

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

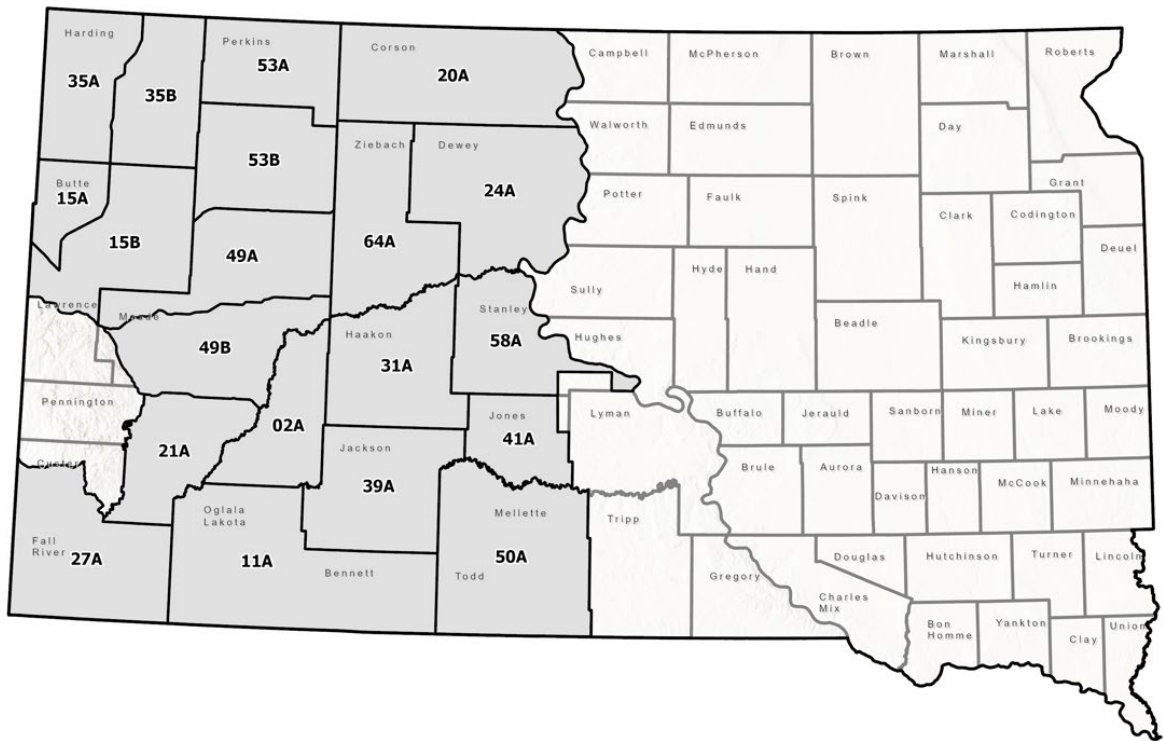
## Application for License Chapter 41:06:01

<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

**Proposed change from last year:**

1. Modify current administrative rule for mentored antelope licenses to be valid in any open firearm hunting unit west of the Missouri River for private land only (see map below).



### 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.

<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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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.

#### DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

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

**41:06:01:12. Mentored youth big game license -- Restrictions.** A resident parent or guardian may purchase no more than one mentored "any antlerless deer" license or "antlerless whitetail deer" license, and one "doe-fawn antelope" license, and one fall "any turkey" license, and one spring "male turkey" license for a designated mentored youth as provided in SDCL 41-6-81. Mentored antelope licenses are valid in any open firearm hunting unit west of the Missouri River for private land only. No youth participating in a mentored big game hunt may apply for a regular season license for that corresponding species and season.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? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Still provides opportunity for antlerless antelope licenses within the harvest management strategies identified to meet population objectives.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Minimal fiscal impact to the Department.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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