

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Custer State Park Early Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:28

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 11-12, 2024	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 4, 2024	Pierre
	Finalization	April 4-5, 2024	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Proposal: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 1 – 30, 2024
September 1 – 30, 2025

Licenses: Last year there were 4 resident “Any Elk” licenses and 0 “Antlerless Elk” licenses.

The department will recommend specific number of licenses by tag types for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons at the March Commission meeting.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. The unit is open within the boundaries of Custer State Park.
2. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
3. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
4. There is no landowner preference for this season.
5. A person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season may not apply for that license again.
6. Any elk that is harvested must be inspected by a Department representative within 24 hours after kill.

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Increase the maximum number of licenses from ten to twenty “any elk” licenses and provide the option for up to twenty “antlerless elk” licenses. Actual license number recommendations for the next two years will be provided during the March commission meeting after population surveys have been completed.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed maximum number of elk licenses is established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission will propose and finalize the specific number of licenses and tag types and allocations amongst hunting units via administrative action.

License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years will be provided during the March commission meeting after population surveys have been completed.

Table 1. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Custer State Park Early Archery Elk season.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	4	3,023	100%	4	0
2015	4	3,600	75%	3	0
2016	3	3,707	33%	1	0
2017	3	3,704	33%	1	0
2018	3	3,772	67%	2	0
2019	3	4,055	100%	3	0
2020	3	4,353	33%	1	0
2021	3	4,456	33%	1	0
2022	4	4,904	50%	2	0
2023	4	5,028	NA	NA	NA

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:28:01. Custer State Park early archery elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses -- Season dates. The Custer State Park early archery elk hunting season is open one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day and is restricted by chapter 41:06:07. No more than ~~ten~~ twenty "any elk" licenses and no more than twenty "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the Custer State Park early archery elk hunting season. The Custer State Park early archery elk hunting season is open from September 1 through September 30.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

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

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Custer State Park Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:27

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 11-12, 2024	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 4, 2024	Pierre
	Finalization	April 4-5, 2024	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Proposal: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates: October 1 – 31, 2024
October 1 – 31, 2025

Licenses: Last year there were 12 resident “Any Elk” licenses and 0 “Antlerless Elk” licenses.

One of the licenses shall be a raffle “Any Elk” license that is valid during the Custer State Park elk hunting season and the Black Hills elk hunting season. The raffle license is not valid during the Custer State Park archery hunting season nor the Black Hills archery elk hunting season.

The department will recommend specific number of licenses by tag types for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons at the March Commission meeting.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. The unit is open within the boundaries of Custer State Park.
2. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
3. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
4. There is no landowner preference for this season.
5. A person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season may not apply for that license again.
6. Any elk that is harvested must be inspected by a Department representative within 24 hours after kill.

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Increase the maximum number of licenses from twenty to thirty “any elk” licenses and the option to provide up to thirty “antlerless elk” licenses. Actual license number recommendations for the next two years will be provided during the March commission meeting after population surveys have been completed.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed maximum number of elk licenses is established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission will propose and finalize the specific number of licenses and tag types and allocations amongst hunting units via administrative action.

License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years will be provided during the March commission meeting after population surveys have been completed.

Table 1. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Custer State Park firearm elk season.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	4	8,084	100%	4	0
2015	8	9,136	100%	8	0
2016	9	8,958	89%	8	0
2017	9	8,828	88%	8	0
2018	9	8,670	86%	8	0
2019	9	8,949	89%	8	0
2020	9	9,385	89%	8	0
2021	8	9,215	89%	8	0
2022	11	9,672	100%	11	0
2023	11	9,725	NA	NA	NA

Table 2. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Special Custer State Park antlerless elk season.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	Season Closed				
2015	Season Closed				
2016	20	3,138	90%	0	18
2017	29	3,436	86%	1	24
2018	23	3,175	19%	0	4
2019	Season Closed				
2020	Season Closed				
2021	Season Closed				
2022	Season Closed				
2023	Season Closed				

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:27:01. Custer State Park elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses -- Season dates. The Custer State Park elk hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day of the season and is restricted by chapter 41:06:07. No more than ~~20~~ thirty "any elk" licenses and no more than thirty "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the Custer State Park elk hunting season. The Custer State Park elk hunting season for Unit CUE-CU1 is open from October 1 through October 31.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

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

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Special Custer State Park Antlerless Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:47

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 11-12, 2024	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 4, 2024	Pierre
	Finalization	April 4-5, 2024	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Proposal: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates: Season is currently closed.

Licenses: Last year there were 0 “Antlerless Elk” licenses.

The department will recommend specific number of licenses by tag types for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons at the March Commission meeting.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. The unit is open within the boundaries of Custer State Park.
2. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
3. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
4. There is no landowner preference for this season.
5. No person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season shall be eligible to apply for a Special Custer State Park antlerless elk license in first drawings for next nine years.
6. Any elk that is harvested must be inspected by a Department representative within 24 hours after kill.

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Specify the option to provide up to twenty “antlerless elk” licenses. Actual license number recommendations for the next two years will be provided during the March commission meeting after population surveys have been completed.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed maximum number of elk licenses is established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission will propose and finalize the specific number of licenses and tag types and allocations amongst hunting units via administrative action.

License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years will be provided during the March commission meeting after population surveys have been completed.

Table 1. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Special Custer State Park antlerless elk season.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	Season Closed				
2015	Season Closed				
2016	20	3,138	90%	0	18
2017	29	3,436	86%	1	24
2018	23	3,175	19%	0	4
2019	Season Closed				
2020	Season Closed				
2021	Season Closed				
2022	Season Closed				
2023	Season Closed				

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:47:01. Special Custer State Park antlerless elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available -- Season dates. The ~~special~~ Special Custer State Park "antlerless elk" hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day of the season and is restricted by chapter 41:06:07. No more than twenty "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the ~~special~~ Special Custer State Park "antlerless elk" hunting season.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

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

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Archery (Black Hills) Elk Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:43

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 11-12, 2024	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 4, 2024	Pierre
	Finalization	April 4-5, 2024	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Proposal: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 1 – 30, 2024
September 1 – 30, 2025

Licenses: Last year there were 182 resident “Any Elk” licenses and 90 “Antlerless Elk” licenses.

The department will recommend specific number of licenses by tag types for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons at the March Commission meeting.

Open Areas: See Figure 1.

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 archery elk hunting license in first drawings for next nine years.
4. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference application. Only 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.

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Increase the maximum number of “any elk” licenses from 200 to 300 and “antlerless elk” licenses from 150 to 300. Actual license number recommendations for the next two years will be provided during the March commission meeting after population surveys have been completed.
2. Clean-up Administrative Rule to match unit boundary descriptions for Black Hills Archery Elk with Black Hills Firearm Elk.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed maximum number of elk licenses is established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission will propose and finalize the specific number of licenses and tag types and allocations amongst hunting units via administrative action.

License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years will be provided during the March commission meeting after population surveys have been completed.

Figure 1. Map of Archery Elk Season hunting units in the Black Hills.

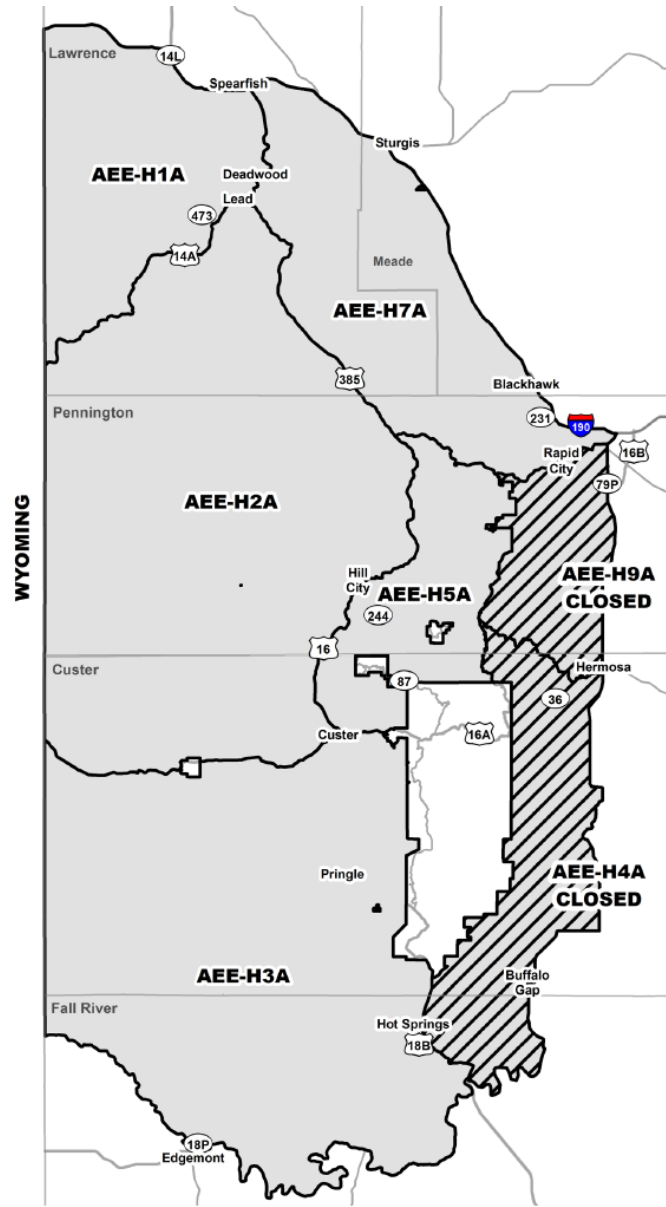


Table 1. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Archery Elk Season in the Black Hills.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	106	4,256	40%	38	4
2015	196	4,761	34%	55	12
2016	280	4,965	29%	57	25
2017	269	4,892	26%	50	20
2018	219	5,006	38%	65	19
2019	216	5,382	42%	77	14
2020	204	5,884	45%	80	12
2021	219	5,966	44%	82	14
2022	269	6,319	40%	89	18
2023	258	6,375	NA	NA	NA

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:43:01. Archery elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available -- Season dates. The archery 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 ~~200~~ 300 "any elk" licenses and ~~450~~ no more than 300 "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the archery elk hunting season. The archery elk hunting season for Units AAE-H1A, AAE-H2A, AAE-H3A, AAE-H4A, AAE-H5A, AAE-H7A, and AAE-H9A is open from September 1 through September 30.

41:06:43:02. Open units. The following is a description of the open units for the archery elk hunting season:

(1) Unit AEE-H1A: the portion of Lawrence County within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and Interstate 90, then easterly on Interstate 90 to the junction of U.S. Highway 85 at Exit 17, then southerly on U.S. Highway 85 to its junction with the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then northerly along the South Dakota-Wyoming border to its junction with Interstate 90, the point of beginning;

(2) Unit AEE-H2A: those portions of Lawrence, Pennington, and Custer Counties beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 85, then northerly and easterly along U.S. Highway 85 to its junction with U.S. Highway 385, then southerly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with U.S. Highway 16 at Custer, then westerly along U.S. Highway 16 to its junction with the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then northerly along the South Dakota-Wyoming border to its junction with U.S. Highway 85, the point of beginning;

~~(3) Unit AEE-H3A: those portions of Pennington, Lawrence, and Meade Counties beginning at U.S. Highway 14A at Sturgis, then westerly along U.S. Highway 14A to its junction with U.S. Highway 85 at Deadwood, then southerly along U.S. Highway 85 to its junction with U.S. Highway 385 at Pluma, then southeasterly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with Pennington County Road C228 (Sheridan Lake Road), then easterly along Pennington County Road C228 to its junction with State Highway 44 in Rapid City, then northerly along State Highway 44 in Rapid City to its junction with State Highway 79 (Sturgis Road) in Rapid City, then northwesterly along State Highway 79 to its junction with Interstate 90 in Black Hawk, then northwesterly along Interstate 90 to Sturgis, the point of beginning;~~
those portions of Custer and Fall River Counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming state line and U.S. Highway 16, then east along U.S. Highway 16 to the Custer State Park western boundary, then south along the Custer State Park western boundary and the Wind Cave National Park western boundary to U.S. Highway 385, then south along U.S. Highway 385 to State Highway 79, then south along State Highway 79 to the Cheyenne River, then west along the Cheyenne River to the South Dakota-Wyoming state line, then north along the state line to the point of beginning;

(4) Unit AEE-H4A: those portions of Pennington, Custer, and Fall River Counties beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 385 and the southern 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 and Custer County Road 101 to Buffalo Gap and its junction with Custer County Road 656 (River Side Road), then easterly along Custer County Road 656 one-half mile to 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 Fairburn to its junction with Custer County Road 18, then northerly along Custer County Road 18 (North Fairburn Road) to its junction with U.S. Highway 79, then northerly along U.S. 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 16A to its junction with the north boundary of Custer State Park, then easterly along the Custer State Park boundary to the northeast corner of Custer State Park, then southerly along the east boundaries of Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park 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;

(5) Unit AEE-H5A: those portions of Pennington and Custer Counties beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 16A and the west boundary of Custer State Park, then westerly along U.S. Highway 16A to its junction with U.S. Highway 385 at Custer, then northerly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with State Highway 44 near Pactola Lake, then easterly along State Highway 44 to its junction with the Black Hills National Forest boundary, then southerly along the Black Hills National Forest boundary to its junction with U.S. Highway 16, then westerly along U.S. Highway 16 to its junction with the South

Rockerville Road at Rockerville, then southerly along the South Rockerville Road to its junction with State Highway 40 at Harney, then easterly along State Highway 40 approximately 1,000 feet to its junction with the Playhouse Road, then southerly along the Playhouse Road to its junction with U.S. Highway 16A near Spokane, then southeasterly along U.S. Highway 16A to its junction with the north boundary of Custer State Park, then westerly and southerly along the Custer State Park boundary to its junction with U.S. Highway 16A, the point of beginning. The Rushmore National Memorial, including all private lands within the memorial, is closed;

~~(6) Unit AEE-H7A: those portions of Pennington, Meade, and Lawrence Counties within a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 85 and Interstate 90 at Exit 17, then southerly along U.S. Highway 85 to its junction with U.S. Highway 385 at Pluma, then southerly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with State Highway 44 near Pactola, then easterly along State Highway 44 to its junction with State Highway 79 (Sturgis Road) at Rapid City, then northerly along State Highway 79 to its junction with Interstate 90 at Black Hawk, then northerly along Interstate 90 to its junction with U.S. Highway 85 at Exit 17, the point of beginning; and those portions of Pennington, Lawrence, and Meade Counties within a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 85 and Interstate 90 at Exit 17, then southerly along U.S. Highway 85 to its junction with U.S. Highway 385 at Pluma, then southerly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with State Highway 44 near Pactola, then easterly along State Highway 44 to its junction with State Highway 79 (Sturgis Road) in Rapid City, then northerly along State Highway 79 to its junction with Interstate 90 at Black Hawk, then northerly along Interstate 90 to its junction with U.S. Highway 85 at Exit 17, the point of beginning; and~~

(7) Unit AEE-H9A: 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, then westerly along U.S. Highway 16 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

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Black Hills (Firearm) Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:26

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 11-12, 2024	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 4, 2024	Pierre
	Finalization	April 4-5, 2024	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Proposal: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

Units	2024 Hunting Season	2025 Hunting Season
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: H2G, H2J, H3D, and H3G	December 17 - 31	December 17 - 31

Licenses: Last year there were 535 resident “Any Elk” licenses and 730 “Antlerless Elk” licenses.

The department will recommend specific number of licenses by tag types for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons at the March Commission meeting.

Open Areas: See Figure 1.

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 (firearm) elk license in first drawings for next nine years.
4. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference application. Only 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.

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Increase the maximum number of “any elk” licenses from 600 to 800 and “antlerless elk” licenses from 1,200 to 1,500. Actual license number recommendations for the next two years will be provided during the March commission meeting after population surveys have been completed.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed maximum number of elk licenses is established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission will propose and finalize the specific number of licenses and tag types and allocations amongst hunting units via administrative action.

License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years will be provided during the March commission meeting after population surveys have been completed.

Figure 1. Map of Black Hills elk season hunting units for “any elk” license types (left panel) and “antlerless elk” license types (right panel).

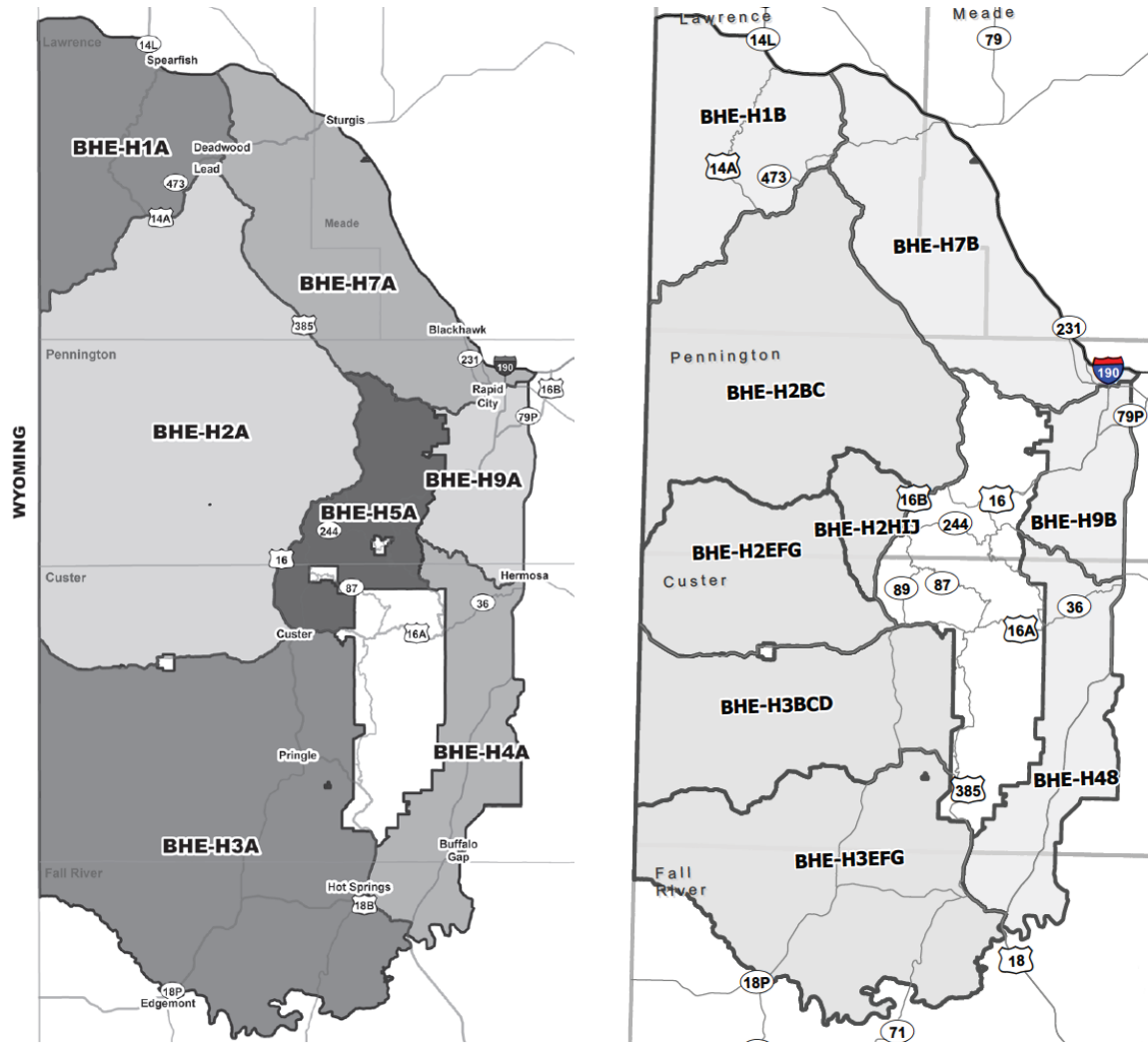


Table 1. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Black Hills firearm elk season.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	664	11,461	71%	295	178
2015	922	12,126	71%	312	345
2016	1,745	12,692	62%	363	724
2017	1,581	12,201	66%	364	682
2018	1,124	11,871	64%	315	402
2019	1,108	12,396	62%	332	354
2020	926	13,198	63%	360	224
2021	954	12,656	65%	370	249
2022	1,265	13,447	64%	426	381
2023	1232	12,999	NA	NA	NA

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

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 ~~600~~ 800 "any elk" licenses and ~~4,200~~ no more than 1,500 "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
- (5) Units BHE-H2D, BHE-H2G, BHE-H2J, BHE-H3D, and BHE-H3G are open from December 17 through December 31.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Prairie Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:59

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 11-12, 2024	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 4, 2024	Pierre
	Finalization	April 4-5, 2024	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Proposal: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

Units	License Types	2024 Hunting Season	2025 Hunting Season
PRE-09A	Any Elk	Sept 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31	Sept 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-11A	Antlerless Elk	July 15 - Aug 31	July 15 - Aug 31
PRE-11B	Any Elk	Sept 1 - Oct 15	Sept 1 - Oct 15
PRE-11C	Any Elk	Oct 16 - Nov 31	Oct 16 - Nov 31
PRE-11D	Antlerless Elk	Sep 1 - Oct 31	Sep 1 - Oct 31
PRE-11E	Antlerless Elk	Nov 1 - Dec 31	Nov 1 - Dec 31
PRE-15A	Any Elk	Sept 1 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31	Sept 1 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-15B	Antlerless Elk	Dec 1 - Jan 31	Dec 1 - Jan 31
PRE-27A	Both	Oct 1 - 31 AND Dec 1 - 31	Oct 1 - 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-35A	Any Elk	Sept 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31	Sept 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-35B	Any Elk	Sept 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31	Sept 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-35C	Antlerless Elk	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Oct 1 - Nov 15
PRE-35D	Antlerless Elk	Nov 16 - Dec 31	Nov 16 - Dec 31
PRE-35E	Antlerless Elk	Oct 1 - Nov 15	Oct 1 - Nov 15
PRE-35F	Antlerless Elk	Nov 16 - Dec 31	Nov 16 - Dec 31
PRE-49A	Both	Sept 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31	Sept 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-WRA	Both	Sept 1 - Dec 31	Sept 1 - Dec 31

Licenses: Last year there were 102 resident “Any Elk” licenses and 175 “Antlerless Elk” licenses.

The department will recommend specific number of licenses by tag types for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons at the March Commission meeting.

Open Areas: See Figure 1.

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 next nine years.

Table 1. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Prairie elk season.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	92	1,725	64%	33	25
2015	98	2,119	55%	29	25
2016	148	2,272	40%	32	27
2017	149	2,249	50%	41	34
2018	139	3,080	79%	59	51
2019	140	3,831	65%	41	50
2020	251	4,532	57%	56	87
2021	257	4,912	50%	57	71
2022	270	5,037	48%	74	55
2023	258	5,438	NA	NA	NA

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

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 ~~450~~ 200 "any elk" licenses and ~~300~~ no more than 400 "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 October 15;
- (4) Unit PRE-11C is open from October 16 through November 30;
- (5) Unit PRE-11D is open from September 1 through 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 15 through October 31 and December 1 through December 31;
- (12) Unit PRE-35B is open from September 15 through October 31 and December 1 through December 31;
- (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
- (18) Unit PRE-WRA is open from September 1 through December 31.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

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