

# GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Archery Antelope Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:24

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>June 2-3, 2022</b>	<b>Aberdeen</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>July 7, 2022</b>	<b>Spearfish</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>July 7-8, 2022</b>	<b>Spearfish</b>

### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2022 and 2023 hunting seasons

**Season Dates:** August 20 – October 31, 2022 (closed during firearm season)  
August 19 – October 31, 2023 (closed during firearm season)

**Open Area:** All areas where the prairie (firearm) antelope season is open and the portions of Custer and Pennington counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District with limited free access permits.

**Licenses:** Unlimited resident "buck antelope" licenses  
Unlimited nonresident "buck antelope" licenses

#### **Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. A person may have only one (1) archery antelope license.
2. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
3. Five (5) free access permits will be issued via lottery drawing to those licensees who possess a valid "buck antelope" resident archery license for those portions of Custer and Pennington counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District, except Custer State Park.

#### **Proposed change from last year:**

1. Change "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.

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.

Year	Resident Licenses	Nonresident Licenses	Bucks Harvested	Doe/Fawn Harvested	Total Harvest	Success
2017	1,569	521	529	52	581	28%
2018	1,632	570	529	56	585	27%
2019	1,781	663	533	72	605	25%
2020	2,141	720	719	92	810	28%
2021	2,142	877	642	94	736	24%

#### DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

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

**41:06:24:01. Archery antelope hunting season established -- Open area -- Number and type of licenses available.** The archery antelope hunting season is open in those areas of the state with an antelope season and in the portions of Custer and Pennington Counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District, except Custer State Park, with access permits from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day beginning on the third Saturday of August through October 31, except during the antelope season. An unlimited number of ~~"any antelope"~~ one-tag antelope licenses may be issued for this season. The access permits may be issued by lottery drawing.41:06:23:01.

#### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

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 \_\_\_\_\_