

2026 NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL



Draw	Application Opens	Application Closes	Results Available
First	05/19/2026	06/08/2026, 08:00 AM CDT	06/10/2026
Second	06/23/2026	07/14/2026, 08:00 AM CDT	07/17/2026
Leftovers	08/03/2026	02/15/2027, 08:00 AM CDT	

LICENSE AVAILABILITY

Unit	Type	Nonresident	
NRW-00A	Season-Long	250	—
NRW-00B	10-Day	3950	—
NRW-00V	3-Day	550	—
NRW-00X	3-Day	750	—
NRW-00Y	3-Day	500	—
NRW-00Z	3-Day	300	—
NYW-YW1	Mentor/Youth	100	—

LICENSE CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR

▲ Increase — No Change ▼ Decrease

INDIVIDUAL LICENSE QUOTA

- Before November 1: limit of one Nonresident Waterfowl license per hunter.
- Starting November 1: no limit to number possessed
- Hunters may also obtain one Nonresident Early Fall Canada Goose license, which does not count toward the pre-November 1 limit.

DRAW GUIDELINES

First - Applicants may submit one application.

Second - Those who do not already have a license may submit one application for one license.

Leftovers - Remaining licenses will be issued first-come first-served.

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](#)

FEE SCHEDULE

License Types	Nonresident
86 - 3-Day	\$106
86 - 10-Day or Season Long	\$145
86 - Mentor/Youth	\$5
86 - Early Fall Canada Goose	\$51

RETURN POLICY (NEW FOR 2026)

Return Deadline: August 1, 2026

Return Fee: \$30 - Nonresidents

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

IMPORTANT SEASON INFORMATION

Duck Daily Bag Options for Hunters in South Dakota
Must be selected when purchasing the Migratory Bird Certification and will apply for the entire hunting season.

- **Traditional License:** follows standard daily bag limits and includes all species and sex-specific restrictions.
- **Three-Duck License:** allows hunters to harvest up to three ducks per day, regardless of species or sex, with no additional restrictions. More information at <https://gfp.sd.gov/three-duck-limit/>

MUST READ - Additional License Requirements

In addition to a nonresident waterfowl license, the following two items are required:

- 1) Migratory Bird Certificate:** For the 2026 season, certificates must be purchased on or after July 1, 2026.
- 2) Federal Waterfowl Stamp:** Required for hunters 16 and older. The Federal Waterfowl Stamps are valid from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. An electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp can be presented to a wildlife conservation officer upon request via the states' licensing system under which it was purchased. Alternatively, a paper license (issued to the hunter/purchaser) that includes the purchase of an electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp can be presented. To be legal, physical Federal Waterfowl Stamps in possession must be signed.

SEASON DATES

Duck

- High Plains Zone: October 10, 2026 - January 14, 2027
- Low Plains North and Low Plains Middle Zone: September 26 to December 8, 2026
- Low Plains South Zone: October 24, 2026 to January 5, 2027.

Goose

- Early Fall Canada Goose*: September 1-30, 2026
**requires separate license that will be available over-the-counter starting July 21, 2026*
- Goose Unit 1: October 1 – December 16, 2026
- Goose Unit 2: November 2, 2026 – February 14, 2027
- Light Goose: September 26, 2026 – January 8, 2027
- White-fronted Goose: September 26 – December 8, 2026

Nonresident Mentor/Youth Waterfowl

September 12-13, 2026 only

START DATE REQUIREMENTS

Licenses issued for two 5-day periods or 3 consecutive days are valid beginning on the "Start Date" you provide during the application process. If an applicant is unsure of their start date, set the date to the last few days of the season. Hunt dates may be adjusted at any time online, as long as it is prior to the start date listed on the license. Sign into the license profile at [Go Outdoors South Dakota](#). Under "Limited Draw Applications & Awards" click the "Edit Dates" button to input new hunt dates. The hunter may then print their updated license for use.

NONRESIDENT MENTOR/YOUTH

Licenses may be purchased starting July 1, 2026 and are available through the end of the season or until 100 are sold. *These licenses are valid only September 12-13, 2026.*

Note, the nonresident mentor/youth waterfowl license will be issued to the mentee. Look up mentor/youth eligibility requirements at <https://gfp.sd.gov/youth-mentored>.

NONRESIDENT ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Licenses may be purchased starting August 3, 2026 and are available through the end of the season or until 100 are sold. Individuals must present their active duty orders at time of purchase. Find more information at <https://gfp.sd.gov/nonresident-military-waterfowl-license/>.

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN SELECTING A UNIT

Type of Land Access (Public and/or Private):

00A, 00B, 00Y - Valid on public and private lands within the unit boundaries.

00V, 00X, 00Z - Valid on private land only within the unit boundaries.

Geographic Area:

00B and 00Z - Mostly statewide, see exclusions.

00B - excludes 00A

00Z - excludes 00A, 00X, 00V, 00Y

00A - Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Union, Yankton counties

00V - Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, Walworth counties

00X - Hughes, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully counties

00Y - Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts, Spink counties

Length of Time:

00A - License valid for entire season.

00B - License valid for up to two 5-day periods.

00V, 00X, 00Y, 00Z - License valid for 3 consecutive days.

YW1 - License valid September 12-13, 2026.

Desired Type(s) of Waterfowl to Hunt:

The season dates and units for goose and duck vary both spatially and temporally. Review the season dates.

Which unit of the six options (00A, 00B, 00V, 00X, 00Y, 00Z) you choose will depend on your preference of the variables above. Reminder, being awarded a tag for any of these units means you can only hunt within that geographic area and chosen duration.

[Unit Descriptions](#) | [Interactive Hunting Unit Map](#)

E.g., you were successful in drawing the 00Y license. This constrains you to 3-day period in Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts and Spink counties. You choose the time period of October 8-10 and are valid to hunt Goose Unit 1, Light Goose, White-fronted Goose, and Duck. It's after November 1, and you obtain another 00Y tag choosing the dates between December 12-14. You are now valid to hunt only Light Goose.

CONTACT US

GFP LICENSING OFFICE

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Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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