

2026 ELK LANDOWNER PREFERENCE



	Application Opens	Application Closes	Results Available
Landowner Preference for Archery, Black Hills, & Prairie	03/12/2026	04/02/2026, 08:00 AM CDT	05/21/2026

*One-half of the licenses in each elk unit are available for landowner preference applicants. **2026 season dates, unit boundaries, and license allocation will NOT be finalized by the GFP Commission until APRIL, and will likely be adjusted.***

LANDOWNER PREFERENCE INFORMATION

Landowners or operators applying for landowner-operator preference can only apply during the application period noted above. Applications will NOT be accepted after April 2, 2026.

- The first drawing for the regular elk seasons will be for all eligible applicants.
- Successful applicants will lose all preference points for that respective season and eligibility for future drawings.

Resident Only Elk Landowner/Operator Eligibility

- Landowner-operator preference only applies to the first draw.
- 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.
- Landowner-operators to provide written lease agreements to a department representative upon request.

DRAW GUIDELINES

First - Applicants may submit one choice for **one (1)** 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.

FEE SCHEDULE

License Types	Resident
21 - one any elk	\$100.50
23 - one antlerless elk	\$66.50

RETURN POLICY (NEW FOR 2026)

Deadline: August 1, 2026

Fee: \$10 - Residents

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

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.

[Landowner Preference Information](#)

[Unit Descriptions and Map](#)

[Interactive Hunting Unit Map](#)

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](#).

Landowner Preference - ARCHERY ELK

LICENSE AVAILABILITY

Unit	Type	Resident	
AEE-H1A	21	30	—
	23	5	▼
AEE-H2A	21	160	▲
	23	30	▼
AEE-H3A	21	30	▼
	23	30	—
AEE-H4A	21	10	—
	23	10	—
AEE-H5A	21	2	—
AEE-H7A	21	5	▼
	23	10	—

LICENSE CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR

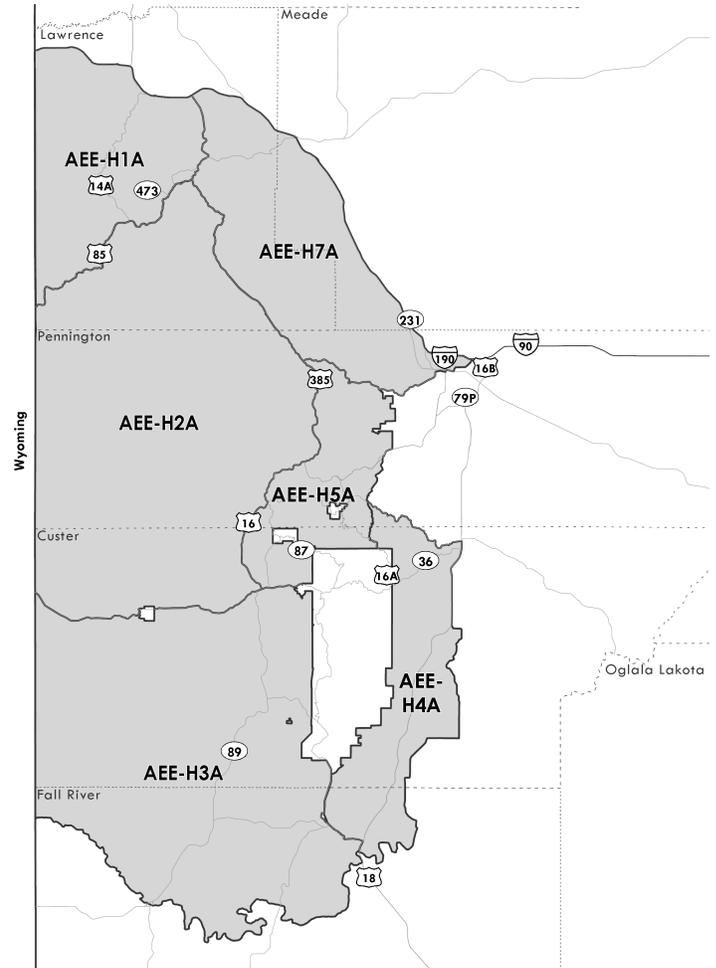
▲ Increase — No Change ▼ Decrease

FEE SCHEDULE

License Types	Resident
21 - one any elk	\$100.50
23 - one antlerless elk	\$66.50

SEASON DATES

September 1-30, 2026



Landowner Preference - BLACK HILLS ELK

LICENSE AVAILABILITY

Unit	Type	Resident	
H1A	21	100	▲
H1B	23	75	▼
H2A	21	425	▲
H2B	23	75	▼
H2C	23	75	▼
H2D	23	0	▼
H2E	23	25	▼
H2F	23	10	▼
H2G	23	10	▼
H2H	23	5	▼
H2I	23	5	▼
H2J	23	5	▼
H3A	21	100	▼
H3B	23	45	▬
H3C	23	45	▬
H3D	23	45	▬
H3E	23	60	▬
H3F	23	60	▬
H3G	23	60	▬
H4A	21	40	▬
H4B	23	40	▬
H5A	21	5	▬
H7A	21	20	▼
H7B	23	50	▬
H9A	21	15	▬
H9B	23	40	▬

FEE SCHEDULE

License Types	Resident
21 - one any elk	\$100.50
23 - one antlerless elk	\$66.50

SEASON DATES

October 1-31, 2026

H1A, H2A, H3A, H4A, H5A, H7A, and H9A

October 15-31, 2026 AND December 1-16, 2026

H1B, H4B, H7B, and H9B

October 15-31, 2026

H2B, H2E, H2H, H3B, and H3E

December 1-16, 2026

H2C, H2F, H2I, H3C, and H3F

December 17-31, 2026

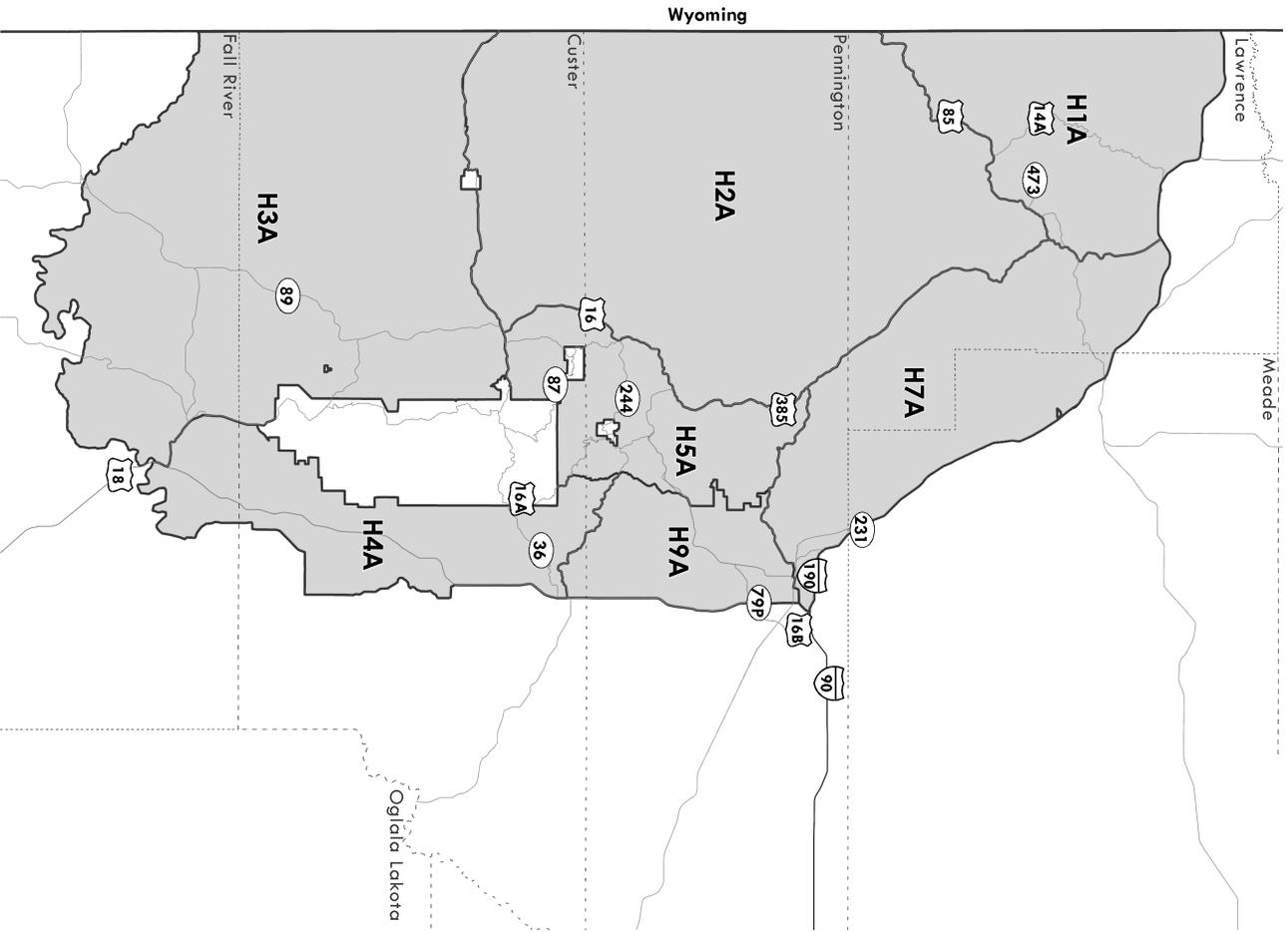
H2D, H2G, H2J, H3D, and H3G

LICENSE CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR

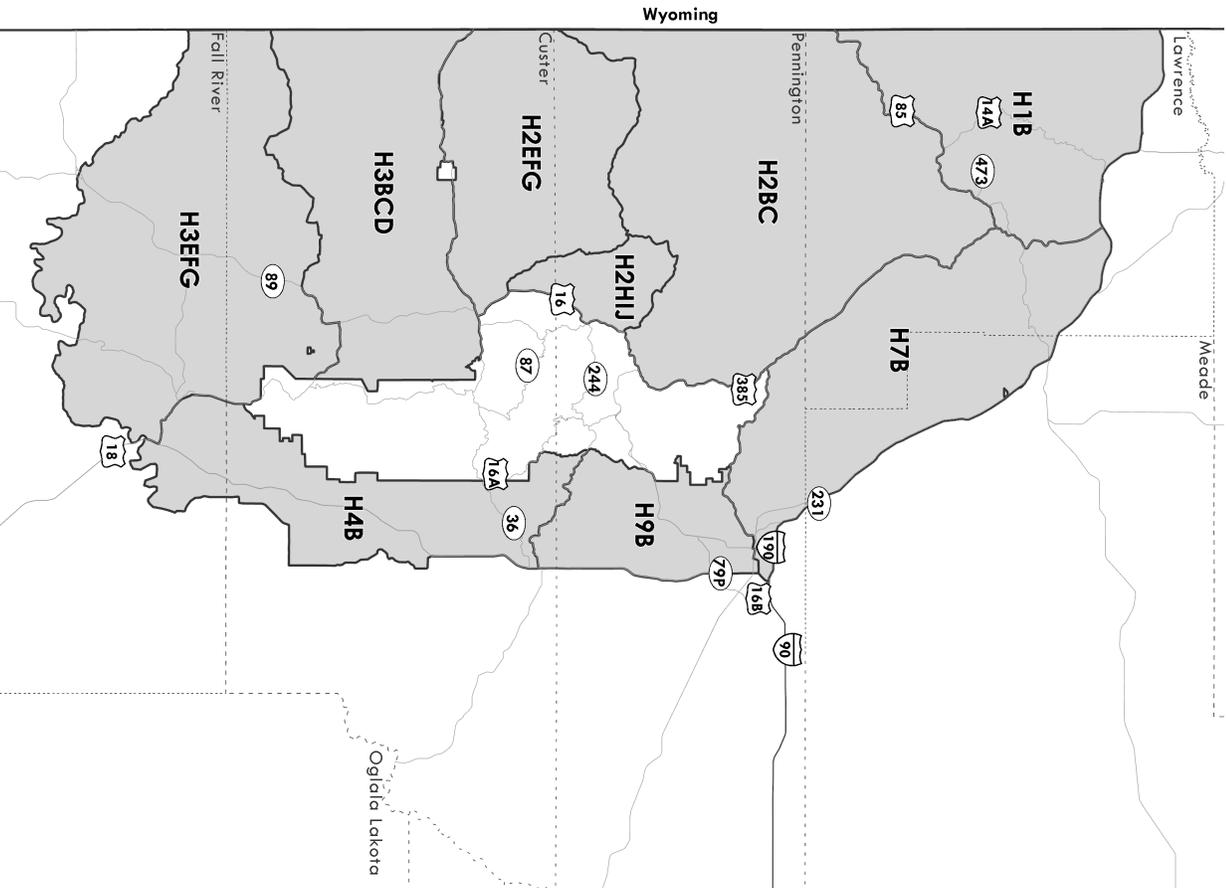
▲ Increase ▬ No Change ▼ Decrease

Landowner Preference - BLACK HILLS ELK

ANY ELK UNITS



ANTLERLESS ELK UNITS



Landowner Preference - PRAIRIE ELK

LICENSE AVAILABILITY

Unit	Type	Resident	
PRE-09A	21	10	▲
	23	30	▬
PRE-11B	21	32	▲
	23	60	▲
PRE-15A	21	8	▬
	23	5	▬
PRE-27A	21	30	▬
	23	40	▬
PRE-35A	21	10	▬
	23	30	▬
PRE-35B	21	8	▬
	23	40	▬
PRE-49A	21	10	▬
	23	15	▬
PRE-ERA	21	Unlimited	▲
PRE-WRA	21	50	▲
	23	100	▲

LICENSE CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR

▲ Increase ▬ No Change ▼ Decrease

FEE SCHEDULE

License Types	Resident
21 - one any elk	\$100.50
23 - one antlerless elk	\$66.50

SEASON DATES

September 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026

IMPORTANT SEASON INFORMATION

Many prairie elk hunting units have low elk densities, and most of the land within these units is privately owned.

- Hunters are **strongly encouraged** to secure landowner permission to hunt *before* applying.
- These licenses are **not valid** on tribal lands.
- In cooperation with landowners, the Department offers an Elk Hunter Access Program. Successful applicants can visit gfp.sd.gov/elk for additional information.

Landowner Preference - PRAIRIE ELK

