

# 2025 ELK LANDOWNER PREFERENCE



## Page 3-5 LANDOWNER PREFERENCE BLACK HILLS FIREARMS ELK

*Eligibility:* Resident landowners  
*Application Deadline:* March 4, 8 a.m. CST  
*Season Dates:* See unit descriptions

## Page 6 LANDOWNER PREFERENCE ARCHERY ELK

*Eligibility:* Resident landowners  
*Application Deadline:* March 4, 8 a.m. CST  
*Season Dates:* September 1-30

## Page 7-8 LANDOWNER PREFERENCE PRAIRIE FIREARMS ELK

*Eligibility:* Resident landowners  
*Application Deadline:* March 4, 8 a.m. CST  
*Season Dates:* See unit descriptions

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

### 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. Once you log in to your account, you will begin by selecting a season to apply for and your first-choice hunting unit, under “Limited Draws” button. 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 preference points from previous years.

### PERMISSION REQUIRED

Permission is required to hunt private land in South Dakota. Every year Game, Fish and Parks receives comments from hunters who drew a license and couldn’t obtain permission to hunt private land once the season opened. Do not apply just because licenses are available. Have permission to hunt before you apply. If you don’t receive permission before you apply, you may not be able to obtain permission during the season.

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

**Drawing Statistics:** Applicants may access last year’s drawing results online at [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov). Past drawing information is available from the 2024 seasons and 2025 information will be available once the drawing is complete.

**Elk Drawing Sequence:** Landowner Preference Elk applications will open first, then the regular elk applications will open for the general public late-April. **If you are going to apply as a landowner, you must do so during the Landowner Preference Elk application time period (February 3 – March 4, 2025).** Landowner preference applications will NOT be accepted after March 4, 2025.

Only one application may be submitted in the Landowner Preference Elk application period. If you want to submit other applications for the regular elk seasons (not claiming landowner preference), you will need to do so in late-April.

The first drawing for the regular elk seasons will be for all eligible applicants.

### First Elk Drawing Rules:

1. Applicants may submit one choice for one of three open elk seasons (Black Hills Firearms Elk, Prairie Elk, and Black Hills Archery Elk) that they are eligible for with Landowner Preference. There will be no second choices processed for the first drawing.
2. A nonrefundable \$10 application fee is required.
3. Applicants will be notified if they were successful in the drawing and their credit/debit cards will be charged accordingly.
4. Successful applicants will lose all preference points for that respective season and eligibility for future drawings.

For more information on the subsequent drawings of elk seasons and eligibility requirements, please review the 2025 Elk Application Information document.

**\*\*Landowner Own Land Prairie Elk (Antlerless Elk) licenses will be available for purchase starting July 8 for eligible landowners. Please review the 2025 Landowner application materials for more information (available early July).**

## 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.
- Documentation showing a mailing address, ownership of a property or business, or employment in the state is not sufficient by itself to prove that a person has a domicile in or is a resident of this state.

*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 United States 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.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (cont.)

### 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.
- 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 Department 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, 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 only apply for one season for the first drawing and receive no more than one license.
- Licenses may not be transferred to another person.

### Resident Only Elk Landowner/Operator Preference Eligibility

- Landowners or operators applying for landowner/operator preference must apply online.
- These requirements and restrictions apply to Black Hills Elk, Archery Elk, and the Prairie Elk hunting seasons.
- Qualifying landowner-operator applicants may apply for landowner preference every year.
- Landowner-operator preference only applies to the first draw.
- Fifty percent of the licenses in each hunting unit are available to persons who qualify for landowner-operator preference. A minimum of 240 acres of land within an elk unit which has had at least 500 days of elk use since the last day of the previous application period is

required to qualify. An elk use day is any day an elk feeds or waters on private land. For purposes of elk preference eligibility, members of the qualifying landowner-operator's family including grandparents, parents, spouse, children, children's spouse, or grandchildren who live on the ranch or in the closest community and have an active role in the ranch operation also qualify. **Only one qualifying applicant per ranch unit per year may apply for a landowner-operator preference elk license in all elk seasons.** A ranch unit is described as all private property owned and leased for agricultural purposes by written agreement by an individual qualifying landowner or a qualifying corporation, limited liability company, partnership or trust in the state. Only one shareholder, member, partner, or trust beneficiary of a qualifying corporation, limited liability company, partnership or trust may apply under landowner-operator preference for each elk hunting season. A ranch unit may not be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one landowner-operator preference in a specific elk season.

- A landowner or operator, but not both, may claim landowner-operator preference for the same qualifying property. Employment on a farm or ranch alone does not qualify an individual for landowner-operator preference.

- Restrictions on landowner-operator preference for legal entities. Shareholders of a corporation, members of a limited liability company holding a membership interest in the company, partners in a partnership, and beneficiaries of a trust entitled to the current income and assets held in trust; all organized and in good standing under the laws of the State of South Dakota are eligible for landowner operator preference if:

- (1) The entity holds title to no less than the minimum number of acres of private land located within the hunting unit applied for as established in rule;

- (2) The shareholder, member, partner, or trust beneficiary applying for landowner-operator preference is a resident; and

- (3) The shareholder, member, partner, or trust beneficiary is responsible for making the day-to-day management decisions for agricultural purposes on the farm or ranch.

### Fees

See the elk drawing sequence on the front page of the application for rules specific to the elk seasons. Payment for online applications 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 license 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.

### Successful Applicants

Successful applicants for limited licenses are selected at random by computer lottery and will be charged at the time of the drawing.

### Unsuccessful Applicants

Those who applied online using a credit/debit card will be charged the \$10 nonrefundable application fee only.

### Preference Points

Elk 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 and may be used in the second drawing. Preference points are automatically credited to an application by the computer system. Preference points are retained by the applicant, 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 the GFP License Office.

## SEASON APPLICATION INFORMATION

License fees for all elk 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/operators 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.

### LANDOWNER PREFERENCE BLACK HILLS FIREARMS ELK

**\*\*2025 UNIT BOUNDARIES AND LICENSE ALLOCATIONS WILL NOT BE FINALIZED BY THE GFP COMMISSION UNTIL APRIL, AND WILL LIKELY BE ADJUSTED.\*\***

**License Eligibility:** Landowner preference elk applicants are eligible to apply every year if they meet the minimum eligibility requirements.

**Individual License Quota:** You may apply for one elk season with landowner preference. You are only entitled to hold one elk license per year, and the elk drawing sequence will limit you to drawing only one elk license. Apply online, or if you do not have access to the internet, please call 605.223.7660 or stop at any GFP Wildlife Division Office.

**Application and License Fees:** Online will be charged the \$10 nonrefundable fee to their credit/debit card. If successful the full license fee will be automatically applied to the card.

**Licenses Available for Landowner Preference:** One-half of the licenses in each unit are available for landowner preference applicants. For example: unit H1A-21 has 60 licenses available, only 30 licenses are available for landowner preference applicants.

**Landowner Preference Elk license fees are:** (*excludes \$10 nonrefundable application fee*) Any Elk = \$100.50; Antlerless Elk = \$66.50

**Special Requirements:** Successful hunters must have their elk checked by a GFP representative within 24 hours of the kill.

#### APPLICATION DEADLINES:

**First Deadline** - Apply online by 8 a.m. CST March 4, 2025. Eligible applicants may submit one application for this season. Results available online by June 4.

#### SEASON - UNIT - TYPE CHOICES:

**BHE-H1A-** Season Dates: Oct.1–31, 2025. LAWRENCE COUNTY within a line beginning at the SD-WY state line and I-90 junction; east on I-90 to the U.S. Hwy 85 and I-90 junction at exit 17; south and southwest on U.S. Hwy 85 to its SD-WY state line junction; then north on the SD-WY state line to I-90, the point of beginning. (See Figure 1)

**21:** Any Elk – 60 licenses

**BHE-H1B-** Season Dates: Oct. 15–31 and Dec. 1–16, 2025. Same area as BHE-H1A. (See Figure 2)

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 65 licenses

**BHE-H2A-** Season Dates: Oct.1–31, 2025. LAWRENCE, PENNINGTON and CUSTER counties within a line beginning at the SD-WY state line and U.S. Hwy 85 junction, then northeast on U.S. Hwy 85 to U.S. Hwy 385, then south on U.S. Hwy 385 to U.S. Hwy 16 at Custer, then west on U.S. 16 to the SD-WY state line, then north on the state line to the point of beginning. (See Figure 1)

**21:** Any Elk – 300 licenses

**BHE-H2B-** Season Dates: Oct. 15–31, 2025. LAWRENCE, PENNINGTON and CUSTER counties within a line beginning at the junction of the SD-WY state line and U.S. Hwy 85, then northeast along U.S. Hwy 85 to its junction with U.S. Hwy 385 at Deadwood, then south along U.S. Hwy 385 to its junction with Deerfield Road, then northwest on Deerfield Road to its junction with East Slate Road, the south on East Slate Road to its junction with Six Mile Road, then west along the Six Mile Road to its junction with the Boles Canyon Road at Moon, then south along the Boles Canyon Road to its junction with the Summit Ridge Road, then southwest along the Summit Ridge Road to the SD-WY state line, then north along the SD-WY border to its junction with U.S. Hwy 85, the point of beginning. (See Figure 2)

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 50 licenses

**BHE-H2C-** Season Dates: Dec. 1–16, 2025. Same area as BHE-H2B. (See Figure 2.)

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 50 licenses

**BHE-H2E-** Season Dates: Oct. 15–31, 2025. PENNINGTON and CUSTER counties within a line beginning at the junction of the SD-WY state line and U.S. Hwy 16, then east along U.S. Hwy 16 to its junction with U.S. Hwy 385 at Custer, then north along U.S. Hwy 385 to its junction with Medicine Mountain Road, then north along Medicine Mountain Road to its junction with Six Mile Road, then west along Six Mile Road to its junction with Boles Canyon Road at Moon, then south along Boles Canyon Road to its junction with the Summit Ridge Road, then southwest along Summit Ridge Road to the SD-WY state line, then south along the SD-WY state line to its junction with U.S. Hwy 16, the point of beginning. (See Figure 2.)

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 40 licenses

**BHE-H2F-** Season Dates: Dec. 1–16, 2025. Same area as BHE-H2E. (See Figure 2)

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 40 licenses

**BHE-H2G-** Season Dates: Dec. 17–31, 2025. Same area as BHE-H2E. (See Figure 2)

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 40 licenses

**BHE-H2H-** Season Dates: Oct. 15–31, 2025. PENNINGTON and CUSTER counties within a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Hwy 385 and Deerfield Road, then northwest on Deerfield Road to its junction with East Slate Road, then south on East Slate Road to its junction with Medicine Mountain Road, then southeast on Medicine Mountain Road to its junction with U.S. Hwy 385, then northeast on U.S. Hwy 385 to its junction with Deerfield Road, the point of beginning. (See Figure 2)

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 10 licenses

**BHE-H2I-** Season Dates: Dec.1–16, 2025. Same area as BHE-H2H. (See Figure 2)

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 10 licenses

**BHE-H2J-** Season Dates: Dec. 17–31, 2025. Same area as BHE-H2H. (See Figure 2)

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 10 licenses

**BHE-H3A-** Season Dates: Oct.1–31, 2025. CUSTER and FALL RIVER counties within a line beginning at the junction of the SD-WY state line and U.S. Hwy 16, then east along U.S. Hwy 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. Hwy 385, then south along U.S. Hwy 385 to SD Hwy 79, then south along State Highway 79 to the Cheyenne River, then west along the Cheyenne River to the SD-WY state line, then north along the SD-WY state line to the point of beginning. (See Figure 1)

**21:** Any Elk –120 licenses

**BHE-H3B-** Season Dates: Oct. 15–31, 2025. CUSTER county within a line beginning at the junction of the SD-WY state line and U.S. Hwy 16, then east along U.S. Hwy 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. Hwy 385, then north and west along U.S. Hwy 385 to its junction with SD Hwy 89 at Pringle, then south along SD Hwy 89 to its junction with 18 Mile Road (Forest Service 316), then west along 18 Mile Road to its junction with Pleasant Valley Road (Forest Service 715), then west along Pleasant Valley Road to Dewey Road (Forest Service 769), then west along Dewey Road to

## LANDOWNER PREFERENCE BLACK HILLS FIREARMS ELK (cont.)

the SD-WY state line, then north along the SD-WY state line to the point of beginning. (See Figure 2) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access areas available in this unit, please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more.*

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 45 licenses

**BHE-H3C-** Season Dates: Dec.1–16, 2025. Same area as BHE-H3B. (See Figure 2) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access areas available in this unit, please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more.*

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 45 licenses

**BHE-H3D-** Season Dates: Dec. 17–31, 2025. Same area as BHE-H3B. (See Figure 2) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access areas available in this unit, please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more.*

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 45 licenses

**BHE-H3E-** Season Dates: Oct. 15–31, 2025. FALL RIVER and CUSTER counties within a line beginning at the junction of the Wind Cave National Park western boundary and U.S. Hwy 385, then south along U.S. Hwy 385 to SD Hwy 79, then south along SD Hwy 79 to the Cheyenne River, then west along the Cheyenne River to the SD-WY state line, then north along the SD-WY state line to its junction with Dewey Road (Forest Service 769), then east along Dewey Road to its junction with Pleasant Valley Road (Forest Service 715), then east along Pleasant Valley Road to its junction with 18 Mile Road (Forest Service 316), then east along 18 Mile Road to its junction with SD Hwy 89, then north along SD Hwy 89 to its junction with U.S. Hwy 385, then south and east along U.S. Hwy 385 to the point of beginning. (See Figure 2) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access areas available in this unit, please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more.*

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 60 licenses

**BHE-H3F-** Season Dates: Dec.1–16, 2025. Same area as BHE-H3E. (See Figure 2) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access areas available in this unit, please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more.*

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 60 licenses

**BHE-H3G-** Season Dates: Dec. 17–31, 2025. Same area as BHE-H3E. (See Figure 2) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access areas available in this unit, please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more.*

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 60 licenses

**BHE-H4A-** Season Dates: Oct. 1–31, 2025. CUSTER, FALL RIVER, and PENNINGTON Counties within a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Hwy 385 and the south boundary of Wind Cave National Park, then south along U.S. Hwy 385 through Hot Springs and Maverick Junction to the Cheyenne River, then northeast along the Cheyenne River to Fall River County Road 6291 (South Buffalo Gap Road), then north along Fall River County Road 6291 to Custer County Road 101, then north along Custer County Road 101 to Custer County Road 656 (River Side Road) at Buffalo Gap, then east along Custer County Road 656 to Custer County Road 17 (Beaver Valley Road), then northeast along Custer County Road 17 to Custer County Road 719 (South Fairburn Road), then north along Custer County Road 719 to Custer County Road 18 at Fairburn, then north along Custer County Road 18 to State Highway 79, then north along State Highway 79 to State Highway 40, then northwest along State Highway 40 to Pennington County Road 330 (Playhouse Road), then south along Pennington County Road 330 to U.S. Hwy 16A, then south along U.S. Hwy 16 to the Custer State Park northern boundary, then east along the Custer State Park northern boundary to the northeast corner of Custer State Park, then south along the Custer State Park eastern boundary and Wind Cave National Park eastern boundary to the southeast corner of Wind Cave National Park, then west along the south boundary of Wind Cave National Park to its junction with U.S. Hwy 385, the point of beginning. (See Figure 1) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access areas available in this unit, please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more.*

**21:** Any Elk – 40 licenses

**BHE-H4B-** Same area as BHE-H4A. Season date: Oct. 15–31 and Dec. 1–16, 2025. (See Figure 2) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access areas available in this unit, please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more.*

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 40 licenses

**BHE-H5A-** Season Dates: Oct. 1–31, 2025. CUSTER and PENNINGTON counties within a line beginning at U.S. Hwy 16A and the Custer State Park western boundary, then west on U.S. Hwy 16A to U.S. Hwy 385, then north on U.S. Hwy 385 to State Highway 44, then east on State Highway 44 to the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) boundary, then south along BHNF boundary to U.S. Hwy 16, then west on U.S. Hwy 16 to South Rockerville Road, then south on South Rockerville Road to State Highway 40, then east on State Highway 40 to Playhouse Road, then south on Playhouse Road to U.S. Hwy 16A, then southeast on U.S. Hwy 16A to the Custer State Park northern boundary, then west and south along the Custer State Park boundary to its junction with U.S. Hwy 16A, the point of beginning. (See Figure 1) *Note: This unit is mostly a wilderness area. Be prepared to walk extensively. In most areas motor vehicles, including ATVs, are not allowed. The elk population in this unit is lower than any other Black Hills unit.*

**21:** Any Elk – 5 licenses

**BHE-H7A-** Season Dates: Oct. 1–31, 2025. LAWRENCE, MEADE and PENNINGTON counties within a line beginning at the U.S. Hwy 85 and Interstate 90 junction at Exit 17, then south on U.S. Hwy 85 to its U.S. Hwy 385 junction at Pluma, then south on U.S. Hwy 385 to SD Hwy 44 near Pactola, then east on SD Hwy 44 to SD Hwy 79 (Sturgis Road) in Rapid City, then north on SD Hwy 79 to I-90 at Black Hawk, then north on I-90 to U.S. Hwy 85 at Exit 17, the point of beginning. (See Figure 1)

**21:** Any Elk – 30 licenses

**BHE-H7B-** Season Dates: Oct. 15–31 and Dec. 1–16, 2025. Same area as BHE-H7A. (See Figure 2)

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 20 licenses

**BHE-H9A-** Season Dates: Oct. 1–31, 2025. CUSTER and PENNINGTON counties within a line 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 the Black Hills National Forest boundary, then southerly along the Black Hills National forest boundary 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. (See Figure 1) *Note: Elk exist in low densities and most land in this unit with elk activity is privately owned. It is recommended that you secure permission to hunt before applying.*

**21:** Any Elk – 15 licenses

**BHE-H9B-** Season Dates: Oct. 15–31 and Dec. 1–16, 2025. Same area as BHE-H9A. (See Figure 2)

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 40 licenses

**Preference points:** People can purchase preference points from September 15–December 15, 2025, through GFP's online licensing system at [license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com](http://license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com).

# LANDOWNER PREFERENCE BLACK HILLS FIREARMS ELK (cont.)

Figure 1. Black Hills Any Elk Units

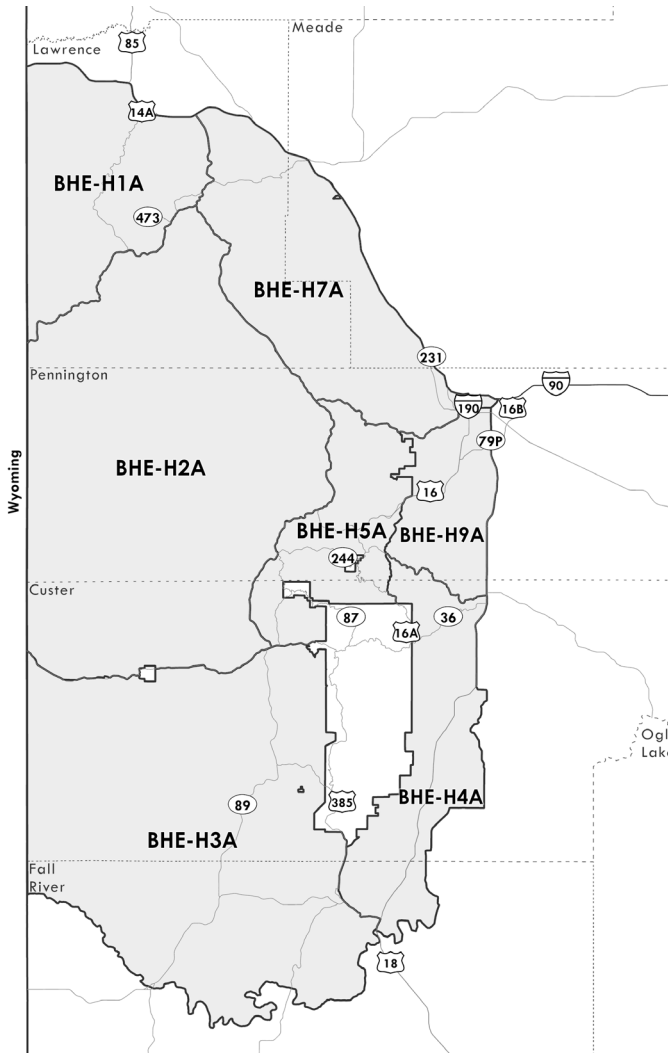
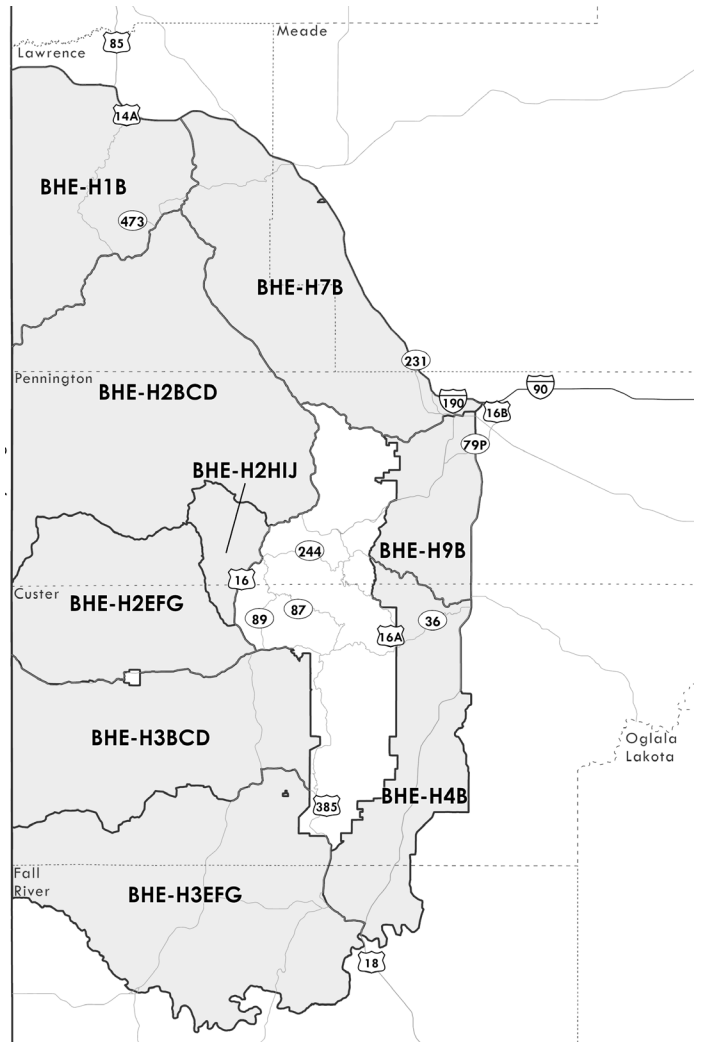


Figure 2. Black Hills Antlerless Elk Units



## LANDOWNER PREFERENCE ARCHERY ELK

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**License Eligibility:** Landowner preference elk applicants are eligible to apply every year if they meet the minimum eligibility requirements.

**Individual License Quota:** You may apply for one elk season with landowner preference for which you are eligible. You are only entitled to hold one elk license per year, and the elk drawing sequence will limit you to drawing only one elk license. Apply online. If you do not have access to the internet, please call 605.223.7660 or stop at any GFP Wildlife Division Office.

**Application and License Fees:** Online applicants will be charged the \$10 nonrefundable fee to their credit/debit card. If successful the full license fee will be automatically applied to the card.

**Licenses Available for Landowner Preference:** One-half of the licenses in each unit are available for landowner preference applicants. For example, unit H1A-21 has 30 licenses available, only 15 are available for landowner preference applicants.

**Landowner Preference Elk license fees are:** (excluding \$10 nonrefundable application fee) Any Elk: \$100.50; Antlerless Elk: \$66.50

**Special Requirements:** Successful hunters must have their elk checked by a GFP representative within 24 hours of the kill.

### APPLICATION DEADLINES:

**First Deadline** - Apply online by 8 a.m. CST March 4. Eligible applicants may submit one application for this season. Results available online by June 4.

### SEASON - UNIT - TYPE CHOICES:

**AEE-H1A-** Season Dates: Sept. 1–30, 2025. LAWRENCE COUNTY within a line beginning at the junction of the SD-WY state line on I-90; then east on I-90 to U.S. Hwy 85 and I-90 at exit 17; then southwest on U.S. Hwy 85 to the SD-WY state line; then north on the SD-WY state line to I-90, the point of beginning. (See Figure 3)

**21:** Any Elk – 30 licenses

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 10 licenses

**AEE-H2A-** Season Dates: Sept. 1–30, 2025. LAWRENCE, PENNINGTON and CUSTER counties within a line beginning at the junction of the SD-WY state line and U.S. Hwy 85, then northeast on U.S. Hwy 85 to U.S. Hwy 385, then south on U.S. Hwy 385 to U.S. Hwy 16 at Custer, then west on U.S. Hwy 16 to the SD-WY state line, then north on the SD-WY state line to the point of beginning. (See Figure 3)

**21:** Any Elk – 100 licenses

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 40 licenses

**AEE-H3A-** Season Dates: Sept. 1–30, 2025. CUSTER and FALL RIVER counties within a line beginning at the junction of the SD-WY state line and U.S. Hwy 16, then east on U.S. Hwy 16 to the Custer State Park western boundary, then south on the Custer State Park western boundary and the Wind Cave National Park western boundary to U.S. Hwy 385, then south on U.S. Hwy 385 to SD Hwy 79, then south on SD Hwy 79 to the Cheyenne River, then west on the Cheyenne River to the SD-WY state line, then north on the SD-WY state line to the point of beginning. (See Figure 3) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access areas available in this unit. Please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more.*

**21:** Any Elk – 40 licenses

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 30 licenses

**AEE-H4A-** Season Dates: Sept. 1–30, 2025. CUSTER, FALL RIVER, and PENNINGTON Counties within a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Hwy 385 and the south boundary of Wind Cave National Park, then south along U.S. Hwy 385 through Hot Springs and Maverick Junction to the Cheyenne River, then northeast along the Cheyenne River to Fall River County Road 6291 (South Buffalo Gap Road), then north along Fall

River County Road 6291 to Custer County Road 101, then north along Custer County Road 101 to Custer County Road 656 (River Side Road) at Buffalo Gap, then east along Custer County Road 656 to Custer County Road 17 (Beaver Valley Road), then northeast along Custer County Road 17 to Custer County Road 719 (South Fairburn Road), then north along Custer County Road 719 to Custer County Road 18 at Fairburn, then north along Custer County Road 18 to State Highway 79, then north along State Highway 79 to State Highway 40, then northwest along State Highway 40 to Pennington County Road 330 (Playhouse Road), then south along Pennington County Road 330 to U.S. Hwy 16A, then south along U.S. Hwy 16 to the Custer State Park northern boundary, then east along the Custer State Park northern boundary to the northeast corner of Custer State Park, then south along the Custer State Park eastern boundary and Wind Cave National Park eastern boundary to the southeast corner of Wind Cave National Park, then west along the south boundary of Wind Cave National Park to its junction with U.S. Hwy 385, the point of beginning. (See Figure 3) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access areas available in this unit, please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more.*

**21:** Any Elk – 10 licenses

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 10 licenses

**AEE-H5A-** Season Dates: Sept. 1–30, 2025. CUSTER and PENNINGTON counties within a line beginning at U.S. Hwy 16A and the Custer State Park western boundary, then west on U.S. Hwy 16A to U.S. Hwy 385, then north to SD Hwy 44, then east on SD Hwy 44 to the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) boundary, then south along the BHNF boundary to U.S. Hwy 16, then west on U.S. Hwy 16 to South Rockerville Road, then south on South Rockerville Road to SD Hwy 40, then east on SD Hwy 40 to Playhouse Road, then south on Playhouse Road to U.S. Hwy 16A, then southeast on U.S. Hwy 16A to Custer State Park northern boundary, then west and south along Custer State Park boundary to its junction with U.S. Hwy 16A, the point of beginning. (See Figure 3). *Note: This unit is mostly a wilderness area. Be prepared to walk extensively. In most areas motor vehicles, including ATVs, are not allowed. The elk population in this unit is lower than any other Black Hills unit.*

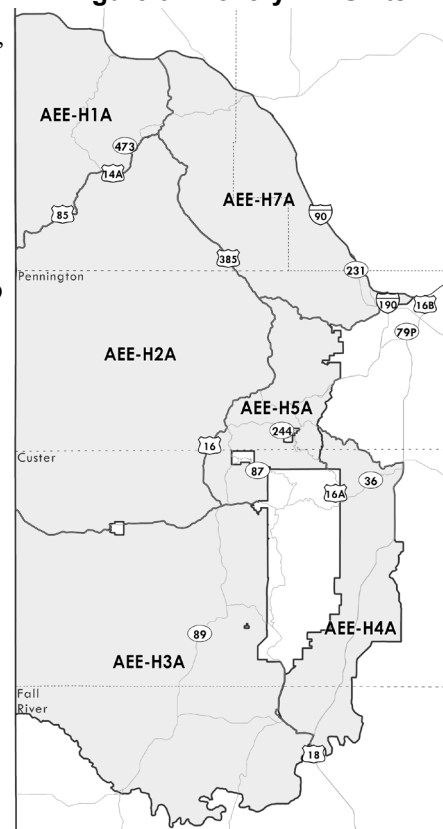
**21:** Any Elk – 2 licenses

**AEE-H7A-** Season Dates: Sept. 1–30, 2025. LAWRENCE, MEADE and PENNINGTON counties within a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Hwy 85 and I-90 at Exit 17, then south along U.S. Hwy 85 to U.S. Hwy 385 at Pluma, then south along U.S. Hwy 385 to SD Hwy 44 near Pactola, then east along SD Hwy 44 to SD Hwy 79 (Sturgis Road) in Rapid City, then north along SD Hwy 79 to I-90 at Black Hawk, then north along I-90 to U.S. Hwy 85 at Exit 17, the point of beginning. (See Figure 3)

**21:** Any Elk – 10 licenses

**Preference points:** People can purchase preference points from September 15–December 15, 2025 through GFP's online licensing system at [license.gooutdoors.southdakota.com](http://license.gooutdoors.southdakota.com).

**Figure 3. Archery Elk Units**



## LANDOWNER PREFERENCE PRAIRIE ELK

**\*\*2025 UNIT BOUNDARIES AND LICENSE ALLOCATIONS WILL NOT BE FINALIZED BY THE GFP COMMISSION UNTIL APRIL, AND WILL LIKELY BE ADJUSTED.\*\***

**License Eligibility:** Landowner preference elk applicants are eligible to apply every year if they meet the minimum eligibility requirements.

**Individual License Quota:** You may apply for one elk season with landowner preference for which you are eligible. You are only entitled to hold one elk license per year, and the elk drawing sequence will limit you to drawing only one elk license. Apply online. If you do not have access to the internet, please call 605.223.7660 or stop at any GFP Wildlife Division Office.

**Application and License Fees:** Online applicants will be charged the \$10 nonrefundable fee to their credit/debit card. If successful the full license fee will be automatically applied to the card.

**Licenses Available for Landowner Preference:** One-half of the licenses in each unit are available for landowner preference applicants. For example, unit H11B-21 has 16 licenses available. Only 8 are available for landowner preference applicants.

**Landowner Preference Elk license fees are:** (excludes \$10 nonrefundable application fee) Any Elk: \$100.50; Antlerless Elk: \$66.50

**Special Requirements:** Successful hunters must have their elk checked by a GFP representative within 24 hours of the kill.

### APPLICATION DEADLINES:

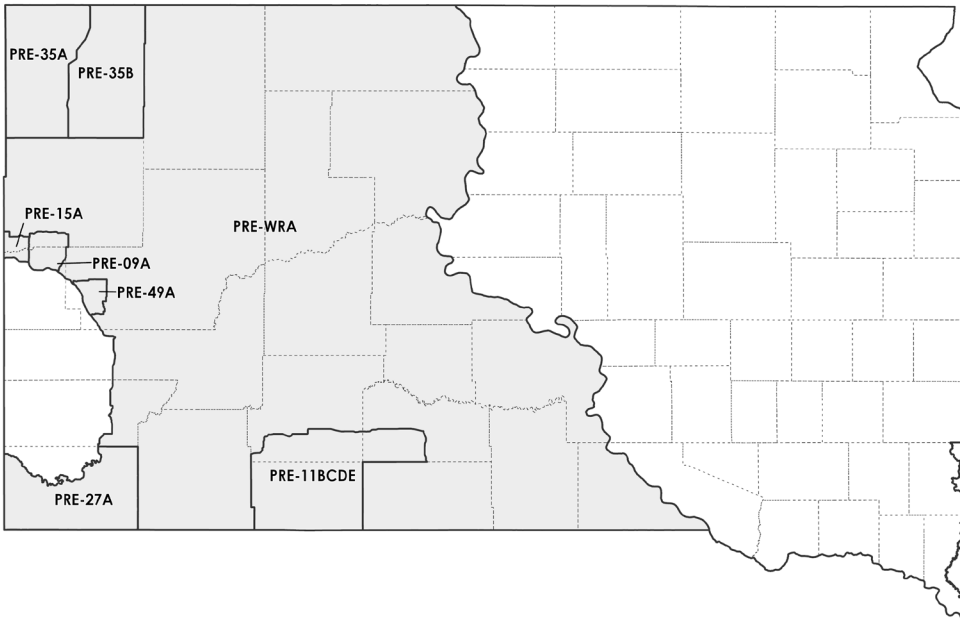
**First Deadline** - Apply online by 8 a.m. CST March 4. Eligible applicants may submit one application for this season. Results available online by June 4.

### SEASON - UNIT - TYPE CHOICES:

**PRE-09A**- Season Dates: Sept. 15–Oct. 31 and Dec. 1–31, 2025. LAWRENCE and BUTTE counties within a line beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highways 85 and 212, then east on Highway 212 to Whitewood Valley Road, then south on Whitewood Valley Road to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to U.S. Highway 85, then north on U.S. Highway 85 to point of beginning. (See Figure 4) *Note: Elk exist in low densities and most land in this unit with elk activity is privately owned. It is recommended that you secure permission to hunt before applying.*

- 21: Any Elk – 8 licenses
- 23: Antlerless Elk – 10 licenses

**Figure 4. Prairie Elk Units**



**PRE-11B**- Season Dates: Sept. 1–Oct. 15, 2025. BENNETT COUNTY, that portion of JACKSON COUNTY south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, that portion of MELLETTE COUNTY south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Hwy 83. (See Figure 4) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access Areas available in this unit. Please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more. This license is not valid on tribal lands within Bennett County.*

- 21: Any Elk – 16 licenses

**PRE-11C**- Season Dates: Oct. 16–Nov. 30, 2025. Same area as PRE-11B. (See Figure 4) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access Areas available in this unit. Please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more. This license is not valid on tribal lands within Bennett County.*

- 21: Any Elk – 16 licenses

**PRE-11D**- Season Dates: Sept. 1–Oct 31, 2025. Same area as PRE-11B. (See Figure 4) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access Areas available in this unit. Please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more. This license is not valid on tribal lands within Bennett County.*

- 23: Antlerless Elk – 30 licenses

**PRE-11E**- Season Dates: Nov. 1–Dec. 31, 2025. Same area as PRE-11B. (See Figure 4) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access Areas available in this unit. Please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more. This license is not valid on tribal lands within Bennett County.*

- 23: Antlerless Elk – 10 licenses

**PRE-15A**- Season Dates: Sept. 1–Dec. 31, 2025. BUTTE and LAWRENCE counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border, east on Sourdough Road to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then north to the point of beginning. (See Figure 4) *Note: Elk exist in low densities and most land in this unit with elk activity is privately owned. It is recommended that you secure permission to hunt before applying.*

- 21: Any Elk – 8 licenses
- 23: Antlerless Elk – 5 licenses

**PRE-27A**- Season Dates: Sept. 1–Dec. 31, 2025. All of FALL RIVER COUNTY not included in BHE-H3 or BHE-H4. (See Figure 4) *Note: There are Elk Hunter Access Areas available in this unit. Please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more.*

- 21: Any Elk – 30 licenses
- 23: Antlerless Elk – 30 licenses

**PRE-35A**- Season Dates: Sept. 15–Dec. 31, 2025. That portion of HARDING COUNTY west of US Hwy 85. (See Figure 4)

- 21: Any Elk – 10 licenses
- 23: Antlerless Elk – 30 licenses

**PRE-35B**- Season Dates: Sept. 15–Dec. 31, 2025. That portion of HARDING COUNTY east of US Hwy 85. (See Figure 4)

- 21: Any Elk – 8 licenses
- 23: Antlerless Elk – 40 licenses

## LANDOWNER PREFERENCE PRAIRIE ELK (cont.)

**PRE-49A-** Season Dates: Sept. 15–Oct. 31, and Dec. 1–31, 2025. That portion of MEADE County within a line beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and Elk Creek Road, then east on Elk Creek Road to Ricard Road, then north on Ricard Road to Tilford Road, then east on Tilford Road to Middle Alkalai Road, then north on Middle Alkalai Road to Alkalai Road, then west on Alkalai Road 133rd Avenue, then south on 133rd Avenue to 206th Street, then west on 206th Street to Lazelle Street to Interstate 90 then south on Interstate 90 to the point of beginning. (See Figure 4) *Note: Elk exist in low densities and most land in this unit with elk activity is privately owned. It is recommended that you secure permission to hunt before applying.*

**21:** Any Elk – 10 licenses

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 15 licenses

**PRE-WRA-** Season Dates: Sept. 1–Dec. 31, 2025. That portion of South Dakota west of the Missouri River not associated with another Prairie Elk unit, Custer State Park, or any Black Hills Elk unit. (See Figure 4) *Note: Elk exist in extremely low densities and most land in this unit with elk activity is privately owned. There are Elk Hunter Access Areas available in this unit. Please visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov) to learn more.*

**21:** Any Elk – 20 licenses

**23:** Antlerless Elk – 40 licenses

**Preference Points:** People can purchase preference points from September 15–December 15, 2025, through GFP's online licensing system at [license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com](http://license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com).

## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

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.

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 or elk 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](http://gfp.sd.gov/cwd-testing).

## CONTACT US



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