not apply for another antelope license until the third lottery drawing. A successful "special antelope" applicant may not apply for a leftover "special antelope" license.

41:06:23:02. Open units -- Exceptions. The following is a description of the open units:

(28) Unit PRA-63A: Campbell, Potter and Walworth counties;

If no license is allocated for a specific hunting unit, that unit is dissolved for the purposes of designating areas open to hunting, as they pertain to the archery antelope season, and areas open to hunting under SDCL 41-6-19.3.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

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? No, reduction in available licenses to meet population objectives.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Reduces short-term hunting opportunity in exchange for meeting population objectives with the goal of increasing hunting opportunity sooner than later.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

FISCAL IMPACT

Yes, there will be a fiscal impact to the Department with a reduction of approximately 50% of available licenses compared to last year.

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