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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>2022 Hunting Season Dates</th>
<th>2023 Hunting Season Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any Elk Units</td>
<td>October 1-31</td>
<td>October 1-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antlerless Elk Units: H1B, H4B, H7B, and H9B</td>
<td>October 15-31 AND December 1-16</td>
<td>October 15-31 AND December 1-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antlerless Elk Units: H2C, H2F, H2I, H3C, and H3F</td>
<td>December 1-16</td>
<td>December 1-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antlerless Elk Units: H2D, H2G, H2J, H2D, and H3G</td>
<td>December 17-31</td>
<td>December 17-31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
## 2021 Harvest Data

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

*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 season. 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

### 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
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 _____