

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Black Hills Elk Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:26

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 4-5, 2022	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 7, 2022	Watertown
	Finalization	April 7-8, 2022	Watertown

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2022 and 2023 hunting seasons.

Season Dates:

Units	2022 Hunting Season Dates	2023 Hunting Season Dates
Any Elk Units	October 1 -31	October 1 -31
Antlerless Elk Units: H1B, H4B, H7B, and H9B	October 15-31 AND December 1-16	October 15-31 AND December 1-16
Antlerless Elk Units: H2B, H2E, H2H, H3B, and H3E	October 15-31	October 15-31
Antlerless Elk Units: H2C, H2F, H2I, H3C, and H3F	December 1-16	December 1-16
Antlerless Elk Units: H2D, H2G, H2J, H2D, and H3G	December 17-31	December 17-31

Open Area: See attached maps.

Licenses: 535 "any elk" and 730 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,265 licenses)

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
2. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
3. Except for landowner/operator preference applicants, no person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season shall be eligible to apply for a Black Hills elk license in first drawings for the next 9 years.
4. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference. One member of each qualifying landowner/operator household may apply every year.
5. Any elk that is harvested must be inspected by a Department representative within 24 hours after kill.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Adjust the total number of available licenses from 425 "any elk" and 700 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,125 licenses) to no more than 600 "any elk" and 1,200 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,800 licenses).
2. Modify the boundaries of BHE-H9A and BHE-H9B to correct unit boundary.
3. Establish hunting Unit BHE-H4B (administrative rule cleanup).

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed maximum number of elk 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 March Commission meeting once preliminary harvest estimates have been obtained and population modeling exercises have been completed.

There is currently a small geographic area that technically does not reside in any elk hunting unit; this unit boundary modification will correct this oversight. In addition, Unit BHE-4HB was inadvertently excluded as a hunting unit in administrative rule.

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

Year	Licensed Hunters	Hunter Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested	Total Harvest
2017	1,581	66%	366	684	1,050
2018	1,124	64%	315	402	717
2019	1,108	62%	332	354	686
2020	926	63%	360	224	584
2021	954	66%	382	250	632

2021	"Any Elk"					"Antlerless Elk" (All Units Combined)				
Unit	Appl.1st Choice	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested	Appl.1st Choice	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
H1	1,317	49	84%	35	6	40	15	82%	0	13
H2	8,500	241	91%	213	6	397	113	67%	5	71
H3	1,727	100	82%	80	2	102	273	44%	2	117
H4	83	20	70%	14	0	8	44	23%	0	10
H5	67	5	60%	3	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
H7	343	20	95%	17	2	16	15	53%	0	8
H9	53	14	93%	11	2	3	45	40%	3	15

*2021 preliminary harvest data

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

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

41:06:26:01. Black Hills elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses -- Season dates. The Black Hills elk hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day of the season. No more than ~~450~~ 600 "any elk" licenses and ~~490~~ 1,200 "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the Black Hills elk hunting seasons are as follows:

- (1) Units BHE-H1A, BHE-H2A, BHE-H3A, BHE-H4A, BHE-H5A, and BHE-H7A are open from October 1 through October 31;
- (2) Units BHE-H1B, BHE-H2B, BHE-H2E, BHE-H4B, BHE-H7B, and BHE-H9B are open from October 15 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 16;
- (3) Units BHE-H2H, BHE-H3B, and BHE-H3E are open from October 15 through October 31;
- (4) Units BHE-H2C, BHE-H2F, BHE-H2I, BHE-H3C, and BHE-H3F are open from December 1 through December 16; and
- (5) Units BHE-H2D, BHE-H2G, BHE-H2J, BHE-H3D, and BHE-H3G are open from December 17 through December 31.

41:06:26:02. Open units. The following is a description of the open units for the Black Hills elk hunting season:

- (9) Units BHE-H4A and BHE-H4B: those portions of Custer, Fall River, and Pennington Counties beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 385 and the south boundary of Wind Cave National Park, then southerly along U.S. Highway 385 through Hot Springs and Maverick Junction to its junction with the Cheyenne River, then northeasterly along the Cheyenne River to its junction with Fall River County Road 6291 (South Buffalo Gap Road), then northerly along Fall River County Road 6291 to its junction with Custer County Road 101, then northerly along Custer County Road 101 to its

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

junction with Custer County Road 656 (River Side Road) at Buffalo Gap, then easterly along Custer County Road 656 one-half mile to its junction with Custer County Road 17 (Beaver Valley Road), then northerly and easterly along Custer County Road 17 to its junction with Custer County Road 719 (South Fairburn Road), then northerly along Custer County Road 719 to its junction with Custer County Road 18 at Fairburn, then northerly along Custer County Road 18 to its junction with State Highway 79, then northerly along State Highway 79 to its junction with State Highway 40, then northwesterly along State Highway 40 to its junction with Pennington County Road 330 (Playhouse Road), then southerly along Pennington County Road 330 to its junction with U.S. Highway 16A, then southerly along U.S. Highway 16 to its junction with the north boundary of Custer State Park, then easterly along the Custer State Park boundary to its junction with the northeast corner of Custer State Park, then southerly along the east Custer State Park boundary and Wind Cave National Park boundary to the southeast corner of Wind Cave National Park, then westerly along the south boundary of Wind Cave National Park to its junction with U.S. Highway 385, the point of beginning;

(12) Units BHE-H9A and BHE-H9B: those portions of Custer and Pennington Counties within an area bounded as follows: beginning at the junction of State Highway 40 and State Highway 79 at Hermosa, then northerly along State Highway 79 to its junction with State Highway 44 in Rapid City, then westerly along State Highway 44 to its junction with ~~U.S. Highway 16~~ the Black Hills National Forest boundary, then ~~westerly~~ southerly along ~~U.S. Highway 16~~ the Black Hills National forest boundary to its junction with the South Rockerville Road, then southerly along the South Rockerville Road to its junction with State Highway 40, then easterly along State Highway 40 to its junction with State Highway 79 at Hermosa, the point of beginning.

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

Not applicable.

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