



2021 RINGNECK OUTLOOK

HUNT THE GREATEST IN SOUTH DAKOTA



COUNTING DOWN THE DAYS TO **PHEASANT SEASON**

The 2021 pheasant hunting season is fast approaching, and it's time to make plans to hit the field! Thanks to a mild winter, the state's predator control, and enhanced habitat efforts, hunters should find plenty of pheasants this season. Regardless of the dry conditions over the summer, hunters who adjust their tactics and put in their work scouting should enjoy a successful season!

HUNTING FORECAST

A mild winter resulted in high upland game bird survival across the landscape, and while the drought conditions can make brood survival difficult, there are still plenty of birds available to hunters. Expect both pheasant and grouse populations to be older with more experienced birds. The wariness of adult birds can make hunting more challenging, so hunters will need to pay attention to the details to ensure success.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCT. 16 - JAN. 31

TRADITIONAL PHEASANT HUNTING SEASON

2020 HARVEST STATISTICS



1,108,420

Pheasants Harvested

121,331

Total Hunters

HUNTING CONDITIONS

Conditions are setting up for an early crop harvest, which should put birds in predictable areas earlier in the season. Focus on areas that have abundant public hunting opportunities within the primary pheasant range and find pieces of ground with adequate cover and minimal hunting pressure, if possible. Look for birds in the grasslands in the early fall and cattail sloughs and heavy cover beginning around Thanksgiving.

HuntTheGreatest.com

2021 RINGNECK OUTLOOK

HUNT THE GREATEST IN SOUTH DAKOTA

RECREATE RESPONSIBLY IN THE FIELD

Recreating responsibly is critical. Hunters will need to do their part to prevent fire on the landscape. Bring extra water, a shovel, and always know where you are in case you need to report a fire. Avoid parking on tall vegetation, ensure trailer chains are not dragging, and extinguish cigarettes in the vehicle or with water. Be sure to pack extra water for your dog and do not keep them out in the heat for long periods of time.

“South Dakota is the greatest place in the world to hunt pheasants and that all comes back to our quality habitat and millions of acres of public hunting opportunities. Whether your hunting preference is sloughs, grasslands, woody habitat, or the rolling prairies, you will have an abundance of options, and you will not regret putting our state at the top of your list.”

Kevin Robling, GFP Department Secretary

WHERE TO HUNT



Great pheasant hunting means great hunting land. South Dakota has incredible amounts of quality public land across the landscape, with plenty in the primary pheasant range. Pick up a copy of the 2021 Public Hunting Atlas or visit our website at gfp.sd.gov/hunting-areas to begin planning your fall hunting trip.



PREMIERE OUTDOOR DESTINATION

- » South Dakota is one of the few places in the world where you can bag the upland bird trifecta - sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie chicken, and pheasant when hunting the right area.
- » Excellent walleye and panfishing on the Missouri River and in the Glacial Lakes region presents the perfect opportunity to rest your legs and wet some lines!
- » Many state parks offer camping sites, camping and modern cabins, and lodge opportunities to complete your outdoor adventure as well as offer fun for the whole family!

PLAN YOUR GREATEST HUNT

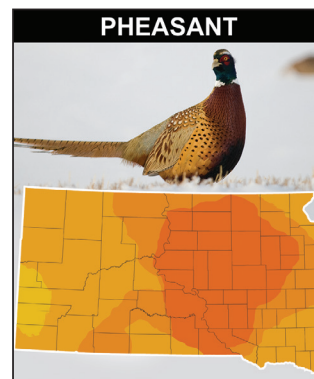
Are you planning your hunt in South Dakota? We've got you covered!

Do-It-Yourself Adventure

Are you looking for a DIY adventure, but aren't sure where to start? South Dakota is home to abundant pheasant hunting lands and opportunities. It can be hard to narrow down where you want to go. Check out the pheasant distribution map to see where the primary range is found across South Dakota. You can also learn more about the different types of areas to hunt in South Dakota at travelsouthdakota.com/recreation/hunting/region-breakdowns.

Full-Service Experience

South Dakota is home to numerous hunting lodges and guided hunt opportunities. If you are looking for sure fire action, this could be the type of hunt for you! Learn more about lodges and guided hunts in South Dakota at travelsouthdakota.com/recreation/hunting/lodge-hunt.



PHEASANT DISTRIBUTION

Primary pheasant range is in central and eastern South Dakota, though there are pockets of excellent pheasant hunting in the western part of the state.

HuntTheGreatest.com