

2025 BIGHORN SHEEP



CUSTER STATE PARK BIGHORN SHEEP

Eligibility.....Resident only
Application Deadline..... May 20, 8 a.m. CDT
Season Dates..... September 1-December 31, 2025

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HUNTER RESPONSIBILITY TO OBTAIN HUNTING ACCESS: Prior to applying for a license, a hunter is strongly encouraged to ensure they have access to hunting areas and understand potential game availability for those hunting areas and seasons. In addition to obtaining a license, a hunter must obtain permission if they wish to access private land. Access is not guaranteed on private land and hunters are also required to determine if the managing entity of public land expressly prohibits hunting. The Game, Fish and Parks Department is not responsible for ensuring hunting access for hunters simply because licenses are available. Hunters can call Game, Fish and Parks offices to learn more about hunting opportunities before applying for a license.

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 South Dakota 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 South Dakota who is absent due to business of the United States or South Dakota, 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 South Dakota;
- Any patient in any war veterans' hospital within South Dakota;
- Any employee of the veterans' administration or any veterans' hospital in South Dakota;
- Any person residing on restricted military reservations in South Dakota;
- Any person attending regularly a post-high school institution in South Dakota 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 South Dakota for 30 days or more preceding application for a license;
- Any person who is a minor dependent of a resident of South Dakota.

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

APPLY ONLINE: gfp.sd.gov

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.

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;
- Resides in any other state, territory or country for an aggregate of 180 or more days in a calendar year.

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 Department 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 December 31, 2025 to hunt.
- Applicants under age 16 must successfully complete a HuntSAFE course.
- 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.

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.

Fees

Payment must be made with a valid credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express). A \$10 nonrefundable application fee will be charged at the time of application. Your credit/debit card will not be charged the full fee 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

Applications must be submitted online only.

Successful Applicants

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

Preference Points

Bighorn sheep seasons have a preference point system for applicants who are unsuccessful on their first choice in the first draw. One preference point is earned each year the applicant is unsuccessful. Preference points are valid on first choices in the first drawing. Preference points are automatically credited to an application by the computer system. Preference points are maintained by the computer system even if you do not apply the following year. Preference points cannot be transferred to another person. If you have any questions about your preference points, please contact our License Office at 605.223.7660.

SEASON APPLICATION INFORMATION

A person 18 years of age or older is required to purchase a Habitat Stamp (\$10 for residents) when applying for or purchasing any hunting, fishing, or trapping license. A person is not required to purchase more than one Habitat Stamp within a license year.

License fees for bighorn sheep seasons include a \$6 surcharge established by the South Dakota Legislature. Surcharge monies are divided between programs for wildlife damage management and public hunting land access, programs that benefit both landowners and hunters.

INDIAN TRUST LANDS. 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.

CUSTER STATE PARK BIGHORN SHEEP

Season Dates: Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025

License Eligibility: All bighorn sheep seasons and units are considered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. South Dakota residents who have never received a license for *any* South Dakota bighorn sheep season are eligible to apply.

Application and License Fees: Online only, Online applicants will be charged the \$10 nonrefundable fee to their credit/debit card, and if successful the full license fee will be automatically added to the credit/debit card. If you do not have internet access, you can still apply by calling 605.223.7660 or visiting any GFP Wildlife Division office.

Full license fee: \$300. This excludes a \$10 nonrefundable application fee.

Special Requirements: License holders must attend an orientation meeting at the Rapid City Wildlife Division office. Successful applicants will be notified to arrange a time for the meeting. Successful hunters must have their bighorn sheep inspected and legally marked/plugged by a GFP representative within 24 hours of kill.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

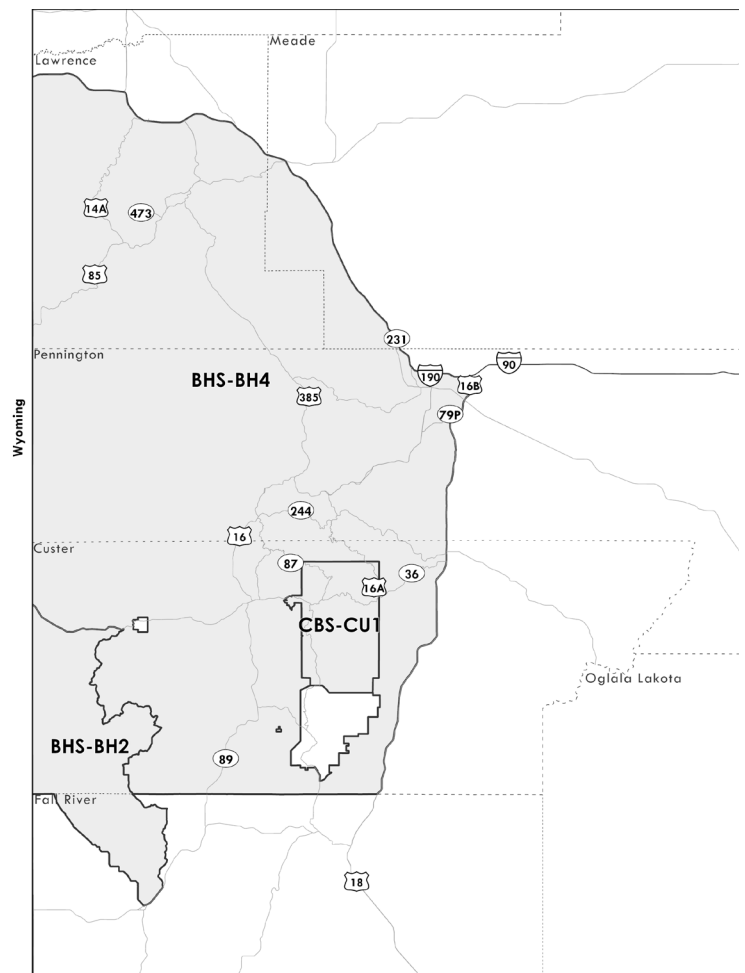
Apply online by 8 a.m. CDT May 20. Eligible applicants may submit one application for this season. Results available online by June 6.

SEASON - UNIT - TYPE CHOICES:

CBS-CU1- Includes the fenced portion of Custer State Park.

52: Ram Only Bighorn Sheep - 2 licenses.

Preference Points: People can purchase preference points from September 15 – December 15 through GFP's online licensing system at license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com.



BIGHORN SHEEP

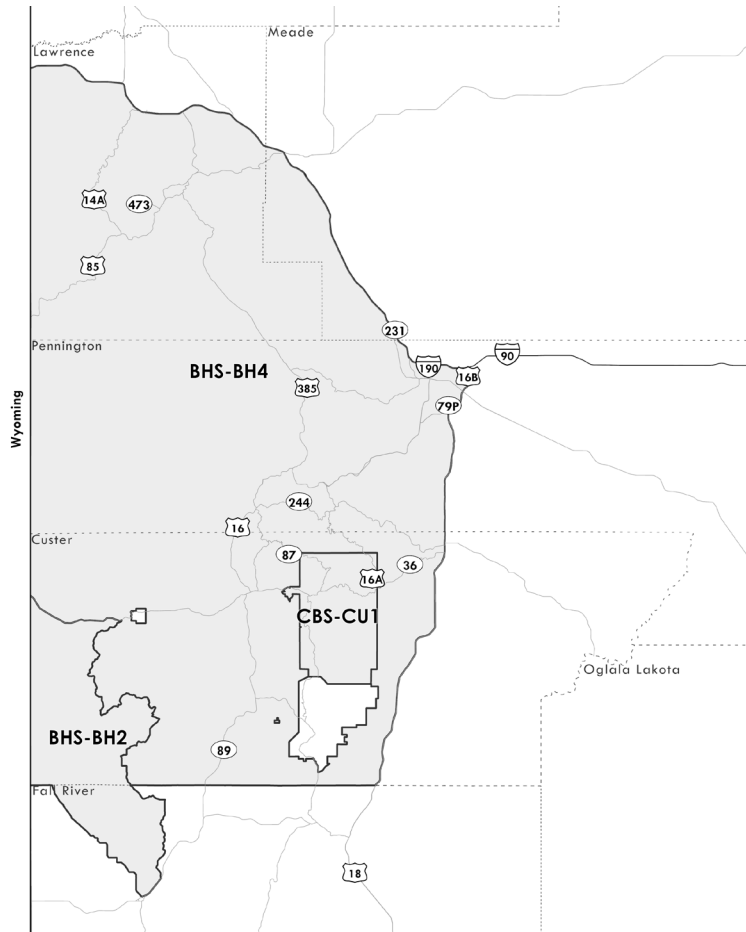
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Apply online by 8 a.m. CDT May 20. Eligible applicants may submit one application for this season. Results available online by June 6.

SEASON - UNIT - TYPE CHOICES:

BHS-BH2- Includes that portion of CUSTER and FALL RIVER counties within a line beginning at the junction of US Hwy 16 and the WY state line, east on US Hwy 16 to the intersection of US Hwy 16 and Mann Rd (USFS Rd 270) then south along the Mann Rd to Pass Creek Rd (USFS Rd 272) then south on Pass Creek to Richardson Cutoff (USFS Rd 276) then east on Richardson Cutoff to Pleasant Valley Rd (USFS Rd 715) then south on Pleasant Valley Rd to Pilger Mountain Rd (USFS 317) then south on Pilger Mountain Rd to County Rd 15 then south on County Rd 15 to US Hwy 18 then west on US Hwy 18 to County Rd 16 then north on County Rd 16 to Dewey Rd (USFS Rd 769) then north and west on Dewey Rd to the Custer County line then west on the Custer county line to the WY state line then north on the WY state line to the point of beginning.

52: Ram Only Bighorn Sheep - 3 licenses

BHS-BH4- Includes that portion of CUSTER, MEADE, LAWRENCE, and PENNINGTON counties beginning at the junction of the Wyoming state line and Interstate 90 then south on Interstate 90 to Elk Vale Road then south on Elk Vale Road to SD Highway 79 then south on SD Highway 79 to the Custer/Fall River County line then west on the Custer/Fall River County line to Pilger Mountain Road then north on Pilger Mountain Road to Pleasant Valley Road then north and east on Pleasant Valley Road to Richardson Cutoff then north on Richardson Cutoff to Pass Creek Road then west and north on Pass Creek Road to Mann Road then north on Mann Road to U.S. Highway 16 then west on U.S. Highway 16 to the Wyoming state line, then north on the Wyoming state line to the point of origin, excluding Custer State Park.

52: Ram Only Bighorn Sheep - 1 license

Preference Points: People can purchase preference points from September 15 – December 15 through GFP's online licensing system at license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com.

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