



UPLAND OUTLOOK

The 2024 upland bird hunting seasons are just around the corner and it's shaping up to be one of the best in recent years. Habitat across the primary pheasant range is looking excellent given favorable conditions throughout the spring and summer. Everything is falling into place, so it's time to start planning your hunting trip to South Dakota!

HUNTING CONDITIONS

A mild winter and adequate moisture created perfect conditions for nesting success in much of the pheasant range. While hunters may have experienced drought conditions in previous seasons in the areas they were hunting, excellent cover can now be found on both public and private land across the primary pheasant range. Although flooding occurred in portions of southeast South Dakota, particularly between Sioux Falls and Sioux City, much of the primary pheasant range was not impacted by flooding conditions.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Pheasant numbers start and end with good quality habitat. Adequate rainfall set up habitat conditions well for a successful nesting season and reports of large-sized broods throughout the pheasant range are rolling in from staff, landowners, and the public.

HUNTING SEASON REMINDERS

Hunters should be mindful of the areas affected by flooding events and consult local Game, Fish and Parks staff or landowners when planning their hunts.

The season for pheasant, quail, prairie grouse, and partridge now continues until January 31, giving hunters additional time to pursue South Dakota's upland game birds.

135,448 HUNTERS IN SOUTH DAKOTA HARVESTED A TOTAL OF 1,243,000 PHEASANTS DURING THE 2023 SEASON.

SEASON DATES

PHEASANT
Youth Only: September 28 - October 6
Resident Only: October 12 - 14
Traditional: October 19 - January 31

QUAIL
October 19 - January 31

PRAIRIE GROUSE
September 21 - January 31

PARTRIDGE
September 21 - January 31

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. Establishing more habitat and providing additional acres of public hunting access are top priorities for GFP. We are working hard through programs, initiatives, and partnerships to provide habitat and hunting access across the state on both private and public lands. 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 the new Big Sioux Watershed CREP.

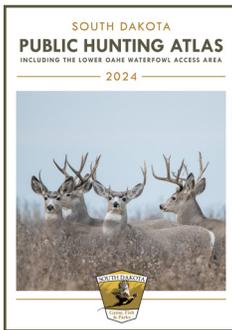
BLAST AND CAST IN ONE TRIP

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 are not many places where you can experience world class hunting and fishing in one trip. Find everything from stocking reports to public access points at gfp.sd.gov/fish/

PLAN YOUR STAY

South Dakota State Parks offer a wide variety of options for hunters looking to stay right in the heart of the best hunting. Options include year-round camping in state parks and multiple parks offer modern options as well. These include lodges, modern cabins, and suites. Traditional camping cabins are also available across the state. Find your perfect place to stay at gfp.sd.gov/camp/.

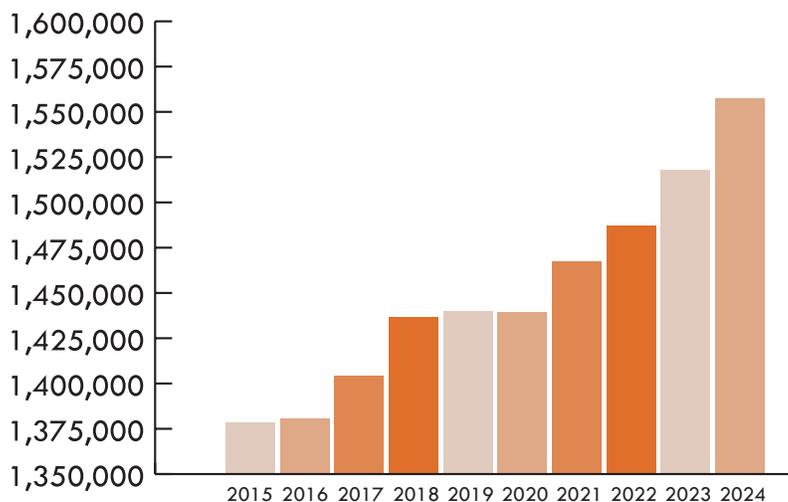
WHERE TO HUNT



Great habitat equates to great hunting. 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 2024 Public Hunting Atlas or visit our website at gfp.sd.gov/hunting-areas to begin planning your fall hunting trip.

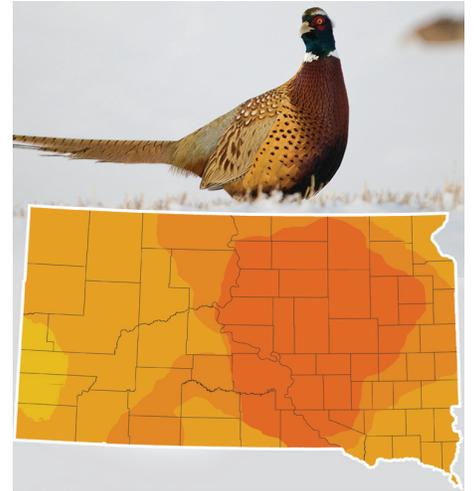
GFP HAS ENROLLED OVER 1,557,000 ACRES OF PRIVATE LAND OPEN FOR PUBLIC HUNTING FOR 2024!

PRIVATE LAND PUBLIC HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM ACRES

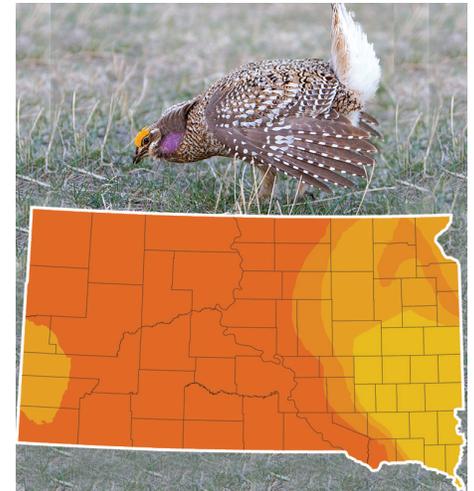


UPLAND GAME DISTRIBUTION

PHEASANT



SHARP-TAILED GROUSE



PRAIRIE CHICKEN

