

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH, AND PARKS

COMMISSION ACTION: PROPOSAL

Archery Antelope Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:24

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	December 8, 2022	Pierre
	Public Hearing	March 9, 2023	Pierre
	Finalization	March 9, 2023	Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Duration of Proposal: 2023 hunting seasons

Season Dates: 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. Modify ARSD 41:06:24:01 (Archery antelope hunting season established -- Open area -- Number and type of licenses available) as follows:

- a. The archery antelope hunting season is open in those areas of the state with a firearm 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 firearm antelope season.

~~An unlimited number of resident one-tag antelope licenses for this season valid on public and private land may be issued.~~

Unlimited number of nonresident one-tag archery antelope licenses valid on private land not leased by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks for public hunting may be issued.

No more than four hundred and fifty nonresident one-tag archery antelope licenses valid on public and private land may be issued by lottery drawing.

~~The access permits may be issued by lottery drawing.~~

Summary Table of Recommended Changes

Item	Resident		Nonresident	
	Current	Recommendation	Current	Recommendation
Number of buck antelope licenses allowed per hunter	1	1	1	1
Buck antelope license allocation (private and public license)	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	450
Buck antelope license allocation (private land only license)	NA	NA	NA	Unlimited

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Archery antelope hunters have more than doubled in the last 10 years (1,467 to 3,019). In recent years, individuals and organizations within SD have expressed concerns over crowding on public lands and the continued growth of nonresident archery hunters. Petitions have been brought forward to the GFP Commission requesting changes be made to limit nonresident archery hunters; to this point, the Commission has denied such petitions. However, after the last round of discussions, the GFP Commission requested the department to gather information, generate alternatives, and bring forward a recommendation for their consideration which would help address concerns brought forward but continue to provide hunting opportunities.

All antelope hunters that purchased or applied for a license between 2019 and 2021 were emailed a questionnaire to determine their opinions about archery hunter numbers. Eleven percent of hunters responded (1,868) to the questionnaire. Hunters generally felt there were too many antelope hunters on public land and resident hunters felt there were too many nonresidents. However, there was limited support for any regulation changes that would limit archery opportunities, especially among resident archery hunters. Additional information was gathered during an archery deer and antelope stakeholder meeting in Pierre. Stakeholders mostly agreed that archery antelope hunters should be limited, and there was support for limiting hunters more on public land and limiting nonresidents more than residents. As a result of the questionnaire and stakeholder meeting, the Department developed a list of alternatives to limit archery hunting opportunities, and the preferred approach was to start by limiting nonresident archery hunters on public land.

In an effort to start to address the concerns of crowding on public lands to hunt antelope and similar to the approach taken to the archery deer season, data used from license sales and public engagement opportunities were utilized, and a 25% reduction was applied to the number of hunters indicating they use public land to archery hunt resulting in approximately 450 nonresident hunters. This figure was then incorporated into the recommendation of separating archery antelope buck licenses (cap of 450 licenses) that would be valid on public and private land and issued through a lottery drawing, leaving an unlimited number of archery antelope buck licenses that would be valid on private land only.

RESIDENT / NON-RESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Perceived issue of hunter overcrowding and hunting pressure to antelope on public lands.
2. Historical Considerations – Not applicable
3. Biological Considerations – Not applicable
4. Social Considerations – Nonresidents will likely feel mistreated or “targeted” as a result of limiting nonresident archery antelope licenses.
5. Financial considerations – Limiting nonresident licenses will likely decrease revenue generated from archery antelope licenses.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate?
 - *Yes, this approach will limit the number of nonresident licenses available to hunt on public lands, thus potentially limiting the overall number of nonresident hunters participating in archery antelope hunting in SD.*
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - *Directly it would not provide additional opportunities; however, indirectly it would likely enhance the experience.*
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists?
 - *This change would likely not have an impact on the next generation of hunters.*
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?
 - *This structural change to the archery antelope season could impact hunters in different ways. Limiting the number of licenses valid on public land could reduce the overall number of nonresident hunters coming to SD; however, the positive impacts would be for those hunting on public land would experience a lower hunter density resulting in a higher quality hunt.*

FISCAL IMPACT

This will reduce the number of nonresident licenses sold and thus reduce revenue generated from archery antelope licenses.

APPROVE_____

MODIFY_____

REJECT_____

NO ACTION_____