

2025 LANDOWNER



Resident Landowner Prairie Elk
Resident Landowner Black Hills Deer
Landowner West River Deer
Resident Landowner East River Deer
Landowner Antelope
Landowner Free Antlerless Deer

APPLY ONLINE:

Visit gfp.sd.gov, click “Licenses,” and then “Log In.” 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. 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, your license will be processed.

NOTE: ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED [ONLINE](#).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Residency

To apply for a resident license, a person must:

- Have a domicile 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. A domicile is a person’s established, fixed, and permanent home in which the person physically lives and, whenever absent, has the present intention of returning, and
- Make no claim of residency in any other state or foreign country for any purpose, and
- Claim no resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in any other state or foreign country, and
- Prior to any application for any license, transfer to SD 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 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 SD who is absent due to the person’s regular attendance at a post-high school institution as a fulltime student or in a medical or dental residency program;
- Any person in the active military of the US 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 the GFP 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; or
- 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 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

- Residents and nonresidents must be 12 years old by Dec. 31, 2025.
- Residents under age 16 must successfully complete a HuntSAFE course and provide their HuntSAFE number within their profile.
- 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.
- Information on the “Mentored Hunt” program is found in a separate application form.

Fees

Payment for applications submitted online must be made with a valid credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express). Your credit/debit card will be charged once you complete the transaction. 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.

Application Rules

- Licenses may not be transferred to another person.

REDUCED-PRICE LICENSE APPLICATION INFORMATION

LANDOWNER ELIGIBILITY

Resident

Qualifying resident landowners and “owner/operators,” and any “immediate family” living at home, who have not been issued a big game license that permits the harvest of a buck during the West River Deer, West River Special Buck, East River Deer, East River Special Buck, Black Hills Deer, or Firearms Antelope seasons may obtain a reduced-price license to hunt on land owned or leased by the qualifying resident for the specified season and unit.

Qualifying resident landowners and “owner/operators,” or any “immediate family” 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, who have not been issued an elk license, may obtain a reduced-price license to hunt on land owned or leased by the qualifying resident. A qualifying applicant for a ranch unit may not purchase the “antlerless elk” license if any qualifying member of the ranch unit holds an elk license obtained using landowner-operator preference in the Prairie Elk hunting season. 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. A ranch unit may not be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one Landowner Prairie Elk license.

Qualifying resident landowners and “owner/operators” may purchase one “any deer” license or a two-tag license (“any deer” and “any antlerless deer”) for the West River, East River, and Black Hills Deer seasons, and one “buck antelope” for the Firearms Antelope season, and one “antlerless elk” license for the Prairie Elk season (only available in certain units).

For deer and antelope licenses, resident landowners must own or lease for “agricultural purposes” a minimum of 160 acres of privately-owned land or be an “owner/operator” of the land to qualify. For an elk license, resident landowners must own or lease for “agricultural purposes” a minimum of 240 acres of privately-owned land or be an “owner/operator” of the land to qualify. A qualifying landowner or tenant, but not both, may apply for the same qualifying property. Employment on a farm or ranch alone does not qualify an individual for this license.

The qualifying applicant’s land, as described on their application, must be within the hunting unit applied for and be an area open for hunting.

Nonresident

Qualifying nonresident landowners and “owner/operators,” and any “immediate family” living at home, who have not been issued a big game license that permits the harvest of a buck during the West River Deer, West River Special Buck, or Firearms Antelope seasons may obtain a reduced-price license to hunt on land owned by the qualifying nonresident for the specified season and unit. Nonresident landowners can only obtain a license to harvest a buck on their own land in East River Deer via a lottery drawing (see Nonresident East River Deer Landowner application).

Qualifying nonresident landowners and “owner/operators” may purchase one “any deer” license or a two-tag license (“any deer” and “any antlerless deer”) for the West River Deer season. Qualifying nonresident landowners and “owner/operators” may purchase one “buck antelope” for the Firearms Antelope season.

- **West River Deer:** Nonresident landowners must own for “agricultural purposes” a minimum of 640 contiguous acres and be an “owner/operator” of the land to qualify.

- **Black Hills Deer:** Nonresident landowners are not eligible.

- **Firearm Antelope:** Nonresident landowners must own for “agricultural purposes” a minimum of 640 contiguous acres West River and be an “owner/operator” of the land to qualify or own for “agricultural purposes” a minimum of 160 contiguous acres East River and be an “owner/operator” of the land to qualify.

- The qualifying applicant’s land, as described on their application, must be within the hunting unit applied for and be an area open for hunting.

Residents and Nonresident

- **Legal entities**, including shareholders of a corporation, members of an LLC 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, organized and in good standing under the laws of this state are eligible if:

- o The **resident** entity holds title to 160 acres or more of private land located within the hunting unit applied for deer and antelope or 240 acres or more of private land located within the hunting unit applied for elk

- o The **nonresident** entity holds title to 640 contiguous acres or more (West River Deer) of private land located within the hunting unit applied for.

- o 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.

- “Agricultural purposes” means the producing, raising, growing, or harvesting of food or fiber upon agricultural land, including dairy products, livestock, crops, timber, and grasslands. Land leased solely for hunting, fishing, or trapping is not considered agricultural purposes.

- “Owner/Operator” means an individual holding fee title to farm or ranch real property who is directly involved in the management decisions made for agricultural purposes on the farm or ranch.

- “Immediate Family” means the qualifying applicant’s spouse or a child who resides with the qualifying applicant for deer or antelope.

- For elk, “Immediate Family” means 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, who have not been issued an elk license.

LANDOWNER WEST RIVER DEER - Residents and Nonresidents

Application Period: Licenses will be issued beginning Sept. 12 through the end of the season.

Season Dates: Nov. 15–30 and Dec. 13–21 (antlerless tags only); except Gregory County open Nov. 8–11, Nov. 24–30, and Dec. 13–21 (antlerless tags only)

SEASON-UNIT-TYPE CHOICES

LWD-WR1- Landowner's property located within units open to hunting during the West River Deer season.

- 01:** Unlimited, valid for one Any Deer.
Resident, \$25.50; Nonresident, \$190.50
- 08:** Unlimited, valid for one Any Deer and one Any Antlerless Deer.
Resident, \$33; Nonresident, \$215.50

LANDOWNER EAST RIVER DEER - Resident Only

Application Period: Licenses will be issued beginning Sept. 12 through the end of the season.

Season Dates: Nov. 22–Dec. 7 and Dec. 13–21 (antlerless tags only)

SEASON-UNIT-TYPE CHOICES

LED-ER1- Landowners property located within units open to hunting during the East River Deer season.

- 01:** Unlimited, valid for one Any Deer. \$25.50
- 08:** Unlimited, valid for one Any Deer and one Any Antlerless Deer.
\$33

LANDOWNER BLACK HILLS DEER - Resident Only

Application Period: Licenses will be issued beginning Sept. 12 through the end of the season.

Season Dates: Nov. 1–30

SEASON-UNIT-TYPE CHOICES

LBD-BH1- Landowners property located within units open to hunting during the Black Hills Deer season.

- 01:** Unlimited, valid for one Any Deer. \$25.50
- 08:** Unlimited, valid for one Any Deer and one Any Antlerless Deer.
\$33

LANDOWNER ANTELOPE - Resident and Nonresident

Application Period: Licenses will be issued beginning September 12 through the end of the season.

Season Dates: Oct. 4–19

SEASON-UNIT-TYPE CHOICES

LOA-ST1- Landowner's property located with units open to hunting during the Firearm Antelope season.

- 42:** Unlimited, valid for one Buck Antelope.
Resident, \$25.50; Nonresident, \$190.50

LANDOWNER PRAIRIE ELK - Resident Only

Application Period: Licenses will be issued beginning July 15 through the end of the season.

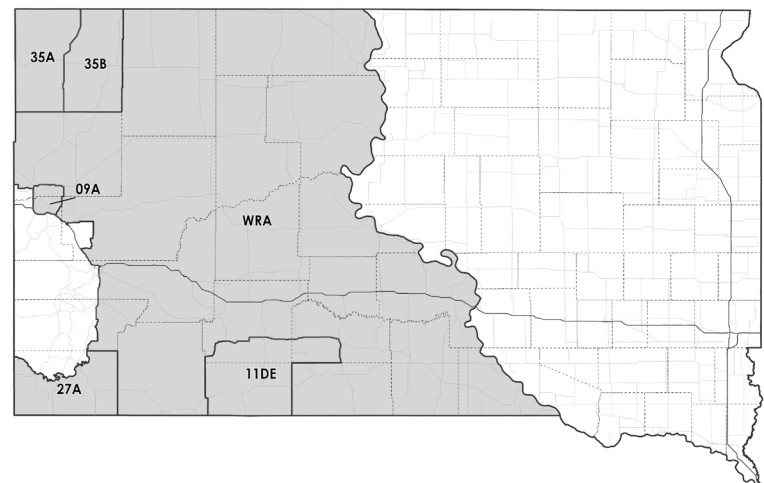
Season Dates: Sept. 1–Oct. 31 (PRE-11D), Sept. 1–Dec. 31 (PRE-09A, PRE-27A, and PRE-WRA), Sept. 15–Dec. 31 (PRE-35A and 35B), Nov. 1–Dec. 31 (PRE-11E)

SEASON-UNIT-TYPE CHOICES

LOE-PRE- Landowner's property located within units and season dates described above.

- 23:** Unlimited, valid for one Antlerless Elk. \$66.50

Landowner Prairie Elk



SPECIES	LAND REQUIREMENTS	SEASON DATES	LICENSE TYPES
Resident Prairie Elk	240 Acres (See application for open units)	See application	LOE23: One Antlerless Elk (\$66.50)
Resident Black Hills Deer	160 Acres (within open units)	Nov. 1–30	BH101: One Any Deer (\$25.50) BH108: One Any Deer and one Any Antlerless Deer (\$33)
Resident East River Deer	160 Acres (within open units)	Nov. 22–Dec. 7	ER101: One Any Deer (\$25.50) ER108: One Any Deer and one Any Antlerless Deer (\$33)
Resident West River Deer	160 Acres (within open units)	Nov. 15–30 Gregory County: Nov. 8–11, Nov. 24–30	WR101: One Any Deer (\$25.50) WR108: One Any Deer and one Any Antlerless Deer (\$33)
Resident Antelope	160 Acres (within open units)	Oct. 4–19	ST142: One Buck Antelope (\$25.50)
Resident Free Antlerless	160 Acres (within open units)	See Application	ST113: One Antlerless Whitetail Deer (No Fee)
Nonresident West River Deer	640 Contiguous Acres (within open units)	Nov. 15–30 Gregory County: Nov. 8–11, Nov. 24–30	WR101: One Any Deer (\$190.50) WR108: one Any Deer and one Any Antlerless Deer (\$215.50)
Nonresident Antelope	East River: 160 Acres West River: 640 Acres (within open units)	Oct. 4–19	ST142: One Buck Antelope (\$190.50)
Nonresident Free Antlerless Deer	640 Acres (See application for open units)	See application	ST113: One Antlerless Whitetail Deer (No Fee)

LANDOWNER FREE ANTLERLESS LICENSE APPLICATION INFORMATION

Landowner Free Antlerless Whitetail Deer licenses (available for resident and nonresident landowners) are available in certain open units to any qualifying landowner within the West River Deer and East River Deer seasons in hunting units which offer a deer license with multiple tags for antlerless deer in the regular lottery drawing (see map below).

-A maximum of two free antlerless whitetail deer licenses per ranch/farm unit may be available to farmers and ranchers, including their immediate family living at home, in certain West River Deer and East River Deer units.

-These free antlerless whitetail deer licenses are valid on land owned/leased (residents) or land owned (nonresidents) and operated in any open unit in either the West River or East River hunting seasons.

-The licenses may be obtained by application starting on September 1 through the end of the specific season and will be valid for the length of the season.

LANDOWNER FREE ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSE

Application Period: Licenses will be issued through the end of the season.

Eligibility

Landowner Free Antlerless Whitetail Deer Licenses are available in certain open units to any qualifying landowner within the West River Deer and East River Deer seasons. No more than two free Antlerless Whitetail Deer licenses may be issued for use on any single farm or ranch. Qualifying individuals may obtain both licenses, or they may be split between two qualifying individuals on the same farm or ranch. The licenses may be obtained by application at any time through the end of the applicable deer season.

Hunting Unit

The qualifying applicant's land, as described on their application, must be within the hunting unit applied for and be an area open for hunting.

License Requirements

- **Residents** must own and operate, or lease and operate, for "agricultural purposes" at least 160 acres of land to qualify. These licenses are only valid on land owned/operated or leased/operated by the qualifying licensee. The "immediate family" of a qualifying applicant are also eligible.

- **Nonresidents** must own and operate, for "agricultural purposes" at least 640 contiguous acres of land for West River Deer and at least 160 contiguous acres for East River Deer to qualify. These licenses are only valid on land owned/operated by the qualifying licensee. The "immediate family" of a qualifying applicant are also eligible.

- **Legal entities**, including shareholders of a corporation, members of an LLC 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, organized and in good standing under the laws of this state are eligible if:

- o The **resident** entity holds title to 160 acres or more of private land located within the hunting unit applied for.
- o The **nonresident** entity holds title to 640 contiguous acres or more of private land located within the hunting unit for West River Deer and 160 contiguous acres or more of private land for East River Deer.
- o 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.

- "Agricultural purposes" means the producing, raising, growing, or harvesting of food or fiber upon agricultural land, including dairy products, livestock, crops, timber, and grasslands. Land leased solely for hunting, fishing, or trapping is not considered agricultural purposes.

- "Operate" means to lease or hold fee title to farm or ranch real property and be directly involved in the management decisions made for agricultural purposes on the farm or ranch.

- "**Immediate Family**" means the qualifying applicant's spouse or a child who resides with the qualifying applicant.

LFD-ST1- License is valid only in units designated as open to this license and on the land owned or leased by the applicant within the season applied for.

13: Valid for ONE antlerless whitetail deer. No fee.

The Landowner Free Antlerless Whitetail Deer license may be issued to a qualifying applicant for use in select West River Deer and East River Deer hunting units (see map below). In addition, licenses are valid to qualifying individuals for the Archery Deer, Muzzleloader Deer, Youth Deer, and Apprentice Deer hunting seasons.

- **West River:** Season dates Nov. 15 - 30 and Dec. 13-21; Landowner Free Antlerless Whitetail Deer tags are also valid in Gregory County from Nov. 8-11.

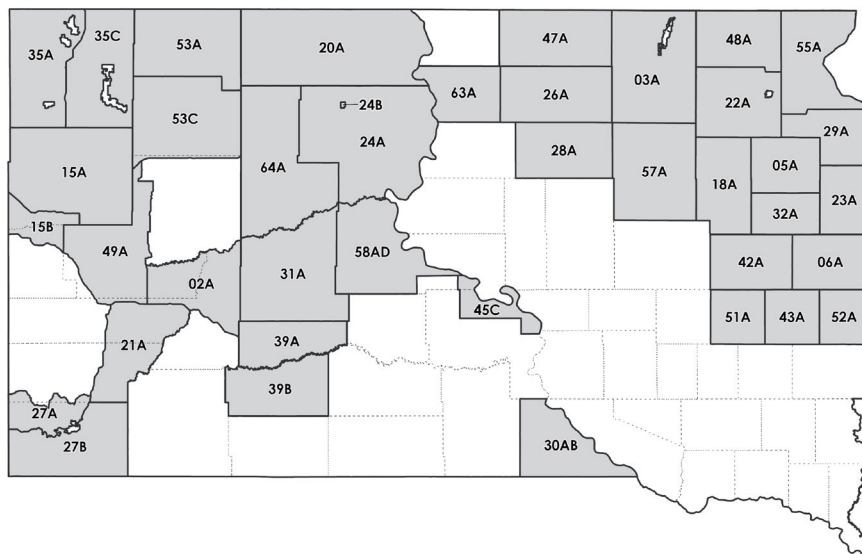
- **East River:** Season dates Nov. 22 - Dec. 7 and Dec. 13 - 21.

- **Archery Deer:** Season dates Sept. 1, 2025-Jan. 1, 2026. The Landowner Free Antlerless Whitetail Deer license is available for all open units as described above for the West River and East River deer seasons.

- **Muzzleloader Deer:** Season dates Dec. 1, 2025-Jan. 1, 2026. The Landowner Free Antlerless Whitetail Deer license is available for all open units as described above for the West River and East River deer seasons.

- **Youth Deer:** Must be at least age 12 by Dec. 31, 2025, and younger than age 18 on June 30, 2025. Season dates Sept. 13, 2025 - Jan. 1, 2026. The Landowner Free Antlerless Whitetail Deer license is available for all open units as described above for the West River and East River deer seasons.

- **Apprentice Deer:** Must be 18 years old or older on June 30, 2025 and have not had a deer hunting license in the last 10 years. Season dates Sept. 13, 2025 - Jan. 1, 2026. The Landowner Free Antlerless Whitetail Deer license is available for all open units



CONSIDER A DONATION

SECOND CENTURY HABITAT FUND

The Second Century Habitat Fund is a nonprofit organization that serves as a resource to landowners and conservation organizations to improve habitat through a working lands program that puts more perennial grass on the landscape which will contribute greatly to duck and pheasant nest success and provide other wildlife benefits. The Fund recognizes the importance of conserving the land, enhancing wildlife populations, and getting the next generation involved in outdoor recreation, while increasing support for habitat. To learn more about the Second Century Habitat Fund or to make a donation visit gfp.sd.gov/donate-to-habitat.

SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER

GFP is cooperating with Sportsmen Against Hunger (SAH) to assist in paying fees for commercial processing of antlerless deer that are donated to the SAH program for needy families. Some things to remember include:

- Processing certificates will be available at participating processors for hunters to use in paying for most or all of the processing costs of donated antlerless deer.
- Processing certificates cannot be used for buck deer, antelope or any other big game but this game can still be donated at hunter processing expense.
- A list of participating processors will be available from the SAH website at feedtheneedsd.com or by calling 800.456.2758.

You can support this program by making financial contributions when you submit your license application.

TURN IN POACHERS - (TIPS)

South Dakota's Turn In Poachers (TIPs) is a private, non-profit organization run by Wildlife Protection Incorporated. The program is funded through donations from the big game license application check-off, private individual/group donations and through court ordered restitution. Rewards are paid in cash once an arrest is made and informants can protect their identity and remain anonymous. Informants are eligible for rewards of up to \$300 for big game cases and up to \$100 for fish and small game cases. Higher rewards may be paid in extreme cases.

Since the program began, there have been over 13,000 investigations initiated that have resulted over 5,000 arrests. Poachers have paid over \$979,000 in criminal fines and an additional \$933,000 in liquidated civil damages have been assessed to these violators as well. TIPs has paid out more than \$200,000 in cash rewards to individuals that have supplied information that has been critical in achieving these results.

CONTACT US

GAME, FISH AND PARKS 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