

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Prairie Elk Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:59

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

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2022 and 2023 hunting seasons.

Season Dates:

Unit	2022 & 2023 Hunting Season Dates
9A	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1-31
11A	July 15 - August 31
11B	September 1 - October 15
11C	October 16 - November 30
11D	September 1 - October 31
11E	November 1 - December 31
11F	CLOSED
15A	September 1 - October 31 AND December 1-31
15B	December 1 - January 31
27A	October 1-31 AND December 1-31
35A, 35B	September 15 – October 31 AND December 1-31
35C, 35E	October 1 – November 15
35D, 35F	November 16 – December 31
49A	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1-31
WRA	September 1 - December 31

Open Area:

Unit 09A	Portions of Butte and Lawrence counties
Unit 11A-F	Bennett County and portions of Jackson and Mellette counties
Unit 15A and B	Portions of Butte and Lawrence counties
Unit 27A	Portions of Fall River County
Unit 35A, C and D	Harding County west of US Hwy. 85
Unit 35B, E and F	Harding County east of US Hwy. 85
Unit 49A	Portions of Meade County
Unit WRA	Those portions of South Dakota west of the Missouri River not associated with another prairie elk unit, excluding the Lower Brule Indian Reservation and Corson, Dewey, Oglala Lakota, Todd, and Ziebach counties.

Licenses: 102 “any elk” and 175 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 277 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 prairie 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.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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Proposed changes from last year:

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 78 “any elk” and 178 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 256 licenses) to no more than 150 “any elk” and 300 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 450 licenses).
2. Modify Unit PRE-9A (see map).
3. Establish a new unit (PRE-49A) to include a portion of Meade County and season dates (see map).
4. Correct season dates in administrative rule for units PRE-11B, PRE-11C, PRE-11D, PRE-35A, and PRE-35B.
5. Modify prairie elk units 35A (Harding County west of US Hwy. 85) and 35B (Harding County east of US Hwy. 85) to the following:
 - a. Units 35A, 35C, and 35D: Harding County west of US Hwy. 85
 - b. Units 35B, 35E, and 35F: Harding County east of US Hwy. 85
6. Establish season dates for prairie elk units 35A, 35B, 35C, and 35D as follows:
 - a. Units 35A and 35B: September 15-October 31 AND December 1-31 (any elk licenses)
 - b. Units 35C and 35E: October 1 – November 15 (antlerless elk licenses)
 - c. Units 35D and 35F: November 16 – December 31 (antlerless elk licenses)

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.

Harvest strategies to meet landowner tolerance in Harding County warrants an increase in elk licenses, most noticeably, antlerless elk licenses. The establishment of new units with respective season dates is intended to manage hunter densities.

The proposed changes to prairie elk hunting unit boundaries and season date changes are to improve elk management on private land, simplify season dates, and distribute hunter densities.

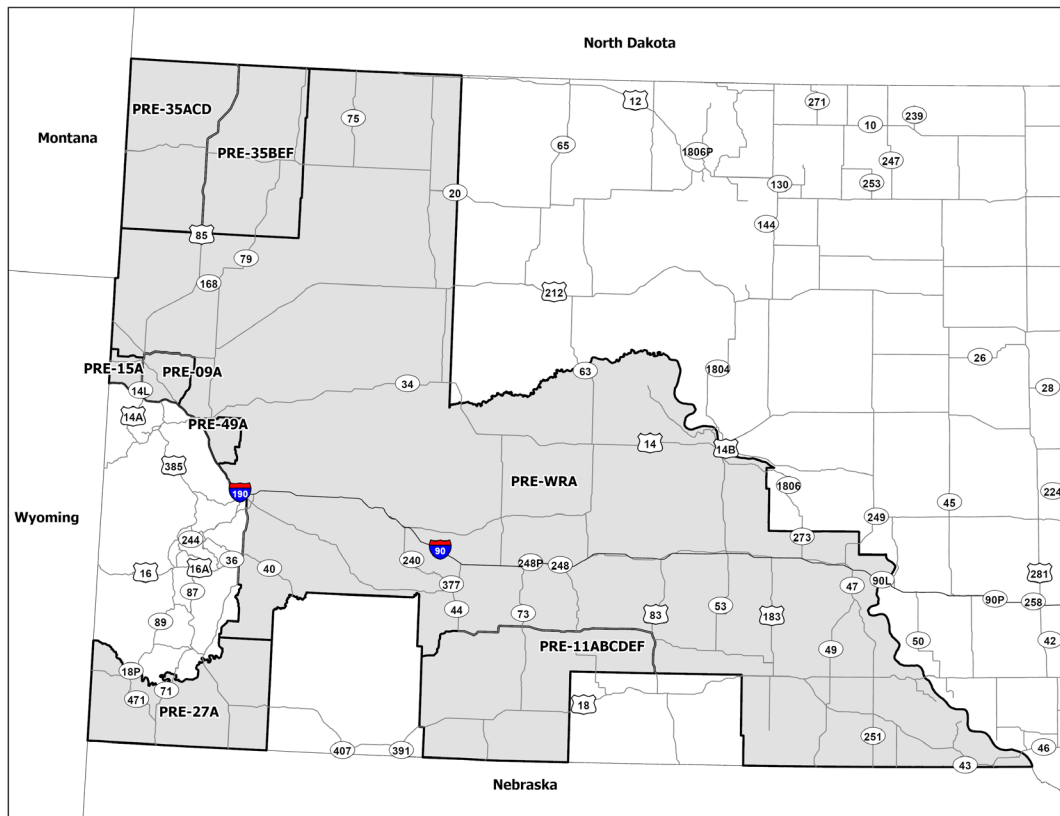
Year	Licensed Hunters	Hunter Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2016	148	40%	32	27
2017	149	54%	41	39
2018	139	79%	59	51
2019	140	65%	41	50
2020	251	57%	56	87

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

Unit/Type	Appl. 1st Choice	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls	Cows	Bull Calves	Cow Calves	Total Harvest
09A-21	304	10	0%	0	0	0	0	0
09A-23	20	15	50%	0	8	0	0	8
11A-23	41	18	55%	0	10	0	0	10
11B-21	450	16	71%	11	0	0	0	11
11C-21	181	16	58%	8	1	0	0	9
11D-23	75	31	73%	0	19	0	4	23
11E-23	45	30	8%	0	0	2	0	2
11F-23	23	30	Preliminary Data Not Available					
15A-21	104	8	20%	2	0	0	0	2
15A-23	5	5	Preliminary Data Not Available					
27A-21	533	10	83%	8	0	0	0	8
27A-23	26	10	83%	0	8	0	0	8
35A-21	754	4	100%	4	0	0	0	4
35A-23	24	8	100%	0	6	2	0	8
35B-21	1,333	4	100%	4	0	0	0	4
35B-23	69	12	75%	0	9	0	0	9
WRA-21	881	10	71%	7	0	0	0	7
WRA-23	44	20	27%	0	5	0	0	5
Total	4,912	257	46.3%	45	66	4	4	119

*2021 preliminary harvest data

Proposed Prairie Elk Units



APPROVE
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 NO ACTION

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

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

41:06:59:01. Prairie elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available - - Season dates. The prairie 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 ~~78~~ 150 "any elk" licenses and ~~478~~ 300 "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the prairie elk hunting season. The prairie elk hunting seasons are as follows:

- (1) Unit PRE-09A is open from September 15 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 31;
- (2) Unit PRE-11A is open from July 15 through August 31;
- (3) Unit PRE-11B is open from September 1 through ~~the Friday before the third Saturday in~~ October 15;
- (4) Unit PRE-11C is open from ~~the Saturday following the second Sunday of~~ October 16 through November 30;
- (5) Unit PRE-11D is open from September 1 through ~~December~~ October 31;
- (6) Unit PRE-11E is open from November 1 through December 31;
- (7) Unit PRE-11F is open from January 1 through the last day of February;
- (8) Unit PRE-15A is open from September 1 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 31;
- (9) Unit PRE-15B is open from December 1 through January 31;
- (10) Unit PRE-27A is open from October 1 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 31;
- (11) Unit PRE-35A is open from September 4 15 through October 31 and December 1 through December 31;
- (12) Unit PRE-35B is open from September 4 15 through October 31 and December 1 through December 31; ~~and~~
- (13) Unit PRE-35C is open from October 1 through November 15;
- (14) Unit PRE-35D is open from November 16 through December 31;
- (15) Unit PRE-35E is open from October 1 through November 15;
- (16) Unit PRE-35F is open from November 16 through December 31;
- (17) Unit PRE-49A is open from September 15 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 31; and
- (~~13~~ 18) Unit PRE-WRA is open from September 1 through December 31.

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

41:06:59:02. Open units. The following is a description of the open units for the prairie elk hunting season:

(1) Unit PRE-09A: those portions of Lawrence and Butte Counties within a line beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highways 85 and 212, then east on Highway 212 to Whitewood Valley Road, then south on Whitewood Valley Road to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to U.S. Highway 85, then north on U.S. Highway 85 to the point of beginning; ~~and that portion of Meade County within a line beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and Elk Creek Road, then east on Elk Creek Road to Ricard Road, then north on Ricard Road to Tilford Road, then east on Tilford Road to Middle Alkali Road, then north on Middle Alkali Road to Alkali Road, then west on Alkali Road to 133rd Avenue, then south on 133rd Avenue to 206th Street, then west on 206th Street to Lazelle Street, then west on Lazelle Street to Interstate 90 then south on Interstate 90 to the point of beginning;~~

(2) Unit PRE-11A: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;

(3) Unit PRE-11B: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;

(4) Unit PRE-11C: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;

(5) Unit PRE-11D: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;

(6) Unit PRE-11E: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;

(7) Unit PRE-11F: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;

(8) Unit PRE-15A: the portion of Butte County beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border, east on Sourdough Road to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then north to the point of beginning;

(9) Unit PRE-15B: the portion of Butte County beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border, east on Sourdough Road to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then north to the point of beginning;

(10) Unit PRE-27A: the portion of Fall River County not included in BHE-H3;

(11) Units PRE-35A, PRE-35C, and PRE-35D: the portion of Harding County west of U.S. Highway 85;

(12) Units PRE-35B, PRE-35E, and PRE-35F: the portion of Harding County east of U.S. Highway 85; and

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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(13) Unit PRE-49A: the portion of Meade County within a line beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and Elk Creek Road, then east on Elk Creek Road to Ricard Road, then north on Ricard Road to Tilford Road, then east on Tilford Road to Middle Alkalai Road, then north on Middle Alkalai Road to Alkalai Road, then west on Alkalai Road 133rd Avenue, then south on 133rd Avenue to 206th Street, then west on 206th Street to Lazelle Street to Interstate 90 then south on Interstate 90 to the point of beginning; and

~~(13)~~ (14) Unit PRE-WRA: the portion of the state west of the Missouri River not associated with another prairie elk unit, excluding the Lower Brule Indian Reservation and Corson, Dewey, Oglala Lakota, Todd, and Ziebach counties.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not Applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No. The Department is recommending changes to prairie elk hunting unit boundaries and season dates to improve elk management on private land, simplify season dates, and distribute hunter densities.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - The proposed changes to license allocation would slightly increase elk hunting opportunities.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Increases opportunity for elk hunting in western South Dakota and simplifies prairie elk hunting units.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Increases opportunity for elk hunting in western South Dakota.

FISCAL IMPACT

Minimal increase in license sales revenue.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____