

UPLAND OUTLOOK

The 2022 pheasant season is fast approaching, and things are shaping up very well! Spring and summer rains have brought a reprieve from the 2021 drought, which is great news for both habitat conditions and upland game bird production. Hunters can expect to find more lush grasslands and plenty of birds to enjoy this season!

HUNTING CONDITIONS

South Dakota experienced spring and summer rains across much of the primary pheasant range, which have been very positive for nesting and brood-rearing habitat. These rains turned much of the primary pheasant range lush and green, providing a surge in grass and forb growth beneficial for nesting and brood-rearing habitat.

PHEASANT HUNTING FORECAST

Pheasant populations have traditionally responded positively after a mild winter accompanied by normal spring and summer temperatures and precipitation. We can check those boxes across most of the primary pheasant range. Overwinter pheasant survival was likely excellent, and that means more nesting hens come spring. We expect increased pheasant brood survival because of the habitat cover from adequate early summer moisture. Overall, things are shaping up to have another great pheasant hunting season this fall in South Dakota.

PRAIRIE GROUSE HUNTING FORECAST

The primary prairie grouse range was strongly impacted by drought conditions in 2021. As expected, grouse harvest dipped in 2021 as rangeland habitats were in poor condition, leading to poor grouse production, and little cover to hold birds to gun range. Although parts of western and central South Dakota are registering low intensity drought, conditions are much better than last year. Residual cover was sparse going into the nesting season so there could be lingering impacts of the 2021 drought on 2022 production, but we expect better production and more huntable cover in 2022 versus 2021.

SEASON DATES

PHEASANT

Youth Only: September 24 - October 2

Resident Only: October 8 - 10

Traditional: October 15 - January 31

QUAIL

October 15 - January 1

PRAIRIE GROUSE

September 17 - January 1

PARTRIDGE

September 17 - January 1

LICENSE TYPES

RESIDENT

Combination (small game + fishing).....	\$55
Senior Combination (65+)	\$40
Small Game	\$33
One-Day Small Game	\$12
Youth Small Game (ages 12-17).....	\$5
Habitat Stamp.....	\$10

NONRESIDENT

Small Game (Two five-day periods).....	\$121
Youth Small Game, ages 12-17 (two five-day periods)	\$10
Shooting Preserve (annual)	\$121
Shooting Preserve (5-day).....	\$76
Shooting Preserve (1-day).....	\$46
Habitat Stamp.....	\$25

Visit license.gooutdoorsouthdakota.com to purchase a license today!



HABITAT AND ACCESS

Pheasant populations, along with all wildlife populations, respond positively to abundant habitat, especially CRP-like habitat. Establishing more habitat and providing additional acres of public hunting access are the #1 priority for GFP. We are working hard through programs and initiatives to provide pheasant habitat and hunting access at both the state and federal level. Among the highest priorities are enrolling the James River Watershed Conservation Reserve Program (CREP) to the fully allocated 100,000 acres and enrolling 25,000 in a new Big Sioux Watershed CREP.



WHERE TO HUNT

Great pheasant hunting means great hunting land. South Dakota has incredible amounts of quality public land across the landscape, with plenty in the primary pheasant range. Pick up a copy of the 2022 Public Hunting Atlas or visit our website at gfp.sd.gov/hunting-areas to begin planning your fall hunting trip.

BLAST AND CAST IN ONE TRIP

After trekking through the grasslands chasing roosters, relax your legs and spend some time fishing on any of South Dakota's great water bodies. There's not many places where you can experience world class hunting and fishing in one trip.

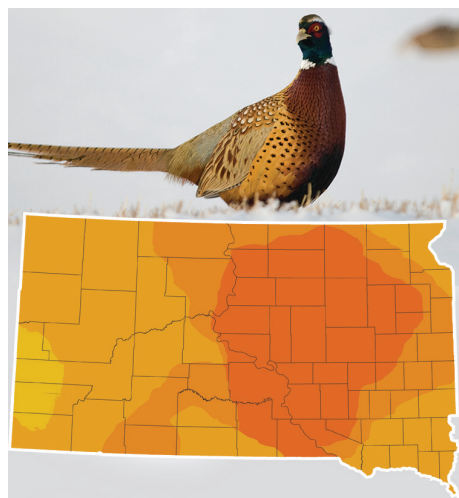
ON X PARTNERSHIP

As a thank-you to our hunters, South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks has partnered with onX Hunt to help you recreate responsibly and have your best season yet. For a limited time, save 20% on onX Hunt memberships by using the code HUNTSD at checkout. PLUS - a portion of every purchase will be donated to support South Dakota conservation.

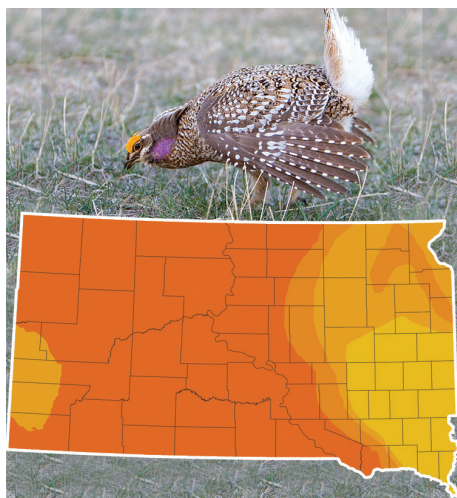


UPLAND GAME DISTRIBUTION

PHEASANT



SHARP-TAILED GROUSE



PRAIRIE CHICKEN



**A HUNT IN THE WORLD'S
GREATEST PHEASANT COUNTRY IS
A THRILL LIKE NO OTHER. NOW IS
THE TIME TO PLAN YOUR HUNT.**

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