

2026 SPRING TURKEY

Archery, Black Hills, Custer State Park, and Mentored



Over the Counter	Purchases Open	Purchases Close
Archery (AST)	01/14/2026	05/31/2026, 12:00 AM CDT
Resident Black Hills (BST)	01/14/2026	05/31/2026, 12:00 AM CDT
Mentored (MST)	01/14/2026	05/31/2026, 12:00 AM CDT

Draw	Application Opens	Application Closes	Results Available
Nonresident Black Hills, Custer State Park	01/14/2026	02/11/2026, 08:00 AM CDT	02/13/2026
Access Permit	01/15/2026	02/12/2026, 08:00 AM CDT	02/14/2026

FEE SCHEDULE

Season	License Types	Resident	Nonresident
Archery (AST), Black Hills (BST), and Custer State Park (CST)	32 - one male wild turkey	\$28	\$121
Mentored (MST)	32 - one male wild turkey	\$5	\$10

LICENSE AVAILABILITY

Unit	Type	Season Dates	Resident	Nonresident
Access Permit - Adams Homestead & Nat. Preserve Archery	32	April 11 - 30, 2026	30	0
Access Permit - Good Earth SP Archery	32	April 11 - 30, 2026	5	0
BH1 Black Hills	32	April 25, 2026 to May 31, 2026	Unlimited	2225
CU1 Custer State Park	32	April 25, 2026 to May 17, 2026	100	0
ST1 Archery	32	April 11, 2026 to May 31, 2026***	Unlimited	Unlimited
ST1 Mentored	32	April 11, 2026 to May 31, 2026***	Unlimited	Unlimited

DRAW GUIDELINES

One application may be submitted per applicant.

Black Hills - Nonresidents must apply in a limited draw.

Custer State Park and Archery Access Permits - Available to South Dakota residents only.

SEASON NOTES

*****Archery and mentored hunters cannot start hunting in the Black Hills unit until April 25.**

Access Permit required to archery hunt in Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve in Union County and Good Earth State Park near Sioux Falls. In addition, 20 mentored spring turkey access permits are available for archery only in Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve. For information on obtaining a mentored turkey access permit contact the GFP Regional Office in Sioux Falls 605.362.2700.

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/hunt-fish-license/> to view application information, residency and age requirements, landowner preference, preference points, and license fee explanations. [Unit Descriptions and Map](#), [Interactive Hunting Unit Map](#)

RETURN POLICY (NEW FOR 2026)

Deadline: April 01, 2026

Fee: \$10 - Residents | \$30 - Nonresidents

A fee will be assessed if customer returns their license and are not eligible for subsequent draws for that respective season.

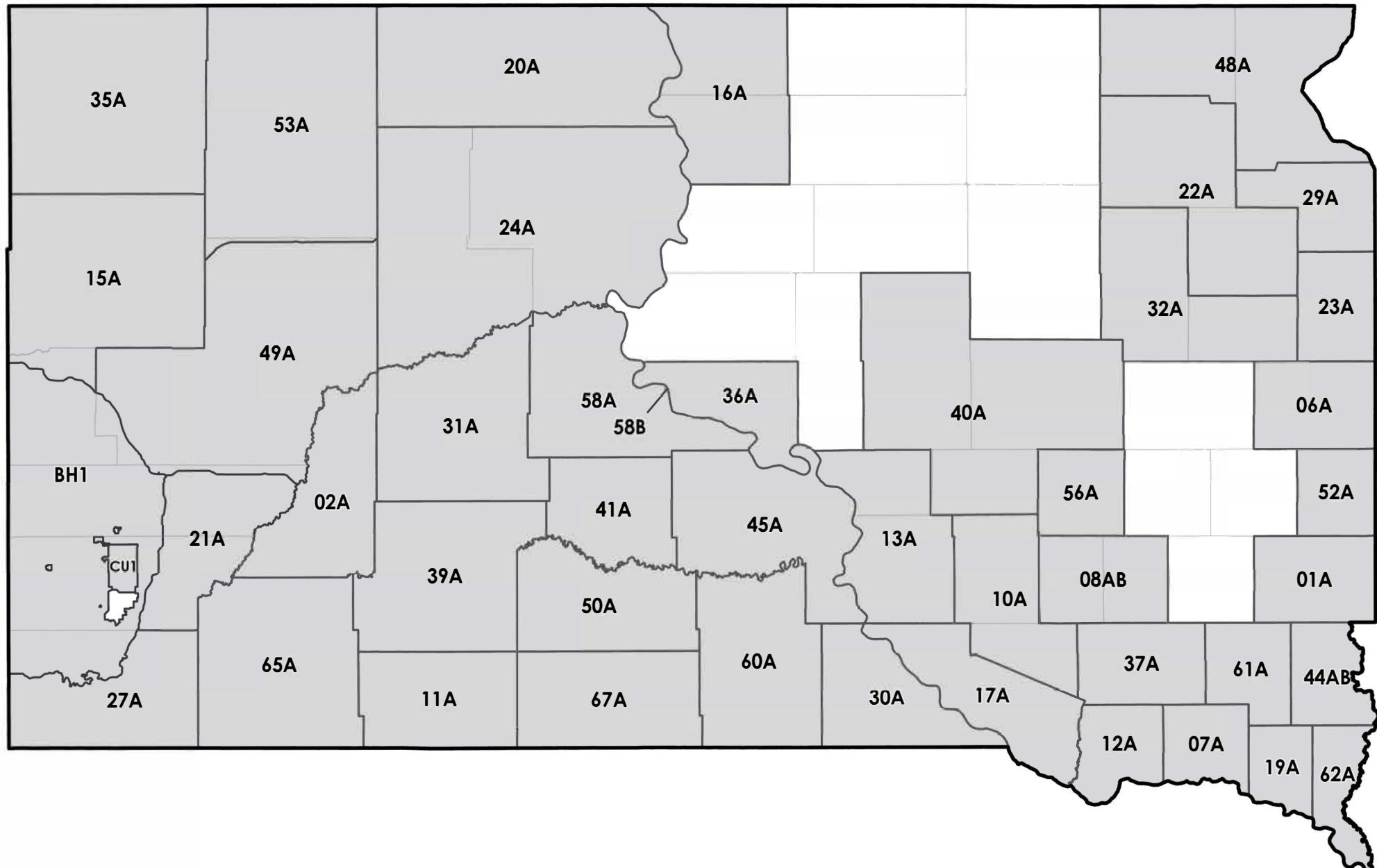
CONTACT US

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.

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

SPRING TURKEY UNITS

(Archery licenses are valid statewide, EXCEPT in Custer State Park.)





Know Your Wild Turkey

Considered among the **grandest of game birds**, the American wild turkey has many characteristics that distinguish it from other fowl. The unmistakable snood, caruncles, head coloring and beard truly set it apart.

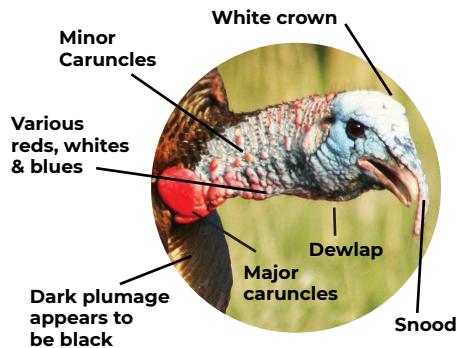


Know the Difference Between Hens and Gobblers

It's easy to distinguish a gobbler from a hen by differences in their **size, color, heads and other characteristics**.

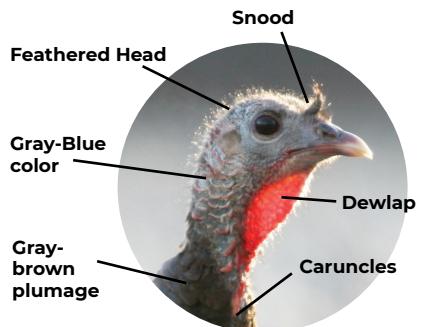
Gobbler

The gobbler is most easily recognized by the long beard growing from his chest and the pronounced spurs, sometimes as long as 2 inches, found on the back of his legs. A gobbler appears larger, darker, shinier and more colorful than a hen. His head can alternately appear red, white and blue. He often "puffs up" and struts during spring to attract hens for breeding.



Hen

The hen's overall look is for concealment and protection. She is smaller and more drab than the colorful gobbler, so she can sit on her nest well camouflaged. Likewise, her head has more feathers to add to her camouflaged appearance.



The American wild turkey now thrives in 49 states, Canada and Mexico thanks to the efforts of state wildlife agencies, the NWTF and its supporters!