

# 2024 SPECIAL BUCK and SPECIAL ANTELOPE



## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Resident/Nonresident West River Special Buck...April 15, 8 a.m. (CDT)  
Resident East River Special Buck.....April 15, 8 a.m. (CDT)  
Resident/Nonresident Special Antelope.....April 15, 8 a.m. (CDT)

## LANDOWNER PERMISSION REQUIRED

Permission is required to hunt private land in South Dakota. Have permission to hunt before you apply. If you don't obtain permission before you apply, you may not be able to obtain it during the season. ALL PUBLIC LANDS ARE CLOSED to these license holders, including Walk-In Areas and CHAP areas.

## APPLY ONLINE: [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov)

Visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://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.

**NOTE: All applications must be submitted [online](#).**

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

### 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.

*EXCEPTIONS: 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 EXCEPTIONS*) 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, or 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

- Applicants must be 12 years old by Dec. 31, 2024 to hunt.
- Applicants under age 16 must successfully complete a HuntSAFE course and must include the certificate number from their hunter safety card, or a current or previous hunting license issued to them from any state.
- Applicants who have not completed the HuntSAFE course at the time of application must leave their HuntSAFE number blank within their profile, but they can still apply. If successful in the draw, 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.
- 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.

- No more than six applications may be submitted in the same group.
- Applicants with preference points should be aware when applying with applicants with fewer preference points that doing so gives all applicants the lowest preference point balance represented in the group.
- Residents and nonresidents may apply together in the same group. Either all in the group will be drawn successful or all will be unsuccessful. If successful, residents will be charged the the resident fee and nonresidents will be charged 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.

**Fees:** Online applications must be made with a valid credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express). Your credit/debit card will not be charged until, and only if you are successful in the drawing. Nonpayment in the form of a cancelled credit/debit 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.

**Submitting Applications:** All applications must be submitted online. If an online application is not possible, applicants can visit a GFP Wildlife Division office or call 605.223.7660.

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

**Unsuccessful Applicants:** The applicant's credit/debit card will be charged only if they are successful in the drawing. Those unsuccessful will not be charged unless they selected to purchase a preference point.

**Preference Points:** A fee (\$5 resident, \$10 nonresident) is required for all preference points. Seasons with a limited number of licenses have a preference point system for applicants who are unsuccessful on their first choice in the first drawing. Purchasing a preference point is optional. Unsuccessful first choice applicants will not receive a preference point unless they selected to purchase a preference point within their application.

One preference point may be purchased each year the applicant is unsuccessful. Preference point use is valid on first choices in the first drawing only. Preference points are automatically credited to an application and maintained by the computer system. Preference points cannot be transferred to another person. If you have any questions about your preference points, please contact GFP's License Office at 605.223.7660.

## SEASON APPLICATION INFORMATION

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 Combined Deer drawing. If a Special Buck applicant draws a Special Buck license, they can only submit one application in the Combined Deer drawing. Special Antelope applicants are prohibited from applying for the Prairie

(Firearms) Antelope drawing, even if they are unsuccessful in the Special Antelope drawing.

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. People planning to hunt on tribal lands should contact the appropriate tribal office concerning tribal hunting licenses.

## WEST RIVER SPECIAL BUCK

**Season Dates:** Same as the regular West River Deer season. November 16 - December 1, 2024, except in Gregory County (November 9-12 and November 16 - December 1, 2024).

**Note:** *The Special Buck licenses are NOT valid during the antlerless-only deer season in December.*

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

**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 after the fourth drawing for additional licenses. Successful West River Special Buck License applicants are also not eligible for Landowner Own Land licenses. Unsuccessful applicants may apply in the West River Deer first draw.

**Individual License Quota:** Applicants may receive only one Special Buck License. Residents may apply for both a West River and East River Special Buck License, however, an individual can only possess one. 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 a 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 Buck season. This information is required during the application process.

### APPLICATION DEADLINES:

**First Deadline -** Apply online by 8 a.m. (CDT) April 15, 2024. One application may be submitted per applicant.

**Second Deadline -** Apply online by 8 a.m. (CDT) May 14, 2024. One application may be submitted per applicant.

### **SEASON/UNIT/SPECIES CODE:**

**WSD-WR1-01** This license valid on private land not leased by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (i.e., Walk-In Areas and CHAP areas) for public hunting in any West River Deer unit. License valid for one "any deer."

500 Resident Licenses (\$175)

500 Nonresident Licenses (\$560)

**WSD-WR1-11** This license valid on private land not leased by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (i.e., Walk-In Areas and CHAP areas) for public hunting in any West River Deer unit. License valid for one "any whitetail deer."

500 Resident Licenses (\$175)

500 Nonresident Licenses (\$560)

**Preference Points:** Preference points: People can purchase preference points when they apply, if unsuccessful, or from September 15 – December 15, 2024, through GFP's online licensing system at [license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com](http://license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com).

## EAST RIVER SPECIAL BUCK

**Season Dates:** Same as regular East River Deer season, November 23 - December 8, 2024.

**Note:** *The Special Buck licenses are NOT valid during the antlerless-only deer season in December.*

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

**License Eligibility:** Residents are eligible, however: Successful East River Special Buck License applicants are not eligible to apply for a regular East River Deer License in the first, second, or third drawings, but can apply beginning with the fourth drawing for additional licenses. Successful East River Special Buck License applicants are also not eligible for Landowner Own Land licenses. Unsuccessful applicants may apply in the East River Deer first draw.

**Individual License Quota:** Applicants may receive only one Special Buck License. Residents may apply for both an East River and West River Special Buck License, however, an individual can only possess one. 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.

**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 Buck season. This information must be provided during the application process.

### APPLICATION DEADLINES:

**First Deadline** - Apply online by 8 a.m. (CDT) April 15, 2024. One application may be submitted per applicant.

### **SEASON/UNIT/SPECIES CODE:**

**ESD-ER1-01** This license valid on private land not leased by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (i.e. Walk-In Areas, CHAP areas, CREP areas) for public hunting in any East River Deer unit. License valid for one “any deer.”

500 Resident Licenses (\$175)

0 Nonresident Licenses

**Preference Points:** Preference points: People can purchase preference points when they apply, if unsuccessful, or from September 15 – December 15, 2024, through GFP’s online licensing system at [license.gooutdoors.southdakota.com](https://gooutdoors.southdakota.com).

## SPECIAL ANTELOPE

**Season Dates:** September 28 - October 13, 2024

**Bag Limit:** One buck antelope

**License Eligibility:** Residents and nonresidents are eligible; however, a person who applies for a Special Antelope license (even if unsuccessful) may not apply for a Firearm (Prairie) Antelope license in the initial or second drawing. A person who applies for a Special Antelope license may not apply for a leftover Special Antelope license. Firearm (Prairie) Antelope season preference points are available to use for the Special Antelope drawing and vice versa. If successful, preference points for the Firearm (Prairie) Antelope season will be set to zero.

**Individual License Quota:** Applicants may apply for and receive only one Special Antelope License per year.

**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 is required during the application process.

### APPLICATION DEADLINES:

**First Deadline** - Apply online by 8 a.m. (CDT) April 15, 2024. One application may be submitted per person for this drawing.

### **SEASON-UNIT-TYPE CHOICES:**

**PRA-PR** Valid only on private land not leased by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks for public hunting, i.e., Walk-In Areas and CHAP areas, in any open unit. License valid for one buck antelope.

50 resident licenses (\$175)

50 nonresident licenses (\$560)

**Preference points:** People can purchase preference points when they apply, if unsuccessful, or from September 15 – December 15, 2024, through GFP’s online licensing system at [license.gooutdoors.southdakota.com](https://license.gooutdoors.southdakota.com).

# CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)

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, Union, and Ziebach counties in 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). Hunters will be contacted with results by GFP or by SDSU ADRDL. 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](http://gfp.sd.gov/cwd-testing).



## CONTACT US

### GFP LICENSING OFFICE

20641 SD Hwy 1806

Fort Pierre, SD 57532

605.223.7660 | TTY: 605.223.7684

Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

[gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov)