APPLY ONLINE: gfp.sd.gov
Applying online is easy. Visit gfp.sd.gov, click “Licenses,” and then “Purchase License.” From there, the system walks you through step by step. If you do not already have an account, you will be required to create one. You will begin by selecting a season to apply for and your first choice hunting unit. Please note that you are required to provide a credit or debit card number to finish the transaction. Upon completion and submission of your application, you are then placed directly into the drawing for the unit you selected. Preference points are automatically included if you had any from previous years.

Residency
To apply for a resident license, a person must:
• Have a domicile (person’s established, fixed, and permanent home to which the person, whenever absent, has the present intention of returning) within South Dakota for at least 90 consecutive days immediately preceding the date of application for purchasing, or attempting to purchase any hunting, fishing, or trapping license/permit;
• Make no claim of residency in any other state or foreign country for any purpose;
• Claim no resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in any other state or foreign country;
• Prior to any application for any license, transfer to SD the person’s driver’s license and motor vehicle registrations.

EXCEPTION: The following persons are eligible for resident licenses:
• Any person who previously had a domicile in SD who is absent due to business of the United States or SD, or is serving in the armed forces of the US or the spouse of an active duty military person;
• Any person who previously had a domicile in this state who is absent due to the person’s regular attendance at a post-high school institution as a full-time student, or in a medical or dental residency program;
• Any person in the active military of the U.S. or that person’s spouse who is continuously stationed in SD;
• Any person who is a patient in any war veterans’ hospital within SD;
• Any person who is an employee of the veterans’ administration or any veterans’ hospital in SD;
• Any person residing on restricted military reservations in SD;
• Any person attending regularly a post-high school institution in SD as a full-time student for 30 days or more immediately preceding the application;
• Any foreign exchange student over 16 years of age attending a public or private high school who has resided in the state for 30 days or more preceding the application;
• Any foreign exchange student who is between the ages of 12 and 16 who has completed GFP’s course of instruction in the safe handling of firearms and has been issued a certificate of competency upon completion of instruction and who has resided in SD for 30 days or more preceding application for a license;
• Any person who is a minor dependent of a resident of SD.

Termination of Residency
A person (other than a person who fits into one of the previous EXCEPTIONA) is deemed to have terminated their South Dakota resident hunting, fishing, and trapping status if the person does any of the following:
• Applies for, purchases, or accepts a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license issued by another state or foreign country;
• Registers to vote in another state or foreign country;
• Accepts a driver’s license issued by another state or foreign country;
• Moves to any other state or foreign country and makes it the person’s domicile or makes any claim of residency for any purpose in the other state or foreign country.

However, a person who has lawfully acquired a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license and who leaves the state after acquiring the license to take up residency elsewhere may continue to exercise all the privileges granted by the license until the license expires if the person’s respective privileges are not revoked or suspended.

Social Security Number
The last four digits of your Social Security Number are required. The Social Security Number information is required from all U.S. residents before this application will be processed [SDCL 25-7A-56.2]. This information will be kept confidential. The information is required to be in compliance with state law on collection of delinquent child support payments.

South Dakota law prohibits the issuance or renewal of any hunting or fishing license if an individual owes $1,000 or more in past-due child support unless the individual enters into a repayment agreement with the Dept. of Social Services for payment of the delinquent child support [SDCL 25-7A-56; 25-7A-1(28)]. There is a requirement to enter into a repayment agreement with the Dept. of Social Services even if the individual is presently making child support payments, if child support is being withheld from wages or income. To enter into the required repayment agreement, individuals must contact the Dept. of Social Services - Office of Child Support Enforcement, 700 Governor’s Drive - Kneip Building, Pierre SD 57501, or call (605) 773-6456.

Age Eligibility
• Residents and nonresidents must be 12 years old by Dec. 31, 2021 to hunt.
• Residents under age 16 must successfully complete a HuntSAFE course.
• Nonresidents under age 16 must include the certificate number from their hunter safety card, or a current or previous hunting license issued to them from any state.
• Residents and nonresidents who have not completed the HuntSAFE course at the time of application must use a paper application and leave that information blank on the application form. If drawn, their license will be held until the GFP License Office is notified of the HuntSAFE card number once the course has been successfully completed.
• Information on the “Mentored Hunt” program is found in a separate application.
Application Rules

• Individuals may submit only one application per season for the first drawing and receive no more than one license. See “Application Deadlines” for rules allowing additional licenses.
• Applicants applying for differently priced licenses as first and second choice must include the higher fee. Individuals will receive a partial refund if the lower-priced license is drawn.
• Licenses may not be transferred to another person.

Group Applications

• Applications with matching first and second choices, submitted in the same group, will be treated as a group application. All applicants will either be successful or unsuccessful in the drawings.
• Applications submitted in the same group with first or second choices that do not match will be treated as individual applications in the drawings, not as a group application.
• No more than six applications may be submitted in the same group.
• An incomplete application voids all other applications in the group.
• Applicants with preference points should be aware when applying with applicants with fewer preference points: Doing so gives all applicants the lowest point represented in the group.
• Residents and nonresidents may apply together in the same group. Either all in the group will be drawn together or all will be rejected. Residents must submit the resident fee and nonresidents must submit the nonresident fee. This is valid only in seasons and units where both resident and nonresident licenses are available for a specific drawing. It should be noted that in most instances, residents who apply with nonresidents will have a diminished chance of drawing a first-choice license.

SEASON APPLICATION INFORMATION

The season/unit/type designations apply to resident and nonresident licenses. Licenses for this season are either one-tag “any deer” tag, meaning they are valid for a buck or doe, whitetail, or mule deer or one-tag “any antelope” tag, meaning they are valid for a buck or doe antelope.

Resident License Fee $175 Nonresident License Fee $560

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission passed a rule in 2019 that only allows hunters to apply for two deer seasons in the first draw. These seasons include East River, East River Special Buck, West River, West River Special Buck, Black Hills, Muzzleloader, Refuge and Custer State Park. An applicant cannot submit more than one application for each season. The Special Buck draw will take place first. If a Special Buck applicant does not draw an East or West River Special Buck license, they are still eligible to submit two applications in the 6 season draw. If a Special Buck applicant does draw a Special Buck license, they can only submit 1 application in the 6 season draw. Applicants may only possess one Special Buck license and one Special Antelope license per year.

The license fee includes a $6 surcharge established by the South Dakota legislature. Surcharge monies are divided evenly between programs for wildlife damage management and public hunting land access, programs that benefit both landowners and hunters.

INDIAN RESERVATIONS. State licenses are valid on private, deeded lands within the exterior boundaries of Indian reservations. Persons planning to hunt on tribal lands should contact the appropriate tribal office concerning tribal hunting licenses.

Substituting Fees: Payment for applications submitted online must be made with a valid credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express). Your credit card will not be charged until, and only if you are successful in the drawing. Nonpayment in the form of a cancelled credit card will result in your license being withheld and the blocking of any future license purchases until the unpaid fee, along with any penalties, is paid in full. A bad check will either void the license if the draw has not yet occurred; or if the draw has been completed, it will result in the blocking of any future license purchases until the unpaid fee, along with any back check fees and penalties are paid in full.

Successful Applicants: Successful applicants for limited licenses are selected at random by computer lottery.

Unsuccessful Applicants: Applicants who applied online using a credit card will be charged only if they are successful in the drawing. Those unsuccessful will not be charged and there will be no refund required.

Preference Points: A fee ($5 resident, $10 nonresident) is required for all preference points. Purchasing a preference point is optional. Seasons with a limited number of licenses have a preference system for applicants who are unsuccessful on their first choice in the first drawing. One preference point may be purchased each year the applicant is unsuccessful. Preference points are valid on first choices in the first drawing only. Purchased preference points are automatically credited to an application even if you do not apply the following year. Preference points cannot be transferred to another person and is only valid for the first drawing in the applicant’s first unit-type choice. If you have any questions about your preference, please contact our Information Office.

WEST RIVER SPECIAL BUCK

Season Dates: Nov. 12-27, 2022, except for Gregory County Unit 30A (Nov. 5-8 and Nov. 21-27 2022)

Note: The Special Buck any deer tags are NOT valid during the antlerless-only deer season.

Bag Limit: One any deer (buck or doe, whitetail or mule deer) or one any whitetail deer (buck or doe)

Hunting Unit: The West River Special Buck License allows hunters to hunt private land only in all West River units. ALL PUBLIC LANDS ARE CLOSED to these license holders, including Walk-In Areas.

License Eligibility: Residents and nonresidents are eligible, however: Successful resident West River Special Buck License applicants are not eligible to apply for a regular West River Deer License in the first, second or third drawings, but can apply beginning with the fourth drawing for additional licenses. Successful non-resident West River Special Buck License applicants are not eligible to apply for a regular West River Deer License in the first, second, third or fourth drawings, but can apply during the fifth drawing for additional licenses. Successful West River Special Buck License applicants are also not eligible for West River Landowner Own Land Licenses. Unsuccessful applicants may apply in the first West River Deer drawing.

Individual License Quota: Applicants may apply for and receive only one West River Special Buck License. Residents may apply for both a West River and East River Special Buck License, however, an individual can only possess one Special Buck license per year. The draw for East River Special Buck licenses will be conducted first. Residents who draw an East River Special Buck license will not be eligible for West River Special Buck license.
**WEST RIVER SPECIAL BUCK (CONT.)**

**Landowner Permission:** You must include the name (first and last name) and phone number of a landowner who has given you permission to hunt for the West River Special Buck season. This information must be provided on the online application.

**APPLICATION DEADLINES:**

First Deadline – Apply online by 8 a.m. (Central Time) April 19. One application may be submitted per applicant.

Second Deadline – Apply online by 8 a.m. (Central Time) May 12. Those who do not already have a Special Buck license may submit one application.

Third Deadline – Apply online by 8 a.m. (Central Time) Sept. 1. Those who do not already have a Special Buck license may submit one application.

Fourth Deadline – Apply online by 8 a.m. (Central Time) Sept. 26. Those who do not already have a Special Buck license may submit one application.

**Leftover Licenses** – Licenses will be issued first-come, first-served by online application only. This process will begin on September 29th at 1:00 p.m. (Central Time). However, a person is limited to one Special Buck license, per year.

**SEASON/UNIT/SPECIES CODE:**

**WSD-WR1-01** This license valid on private land only in all West River units (excludes all lands leased by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks for public hunting). License valid for one any deer.

- 500 Resident Licenses ($175)
- 500 Nonresident Licenses ($560)

**WSD-WR1-11** This license valid on private land only in all West River units (excludes Walk-In Areas). License valid for one any whitetail deer.

- 500 Resident Licenses ($175)
- 500 Nonresident Licenses ($560)

**Preference Points:** During the first draw, applicants can choose to purchase a preference point if unsuccessful. Additionally, preference points can be purchased from September 15 – December 15, 2022, through GFP’s online licensing system at license.gooutdoorssouthdakota.com.

**SPECIAL ANTELOPE**

**SEASON DATES:** Oct. 1-16, 2022

**BAG LIMIT:** One any antelope (buck or doe)

**Hunting Unit:** The Special Antelope license allows hunters to hunt private land only, in all open firearm antelope units. ALL PUBLIC LANDS ARE CLOSED to these license holders, including Walk-In Areas.

**License Eligibility:** Residents and nonresidents are eligible; however, a person who applies for a Special Antelope license may not apply for a Firearm (Prairie) Antelope license until the third drawing. A person who applies for a Special Antelope license may not apply for a leftover Firearm Antelope license.

**License Eligibility Versus:** Residents who draw an East River Special Buck license will not be eligible for West River Special Buck license.

**Landowner Permission:** You must include the name (first and last name) and phone number of a landowner who has given you permission to hunt for the Special Antelope season. This information must be provided on the online application.

**APPLICATION DEADLINES:**

First Deadline - Apply online by 8 a.m. (Central Time) April 19. One application may be submitted per person for this drawing.

**SEASON/UNIT/TYPE CHOICES:**

**PRA-PR-41:** Valid only on private property not leased by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks for public hunting in any open unit.

- Valid for one Any Antelope;
  - 50 resident licenses ($175)
  - 50 nonresident licenses ($560)

**Preference Points:** During the first draw, applicants can choose to purchase a preference point if unsuccessful. Additionally, preference points can be purchased from September 15 – December 15, 2022, through GFP’s online licensing system at license.gooutdoorssouthdakota.com.
Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the central nervous system found in both captive and free-ranging deer and elk. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has been conducting surveillance for CWD since 1997 to determine disease presence and prevalence across the state. CWD has been confirmed in Bennett, Buffalo, Butte, Corson, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Jackson, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Mellette, Pennington, Perkins, Stanley, Sully, Tripp and Ziebach counties in central and western South Dakota.

Carcass transportation and disposal regulations apply for any harvested deer or elk that will be transported from the county of harvest or from another state back into South Dakota and include the following:

- Hunters are recommended to leave as much of the unusable carcass as possible at the location of the harvest in a discrete location. Make arrangements with landowner on property where permission has been granted.
- Regulations do not prohibit a hunter from transporting a deer or elk carcass from the harvest location to anywhere in the state.
- If any portion of the carcass is transported from the county of harvest, regulations require the hunter to dispose of all carcass remains with a waste management provider, if an allowable trash item, or with a permitted landfill.
- If you are not moving a deer or elk carcass from the county of harvest, the regulations do not apply unless the carcass is delivered to a game processor or taxidermist. Returning carcass remains to public lands and using road ditches to dispose of carcass remains is illegal. Make sure permission is granted if disposing on private land.
- Deer or elk carcasses from another state brought back into South Dakota must be disposed of with a waste management provider or landfill that accepts carcass parts.
- Game processors and taxidermists, regardless of the location of harvest, are required to dispose of all carcass remains with a waste management provider, if an allowable trash item, or with a permitted landfill.

The goal of surveillance strategies in South Dakota is to determine the likely spread of CWD to new units where the disease has not been detected in wild, free-ranging deer and elk. Hunters who would like to get their deer tested for CWD can voluntarily submit a sample for testing. As a voluntary submission, hunters will be responsible for the cost of shipping and any professional sample collection costs unless the hunter delivers a sample to a GFP Office or sample collection area. GFP will pay for the testing cost of the sample at South Dakota State University Animal Disease and Research Diagnostics Lab (SDSU ADRDL). Results will be sent to both the hunter and GFP. These results will supplement GFP’s surveillance effort across the state. The process for collecting samples from a harvested elk or deer (same process) and how to properly submit to SDSU ADRDL can be found at gfp.sd.gov/cwd-testing.