



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 9-10, 2025 | RAMKOTA CONVENTION CENTER - PIERRE

MEETING INFO

This agenda is subject to change without prior notice.

Date and Time: January 9, 2025, from 1-5 pm CST | January 10, 2025, from 8 am-12 pm CST

Meeting Location: Ramkota Convention Center, 920 W Sioux Ave, Pierre, SD 57501

Webinar Info: We will be using Zoom Webinar® for this meeting. As a participant, you will not have audio or video capabilities by default. During the open forum and public hearing, if you'd like to testify, please 'Raise Your Hand' using the button at the bottom of the screen, or by pressing *9 on your phone. To lower your hand via phone, press *9 again. When it's your turn to speak, the meeting host will unmute you, allowing you to have audio but no video. If your phone is muted when called upon, press *6 to unmute.

- *9 to 'Raise Your Hand' or 'Lower Your Hand.'
- *6 to Unmute or Mute

Please inform Liz Kierl at liz.kierl@state.sd.us by 1 pm CST if you plan to speak during the meeting. This helps us to accurately identify and call on speakers during the session. Thank you for your cooperation!

Zoom Webinar: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 912 6417 6710

Passcode: 970458

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Video Conference ID: [91264176710@zoomcrc.com](https://zoom.us/j/91264176710)

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order (1 pm CST / 12 pm MT)

Division of Administration

Action Items

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
4. Election of Officers

Informational Items

5. 2025 Legislative Session
6. Staff Introductions

Open Forum (2 pm CST / 1 pm MT)

The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment on petitions, proposals, and other items of interest not on the agenda.

Petitions

7. #231 - Change East River Rifle Season to East River Muzzleloader Season

Proposals

8. Bear Butte Public Use Restriction
9. Public Lands and Waters
10. Prairie Elk Hunting Season
11. Bighorn Sheep Season
12. Mountain Goat Hunting Season
13. Special Deer and Special Antelope
14. Waterfowl Hunting Seasons
15. Mountain Lion Hunting Season



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Division of Parks and Recreation

Action Items

16. Spring Creek Restaurant Prospectus

Informational Items

17. Snowmobile Season Forecast
18. 2024 Outreach Programs and Event Numbers
19. State Park Maintenance Skills Education Training
20. Year End Reports

Division of Wildlife

Action Items

21. Bighorn Sheep Auction License
22. Turkey Hunter Recruitment License

Informational Items

23. Walworth County Swan Lake Land Exchange
24. Lake Faulkton and Twin Lake Diversion Land Disposals
25. Ice Fishing Access
26. Lake Oahe Fishery Update
27. Mountain Goat Action Plan
28. Waterfowl Status Update
29. Public Lands Available for Big Game Hunting
30. 2024 Habitat Stamp Update
31. License Sales Reports

Solicitation of Agenda Items

Now is the time to submit agenda items for the Commission to consider at a following commission meeting.

Adjourn

The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on March 6-7, 2025, starting at 1 pm CST at the Ramkota Convention Center, in Pierre, SD.



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Agenda Item #2

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 1 pm CST at the SD State Capitol Building in Pierre, SD on December 5, 2024. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Jim White, Robert Whitmyre, Jon Locken, Bruce Cull, Travis Theel, and Julie Bartling were present, with Commissioner Bies absent excused. With seven commission members present, a quorum was established. The public and staff could listen via SDPB Livestream and participate via conference or in person, with approximately 90 total participants attending via Zoom or in person.

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

[Action Item]

Chair Rissler requested the disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest, but none were brought forward.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

[Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for any additions or corrections to the regular minutes of November 2024 meeting. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2024 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Additional Salary Days

[Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for additional salary days from the Commissioners, but none were brought forward.

4. 2025 Commission Schedule

[Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for the approval of 2025 commission meeting schedule.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY THEEL TO APPROVE THE 2025 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Forum

Wildlife Division Director Tom Kirschenmann opened the floor at 2:01 pm CST for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda not as a finalization.

2:01 pm: Justin Broughton of Sioux Falls, SD representing South Dakota Bowhunters Association testified virtually in support of mandatory big game reporting.

2:06 pm: Dana Rogers of Hill City, SD representing South Dakota Wildlife Federation testified virtually in support of mandatory big game reporting.

2:08 pm: Todd Craig of Rapid City, SD testified virtually in support of mandatory big game reporting.

2:10 pm: Tyler Pickett of Sturgis, SD testified virtually in support of mandatory big game reporting.

2:13 pm: Phil Lentz of Sioux Falls, SD testified virtually in support of mandatory big game reporting.

2:14 pm: Robert Mahaffey of Rapid City, SD representing South Dakota Bowhunters Association and South Dakota Antelope Foundation testified virtually in support of mandatory big game reporting.

2:17 pm: Brian Kraus of Reliance, SD testified in person on the growing elk population concern in Lyman County.



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2:19 pm: Charlie Boe of Chamberlain, SD testified in person on the growing elk population concern north of Reliance, SD.

2:22 pm: Brad Korlen of Reliance, SD testified in person on adding an additional unit to the prairie elk season.

2:32 pm: Tyler Frederick of Reliance, SD testified in person on the growing elk population concern in Lyman County.

2:34 pm: Bill Hinds of Pierre, SD representing Lake Oahe Walleye Restoration Coalition testified in person on the Lake Oahe fisheries management.

2:37 pm: Bill Waeckerle of Pierre, SD representing Lake Oahe Walleye Restoration Coalition testified in person on Lake Oahe fisheries management.

2:40 pm: Alexey Egtrov of Brookings, SD testified virtually in opposition to the nest predator bounty program.

The open forum closed at 2:45 pm CST.

Petition #227: Mandatory Big Game Harvest Report

[Action Item: Petition]

Ron Kolbeck of Salem, SD submitted petition #227 in which requested the Commission require all licensed big-game hunters to submit a mandatory harvest report.

Director Kirschenmann introduced the petition requested by Mr. Ron Kolbeck asking the commission to require mandatory big-game harvest reporting. This would include the restriction of purchasing a license in the following year. One of the primary reasons for the request was to provide better data to the biologists and public for a management tool. The commission determined to deny per the recommendation of the department. Primary reasons included the Department currently developing a mandatory electronic tagging system that will result in real-time harvest reporting.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO DENY PETITION #227. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 24-23

WHEREAS, Ronald Kolbeck of Salem, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated November 26, 2024, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission create a new rule within ARSD § 41:06 (Hunting Seasons and Methods) – to require that all licensed big-game hunters submit a harvest report in order to apply for a similar license (hereinafter referred to as “the Petition”); and

WHEREAS, all members of the Commission have been furnished with and have reviewed a copy of the Petition; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that a copy of the Petition has been served on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council as required by SDCL § 1-26-13; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that SDCL § 1-26-13 requires that within thirty (30) days of submission of a Petition, the Commission shall either “deny the petition in writing (stating its reasons for the denials) or shall initiate rule-making proceedings in accordance with SDCL 1-26-4.”; and



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WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised and is of the opinion that a hearing on the Petition is neither statutorily required nor necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed and carefully considered the requirements and procedures set out in SDCL §1-26-13 and the contents of the Petition, including the reasons advanced by Petitioner to require licensed big-game hunters to submit a harvest report in order to apply for a similar license; and

WHEREAS, the Department is currently developing a mandatory electronic tagging system that will result in real-time harvest reporting; and

WHEREAS, currently 100% of big game hunters are sent an electronic harvest report questionnaire, thus all big game hunters are censused and not subsampled; and

WHEREAS, imposing a mandatory harvest report requirement with penalties of removing the ability to submit future applications jeopardizes relationships and customer service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby deny the Petition for the reasons hereinabove stated in this Resolution, which said Resolution as adopted by the Commission shall constitute the Commission's written denial of the Petition and its reasons therefore.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Petition, a record of the Commission's discussions concerning same, and this Resolution be made a part of the Minutes of the Commission meeting at which this Resolution is adopted, and further, that the Department be and it is hereby authorized and directed in compliance with SDCL §1-26-13 to serve a copy of an extract of that portion of the Commission minutes which pertain to the Commission's discussion of the Petition and its adoption of this Resolution, including a copy of the Resolution, on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council with copies also to be provided to the Petitioner, Ronald Kolbeck of Salem, South Dakota.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-23. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Petition #230: Paddlefish Snagging at Gavins Point [Action Item: Petition]

Tad Reiner of Humbolt, SD submitted petition #230 in which requested the Commission to all South Dakota residents to snag paddlefish beyond the mouth of the James River up to the Highway 50 Bridge.

Director Kirschenmann introduced the petition requested by Mr. Tad Reiner requesting for South Dakota residents with the proper permit to snag paddlefish beyond the mouth of the James River up to the Highway 50 bridge. The department recommended to deny the petition for several reasons, primarily because of the challenges associated with changing this rule require multi-state agreement.

MOTIONED BY LOCKEN, SECONDED BY THEEL TO DENY PETITION #230. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 24-24

WHEREAS, Tad Reiner of Humboldt, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated December 2, 2024, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission amend ARSD § 41:07:05:02 (Paddlefish season in special management areas) – to allow those with the proper permit to snag paddlefish beyond the mouth of the James River up to the Highway 50 bridge (hereinafter referred to as “the Petition”); and



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WHEREAS, all members of the Commission have been furnished with and have reviewed a copy of the Petition; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that a copy of the Petition has been served on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council as required by SDCL § 1-26-13; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that SDCL § 1-26-13 requires that within thirty (30) days of submission of a Petition, the Commission shall either “deny the petition in writing (stating its reasons for the denials) or shall initiate rule-making proceedings in accordance with SDCL 1-26-4.”; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised and is of the opinion that a hearing on the Petition is neither statutorily required nor necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed and carefully considered the requirements and procedures set out in SDCL §1-26-13 and the contents of the Petition, including the reasons advanced by Petitioner to allow those with the proper permit to snag paddlefish beyond the mouth of the James River up to the Highway 50 bridge; and

WHEREAS, the paddlefish fishery below Gavins Point Dam on the Missouri River is jointly managed by the States of South Dakota and Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, a South Dakota-Nebraska reciprocal access agreement exists, which states where licensees from each state may fish on the border waters and is beneficial for the State of South Dakota to maintain; and

WHEREAS, the reciprocal access agreement does not apply to the James River, meaning Nebraska licensees could not snag by boat there; and

WHEREAS, the petition specifically asks for the area of the James River from the Hwy 50 bridge downstream to the confluence with the Missouri River to be open for paddlefish snagging by South Dakota residents, meaning the 50 South Dakota permits issued to nonresidents could not be used in that area; and

WHEREAS, safety issues exist when navigating watercraft through the mouth of the James River and with people parking near the Highway 50 bridge to snag paddlefish from shore;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby deny the Petition for the reasons hereinabove stated in this Resolution, which said Resolution as adopted by the Commission shall constitute the Commission’s written denial of the Petition and its reasons therefore.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Petition, a record of the Commission’s discussions concerning same, and this Resolution be made a part of the Minutes of the Commission meeting at which this Resolution is adopted, and further, that the Department be and it is hereby authorized and directed in compliance with SDCL §1-26-13 to serve a copy of an extract of that portion of the Commission minutes which pertain to the Commission’s discussion of the Petition and its adoption of this Resolution, including a copy of the Resolution, on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council with copies also to be provided to the Petitioner, Tad Reiner of Humboldt, South Dakota.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BARLTING TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-24. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Volunteer Report for the 2024 Season

[Parks & Recreation: Info Item]

Rachel Comes, Statewide Volunteer Program Coordinator, updated the Commission on the state park volunteer program statistics. In 2024, a total of 384 volunteers working in the state park system provided



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over 95,600 hours of service. This equates to 50 FTE and an estimated fiscal impact of \$1.4M. Other information provided included types of volunteers, recruitment, recognition, and survey results which indicates overall satisfaction to be high.

7. CSP Buffalo Auction Results

[Parks & Recreation: Info Item]

Matt Snyder, Regional Parks Supervisor provided the Commission with bison auction results, how many buyers were in person compared to online and what States the buyers were from. Discussed the current market being strong which led to an increase in the overall sell over last year.

8. CSP Resort Repairs & Maintenance Fund

[Parks & Recreation: Info Item]

Matt Snyder, Regional Parks Supervisor, along with Josh Schmaltz President Ramkota Company and Tom Morris Vice President Ramkota Companies shared the 2024 Repair and Maintenance report and touched on the significant improvements that were completed in 2024. Also discussed the proposed 2025 Repair and Maintenance projects that will be conducted during 2025.

9. Oahe Downstream Deer Hunt

[Parks & Recreation: Info Item]

Pat Buscher, Regional Park Supervisor, provided an overview of the Department of GFP through Oahe Downstream field staff, collaboration with the Oahe Project office (Corps of Engineers) to offer a deer hunt for hunters that are limited through use of a wheelchair for mobility. This past November 23rd & 24th, marked the 32nd year of this special hunt. The deer hunt is limited to a total of 10 licensed hunters and are guided to a hunt on the recreation area by agency staff, volunteers, and family co-sponsors. The event is possible only due to local and statewide sponsors such as the PVA North Central chapter in Sioux Falls, American Legion Post 8, Pizza Ranch, Scheels, Coke Bottling of Pierre, Jerome Beverages, and Dakotamart. Annually the event requires 12-15 volunteers to effectively manage the hunt for the participants.

10. 2025 Construction Projects

[Parks & Recreation: Info Item]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation provided the Commission with a list of the major capital development and preventative maintenance projects slated for the 2025 construction season. He also shared with the Commissioners how a project moves from an idea at the park level to being proposed in a fiscal year budget.

11. November Camping Unit and Revenue Reports

[Parks & Recreation: Info Item]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation provided the Commission with an overview of camping units for November and YTD. Camping was up 25% in the month of November and YTD camping units were up 2% overall or 6,336 units over last year's numbers. Weather and cross-marketing of camping with hunters and fishermen were credited for these increases. Revenue was on par with last year's November with strong entrance license and camping sales. YTD Revenue is 5% above last year with much of this increase due to expanded entrance license sales to new park users.

12. Charles Mix County Game Production Area Land Donation

[Wildlife: Action Item]

Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, asked the commission to approve Curtis R. Kaberna willed GFP 80 acres of property located near Delmont in Charles Mix County. Per the will the property must be used for wildlife management and public hunting purposes and be identified as the Curtis R. Kaberna Game Production Area. The property currently has 75 acres enrolled in CRP through 2032 and has great habitat cover. The commission was asked to take action to accept the donation. The commission adopted resolution 24-21 accepting the donation and thanking the family and estate for their generosity.



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RESOLUTION 24-21

WHEREAS, Curtis R. Kaberna Estate owns real property (Property) described as: The Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW1/4NW1/4), and the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE1/4NW1/4), all in Section Thirty-six (36) in Township Ninety-seven (97) North, Range Sixty-three (63) West of the 5th P.M., in Charles Mix County, South Dakota, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Curtis's wishes and will, Curtis desired to gift and transfer title to the Property to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (Department) for use as a Game Production Area; and

WHEREAS, the Department has evaluated and determined that the Property would serve very well as a Game Production Area, offering wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife related outdoor recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Department is authorized to accept gifts of property for a Game Production Area as per SDCL 41-2-19 and desires to accept the gift of the Property upon confirmation of the gift by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission desires to acknowledge the Department's acceptance of this gift of property from the Curtis R. Kaberna Estate for use as a Game Production Area, and further acknowledge the extreme generosity by the late Curtis R. Kaberna and family; and WHEREAS, the Department will title the Property the Curtis R. Kaberna Game Production Area use it exclusively for wildlife management and public hunting access.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission does hereby confirm the decision by the Department to accept the transfer and gift of the Property from the Curtis R. Kaberna Estate to be used as a Game Production Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission, on behalf of the citizens and sportspersons of South Dakota, does hereby acknowledge and express its deepest appreciation and gratitude to the late Curtis R. Kaberna and family for their generosity, and further acknowledge the outdoor recreation opportunities this gift will provide to South Dakotans for many years to come.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-21. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Cotton Slough Land Exchange

[Wildlife: Action Item]

Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, has asked the Commission to approve the land exchange of the Cotton Slough Game Production Area, located northeast of Lake Kampeska by Watertown. The department has worked with local landowners on an exchange that would trade 12.32 acres that is difficult for the public to access and use for 21.64 acres of property. These properties are of equal value determined by an appraiser. The 21.64 acres that the department would acquire in the trade would be very accessible by users and allow for a GPA boundary that is located in a place it can be better maintained. The current boundary runs through some wetlands and is difficult to identify with fencing and signage for users. The commission was asked to take action to approve the property exchange. The commission adopted resolution 24-22 approving the department to move forward with the steps needed to exchange the properties.

RESOLUTION 24-22

WHEREAS, the State of South Dakota (held by and for the use and benefit of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) owns an interest in real estate described as: Lot 1 of Cotton Slough Addition in Government Lot 5 in Section 33, Township 118 North, Range 52 West, of the 5th P.M, in the Sisseton and Wahpeton



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Indian Reservation, Codington County, South Dakota.; containing 12.32 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as GFP PROPERTY, which is valued at \$17,900.00; and

WHEREAS, Clay Schuchard (SCHUCHARD), of 16755 452 Ave., WATERTOWN SD 57201, owns an interest in real estate described as: Lot 2 of Cotton Slough Addition in Government Lot 3 and 4 in Section 10, Township 117 North, Range 53 West, of the 5th P.M, in Codington County, South Dakota, containing 21.64 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as SCHUCHARD PROPERTY, which is valued at \$17,900.00; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota law (SDCL 41-2-29.2) provides that GFP has the power, authority, and duty to trade or exchange real property owned by the State and held by GFP if the GFP Commission shall first determine that real property more suitable to GFP purposes may be obtained by an exchange, provided the parcels of real property to be exchanged are of equal value; and

WHEREAS, GFP and SCHUCHARD desire to exchange interests in GFP PROPERTY and SCHUCHARD PROPERTY, and the GFP Commission having determined that SCHUCHARD PROPERTY is more suitable to GFP for GFP purposes than GFP PROPERTY, and that GFP PROPERTY and SCHUCHARD PROPERTY are of equal value as determined by a qualified appraiser; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota law requires that the conveyance of GFP PROPERTY be approved and executed in the manner provided by SDCL 5-2-11.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the GFP Commission hereby takes final action on and approves the above referenced exchanges of the above described parcels of real property and hereby directs GFP to take all steps necessary to effectuate the exchange of GFP PROPERTY for SCHUCHARD PROPERTY under procedures mandated by statute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GFP Commission does hereby ratify and confirm the Department's designation of the SCHUCHARD PROPERTY being acquired pursuant to the exchange authorized by this Resolution for utilization by the Division of Wildlife for the purpose of game production and, further, does hereby expressly designate and classify the SCHUCHARD PROPERTY being acquired pursuant to the exchange authorized by this Resolution for use as a game production area.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY THEEL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-22. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Mountain Goat Action Plan

[Wildlife: Info Item]

This item was deferred to the January 2025 Commission meeting due to time constraints.

15. Chinook Salmon Spawning Overview

[Wildlife: Info Item]

Robert Hanten, Fisheries Biologist, provided an overview of the Lake Oahe Chinook Salmon program and spawning results. South Dakota has been maintaining a Chinook Salmon sport fishery in Lake Oahe for over 40 years. Salmon are the second most targeted fish species on Lake Oahe and anglers will travel 200 plus miles one way to fish for them. No natural reproduction of salmon occurs in Lake Oahe, so fisheries crews collect eggs from returning adults. The eggs are hatched and raised at state fish hatcheries and stocked back into Lake Oahe the following spring. This year's egg collection efforts with assistance from North Dakota Game & Fish was 1.6 million eggs. Roughly one third of the eggs collected will become fish and should equate approximately 500,000 salmon to stock in 2025. The Whitlock Spawning Station provides a secondary benefit of education and outreach with approximately 600 folks each October touring the station. Numerous school groups visit and 25,000 plus individuals have learned about the salmon program since 1984.



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16. Third-Party Shooting Range Grants

[Wildlife: Info Item]

Graham Larson, Assistant Federal Aid Coordinator Wildlife Division, provided the Commission an overview and history of the Third-Party Shooting Range Program. He provided the criteria of how third-party cooperators are selected for the competitive grant and the different types of improvements and developments the grant covers. He also provided how much GFP has helped the Third-Party Shooting Ranges from the past five completed fiscal years and this current fiscal year.

17. Outdoor Campus East Expansion Update

[Wildlife: Info Item]

This item was deferred to the January 2025 Commission meeting due to time constraints.

18. License Sales Reports

[Wildlife: Info Item]

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann provided a summary of licenses sales through the end of November. Overall, license sales remain strong for both fishing and hunting. Kirschenmann pointed out a few examples such as resident and nonresident small game sales as well as resident fishing. It was indicated by Kirschenmann that at the January meeting a year-end summary will be provided as the current license year ends December 14. It was also pointed out that with the new license year beginning on December 15, so will the new fees for hunting and fishing licenses passed in October.

19. Adjourn

[Action Item]

A Regular Commission Meeting will be held on January 9-10, 2024, at the Ramkota Convention Center, in Pierre, starting at 1 pm CST.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:59 PM CST ON DECEMBER 5, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Robling".

Kevin Robling, Department Secretary



Petition for Rule Change Form

From info@gfp.sd.us <info@gfp.sd.us>
Date Thu 12/12/2024 4:18 PM
To deonentringer@gmail.com <deonentringer@gmail.com>
Cc Kierl, Liz <Liz.Kierl@state.sd.us>; Harrington, Nick <Nick.Harrington@state.sd.us>

South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks**Petition for Rule Change**

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:

ID: 231

Petitioner Name: DEON ENTRINGER

Address: 23154 469TH AV
COLMAN, SD 57017

Email: deonentringer@gmail.com

Phone: 605-530-1515

Rule Identification: Change from Easter river rifle season to East river muzzleloader

Describe Change: I am asking the commission to consider my proposal. 1. Completely get rid of east river rifle season and make it an east river muzzleloader/shotgun like Iowa and other deer renowned states.

Reason for Change: With cell trail cameras, silencers, high power rifles, and much more, the deer don't stand a chance anymore in east river with smaller blocks of woods to hunt unlike west river being much larger and vast. I strongly urge the commission to get rid of east river rifle season all together and make it a muzzleloader season. With EHD and countless other factors that are decimating our deer population it is prudent to take action immediately to protect the resource at hand, the white-tailed deer. I think this will help alleviate deer from being whipped out from east river. With silencers on high power rifles and guns that can shoot 500 plus yards its no wonder we have seen a huge decline in deer numbers. I hunt both private and public land in Moody County. You guys, it is bad. It's not just our county either. I've heard it from all portions in east river. You have small pockets where they congregate to but that is a false perception of the overall heard across east river. I am urging to commission to make drastic changes to this and proposing switching from a rifle season to a muzzleloader season. And another thing to look into that I've discussed with the head of the commission a few weeks ago is to do an overhaul of the land owner tag system. And I am a land owner/operator. It's ridiculous to me that I could get a west river tag, muzzleloader tag, over the counter archery and send in for land owner preference later on and shoot 4 bucks in our state. I love SD but this isn't sustainable. Not to mention how many grandkids and kids and friends of landowners who take their coordinates and apply for land owner preference in the first drawing. When one does that it doesn't even say land owner tag on the tag. It's the same thing as a regular tag. So take a section of land 640 acres, and you have 4 guys who each own a quarter of land. He and now his grandkids and kid are getting tags so there could be a dozen people trying to shoot deer on 640 acres. That's just a small glimpse of the reality that's going on out here. I know loss of habitat and disease also factor into this but we can make a change and it starts with the two things I mentioned above. It's simply too many deer being shot and being shot by people who shouldn't have certain tags to begin with. Thank you and God bless.

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Leaving of human remains at Bear Butte State Park prohibited. Chapter 41:03:01:33

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	March 6, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	March 6-7, 2025	Pierre

INFORMATION

At the August 2002, Game, Fish and Parks Commission meeting, the Commission approved an administrative rule prohibiting the leaving of human remains at Bear Butte State Park. The rule was inadvertently repealed in December of 2019 during an administrative rule cleanup process.

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

This proposal would reinstate the rule prohibiting the leaving of human remains at Bear Butte State Park.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Bear Butte has spiritual, historical, and cultural significance for the Lakota, Cheyenne, and several other tribes. The Bear Butte Forum was established in 1997 to provide a process by which spiritual practitioners and other stakeholders to provide input on the management of Bear Butte State Park. At the Bear Butte Forum in April of 2002, the Forum provided a recommendation to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to promulgate a rule to prohibit the leaving or dispersal of human remains at Bear Butte State Park. Spreading of human remains at Bear Butte is not in accordance with acceptable spiritual and cultural practices. Spreading of human remains is not restricted on lands managed by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. This rule proposal would only apply to Bear Butte State Park, and is necessary to preserve the spiritual sanctity of the park.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:03:01:33. Leaving of human remains at Bear Butte State Park prohibited. No person may leave, scatter, or bury any human remains, including cremated remains, within the boundaries of Bear Butte State Park.

Source: 29 SDR 29, effective September 8, 2002. Repealed effective September 8, 2002; 46 SDR 74, effective December 2, 2019.

General Authority: SDCL 41-17-1.1(1).

Law Implemented: SDCL 41-17-1.1(1).

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? N

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no fiscal impacts associate with this proposal.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Motorboats and Watercraft Chapter 41:04:05

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	Jan 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	March 6, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	March 6-7, 2025	Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Amend two boating rules to be in harmony with the current United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). This was a recommendation made to the Department by the US Coast Guard (USCG) upon completion of their audit of the Departments use of Federal funds.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

First, there has been a change in the language at the Federal level to provide more clarity for users and law enforcement officers in regard to personal flotation devices that must be worn. Second, there was some clarifying language at the Federal level to ensure that required fire extinguishers be in serviceable condition and not expired. These changes will place South Dakota rules ARSD 41:04:05.02.01 and ARSD 41:04:05.03 in compliance with 33 CFR 175.15 (a) (2) and (3) and 33 CFR 175.310 (3) and (4). The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct another review in three years (2027) to ensure appropriate changes were made.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:04:05:02.01. Personal flotation device use required. If a boat is operated at greater than no-wake speed, personal flotation device use on the boat is required as follows:

(1) The operator of the boat shall assure that each child on board under seven years of age is wearing a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device unless such child is within a cabin or below deck; and

(2) Any person who claims a ~~Type V Hybrid~~ hybrid or inflatable personal flotation device as his or her life jacket of choice shall ~~wear the device unless the person is within a cabin or below deck~~ use that personal floatation device in accordance with any requirements on the approval label or owner's manual.

Source: 29 SDR 21, effective August 26, 2002.

General Authority: SDCL [32-3A-1\(1\)](#). **Law Implemented:** SDCL [32-3A-1\(1\)](#).

41:04:05:03. Fire extinguishers required -- Exception. A working fire extinguisher with the stamp of approval of the U.S. Coast Guard that is in serviceable condition and not expired is required on boats operated on public waters as follows:

(1) Each Class A or Class 1 motorboat must carry at least one fire extinguisher of B-I type or larger;

(2) Each Class 2 motorboat must carry at least two fire extinguishers of B-I type or larger;

(3) Each Class 3 motorboat must carry at least one B-II type and one B-I type or three B-I type fire extinguishers; or

(4) A motorboat less than 26 feet long and not carrying passengers for hire is exempt from the requirements of this section if the construction of the boat will not permit the entrapment of explosive or flammable gases or vapors.

Source: SL 1975, ch 16, § 1; 10 SDR 76, 10 SDR 102, effective July 1, 1984; 16 SDR 32, effective August 20, 1989; 23 SDR 197, effective May 27, 1997; 38 SDR 178, effective April 30, 2012; 46 SDR 74, effective December 2, 2019.

General Authority: SDCL [32-3A-1\(1\)](#).

Law Implemented: SDCL [32-3A-1\(1\)](#).

Cross-Reference: Classification of boats for equipment purposes, SDCL [32-3A-18](#).

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Prairie Elk Hunting Season
Chapter 41:06:01, 41:06:02, 41:06:59

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration: 2025 hunting season

Season Dates:

Units	License Types	Season Dates
PRE-09A	Both	Sep 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-11B	Any Elk	Sep 1 - Oct 15
PRE-11C	Any Elk	Oct 16 - Nov 30
PRE-11D	Antlerless Elk	Sep 1 - Oct 31
PRE-11E	Antlerless Elk	Nov 1 - Dec 31
PRE-15A	Both	Sep 1 - Dec - 31
PRE-27A	Both	Oct 1 - 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-35A	Both	Sep 15 - Dec - 31
PRE-35B	Both	Sep 15 - Dec - 31
PRE-49A	Both	Sep 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-WRA	Both	Sep 1 - Dec 31

Licenses: For the Prairie Elk seasons last year there were 126 resident “Any Elk” licenses and 210 “Antlerless Elk” licenses, see Table 2.

The Department will recommend specific number of licenses by tag types for 2025 hunting seasons at the March Commission meeting.

Open Areas: See Figure 1.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
2. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
3. Except for landowner/operator preference applicants, no person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season shall be eligible to apply for a Prairie elk license in first drawings for next nine years.
4. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference application. Only one member of each qualifying landowner/operator household may apply every year.
5. Any elk that is harvested must be inspected by a Department representative within 24 hours after kill.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Modify § 41:06:59:02 to expand PRE-WRA to include all counties west of the Missouri River not currently in a Prairie Elk or Black Hills Elk hunting unit.
2. Modify § 41:06:59:01 to expand PRE-27A season dates from Oct. 1 to Oct. 31 and Dec. 1 to Dec. 31 to Sep. 1 to Dec. 31.
3. Modify § 41:06:01:07.03 to include PRE-27A in Prairie Elk Hunting Season units eligible for a landowner-own-land resident only antlerless elk license.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Elk have expanded into new areas on the prairie and there is hunting opportunity in new counties. On the prairie there are increasing depredation concerns and complaints from landowners, especially where there is agriculture such as corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. Expanding the PRE-WRA hunting unit will allow landowners in additional counties to harvest elk on their own property with landowner-own-land antlerless resident only elk licenses, in addition to more counties open to hunting using a limited draw PRE-WRA any elk or antlerless elk hunting license. The Department's recommendation is to increase license numbers to a level that allows management of elk at a very low density, if there is desire from the individuals that control access. Because most of the land in PRE-WRA is privately owned, landowners will ultimately determine if elk are harvested on their property, because they control hunter access. As such, they will have the choice to not harvest elk on their property or use hunters with PRE-WRA licenses or their landowner-own-land antlerless licenses to reduce the local population.

The Departments' recommendation during the March Commission meeting will be to increase license numbers in PRE-WRA. This is expected to decrease antlerless harvest success rates In PRE-WRA, and elk will be managed at a lower population to minimize depredation concerns, as opposed to other prairie units where elk populations are managed at densities that also consider increased recreational opportunity and harvest success.

Elk in PRE-27A are managed towards social levels of landowner tolerance and optimizing harvest success. There is a desire from landowners to make landowner-own-land antlerless resident only elk licenses available and allow elk hunting during September and November in PRE-27A.

Figure 1. Map of 2024 Prairie elk season hunting units.

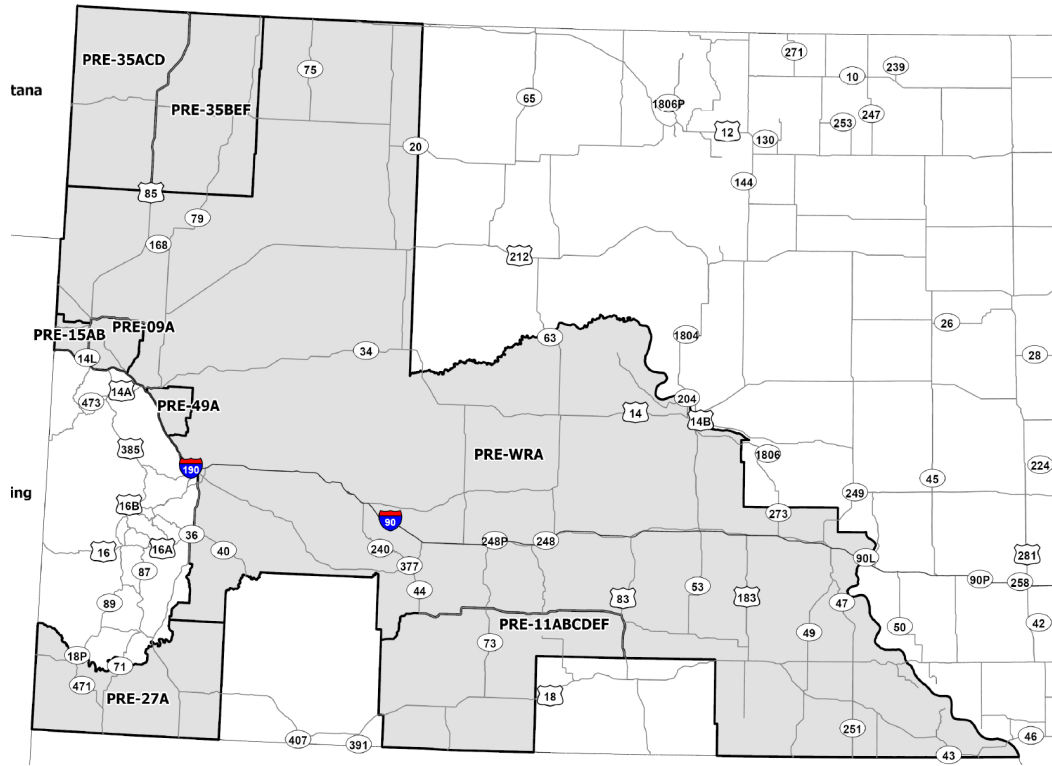


Figure 2. Map of recommended 2025 Prairie elk season hunting units.

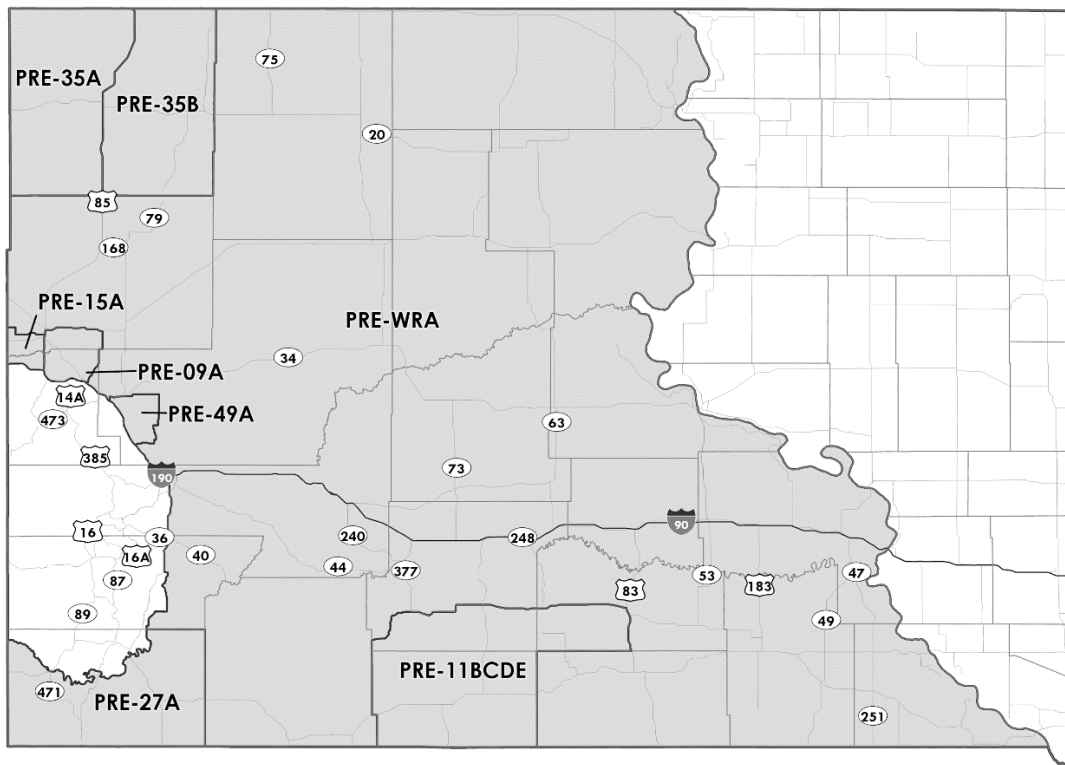


Table 1. Recommended changes to season dates.

Units	License Types	Season Dates
PRE-09A	Both	Sep 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-11B	Any Elk	Sep 1 - Oct 15
PRE-11C	Any Elk	Oct 16 - Nov 30
PRE-11D	Antlerless Elk	Sep 1 - Oct 31
PRE-11E	Antlerless Elk	Nov 1 - Dec 31
PRE-15A	Both	Sep 1 - Dec - 31
PRE-27A	Both	Oct 1 - 31 AND Dec 1 - 31 Sep 1 - Dec 31
PRE-35A	Both	Sep 15 - Dec - 31
PRE-35B	Both	Sep 15 - Dec - 31
PRE-49A	Both	Sep 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-WRA	Both	Sep 1 - Dec 31

Table 2. Prairie elk license numbers in 2024. The Department will recommend specific number of licenses by tag types for 2025 hunting seasons at the March Commission meeting.

Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	23	
9A	8	10	
11B	16		
11C	16		
11D		30	
11E		10	
15A	8	5	
27A	30	30	
35A	10	30	
35B	8	40	
49A	10	15	
WRA	20	40	
TOTAL	126	210	336

Table 3. Prairie elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and harvest by year.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	92	1,725	64%	33	25
2015	98	2,119	55%	29	25
2016	148	2,272	40%	32	27
2017	149	2,249	50%	41	34
2018	139	3,080	79%	59	51
2019	140	3,831	65%	41	50
2020	251	4,532	57%	56	87
2021	257	4,912	50%	57	71
2022	270	5,037	48%	74	55
2023	258	5,438	51%	78	53
2024	334	6,212	NA	NA	NA

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:59:01. Prairie elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available -- Season dates. The prairie elk hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day of the season. No more than two hundred "any elk" licenses and no more than four hundred "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the prairie elk hunting season. The prairie elk hunting seasons are as follows:

- (1) Unit PRE-09A is open from September fifteenth through October thirty-first and from December first through December thirty-first;
- (2) Unit PRE-11A is open from July fifteenth through August thirty-first;
- (3) Unit PRE-11B is open from September first through October fifteenth;
- (4) Unit PRE-11C is open from October sixteenth through November thirtieth;
- (5) Unit PRE-11D is open from September first through October thirty-first;
- (6) Unit PRE-11E is open from November first through December thirty-first;
- (7) Unit PRE-11F is open from January first through the last day of February;
- (8) Unit PRE-15A is open from September first through December thirty-first;
- (9) Unit PRE-15B is open from December first through January thirty-first;
- (10) Unit PRE-27A is open from ~~October~~ September first through ~~October thirty-first and from December first through~~ December thirty-first;
- (11) Unit PRE-35A is open from September fifteenth through December thirty-first;
- (12) Unit PRE-35B is open from September fifteenth through December thirty-first;
- (13) Unit PRE-35C is open from October first through November fifteenth;
- (14) Unit PRE-35D is open from November sixteenth through December thirty-first;
- (15) Unit PRE-35E is open from October first through November fifteenth;
- (16) Unit PRE-35F is open from November sixteenth through December thirty-first;
- (17) Unit PRE-49A is open from September fifteenth through October thirty-first and from December first through December thirty-first; and
- (18) Unit PRE-WRA is open from September first through December thirty-first.

41:06:59:02. Open units. The open units for the prairie elk hunting season are as follows:

- (1) Unit PRE-09A: those portions of Lawrence and Butte Counties within a line beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highways 85 and 212, then east on Highway 212 to Whitewood Valley Road, then south on Whitewood Valley Road to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to U.S. Highway 85, then north on U.S. Highway 85 to the point of beginning;
- (2) Unit PRE-11A: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (3) Unit PRE-11B: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (4) Unit PRE-11C: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (5) Unit PRE-11D: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (6) Unit PRE-11E: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;

(7) Unit PRE-11F: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;

(8) Unit PRE-15A: the portion of Butte County beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border, east on Sourdough Road to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then north to the point of beginning;

(9) Unit PRE-15B: the portion of Butte County beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border, east on Sourdough Road to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then north to the point of beginning;

(10) Unit PRE-27A: the portion of Fall River County not included in BHE-H3 or BHE-H4;

(11) Units PRE-35A, PRE-35C, and PRE-35D: the portion of Harding County west of U.S. Highway 85;

(12) Units PRE-35B, PRE-35E, and PRE-35F: the portion of Harding County east of U.S. Highway 85;

(13) Unit PRE-49A: the portion of Meade County within a line beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and Elk Creek Road, then east on Elk Creek Road to Ricard Road, then north on Ricard Road to Tilford Road, then east on Tilford Road to Middle Alkalai Road, then north on Middle Alkalai Road to Alkalai Road, then west on Alkalai Road to SD Highway 34, then west on SD Highway 34 to Interstate 90, then south on Interstate 90 to the point of beginning; and

(14) Unit PRE-WRA: the portion of the state west of the Missouri River not associated with another prairie elk unit, Custer State Park, or any Black Hills elk unit described in 41:06:26., ~~excluding the Lower Brule Indian Reservation and Corson, Dewey, Oglala Lakota, Todd, and Ziebach Counties.~~

41:06:01:07.03. Landowner own land license types. For the West River, East River, and Black Hills firearm deer hunting seasons, a qualifying landowner or owner-operator may purchase one "any deer" license or one two-tag "any deer" and "any antlerless deer" license. For the antelope firearm hunting season, a qualifying landowner or owner-operator may purchase one "any antelope" license or one two-tag "any antelope" and "any doe-fawn antelope" license. For the prairie elk hunting season units PRE-11D, PRE-11E, PRE-27A, PRE-35A, PRE-35B, and PRE-WRA, as described in chapter 41:06:59, a qualifying landowner or lessee, as described in subdivision 41:06:01:15(4), may purchase one "antlerless elk" license.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, this will result in additional hunting opportunity.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Additional hunting opportunity.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes, by providing additional hunting opportunity.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:01; 41:06:07; 41:06:56

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration: 2025 hunting season

Season Dates: September 1 – December 31

Open unit: Units 2, 4, and Custer State Park. See unit map for boundaries.

Licenses: 2025 license numbers will be recommended during March Commission meeting.

10 “ram bighorn sheep” licenses were available in 2024.

One of the licenses shall be an auction “ram bighorn sheep” license if a minimum of three total bighorn sheep licenses are allocated.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Except for the auction license, application for a license may be made by any resident hunter who has not been previously issued a bighorn sheep license in South Dakota.
2. Landowner - operator preference is not applicable to these licenses.
3. All licensees are required to attend an orientation meeting prior to the first day of hunting by the license holder at the regional office in Rapid City.
4. One bighorn sheep license may be allocated as an auction license if a minimum of three bighorn licenses are approved by the Commission. The Commission shall determine in which unit or units the auction license is valid.
5. All successful hunters must submit their bighorn sheep to a designated department representative for inspection and marking within 24 hours after the kill.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Modify § 41:06:56:02 to expand the unit boundary for BHS-BH4 to include those portions of Lawrence and Meade counties west of Interstate 90 (Figures 2 and 3) and clean-up unit descriptions.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The Hell Canyon unit (BHS-BH4) bighorn sheep herd is currently experiencing a *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* related die-off and only four rams have been documented in this herd in November and December 2024 compared to 22 ewes and 7 lambs. For the 2024 hunting season, the BHS-BH4 unit was expanded to include bighorn sheep near Rapid City. Like Rapid City, bighorn sheep in Deadwood may not be available for harvest, depending on their location and land ownership. The

Department's recommendation is to again expand BHS-BH4 to include additional areas to hunt in 2025. Specifically, the recommendation is to expand the unit into Lawrence and Meade counties west of I-90 to encompass the Deadwood bighorn sheep population.

Reports of sheep with symptoms indicative of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* in Custer State Park have been documented, although the disease related die-off is not perceived to be as significant of that in the Hell Canyon. However, only 9 of 60 bighorn sheep in Custer State Park were rams in 2024 compared to 47 ewes and 4 lambs. It is unknown whether these low ram counts are the result of disease, harvest, migration, inability to detect animals, or a combination of all four. Regardless, the recommendation will be conservative and reduce the number of licenses in Custer State Park when license number recommendations are presented to the Commission in March.

Table 1. Minimum bighorn sheep counts and license allocation by hunting unit.

Season	Unit	Herd	2023 Min. Count	2024 Min. Count	2024 Licenses
Custer State Park (CBS)	CU1	CSP	61	60	4
Bighorn Sheep (BHS)	BH2	Elk Mountain	58	70	3
	BH3	Badlands	66	65	0
	BH4	Hell Canyon and Rapid City	130	64	2
No Current Hunting Unit		Deadwood	26	23	NA
Auction	All	All	NA	NA	1
Total			341	282	10

Figure 2. Custer State Park (CBS-CU1) and bighorn sheep units (BHS-BH2, BHS-BH3, BHS-BH4).

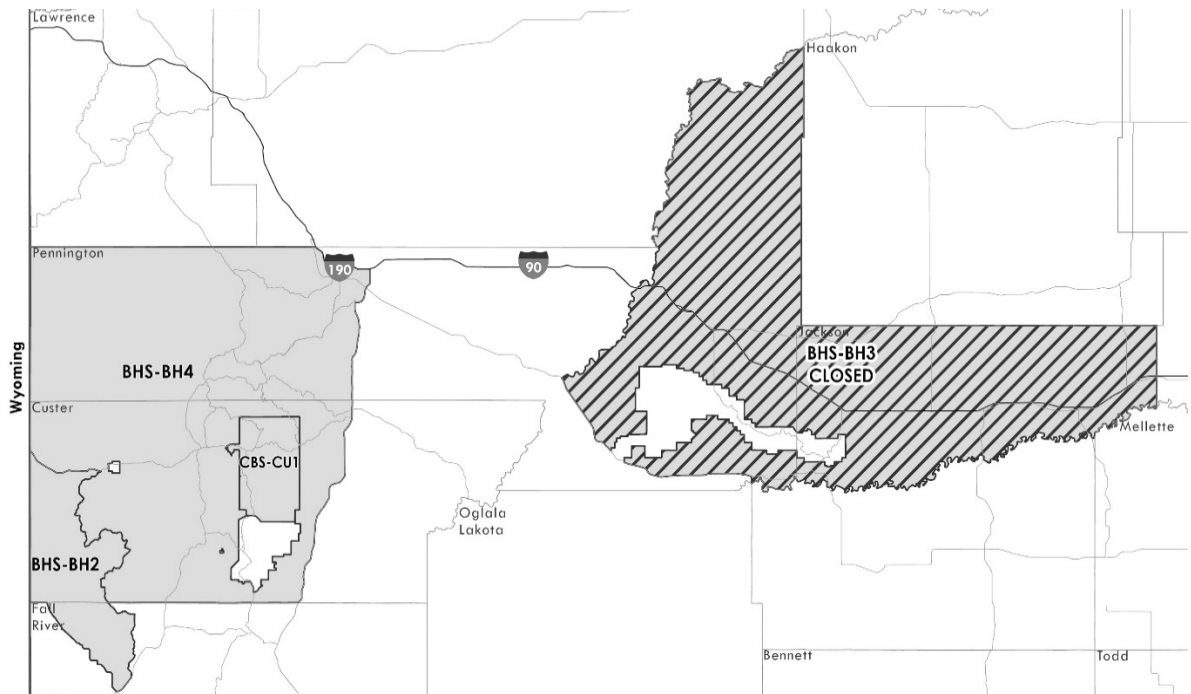
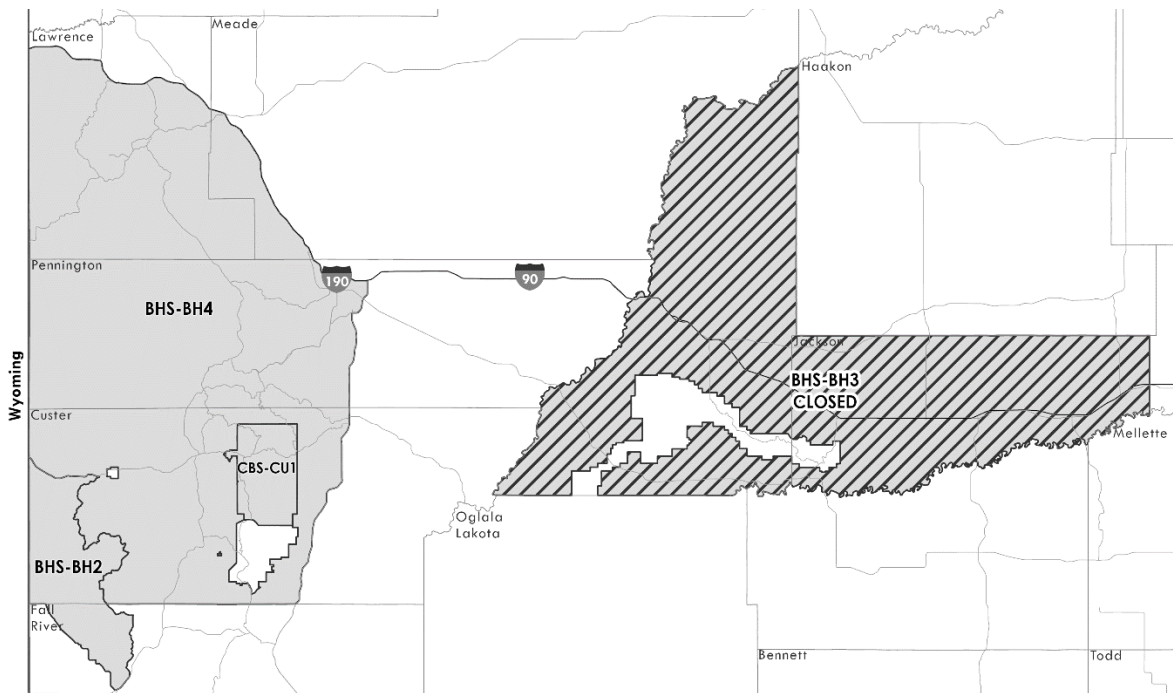


Figure 3. Recommended expansion to BHS-BH4 for 2025 hunting seasons.



DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:56:02. Open units. The open units for the bighorn sheep hunting season are as follows:

- (1) Unit BHS-BH2: that portion of Custer and Fall River Counties within a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 16 and the Wyoming state line, east on U.S. Highway 16 to the intersection of U.S. Highway 16 and Mann Road (USFS Road 270) then south along Mann Road to Pass Creek Road (USFS Road 272) then south on Pass Creek Road to Richardson Cutoff (USFS Road 276) then east on Richardson Cutoff to Pleasant Valley Road (USFS Road 715) then south on Pleasant Valley Road to Pilger Mountain Road (USFS Road 317) then south on Pilger Mountain Road to County Road 15 then south on County Road 15 to U.S. Highway 18 then west on U.S. Highway 18 to County Road 16 then north on County Road 16 to Dewey Road (USFS Road 769) then north and west on Dewey Road to the Custer County line then west on the Custer County line to the Wyoming state line then north on the Wyoming state line to the point of origin;
- (2) Unit BHS-BH3: that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River and north of Highway 44 and that portion of Jackson County north of the White River, ~~excluding the Badlands National Park;~~
- (3) Unit BHS-BH4: that portion of Custer, ~~Meade, Lawrence,~~ and Pennington Counties beginning at the junction of the Wyoming/~~South Dakota~~ state line ~~and Interstate 90, Lawrence County line, and Pennington County line~~ then east on the Pennington County line to Interstate 90 then south on Interstate 90 to Elk Vale Road then south on Elk Vale Road to SD Highway 79 then south on SD Highway 79 to the Custer/Fall River County line then west on the Custer/Fall River County line to Pilger Mountain Road then north on Pilger Mountain Road to Pleasant Valley

Road then north and east on Pleasant Valley Road to Richardson Cutoff then north on Richardson Cutoff to Pass Creek Road then west and north on Pass Creek Road to Mann Road then north on Mann Road to U.S. Highway 16 then west on U.S. Highway 16 to the Wyoming state line, then north on the Wyoming state line to the point of origin, excluding ~~Jewel Cave National Monument, Wind Cave National Park,~~ and Custer State Park; and

- (4) Unit BHS-CSP: the fenced portion of Custer State Park.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

- 1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE	_____	MODIFY	_____	REJECT	_____	NO ACTION	_____
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GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Mountain Goat Chapter 41:06:29

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration: 2025 and 2026 hunting seasons

Season Dates: Closed
** when open; September 1 – December 31*

Open Area: Closed
** when open; those portions of Pennington and Custer counties west of Highway 79 except Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Jewel Cave National Monument, and the fenced portion of Wind Cave National Park and Custer State Park.*

Licenses: 0 licenses were available in 2024 and the recommendation is for the season to remain closed in 2025 and 2026

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Application for a license may be made by any resident hunter who has not been previously issued a mountain goat license in South Dakota.
2. Land operator preference is not applicable to these licenses.
3. Mandatory check of harvested mountain goat by a Conservation Officer or Department representative within 24 hours of kill.
4. Successful applicants must attend a mandatory orientation meeting at the Rapid City Regional Office for education of hunter, furnishing materials for biological sampling, and for orientation to area prior to hunting.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

During helicopter surveys in the area near Crazy Horse Memorial, Battle Creek Road and Black Elk Peak, 42 mountain goats were counted in 2022 and 29 mountain goats were counted in 2024. The GFP mountain goat action plan, Objective 3, Strategy B states “When the minimum number counted reaches less than 50 individuals the season will be closed”.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Billies Harvested	Nannies Harvested
2003	3	1	2
2004	3	1	2
2005	2	0	2
2006	2	0	1
2007	Season Closed		
2008	Season Closed		
2009	Season Closed		
2010	Season Closed		
2011	Season Closed		
2012	Season Closed		
2013	Season Closed		
2014	Season Closed		
2015	2	1	1
2016	2	2	0
2017	2	2	0
2018	2	1	1
2019	2	1	1
2020	2	2	0
2021	2	1	1
2022	2	2	0
2023	Season Closed		
2024	Season Closed		

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

None

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Special Deer and Antelope

Chapter 41:06:20, 41:06:21, 41:06:23

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration: 2025 and 2026 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

- East River Special Deer
 - November 22 – December 7, 2025
 - November 21 – December 6, 2026

- West River Special Deer
 - November 15 – 30, 2025
 - * Except in Gregory County November 8 – 30*
 - November 14 – 29, 2026
 - * Except in Gregory County: November 7 – 29*

- Special Antelope
 - October 4 – 19, 2025
 - October 3 – 18, 2026

Licenses:

- East River Special Deer: 500 resident any deer licenses

- West River Special Deer:
 - 500 resident any deer licenses; 500 nonresident any deer licenses
 - 500 resident any whitetail licenses; 500 nonresident any whitetail licenses

- Special Antelope: 50 resident buck antelope licenses; 50 nonresident buck antelope licenses

Open Areas:

- East River Special Deer: private property not leased by GFP for public hunting in any East River Firearm Deer Hunting Season unit

- West River Special Deer: private property not leased by GFP for public hunting in any West River Firearm Deer Hunting Season unit

- Special Antelope: private property not leased by GFP for public hunting in any Firearm Antelope Hunting Season unit

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. East River Special Any Deer license allocation is the greater of four percent of the total East River Deer licenses which included an “any deer” tag allocated in the previous year, or 500 resident licenses.

2. West River Special Any Deer license allocation is the greater of four percent of the total West River Deer licenses which included an “any deer” tag allocated in the previous year, or 500 resident and 500 nonresident licenses. West River Special Any Whitetail Deer license allocation is the greater of four percent of the total West River Deer licenses which included

an “any whitetail deer” tag allocated in the previous year, or 500 resident and 500 nonresident licenses.

3. Any person may apply for both East and West River Special Deer licenses but may receive only one Special Deer license each year. A successful East River Special Deer licensee may not apply for an East River Deer license in the initial or second drawing. A successful East River Deer licensee may not apply for a leftover East River Special Deer license. A successful West River Special Deer licensee may not apply for a West River Deer license in the initial or second drawing. A successful West River Deer licensee may not apply for a leftover West River Special Deer license.
4. To apply, a Special Deer applicant must have permission from an owner or lessee of private property to hunt deer on the owner’s or lessee’s property located within the permitted area during the deer hunting season for which the Special Deer license is issued and the applicant must include the landowner or lessee’s name and telephone number on their application.
5. Any person that applies for a Special Antelope license may not apply for another antelope license until the second lottery drawing. A successful Special Antelope applicant may not apply for a leftover Special Antelope license.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Table 1. Special Deer and Special Antelope license and harvest information from 2022 and 2023.

Year	Season	License Type	Resident Licenses			Nonresident Licenses			Total Harvest
			Applicants 1st Choice	Available	Sold	Applicants 1st Choice	Available	Sold	
2022	ER Special Deer	Any Deer	1,243	500	499	NA	NA	NA	319
2023			1,148	500	501	NA	NA	NA	303
2022	WR Special Deer	Any Deer	929	500	500	992	500	493	742
2023			858	500	500	938	500	497	791
2022	WR Special Deer	Any Whitetail	85	500	491	313	500	483	613
2023			66	500	499	271	500	483	625
2022	Special Antelope	Buck Only	239	50	49	88	50	45	75
2023			247	50	46	135	50	46	78

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

None

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Duck Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:16

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration: 2025/2026 hunting season

Season Dates and Open Areas:

High Plains Zone:	October 11, 2025 – January 15, 2026
Low Plains North & Low Plains Middle Zone:	September 27, 2025 – December 9, 2026
Low Plains South Zone:	October 25, 2025 – January 6, 2026

2024 Daily Limits:

Tier 1 Option (Traditional Daily Bag Limit)

Ducks: 6 The duck daily limit (including mergansers) may be comprised of no more than: 5 mallards (which may include no more than 2 hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail* and 1 scaup.

- 2 Bonus blue-winged teal (first 16 days of the season only)*
 - Low Plains North & Low Plains Middle Zones: September 27 – October 12, 2025
 - Low Plains South Zone: October 25 – November 9, 2025
 - High Plains Zone: October 11 – 26, 2025

* Department recommendation is to increase pintail bag to 3 and reduce bonus blue-winged teal season to 9 days.

Coots: 15

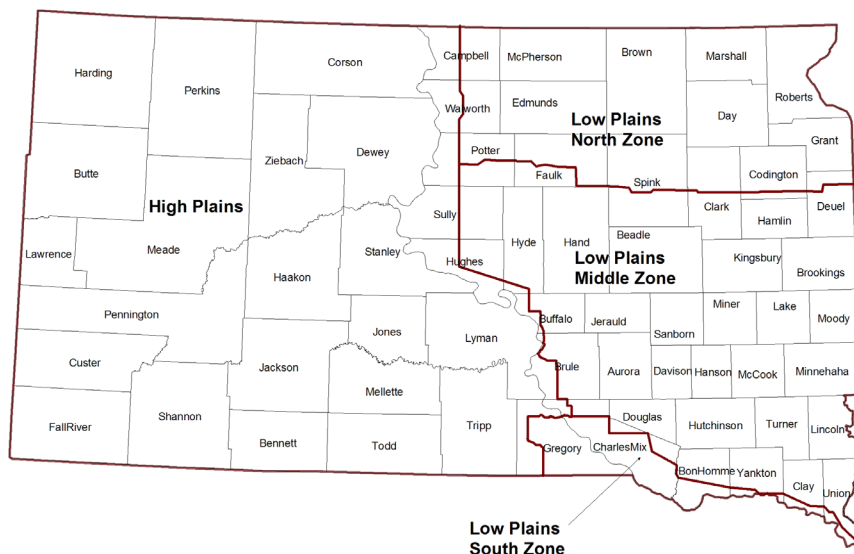
Tier 2 Option (3-Splash Daily Bag Limit)

Ducks: 3 The duck daily limit (including mergansers) may be comprised of three of any species or gender.

Coots: 15

Possession Limits: Three times the daily bag limits.

Duck Hunting Zones



DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Modify § 41:06:16:03 to increase the daily limit of pintail from one to three and reduce the bonus blue-winged teal season from sixteen to nine days.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

South Dakota GFP works cooperatively with US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to establish waterfowl hunting season structures. The FWS develops an annual Federal Register that imposes regulatory oversight. Within the Federal Register structure, GFP can impose more conservative hunting seasons, but cannot make hunting seasons more liberal. Some regulations are duck and goose unit boundaries, days that species can be hunted, and bag limits. These rules are established by input from cooperative groups called Flyways. South Dakota is included in the Central Flyway with GFP representation.

In the most recent Federal Register, the daily bag limit for pintail was increased from one to three and the bonus blue-winged teal season, occurring at the beginning of the duck season which allows the harvest of two additional teal, was decreased from sixteen to nine days. The pintail bag limit increase is experimental and is designed to evaluate how much pintail harvest affects their populations, which will be closely monitored over the next few years. The teal season was reduced in length because population estimates fell below 5 million which triggers the more conservative season.

Comparison of the 2018 - 2023 duck season statistics

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2018	10,271	134,307	6.88	13.08	4.99	4,051	41,515	4.31	10.25	5.11
2019	11,295	176,885	7.30	15.66	5.17	4,423	52,225	4.47	11.81	5.38
2020	12,285	190,515	7.75	15.51	5.15	4,274	51,169	4.36	11.97	5.38
2021	10,634	151,207	7.37	14.22	5.10	4,442	47,802	4.28	10.76	5.18
2022	10,417	158,173	7.40	15.18	5.10	4,267	52,082	4.34	12.21	5.40
2023	11,726	189,983	7.40	16.20	5.07	4,594	59,912	4.40	13.04	5.51

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:16:03. Daily bag limit. For purposes of this section, the term "ducks" includes "mergansers." The daily bag limit is six ducks, unless the person chooses the second-tier option at which the daily bag limit is an aggregate of three ducks or mergansers of any species or gender. The total daily limit of six ducks may include no more than two redheads, one scaup, three wood ducks, ~~one~~ three pintail, two canvasback, and five mallards, of which no more than two may be hen mallards.

During the first ~~46~~ nine days of the season an additional two blue-winged teal may be harvested in addition to the daily bag limit.

The daily bag limit for coots is ~~45~~ fifteen.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE	_____	MODIFY	_____	REJECT	_____	NO ACTION	_____
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GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

August Management Take Chapters 41:06:16

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2025 hunting season

Season Dates: August 16 - 31, 2025

Open Area: Meade County south of South Dakota Highway 34, Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River, and the counties of Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Hamlin, Grant, Marshall, McPherson, Roberts, and Spink.

Daily Bag Limit: 15 Canada geese

Possession Limit: None

Licenses: Residents only

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Annual Small Game or Combination license and state Migratory Bird Certificate. The Federal Waterfowl stamp is not required.
2. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
3. All other restrictions are the same as during the Early Fall and Regular Canada Goose Season.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

None

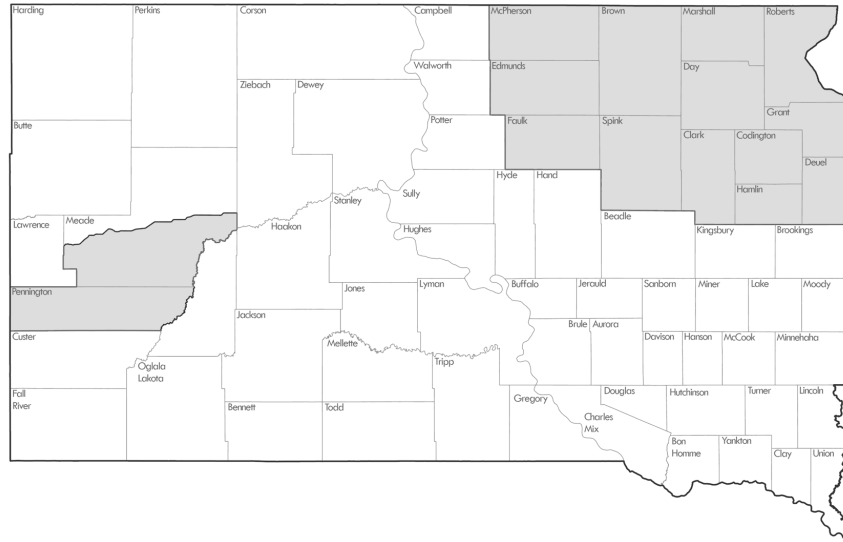
SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Table 1. Summary comparison of the 2011-24 August Management Take Canada goose seasons.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Hunters</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Average Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Season Bag</i>
2011	3,211	30,300	2.74	9.44
2012	3,581	36,757	3.08	10.26
2013	2,345	18,592	3.42	7.93
2014	2,302	20,671	3.24	8.98
2015	1,686	10,221	3.03	6.06
2016-20*	Unk	Unk	Unk	Unk
2021	2,463	24,942	2.33	10.13
2022	1,603	14,094	2.47	8.79
2023	1,263	11,035	2.50	8.74
2024	985	11,350	2.58	11.52

*The 2016-20 seasons were open only in Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River.

Figure 1. Areas open to hunting (gray shaded areas) for the Canada Goose August Management Take in 2024.



DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

None

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Early Fall Canada Goose Chapters 41:06:50

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration: 2025 hunting season

Season Dates: September 1 - 30, 2025 **Open Area:** Unit 1 (see map below)

Daily Limit: 15 Canada Geese **Possession Limit:** 45 Canada Geese

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

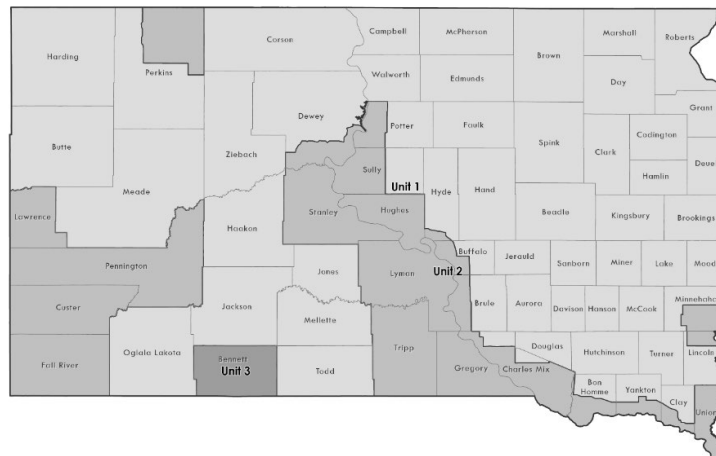
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Modify § 41:06:50:02 to no longer reference Unit 3.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Provided the recommended change to align Canada geese season dates in Unit 3 with Unit 2 is proposed, Unit 3 (Bennett County) would no longer need to be described in rule. The Early Fall Canada Goose season does not occur in Unit 3. However, Unit 3 is referenced in administrative rule for this season. Relevant information regarding Bennett County goose hunting seasons are included below.

Currently goose seasons in Bennett County are open for 65 days from mid-October to late December (Special Canada Goose), 2 days during the early youth waterfowl season, and again for 9 days in January during the regular goose hunting season for a total of 76 days. These season dates are a holdover from when Canada geese were not abundant or widely distributed across South Dakota. The recommendation to incorporate Unit 3 for the regular goose season and Special Canada goose into the current goose Unit 2 will reduce regulatory complexity, remove tagging requirements, and increase opportunity by 31 days. In addition, goose migrations are occurring later and adding Bennett County into Unit 2 begins the goose season at the latest dates authorized under the Federal goose hunting Frameworks.



Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 Early Fall Canada goose harvest statistics

Year	Number Hunters	Harvest	Average Season Bag
2014	5,106	28,814	5.64
2015	3,883	20,735	5.34
2016	3,366	27,660	8.22
2017	3,226	25,808	8.00
2018	2,716	17,904	6.59
2019	3,000	21,054	7.02
2020	3,857	33,769	8.76
2021	3,671	33,179	9.04
2022	3,034	28,547	9.41
2023	3,008	25,764	8.57

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:50:02. Open unit and season dates. Early fall Canada goose hunting season is open September 1 through September 30. This season is open statewide except in Units 2 and 3 as described in § 41:06:16:07.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Goose Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:16:07

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration: 2025/2026 waterfowl hunting seasons

Season Dates:

Canada Geese (and Brant)

- Unit 1: October 1 – December 16, 2025
- Unit 2: November 3, 2025 – February 15, 2026
- Unit 3: January 10-18, 2026

Light Geese

Statewide: September 27, 2025 – January 9, 2026

White-fronted Geese

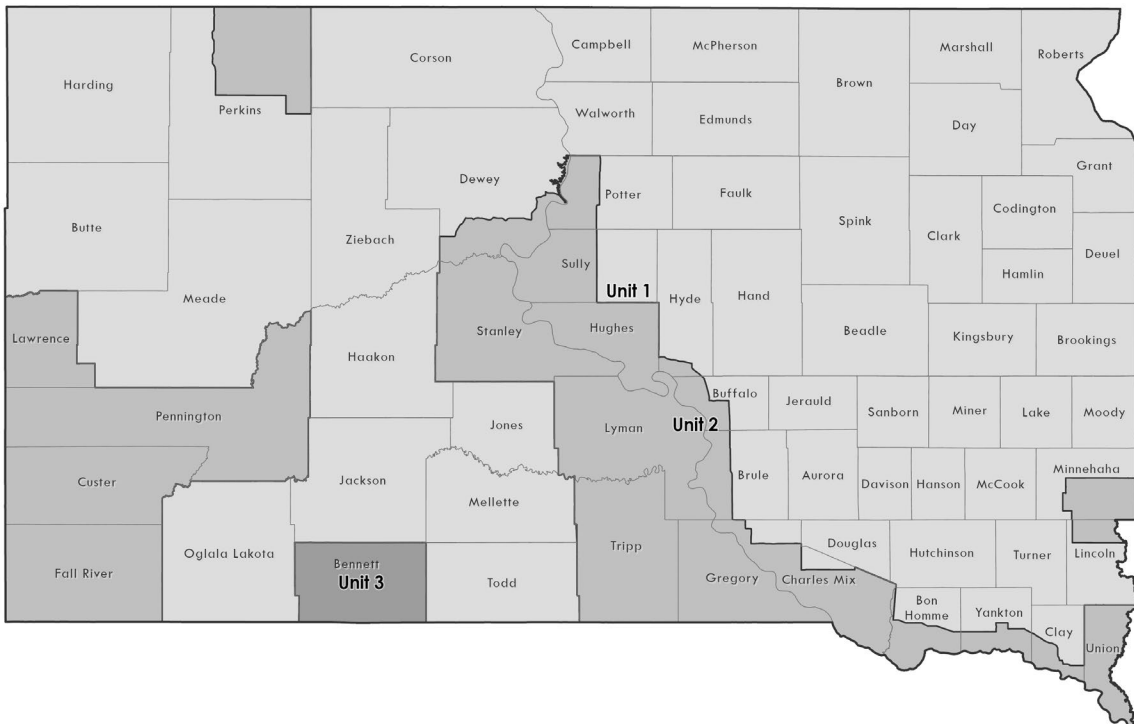
Statewide: September 27 - December 9, 2025

Daily Limits:

- Canada geese
 - Unit 1: 8
 - Unit 2: 4
 - Unit 3: 4
- Light geese: 50
- White-fronted goose: 3

Possession Limits:

- Light geese: Unlimited
- All other geese: Three times the daily limit



DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Modify § 41:06:16:07 season dates in Unit 3 to match the season dates in Unit 2 for Canada geese.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed change would modify season dates for Canada geese in Unit 3 to align with Unit 2. This would add 31 days of Canada goose hunting opportunity in Bennett County compared to the currently available 76 days which includes the statewide youth 2-day season, Special Canada Goose Unit 3 65-day season, and January Unit 3 9-day season. While hunters would have more season days to hunt, with nonresidents still restricted to two 5-day periods within the season, the adjustment would no longer permit individuals to hunt from the third Saturday of October through early-November, because the Unit 2 season only initiates in early-November. Per § 41:06:16:07, Unit 2 season dates are for 105 consecutive days preceding and including the Sunday closest to February fifteenth, in addition to the early 2-day youth waterfowl season.

Provided the recommended changes to repeal the Special Canada Goose season in Bennett County Unit 3 and modifications to nonresident waterfowl 10-day unit boundaries are accepted, waterfowl hunters would no longer be required to draw a permit with 3-tags to hunt Canada geese in Bennett County. Rather, nonresidents successful in drawing an NRW-00B license would be able to hunt in Bennett County for the two 5-day periods they choose, provided they fall within the season dates for Unit 2. Likewise, an unlimited number of residents would be able to hunt in Bennett County during the Unit 2 season dates. Canada goose hunters in Bennett County would be restricted to daily and possession limits rather than a 3-goose limit per permit. Previously, hunters in Bennett County were restricted to 800 resident 65-day season-long and 25 nonresident two 5-day period permits. The last time these resident licenses were all sold was in 2021. Since that time, there have been unsold licenses at the end of the season, which explains that the demand for these licenses is limited.

Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 Canada goose harvest statistics

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2014	12,130	97,956	6.92	8.08	4.96	1,969	5,193	4.31	2.76	5.22
2015	10,228	73,471	7.00	7.18	4.78	2,104	5,482	4.30	2.70	4.98
2016	9,964	85,809	6.98	8.61	4.87	2,046	5,485	4.51	2.77	4.86
2017	9,762	76,827	6.95	7.87	5.06	2,428	6,601	4.19	2.74	5.18
2018	8,633	63,848	6.67	7.40	4.93	2,289	5,638	4.17	2.52	5.11
2019	9,264	78,143	6.85	8.44	5.09	2,209	5,995	4.05	2.82	5.41
2020	10,356	93,682	6.96	9.05	5.07	2,199	6,924	3.96	3.15	5.38
2021	9,997	104,693	7.20	10.47	5.14	2,357	6,736	4.14	2.89	5.27
2022	8,973	90,680	6.96	10.11	5.07	2,327	8,209	4.11	3.55	5.51
2023	9,361	78,633	6.70	8.40	4.97	2,295	5,925	4.02	2.59	5.48

Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 regular season light goose harvests

Year	Residents					Nonresidents				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2014	3,572	49,460	5.34	13.85	4.92	514	4,355	4.58	8.47	5.02
2015	3,096	37,266	5.66	12.04	4.78	519	3,492	4.71	6.72	4.83
2016	3,206	39,841	5.41	12.43	4.85	515	5,263	5.40	10.22	4.77
2017	4,159	70,772	6.05	17.02	5.09	1,013	13,972	4.27	13.80	5.22
2018	3,099	39,624	5.40	12.79	4.93	883	6,644	4.39	7.53	4.85
2019	3,060	41,524	4.85	13.57	5.18	774	5,714	4.61	7.38	5.55
2020	3,415	43,499	5.61	12.74	5.17	761	5,473	3.92	7.20	5.27
2021	2,799	50,282	5.51	17.97	5.26	788	8,980	4.15	11.40	5.38
2022	3,182	72,756	5.83	22.87	5.06	852	10,267	4.01	12.05	5.64
2023	3,781	74,048	5.64	19.58	5.13	1,224	18,692	3.97	15.27	5.58

Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 white-fronted goose harvests

Year	Residents				Nonresidents			
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag, Season	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag, Season
2014	951	1,378	6.13	1.45	244	151	4.80	0.62
2015	1,097	1,618	5.93	1.47	275	201	5.20	0.73
2016	992	1,707	6.43	1.72	295	176	5.52	0.60
2017	1,185	2,286	6.30	1.93	354	292	5.00	0.83
2018	1,262	2,428	5.67	1.92	426	293	4.83	0.69
2019	1,015	2,176	4.60	2.14	358	601	4.78	1.68
2020	1,256	2,804	7.05	2.23	283	359	4.26	1.27
2021	1,358	3,748	5.61	2.76	466	1,071	4.33	2.30
2022	1,494	3,939	6.64	2.64	470	935	3.88	1.99
2023	2,117	6,392	5.92	3.02	642	1,484	4.14	2.31

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:16:07. Goose hunting season, Conservation Order, and August Management Take established -- Shooting hours -- Exceptions -- Open units -- Closed areas. The light goose hunting season is open statewide for one hundred and five consecutive days beginning on the last Saturday of September. A Conservation Order is open statewide from the day after Unit 2 dark goose season ends to May fifteenth. Only light geese, as defined in § 41:06:16:06.01, may be taken during a Conservation Order.

As used in this article, a Conservation Order is a Congressional Order which amends the Fish and Wildlife Service regulations based on a 1999 Congressional action (Pub. L. No. 106-108,) effectively reinstating regulations intended to reduce the population of mid-continent light geese.

Additionally, an August Management Take for the taking of Canada geese is open to South Dakota residents beginning on the third Saturday of August through August thirty-first in Meade County south of South Dakota Highway 34, Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River, and the counties of Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Hamlin, Grant, Marshall, McPherson, Roberts, and Spink.

The white-fronted goose season is open statewide for seventy-four consecutive days beginning on the last Saturday of September.

The dark goose season is open statewide as specifically provided for in this section ~~and the special Canada goose hunting units in § 41:06:16:08:~~

(1) Unit 1: the counties of Aurora, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Butte, Campbell, Clark, Codington, Corson, Davison, Day, Deuel, Douglas, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Haakon, Hamlin, Hand, Hanson, Harding, Hutchinson, Jackson, Jerauld, Jones, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, McPherson, Marshall, Meade, Mellette, Moody, Miner, Oglala Lakota, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Todd, Turner, Walworth, and Ziebach; that portion of Dewey County north of Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 8, Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 9, and the section of U.S. Highway 212 east of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 8 junction; that portion of Potter County east of U.S. Highway 83; that portion of Sully County east of U.S. Highway 83; portions of Hyde, Buffalo, Brule, Charles Mix, and Bon Homme counties north and east of a line beginning at the Hughes-Hyde county line on State Highway 34, east to Lees Boulevard, southeast to the State Highway 34, east seven miles to 350th Avenue, south to Interstate 90 on 350th Avenue, south and east on State Highway 50 to Geddes, east on 285th Street to U.S. Highway 281, north on U.S. Highway 281 to the Charles Mix-Douglas county boundary; the portion of Bon Homme County north of State Highway 50, the portions of Yankton and Clay counties north of County Highway 585 (306th Street) to U.S. Highway 81, then north on U.S. Highway 81 to 303rd Street, then east on 303rd Street to 444th Avenue, then south on 444th Avenue to 305th Street, then east on Bluff Road (305th Street) to County Highway 19, south to State Highway 50 and east to the Clay/Union County line; the portion of Perkins County west of State Highway 75 and south of State Highway 20; that portion of Lincoln County west of State Highway 17 and south of County Highway 116 (Klondike Road); and the portion of Minnehaha County north of a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Minnesota state line and County Highway 122 (254th Street) west to its junction with County Highway 149 (464th Avenue), the portion west of County Highway 149 (464th Avenue) to Hartford, the portion west of County Highway 151 (463rd Avenue) to State Highway 42, the portion south of State Highway 42 to State Highway 17, and the portion west of State Highway 17 to the Minnehaha-Lincoln county boundary. The season is open for one hundred and seven consecutive days, less the number of days set aside for the Early Fall Canada Goose season established in chapter 41:06:50 that begins on October first;

(2) Unit 2: those portions of the state not described in Unit 1 and Unit 3. The season is open for one hundred and five consecutive days preceding and including the Sunday closest to February fifteenth; and

~~—(3) Unit 3: Bennett County. The season is open for nine consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday of January.~~

Except for the light goose Conservation Order, shooting hours for geese are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily. The shooting hours for the light goose Conservation Order are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset daily.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Regulation complexity and requirements to obtain Canada goose permits to harvest geese in Bennett County, Unit 3.
2. Historical Considerations – This was originally established to limit Canada goose harvest and hunters. However, there is no longer a concern of overharvest in this area and permits for this unit do not sell out.
3. Biological Considerations – There is no concern this will result in a biological impact to the Canada goose population in the area.
4. Social Considerations – This will increase hunting opportunity and simplify regulation complexity for waterfowl hunters.
5. Financial considerations – NA.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No, it increases their ability to participate.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Provides more hunting opportunity without compromising the resource or hunting experience.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Special Canada Goose Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:16, 41:06:03

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration: 2025 hunting season

Season Dates: October 18 – December 21, 2025

Open Area: Bennett County (Unit 3)

Licenses: 800 permits with 3-tags per permit

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

- (1) Repeal § 41:06:16:08 to allow hunting in this area with an appropriate waterfowl license without the requirement to obtain a permit specific to Bennett County.
- (2) Modify § 41:06:16:09 to remove language describing bag limits, permit requirements, and application process for CGW-11A Special Canada Goose. Bennett County would default to Canada Goose season dates and bag limits for Unit 2.
- (3) Modify § 41:06:03:01 to remove the reference to a locking seal requirement for Canada geese based on repealing this season, which had required goose tags.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Waterfowl hunters would no longer be required to draw a goose permit with 3-tags per permit to hunt Canada geese in Bennett County. Rather, nonresidents successful in drawing an NRW-00B license would be able to hunt in Bennett County for the two 5-day periods they choose, provided they fall within the season dates for Unit 2 and they adhere to the daily and possession bag limits. Likewise, an unlimited number of residents would be able to hunt in Bennett County during the Unit 2 season dates and allowed to harvest Canada geese according to the daily and possession bag limits. Previously, hunters in Bennett County were restricted to 800 resident 65-day season-long and 25 nonresident two 5-day period permits.

Provided the recommended change to align Canada geese season dates in Unit 3 with Unit 2 is accepted, this would also add 31 days of hunting opportunity in Bennett County compared to the currently available 76 days which include the statewide youth 2-day season, Special Canada Goose Unit 3 65-day season, and January Unit 3 9-day season. While hunters would have more season days to hunt, with nonresidents still restricted to two 5-day periods within the season, the adjustment would no longer permit individuals to hunt from the third Saturday of October through early November, when the Unit 2 season initiates. Per § 41:06:16:07, Unit 2 season dates are for 105 consecutive days preceding and including the Sunday closest to February fifteenth, in addition to the early 2-day youth waterfowl season.

Table 1. License and harvest data from resident Special Canada Goose season.

Year	Licenses Available	1 st Choice Applicants	Licenses Sold	Geese Harvested
2005	800	754	797	884
2006	800	799	800	1,136
2007	800	828	800	1,016
2008	800	740	800	720
2009	800	665	800	589
2010	800	524	800	810
2011	800	429	800	952
2012	800	406	800	1,139
2013	800	468	799	671
2014	800	412	800	585
2015	800	390	801	635
2016	800	370	799	410
2017	800	289	800	933
2018	800	241	799	598
2019	800	241	789	676
2020	800	188	754	731
2021	800	169	799	779
2022	800	170	666	480
2023	800	160	647	408
2024	800	178	560	NA

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

~~41:06:16:08. Special Canada goose hunting unit established -- Limited permits -- Application. Repealed. Unit CGW-11A: Bennett County, including tribal trust lands, is open for the special Canada goose hunting season for 65 consecutive days beginning on the third Saturday of October; 800 permits with three tags per permit.~~

-

~~— A person may not hunt Canada geese unless the person has been issued a special permit and tags. Each tag is valid for taking one Canada goose consistent with the provisions of § 41:06:16:09. Each goose must be tagged immediately upon retrieval.~~

-

~~— Half of the permits are available to persons with land occupant preference. If licenses remain unsold following an initial first come, first served period, a person already holding a license may apply for up to two additional licenses.~~

~~41:06:16:09. Bag and possession limits on geese. The daily bag limit in the special Canada goose hunting unit established in § 41:06:16:08 may include no more than 50 light geese, three geese that may be a combination of Canada geese and black Brant, and three white-fronted geese.~~

The daily bag limit in Unit 1 during the goose hunting season may include no more than 50 light geese, eight geese that may be a combination of Canada geese and black Brant, and three white-fronted geese. The daily bag limit in Unit 2 during the goose hunting season may include no more than 50 light geese, four geese that may be a combination of Canada geese and black Brant, and three white-fronted geese. ~~The daily bag limit in Unit 3 during the goose hunting season may include no more than 50 light geese, and four geese that may be a combination of Canada geese and black Brant.~~ The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit, except there is no possession limit for light geese.

There is no daily bag or possession limit for light geese taken during a Conservation Order.

During the August Management Take, the daily bag limit is 15 Canada geese. There is no possession limit for Canada geese during the August Management Take.

41:06:03:01. Tagging required. The locking seal issued with each big game license, or swan license, ~~or special Canada goose license~~ is an adhesive tag. The licensee shall sign the tag and date it by cutting out completely the month and day of the date of kill only. The licensee shall attach the tag securely around one leg of a mountain lion, turkey, or swan, ~~or goose~~. The licensee shall attach the tag securely to all hoofed big game animals:

- (1) Around one hind leg between the hoof and ankle joint;
- (2) Around the hock tendon directly above the ankle joint on one hind leg; or
- (3) Around the base of the antler or horn.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Regulation complexity and requirements to obtain a 3-tag Canada goose permit to harvest geese in Bennett County, Unit 3.
2. Historical Considerations – This was originally established to limit Canada goose harvest and hunters. However, there is no longer a concern of overharvest in this area and permits for this unit do not sell out.
3. Biological Considerations – There is no concern this will result in a biological impact to the Canada goose population in the area.
4. Social Considerations – This will increase hunting opportunity and simplify regulation complexity for waterfowl hunters.
5. Financial considerations – Permits will not be sold for Bennett County.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No, it increases their ability to participate.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Provides more hunting opportunity without compromising the resource or hunting experience.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

FISCAL IMPACT

Permits will not be sold for Bennett County Unit 3 Special Canada Goose Hunting season.

APPROVE	_____	MODIFY	_____	REJECT	_____	NO ACTION	_____
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GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Spring Light Goose Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:16

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Spring Light Goose Conservation Order.

Duration of Recommendation: 2026 hunting season

Season Dates: February 16 – May 15, 2026

Open Area: Statewide

Daily Limit: None

Possession Limit: None

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. With the exception of items 2-5, requirements and restrictions for the Conservation Order are the same as fall waterfowl hunting seasons.
2. The Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation stamp is not required.
3. The use of electronic calls is allowed.
4. Shotguns may be capable of holding more than three shells.
5. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Comparison of the 2015 - 2024 Conservation Order light goose statistics

Year	Residents			Nonresidents		
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Total Days Hunted	Number Hunters	Harvest	Total Days Hunted
2015	2,147	53,046	12,402	4,277	112,285	16,569
2016	1,866	36,572	9,485	3,843	89,627	15,076
2017	2,672	56,683	16,068	4,448	124,777	17,559
2018	2,736	51,260	14,029	4,643	114,819	18,548
2019	1,413	31,475	6,976	2,700	49,219	9,490
2020	2,078	31,164	11,197	2,830	65,682	11,498
2021	1,755	32,553	9,144	4,446	95,776	17,870
2022	2,101	51,071	10,856	4,329	118,576	17,610
2023	3,537	61,751	14,497	3,688	102,820	13,856
2024	3,673	106,853	24,316	4,229	121,692	18,401

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

None

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Sandhill Crane Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:18

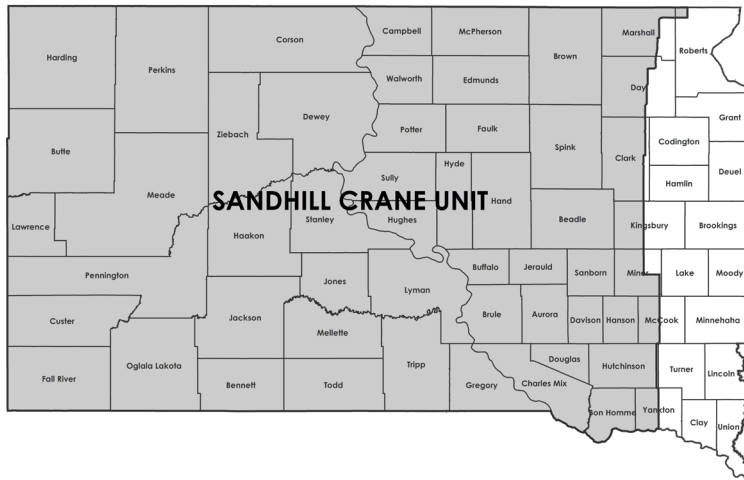
Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2025 hunting season

Season Dates: September 27 – November 23, 2025

Open Area: That portion of the state lying west of a line beginning at the South Dakota-North Dakota border and State Highway 25, south on State Highway 25 to its junction with State Highway 34, east on State Highway 34 to its junction with U.S. Highway 81, then south on U.S. Highway 81 to the South Dakota-Nebraska border.



Daily Limit: 3 Sandhill cranes

Possession Limit: 9 Sandhill cranes

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.
2. Nontoxic shot rules apply to Sandhill crane hunting.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

None

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

None

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE ____ MODIFY ____ REJECT ____ NO ACTION ____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Tundra Swan Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:16

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2025/2026 hunting season

Season Dates: October 4, 2025 – January 9, 2026

Open Area: All counties east of the Missouri River except, for Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Turner, Union, and Yankton counties.

Licenses: 1,100 resident and 200 nonresident single tag licenses

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Each resident and nonresident hunter may apply for and receive only one permit from the respective resident and nonresident permit pools in the first drawing. Nonresident permits are issued only in conjunction with a prerequisite nonresident waterfowl license and must be applied for at the same time.
2. For the second drawing, if permits remain unsold, only those residents and nonresidents who do not have a permit may submit one application for a permit remaining in the respective resident and nonresident pools.
3. For the third drawing, if any resident or nonresident permits remain unsold, any resident or nonresident may apply for a first or second permit but, in total, may only have up to two permits.
4. Licenses required include all licenses needed for waterfowl hunting.
5. One tag will be issued with each permit and each swan must be tagged immediately upon retrieval.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Comparison of the 2014-2023 Tundra Swan Seasons.

Year	Licenses Sold			Harvest (w/o cripples)	Avg Days Hunted	Percent Success	Average Satisfaction
	Resident	Nonres	Total				
2014	1,018	198	1,216	280	3.27	23%	5.11
2015	1,088	211	1,299	229	3.07	18%	5.09
2016	938	145	1,083	82	2.96	8%	4.81
2017	888	180	1,068	232	5.17	22%	5.10
2018	973	216	1,189	179	4.71	15%	4.85
2019	972	213	1,185	214	4.18	18%	5.11
2020	919	247	1,166	189	4.76	16%	4.76
2021	982	215	1,197	86	4.49	7%	4.49
2022	958	307	1,265	142	4.68	11%	4.72
2023	1,022	276	1,298	294	4.64	23%	5.11

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

None

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:49

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2025 hunting season

Season Dates: September 13 - 14, 2025

Open Area: Statewide

Daily Limit: Same as for regular duck and goose seasons

Possession Limit: Same as for regular duck and goose seasons

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Residents and nonresidents who have not reached the age of 18 by the first day of the season may hunt in the youth waterfowl hunting season. Nonresident youth are limited to 100 waterfowl licenses.
2. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
3. The youth hunter must be properly licensed to hunt waterfowl in the state, unless participating under a Mentored Hunt scenario as described in "Mentored Youth Hunting".
4. All other hunting restrictions will be the same as during the regular waterfowl seasons.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

None

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

None

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Nonresident Waterfowl Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:16:11

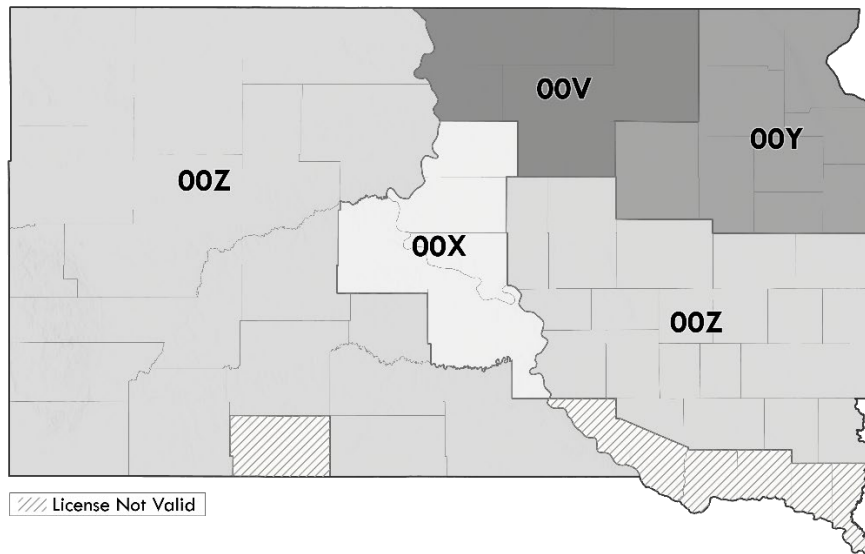
Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 3, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	April 3-4, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

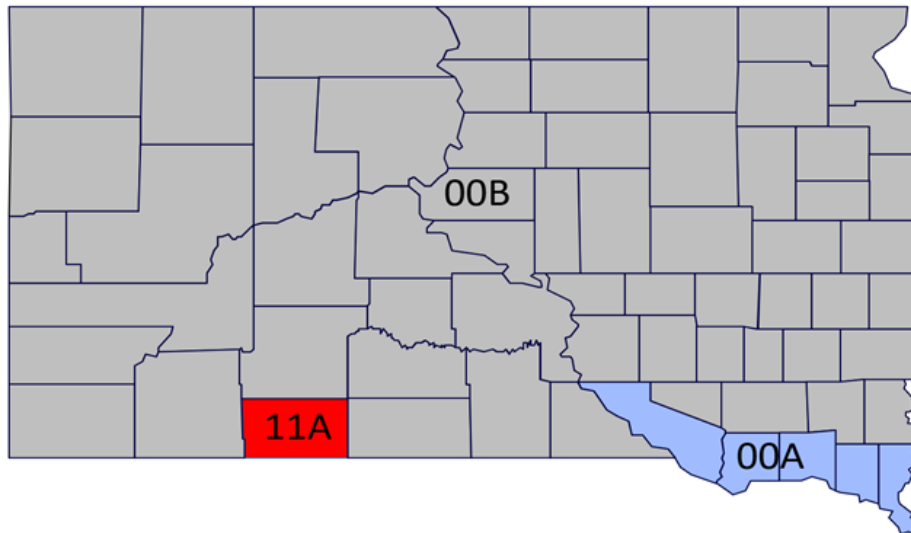
Duration: 2025/2026 waterfowl hunting seasons

Licenses: Nonresidents: Limited in all units and seasons. 6,300 licenses.

Current 3-day Nonresident Waterfowl Units



Current 10-day and Season-long Nonresident Waterfowl Units



DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Move 25 nonresident licenses from NRW-11A to NRW-00B to accommodate repealing Special Canada Goose Hunting Season (Unit 3; 11A).

Nonresident Waterfowl System

Season/Unit	Private/Public	Length	Description	2024 Licenses	Recommended 2025 Licenses
NRW-00A	Public and Private	Season long	Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Union, and Yankton counties	250	250
NRW-00B	Public and Private	Two 5-day periods	Statewide except 00A and 11A	3,925	3,950
NRW-11A	Public and Private	Two 5-day periods	Bennett County	25	0
NRW-00V	Private	3 day	Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson and Walworth counties	550	550
NRW-00X	Private	3 day	Hughes, Lyman, Potter, Stanley and Sully counties	750	750
NRW-00Y	Public and Private	3 day	Clark, Codington, Day, Duel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts and Spink counties	500	500
NRW-00Z	Private	3 day	Statewide except Unit 00A, 00X, 00V, 00Y and 11A	300	300
Total				6,300	6,300

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Provided the recommended changes to align Canada geese season dates in Unit 3 with Unit 2 and repeal the Special Canada Goose Hunting Season are accepted, 25 nonresident licenses are recommended to be moved from NRW-11A to nonresident hunting unit NRW-00B. This recommended change will not result in a change to the total number of nonresident waterfowl hunters/licenses.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:16:11. Maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses -- Open units -- Dates -- License restrictions. The maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses to be issued by lottery is four thousand two hundred special nonresident waterfowl licenses, two thousand early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident licenses, two thousand one hundred fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses, one hundred nonresident youth waterfowl licenses, and ten thousand spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses divided for administrative purposes as follows:

(1) Unit NRW-00A: the counties of Union, Clay, Yankton, Bon Homme, and Charles Mix. No more than two hundred and fifty special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(2) Unit NRW-00B: all open counties not in Units NRW-00A or ~~NRW-11A~~. No more than three thousand, nine hundred and ~~twenty-five~~ fifty special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(3) Unit NRW-00C: those units as described in § 41:06:50:02. No more than two thousand early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

~~(4) Unit NRW-11A: Bennett County. No more than twenty-five special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The season in this unit is open for sixty-five consecutive days beginning on the third Saturday of October and during any period that Bennett County is open in January as described in subdivision 41:06:16:07(3);~~

(5) Unit NRW-00X: the counties of Potter, Stanley, Sully, Hughes, and Lyman. No more than seven hundred and fifty fall three-day, temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;

(6) Unit NRW-OOV: the counties of Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, and Walworth. No more than five hundred and fifty fall three-day, temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;

(7) Unit NRW-00Y: the counties of Spink, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Grant, Clark, Codington, Deuel, and Hamlin. No more than five hundred three-day, temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(8) Unit NRW-OOZ: statewide except the counties in Units NRW-OOA, ~~NRW-11A~~, NRW-OOV, NRW-OOX and NRW-OOY. No more than three hundred fall three-day, temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;

(9) Unit NRW-ST1: statewide. No more than ten thousand spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only during a Conservation Order issued pursuant to 50 CFR § 21.180;

(10) Unit NYW-YW1: statewide. No more than one hundred nonresident youth waterfowl licenses may be issued for the youth waterfowl season established in § 41:06:49:01. A nonresident youth may also hunt during the youth waterfowl season, with a valid waterfowl hunting license, as provided for in this section.

Licenses issued under this section are valid only in the unit for which they are issued. ~~Licenses for Unit NRW-11A include two tags for Canada geese. Each tag is valid for taking one Canada goose, consistent with the provisions of § 41:06:16:09. Each goose must be tagged immediately upon retrieval.~~

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Regulation complexity and requirements to obtain Canada goose permits to harvest geese in Bennett County, Unit 3.
2. Historical Considerations – This was originally established to limit Canada goose harvest and hunters. However, there is no longer a concern of overharvest in this area and permits for this unit do not sell out.
3. Biological Considerations – There is no concern this will result in a biological impact to the Canada goose population in the area.
4. Social Considerations – This will increase hunting opportunity and simplify regulation complexity for waterfowl hunters.
5. Financial considerations – NA.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Mountain Lion Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:61

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	March 6, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	March 6-7, 2025	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: Beginning in 2025

Season Dates: Black Hills Fire Protection District:
December 26, 2024 – April 30, 2025
December 26, 2025 – April 30, 2026

Outside Black Hills Fire Protection District:
December 26, 2024 - Dec. 25, 2025
December 26, 2025 – Dec.25, 2026

Open unit: Statewide

Licenses: Unlimited (1 license per individual), residents only

Harvest Limit: Black Hills Fire Protection District: 60 mountain lions or 40 female mountain lions (includes Custer State Park)

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. No person may harvest more than one (1) mountain lion in a season.
2. No person may hunt mountain lions with the aid of traps or bait.
3. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
4. No mountain lion with a spotted coat (kitten) and no mountain lion accompanying another mountain lion may be harvested.
5. A person may use an electronic call to hunt mountain lions.
6. All firearms, muzzleloaders, and archery equipment must meet the same minimum requirements as established in administrative rule for deer hunting.
7. The Game, Fish and Parks Commission, by resolution, may authorize the mountain lion season to extend beyond April 30.
8. The use of dogs to hunt mountain lions is only allowed during those specified hunting intervals in Custer State Park that allow for the use of dogs, and year-round outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District on private land with permission of the landowner or lessee. However, pursuit of a mountain lion by dogs that originates on private land may cross over or culminate on private land, with permission from the landowner or lessee, or on public land, unless expressly prohibited by the managing entity.
9. In Custer State Park, a person using dogs shall attempt to harvest the first legal mountain lion they have a reasonable opportunity to harvest, except under the condition where the lion pursued shows obvious signs of lactation.
10. Licensed hunters must accompany the dog handler when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt thereafter until the hunt is completed.
11. Custer State Park is closed to mountain lion hunting except for 75 mountain lion licensees who possess a valid mountain lion license and a temporary access permit structured to include:
 - (a) Four hunting intervals each having 15 access permits in which hunting with dogs is not allowed.

- (b) Five hunting intervals each having three access permits in which hunting with dogs is allowed.
 - (c) Hunting in Custer State Park shall begin with an interval that allows the use of dogs and rotate every 14 days with an interval that does not allow the use of dogs until the lion season closes in the Black Hills Fire Protection District. The temporary access permits are issued free-of-cost and may be issued by a random drawing.
12. All mountain lions harvested within the Black Hills must be presented to a department representative at the Rapid City Regional Office or Custer State Park Headquarters within 24 hours of harvest for inspection. Any person who harvests a mountain lion outside of the Black Hills region must present the mountain lion to a department representative within 24 hours of harvest.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Modify § 41:06:06 to allow the initiation of the pursuit of a mountain lion with dogs outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District to occur anywhere, where permitted by the landowner.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The rule change would allow more mountain lion hunting opportunity on the prairie because the restriction of where the pursuit may initiate outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District will be removed. This may result in increased harvest of mountain lions on the prairie of South Dakota.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:61:06. Application requirements -- License and season restrictions -- Special conditions -- Carcass check-in procedures. The following requirements, restrictions, special conditions, and procedures apply to all applications for license and to all licenses issued under this chapter:

- (1) Only residents of the state may apply for a license;
- (2) No person may harvest more than one mountain lion in a season;
- (3) No person may harvest or attempt to harvest a mountain lion with a spotted coat or any mountain lion accompanying another mountain lion;
- (4) No person may hunt mountain lions with the aid of traps or bait;
- (5) The use of dogs to hunt mountain lions is allowed only during those specified hunting intervals in Custer State Park that allow the use of dogs; and year-round outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District ~~when on private land, with permission of the landowner or lessee. However, a pursuit of a mountain lion by dogs that originates on private land may cross over or culminate on private land, with permission from the landowner or lessee, or on public land, unless expressly prohibited by the managing entity;~~
- (6) No person may release dogs on tracks indicating multiple mountain lions traveling together;
- (7) In Custer State Park, a person using dogs shall attempt to harvest the first legal mountain lion the person has a reasonable opportunity to harvest, except under the condition in which the lion pursued shows obvious signs of lactation;
- (8) Licensed hunters must accompany the dog handler when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt until the hunt is completed;
- (9) A person may use any firearm, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow established by statute or administrative rule as legal implements for the taking of deer;
- (10) Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Park, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial are closed to mountain lion hunting; and
- (11) All mountain lions harvested must be presented to a department representative within 24 hours of harvest for inspection.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – Historically, mountain lion hunting outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District was established to mitigate mountain lion depredation on private land and there was concern with hounds originating on public land potentially causing conflict with other users.
3. Biological Considerations – More mountain lions may be harvested because pursuit of mountain lions can initiate anywhere on the prairie, with permission.
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? The change will remove restrictions where a chase for hunting lions may initiate.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

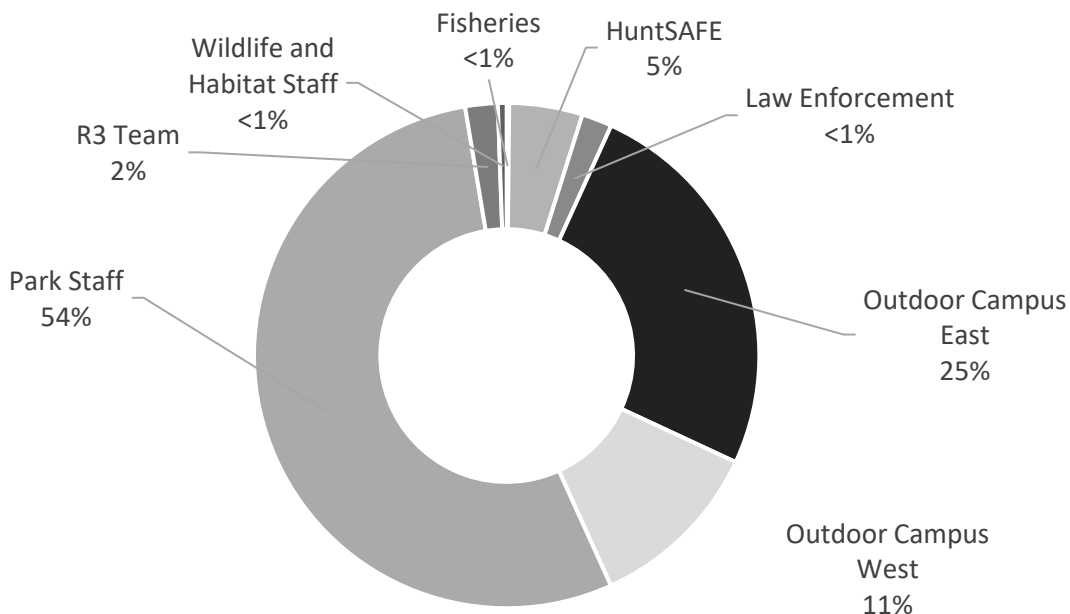
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2024 South Dakota State Parks Events and Outreach Participation

In 2024, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks held 3,752 programs with 127,435 participants. Of the reported programs, Parks staff hosted 2,031 events, reaching 91,570 participants. Educational and event programming is a great partnership between Wildlife and Park Divisions. Many outreach events are held in South Dakota State Parks because of the recreational opportunities and resources available.

Both the Wildlife Division and the Parks Division continue to focus on recruitment by teaching skills to encourage new hunting, fishing, and park entrance license sales and increase park visitation. Environmental education, fishing, hunting skills, and outdoor skills have the highest percentage of programs.

2024 All GFP Programming – Number of Programs Provided

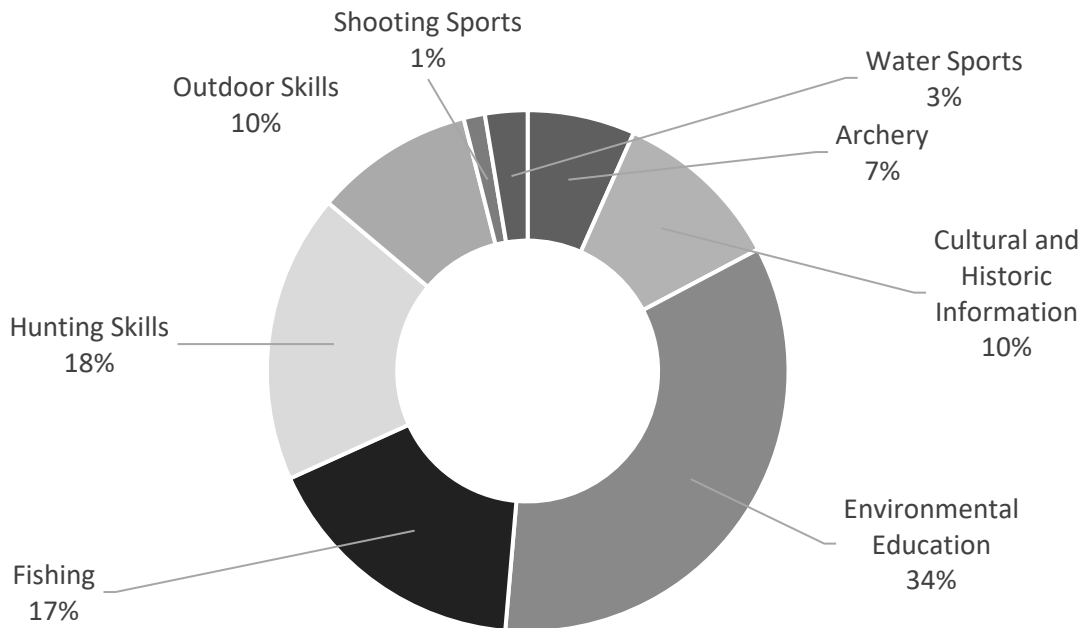


Program Provider	# Of Programs	% Of Programs
Fisheries	6	<1%
HuntSAFE	176	5%
Law Enforcement	73	2%
Outdoor Campus East	943	25%
Outdoor Campus West	424	11%
Park Staff	2031	54%
R3 Team	78	2%
Wildlife and Habitat Staff	21	1%

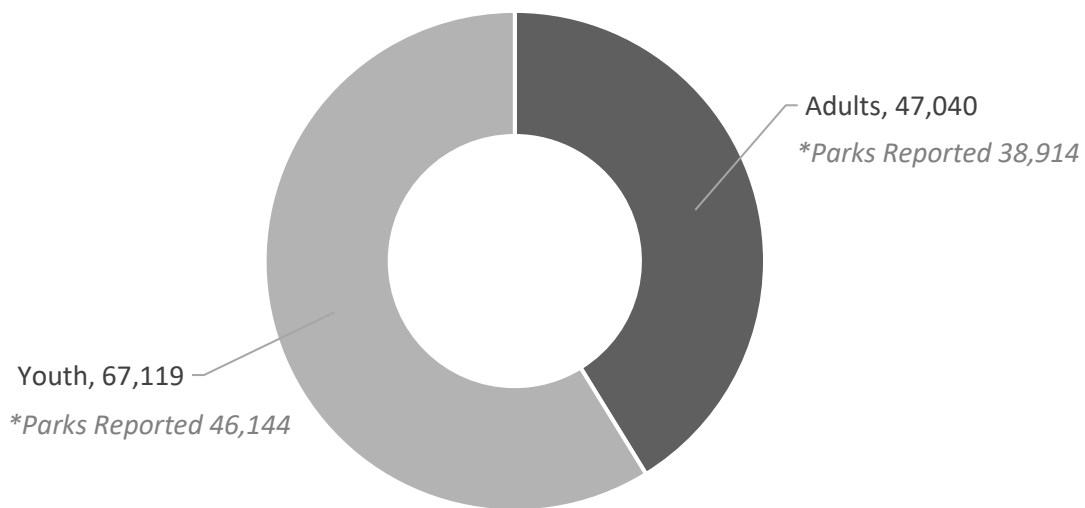




2024 All GFP Programming - Topics



2024 All GFP Programming - Participation Ages



Note: A total of 13,276 participants did not report age, and were excluded to the above graph.





All GFP Programming - Historical Programming Numbers and Attendance

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Programs Provided	1,041	2,531	3,824	3,663	3,752
People Reached	31,923	73,327	97,966	97,439	127,435

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Adult Attendees	41%	41%	39%	36%	41%
Youth Attendees	59%	59%	61%	64%	59%

	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
			<i># and % of programs</i>		<i># and % of programs</i>		<i># and % of programs</i>		<i># and % of programs</i>	
Archery	93	9%	162	7%	200	6%	195	6%	238	7%
Cultural/ Historic	127	12%	194	8%	341	10%	364	11%	378	10%
Environmental Education	326	31%	816	36%	1,372	39%	1,265	37%	1,217	34%
Fishing	165	16%	354	16%	371	11%	420	12%	602	17%
Hunting Skills	132	13%	268	12%	508	14%	554	16%	639	18%
Outdoor Skills	134	13%	374	16%	540	15%	457	13%	353	10%
Shooting Sports	26	3%	35	2%	36	1%	34	1%	47	1%
Water Sports	36	3%	80	3%	134	4%	118	4%	94	3%

Note: The Wildlife Division has maintained its focus on recruiting and retraining more hunters, trappers, and anglers. This emphasis led to a shift from environmental education programs to more fishing and hunting skills programs, with a noticeable increase in these offerings in 2023 compared to 2022—a trend that continued into 2024. The Reel in Memories 2024 park theme also encouraged more fishing programs being offered in the parks.





SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

2024 Top Attended Park Staff Events *Buffalo Roundup is not included in the charts above

Park	Event	Participants
Custer State Park	Buffalo Roundup	24,178
Fort Sisseton Historic State Park	Historic Festival	11,345
Good Earth State Park	Summer Concert Series	3,686
Big Sioux Recreation Area	Trick or Treat Trails	2,800
Good Earth State Park	Indigenous Artists of the Prairie	1,020
Fort Sisseton Historic State Park	Harvest Festival	945
Lewis & Clark Recreation Area	Fall in the Park	900
Beaver Creek Recreation Area	Homesteader Day	900
Adams Homestead and Nature Area	Christmas at the Homestead	635
Lake Herman State Park	Luce Pioneer Day	612

2024 Top Hosted Park Program Locations

Park	Programs	Participants
Custer State Park	954	22,096
Good Earth State Park	176	13,292
Lewis & Clark Recreation Area	128	6,963
Fort Sisseton Historic State Park	111	15,273
Pelican Lake Recreation Area	105	4,718
Adams Homestead and Nature Area	96	4,735



Division of Parks and Recreation					
December 2024 Revenue by Item					
	2023		2024		% Change
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Annual	793	\$ 28,002	1,148	\$ 42,498	52%
2nd Annual		\$ 1,908	-	\$ -	-100%
Double	1,942	\$ 103,192	2,703	\$ 149,678	45%
Transferable	135	\$ 10,800	183	\$ 15,270	41%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	73	\$ 1,065	283	\$ 4,580	330%
Annual Licenses	2,943	\$ 144,967	4,317	\$ 212,026	46%
Daily License	633	\$ 5,023	1,586	\$ 14,348	186%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	22	\$ 330	26	\$ 435	32%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	8	\$ 32	507	\$ 2,030	6244%
Motorcoach Permit	3,498	\$ 10,494	61	\$ 183	-98%
CSP 7 Day Pass	649	\$ 12,980	2,007	\$ 42,860	230%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	-	\$ -	43	\$ 860	
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
One-Day Special Event	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
Daily Licenses	4,810	\$ 28,859	4,230	\$ 60,716	110%
Licenses	7,753	\$ 173,826	8,547	\$ 272,742	57%
Camping Services		\$ 125,954		\$ 136,235	8%
Pet Fees	5	\$ 50	20	\$ 200	299%
LODGING		\$ 126,004		\$ 136,435	8%
Picnic Shelters		\$ 70		\$ 20	-71%
Boat Rentals		\$ -		\$ -	
Firewood	27	\$ 162	106	\$ 639	294%
Gift Card	197	\$ 16,117	199	\$ 16,910	5%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ -		\$ -	
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ -		\$ -	
Retail		\$ 804		\$ 2,022	151%
Call Center Fee	203	\$ 396	141	\$ 618	56%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ 82,181		\$ 22,637	
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 99,730		\$ 42,846	-57%
TOTAL		\$ 399,561		\$ 452,023	13%

Division of Parks and Recreation					
December YTD 2024 Revenue by Item					
	2023		2024		% Change
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Annual	61,804	\$ 2,184,480	64,792	\$ 2,297,257	5%
2nd Annual	10,540	\$ 171,155	8,409	\$ 131,886	-23%
Double	39,512	\$ 2,106,643	43,056	\$ 2,314,102	10%
Transferable	2,761	\$ 222,357	2,962	\$ 235,660	6%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	6,377	\$ 95,520	7,907	\$ 118,820	24%
Annual Licenses	120,994	\$ 4,780,155	127,126	\$ 5,097,725	7%
Daily License	112,801	\$ 892,760	120,744	\$ 959,096	7%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	1,060	\$ 15,870	1,275	\$ 19,140	21%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	19,352	\$ 77,408	22,921	\$ 91,668	18%
Motorcoach Permit	23,977	\$ 71,930	20,083	\$ 60,246	-16%
CSP 7 Day Pass	191,620	\$ 3,831,376	203,926	\$ 4,077,520	6%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	18,663	\$ 374,880	20,114	\$ 388,784	4%
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ 524,660	-	\$ 534,252	2%
One-Day Special Event	301	\$ 15,050	319	\$ 15,799	5%
Daily Licenses	367,774	\$ 5,803,934	389,382	\$ 6,146,505	6%
Licenses	488,768	\$ 10,584,089	516,508	\$ 11,244,230	6%
Camping Services		\$ 9,851,124		\$ 10,066,991	2%
Pet Fees	321	\$ 3,210	1528	\$ 15,216	374%
LODGING		\$ 9,854,334		\$ 10,082,208	2%
Picnic Shelter		\$ 14,295		\$ 16,009	12%
Boat Rentals		\$ 6,296		\$ 14,203	126%
Firewood	38,272	\$ 229,109	42,832	\$ 246,871	8%
Gift Card	352	\$ 31,551	373	\$ 33,262	5%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ 173,960		\$ 156,946	-10%
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 40,875		\$ 40,769	0%
Retail		\$ 197,907		\$ 236,123	19%
Call Center Fee	20,765	\$ 43,770	19,520	\$ 39,124	-11%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ 97,329		\$ 166,591	71%
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 835,093		\$ 949,897	14%
TOTAL		\$ 21,273,516		\$ 22,276,335	5%

Division of Parks and Recreation
December 2024 Visitation by District

<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>%</i>
Pickerel Lake	1,045	712	-32%	Lewis & Clark	38,925	21,350	-45%
Fort Sisseton	2,446	1,788	-27%	Chief White Crane	-	-	
Roy Lake	2,767	7,650	176%	Pierson Ranch	1,382	1,950	41%
Sica Hollow	-	503		Springfield	7,517	7,553	0%
<i>DISTRICT 1</i>	<i>6,258</i>	<i>10,653</i>	<i>70%</i>	Clay County	4,835	4,233	-12%
				<i>DISTRICT 9</i>	<i>52,659</i>	<i>35,086</i>	<i>-33%</i>
Richmond Lake	1,741	590	-66%				
Mina Lake	487	708	45%	North Point	1,964	2,139	9%
Fisher Grove	102	118	16%	North Wheeler	1,757	1,700	-3%
Lake Louise	837	766	-8%	Pease Creek	313	397	27%
<i>DISTRICT 2</i>	<i>3,167</i>	<i>2,182</i>	<i>-31%</i>	Randall Creek	936	747	-20%
				Fort Randall Marina	168	174	4%
Pelican Lake	2,767	2,842	3%	<i>DISTRICT 10</i>	<i>5,138</i>	<i>5,157</i>	<i>0%</i>
Sandy Shore	794	739	-7%				
Lake Cochrane	326	161	-51%	Farm Island	5,953	3,429	-42%
Hartford Beach	2,488	3,878	56%	West Bend	430	366	-15%
<i>DISTRICT 3</i>	<i>6,375</i>	<i>7,620</i>	<i>20%</i>	LaFramboise Island	6,087	4,244	-30%
				<i>DISTRICT 11</i>	<i>12,470</i>	<i>8,039</i>	<i>-36%</i>
Oakwood Lakes	1,133	1,091	-4%				
Lake Poinsett	842	1,522	81%	Oahe Downstream	7,672	9,807	28%
<i>DISTRICT 4</i>	<i>1,975</i>	<i>2,613</i>	<i>32%</i>	Cow Creek	8,758	6,334	-28%
				Okobojo	1,381	1,614	17%
Lake Thompson	3,298	3,368	2%	Spring Creek	9,374	8,387	-11%
Lake Herman	4,420	4,933	12%	<i>DISTRICT 12</i>	<i>27,185</i>	<i>26,142</i>	<i>-4%</i>
Walker's Point	690	1,270	84%				
<i>DISTRICT 5</i>	<i>8,408</i>	<i>9,571</i>	<i>14%</i>	West Whitlock	436	633	45%
				Swan Creek	376	332	-12%
Snake Creek	1,520	2,992	97%	Indian Creek	1,417	1,876	32%
Platte Creek	1,766	747	-58%	Lake Hiddenwood	627	399	-36%
Buryanek	575	1,102	92%	Little Moreau	757	693	-8%
Burke Lake	1,136	1,286	13%	Revheim Bay	3,294	3,133	-5%
<i>DISTRICT 6</i>	<i>4,997</i>	<i>6,127</i>	<i>23%</i>	West Pollock	1,082	3,176	194%
				<i>DISTRICT 13</i>	<i>7,989</i>	<i>10,242</i>	<i>28%</i>
Palisades	5,680	2,172	-62%				
Big Sioux	2,358	1,932	-18%	Bear Butte	1,076	645	-40%
Beaver Creek	1,688	1,212	-28%	<i>DISTRICT 14</i>	<i>1,076</i>	<i>645</i>	<i>-40%</i>
Lake Vermillion	2,528	2,760	9%				
<i>DISTRICT 7</i>	<i>12,254</i>	<i>8,076</i>	<i>-34%</i>	Shadehill	1,255	1,052	-16%
				Llewellyn Johns	198	267	35%
Newton Hills	3,065	3,163	3%	Rocky Point	1,429	1,186	-17%
Good Earth	12,431	5,850	-53%	<i>DISTRICT 15</i>	<i>2,882</i>	<i>2,505</i>	<i>-13%</i>
Union Grove	578	745	29%				
Lake Alvin	2,617	3,543	35%	Custer	56,146	56,920	1%
Spirit Mound	1,123	1,164	4%	<i>DISTRICT 16</i>	<i>56,146</i>	<i>56,920</i>	<i>1%</i>
Adams	5,991	4,739	-21%				
<i>DISTRICT 8</i>	<i>25,805</i>	<i>19,204</i>	<i>-26%</i>	Angostura	3,300	7,448	126%
				Sheps Canyon	850	840	-1%
				<i>DISTRICT 17</i>	<i>4,150</i>	<i>8,288</i>	<i>100%</i>
				<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>238,934</i>	<i>219,070</i>	<i>-8%</i>

Division of Parks and Recreation
December YTD 2024 Visitation by District

LOCATION	2023	2024	%	LOCATION	2023	2024	%
Pickerel Lake	58,620	55,234	-6%	Lewis & Clark	1,202,483	1,137,554	-5%
Fort Sisseton	102,006	71,583	-30%	Chief White Crane	45,276	44,676	-1%
Roy Lake	123,843	101,729	-18%	Pierson Ranch	71,820	87,929	22%
Sica Hollow	23,665	22,879	-3%	Springfield	161,266	151,147	-6%
DISTRICT 1	308,134	251,425	-18%	Clay County	89,733	95,679	7%
Richmond Lake	53,916	53,718	0%	DISTRICT 9	1,570,578	1,516,985	-3%
Mina Lake	42,251	37,013	-12%	North Point	87,795	123,696	41%
Fisher Grove	15,692	11,478	-27%	North Wheeler	26,387	26,011	-1%
Lake Louise	29,153	25,126	-14%	Pease Creek	39,071	32,481	-17%
DISTRICT 2	141,012	127,335	-10%	Randall Creek	41,236	44,098	7%
Pelican Lake	84,579	92,334	9%	Fort Randall Marina	21,194	29,655	40%
Sandy Shore	30,219	29,608	-2%	DISTRICT 10	215,683	255,941	19%
Lake Cochrane	20,337	20,989	3%	Farm Island	136,686	144,390	6%
Hartford Beach	93,979	97,023	3%	West Bend	37,381	35,234	-6%
DISTRICT 3	229,114	239,954	5%	LaFramboise Island	76,326	78,292	3%
Oakwood Lakes	60,704	57,562	-5%	DISTRICT 11	250,393	257,916	3%
Lake Poinsett	39,129	65,532	67%	Oahe Downstream	287,439	290,763	1%
DISTRICT 4	99,833	123,094	23%	Cow Creek	212,726	202,600	-5%
Lake Thompson	59,871	52,302	-13%	Okobojo	63,140	63,055	0%
Lake Herman	138,620	125,823	-9%	Spring Creek	342,303	333,666	-3%
Walker's Point	40,922	43,587	7%	DISTRICT 12	905,608	890,084	-2%
DISTRICT 5	239,413	221,712	-7%	West Whitlock	45,948	46,273	1%
Snake Creek	143,319	147,682	3%	Swan Creek	15,529	20,207	30%
Platte Creek	141,158	121,379	-14%	Indian Creek	77,401	89,243	15%
Buryanek	31,480	33,738	7%	Lake Hiddenwood	10,875	10,266	-6%
Burke Lake	16,169	21,633	34%	Little Moreau	18,098	16,070	-11%
DISTRICT 6	332,126	324,432	-2%	Revheim Bay	43,620	54,689	25%
Palisades	123,847	167,092	35%	West Pollock	61,222	52,071	-15%
Big Sioux	68,124	68,993	1%	DISTRICT 13	272,693	288,819	6%
Beaver Creek	26,810	26,330	-2%	Bear Butte	17,379	19,113	10%
Lake Vermillion	138,645	147,476	6%	DISTRICT 14	17,379	19,113	10%
DISTRICT 7	357,426	409,891	15%	Shadehill	39,839	41,160	3%
Newton Hills	125,495	139,008	11%	Llewellyn Johns	5,766	5,874	2%
Good Earth	134,402	109,082	-19%	Rocky Point	76,727	84,760	10%
Union Grove	18,955	18,917	0%	DISTRICT 15	122,332	131,794	8%
Lake Alvin	206,833	83,591	-60%	Custer	2,187,319	2,295,836	5%
Spirit Mound	20,635	23,677	15%	DISTRICT 16	2,187,319	2,295,836	5%
Adams	41,806	33,460	-20%	Angostura	161,614	182,836	13%
DISTRICT 8	548,126	407,735	-26%	Sheps Canyon	32,901	34,716	6%
				DISTRICT 17	194,515	217,552	12%
				TOTAL YTD	7,991,684	7,979,618	0%



December Camping

12/1/2023 - 12/31/2023	12/1/2024 - 12/31/2024
Camping Units	Camping Units
477	561

District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	8	12	50%
	Pickerel Lake Recreation Area	0	7	NA
	Roy Lake State Park	42	65	55%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	2	0	-100%
	Fisher Grove State Park	2	2	0%
2	Lake Louise Recreation Area	8	4	-50%
	Mina Lake Recreation Area	7	12	71%
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	2	2	0%
3	Hartford Beach State Park	5	5	0%
	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	3	5	67%
4	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	0	4	NA
	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	4	0	-100%
5	Oakwood Lakes State Park	7	5	-29%
	Lake Herman State Park	3	4	33%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	21	29	38%
6	Walkers Point Recreation Area	1	31	3000%
	Buryanek Recreation Area	6	6	0%
	Platte Creek Recreation Area	8	2	-75%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	21	6	-71%
7	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	24	23	-4%
	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	16	1	-94%
	Palisades State Park	23	21	-9%
8	Newton Hills State Park	40	40	0%
	Union Grove State Park	7	1	-86%
9	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	9	14	56%
	Springfield Recreation Area	0	1	NA
10	North Point Recreation Area	11	2	-82%
	Pease Creek Recreation Area	2	3	50%
11	Farm Island Recreation Area	29	34	17%
	West Bend Recreation Area	10	2	-80%
12	Cow Creek Recreation Area	0	3	NA
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	44	21	-52%
	Spring Creek Recreation Area	5	0	-100%
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	1	12	1100%
13	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	5	8	60%
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	2	0	-100%
	West Pollock Recreation Area	4	0	-100%
14	Bear Butte State Park	5	7	40%
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	2	8	300%
15	Shadehill Recreation Area	47	56	19%
16	Custer State Park	36	93	158%
17	Angostura Recreation Area	4	10	150%
	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	1	0	-100%
Total		477	561	18%



December YTD Camping

1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024

Camping Units

Camping Units

351066

357530

District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	1808	1609	-11%
	Pickereel Lake Recreation Area	5434	5929	9%
	Roy Lake State Park	8129	8620	6%
	Sica Hollow State Park	356	301	-15%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	377	428	14%
	Fisher Grove State Park	1381	1159	-16%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	2284	2300	1%
2	Mina Lake Recreation Area	3329	3283	-1%
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	1855	1732	-7%
	Hartford Beach State Park	6837	6799	-1%
3	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	2127	2151	1%
	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	6378	6507	2%
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	2068	1771	-14%
4	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	8153	7462	-8%
	Oakwood Lakes State Park	9241	9356	1%
5	Lake Herman State Park	6075	5819	-4%
	Lake Carthage Lakeside Use Area	1032	869	-16%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	7851	7553	-4%
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	2980	3049	2%
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	37	104	181%
	Buryanek Recreation Area	2957	2853	-4%
	Dude Ranch Lakeside Use Area	214	269	26%
6	Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area	56	54	-4%
	Platte Creek Recreation Area	1634	1517	-7%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	8211	8315	1%
	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	7980	6981	-13%
	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	12299	11410	-7%
7	Palisades State Park	6140	9758	59%
	Good Earth State Park	1	1	0%
8	Newton Hills State Park	11123	10769	-3%
	Union Grove State Park	1496	1349	-10%
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	12300	12707	3%
9	Clay County Park	1972	2077	5%
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	40783	41100	1%
	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	4543	4764	5%
	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	77	98	27%
	Springfield Recreation Area	1199	1439	20%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	64	77	20%
	North Point Recreation Area	9465	9895	5%
	North Wheeler Recreation Area	1140	896	-21%

	Pease Creek Recreation Area	1913	1829	-4%
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	6762	6061	-10%
	South Shore Lakeside Use Area	433	302	-30%
	Star Valley Lakeside Use Area	97	63	-35%
	Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	416	411	-1%
10	White Swan Lakeside Use Area	194	141	-27%
	Farm Island Recreation Area	7811	7980	2%
11	West Bend Recreation Area	7720	7500	-3%
	Cow Creek Recreation Area	2908	3193	10%
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	13612	14118	4%
	Okobojo Point Recreation Area	1337	1387	4%
12	Spring Creek Recreation Area	861	1173	36%
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	63	63	0%
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	7596	8020	6%
	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	236	223	-6%
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	784	953	22%
	Walth Bay Lakeside Use Area	117	33	-72%
	West Pollock Recreation Area	1141	1139	0%
13	West Whitlock Recreation Area	4749	4899	3%
14	Bear Butte State Park	1503	1464	-3%
	Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area	565	510	-10%
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	6815	7141	5%
15	Shadehill Recreation Area	7484	8277	11%
16	Custer State Park	55596	56564	2%
	Angostura Recreation Area	17117	18526	8%
17	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	2121	2430	15%
	Total	351066	357530	2%



December 23rd, 2024
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
Attn: John Kanta
Re: SD Bighorn Sheep Tag, 2025
4130 Adventure Trail
Rapid City SD 57702

RE: **Proposal for (1) One South Dakota Bighorn Sheep Tag, 2025 Season**

Dear Mr. Kanta,

Please accept this letter as our application for one (1) 2025 South Dakota Bighorn Sheep Tag, which would be auctioned to one (1) individual at the Western Hunt EXPO in Salt Lake City, in February 2025 in a nationally supported media campaign and event leading up to the EXPO Banquet in February 2025.

The Mule Deer Foundation is a non-profit wildlife conservation organization whose mission is “To Ensure the Conservation of Mule Deer, Black-Tailed Deer, and their Habitat”. Headquartered in Salt Lake City, UT, MDF has over 14,000 members throughout the U.S. MDF’s objectives center on restoring, improving, and conserving mule deer habitat which in many cases directly impacts sheep, elk and antelope habitat as well. Resulting in self-sustaining, healthy, free-ranging, and huntable mule deer populations. MDF achieves its goals through partnering with state and federal wildlife agencies, other conservation groups, businesses, private landowners and individuals, to fund and implement habitat enhancement, research, and conservation education projects. In South Dakota, we have active chapters in Spearfish, Rapid City, Pierre, Brandon, Winner, and Custer/Hill City and are actively pursuing chapters in Yankton, Brookings and Watertown.

The Mule Deer Foundation’s habitat work has increased dramatically over the past five years with millions of dollars hitting the ground for habitat projects. By focusing on projects in areas that are important migration corridors or seasonal ranges, prioritizing pre- and post-fire restoration, and improving water availability, we are making a difference for mule deer, black-tailed deer, elk, and hundreds of other species that share the western landscapes we love so much. We are grateful for the support from a variety of granting organizations, private donations, and of course the hard work of our volunteers to make these projects possible. information on MDF project work can be found at <https://muledeer.org/habitat-priorities-with-the-mule-deer-foundation/>.

In the last 3 years alone MDF has 400 + habitat projects, over 6000,000+ acres impacted or improved and over 76 million dollars put directly to boots on the ground.

The Mule Deer Foundation has designed an aggressive media campaign, utilizing direct mail, out-of-state and local television, radio and newspaper advertising along with social media such as Instagram and Facebook, to advertise the auction. We will promote the South Dakota license on our websites (www.muledeer.org and www.huntexpo.com) and many national publications including our MDF Magazine. We will also outline details about the auction license in our action guide and program.

Should it present itself, another opportunity would be to auction off (1) one Any Deer Tag in the unit of the department’s choice at our National Convention, the Western Hunting Expo.

Our national convention serves as our annual members’ meeting along with providing the opportunity to raise funds for our mission. Additionally, our exhibit hall will have over 600 vendors promoting everything from outfitted hunts and trips, to outdoor gear and wildlife artwork. The WHCE had over 75,000 wildlife enthusiasts venture

through our exhibit hall during our February 2024 Expo! Approximately 26000 attendees, including 600 online bidders, participated in our fundraising auctions that contributed significantly to the all-time record \$15 Million raised during the 2024 WHCE. Other special tags from Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Washington, Nevada, New Mexico, Alaska and California raised over \$2 million for their states' respective wildlife.

MDF would retain 5% of the license auction proceeds to offset administrative costs and allocate additional up to 5% as per the rules outlined in section 41:06:56:11, providing expense documentation including the following:

ARSD 41:06:56:11. Execution of agreement on participation in bighorn sheep auction license -- Contents of agreement. The participant selected and the commission shall enter into an agreement to auction a bighorn sheep license. The agreement shall contain the following terms and conditions:

(1) The department shall make available for auction and shall issue one bighorn sheep license to the successful bidder;

(2) The successful bidder shall be of legal hunting age and not otherwise be prohibited from possessing a valid hunting license because of any other legal prohibitions and restrictions;

(3) The participant which conducts the bighorn sheep auction is accountable to the department for the total amount of the winning bid for the auction license within 14 days of the date the license is auctioned;

(4) The name and address of the successful bidder shall be provided by the participant to the department within 14 days after the auction and the department shall issue the successful bidder one bighorn sheep license if all terms of the agreement and rules have been complied with; and

(5) The bighorn sheep auction license is subject to all applicable hunting laws and rules in SDCL title [41](#) and ARSD article 41:06.

We appreciate the opportunity to apply for the 2025 Bighorn Sheep Tag, SD and hope that SDGF&P will consider our request. We appreciate our ongoing partnership and hope that together, we can secure a strong future for South Dakota big horn sheep, elk, mule deer and other wildlife.

With Respect,

Eric Sharpe

Regional Director, South Dakota/Nebraska

Mule Deer Foundation

ESharpe@muledeer.org

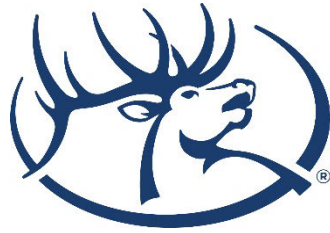
PH: 605.484.0491

www.muledeer.org



Ensuring the Conservation of Mule Deer, Black-tailed Deer and their habitat.

*Enclosure



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

December 18, 2024
South Dakota Game, Fish, & Parks Commission
Secretary Kevin Robling
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Commission members and Secretary Robling,

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) requests consideration by the Commission and Department to allow us to participate in the South Dakota Special Bighorn Sheep Permit for 2025. As our mission statement states we are here to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat, and our hunting heritage. With huge ties across the state of South Dakota, RMEF volunteers and members strive to continually raise funds that come right back to habitat projects and big game management in our great state. I believe that with the addition of the Bighorn Sheep permit that would allow us to grow that partnership even further.

This permit would be a new endeavor for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Since there would be no track record to speak of, I can only go off similar permits that we have held in the past. With our current partnership of the SD Special Elk Tag we have helped raise over \$730,000.00 which has all come back to South Dakota for Big Game Management. With this being an open permit for both residents and non-residents alike, I would like to enter this permit in our National Tag Auction that happens in the springtime. This auction hosts several big game permits across the country. In 2024 we had several of our State issued permits that generated well over \$200,000 each. I believe that this Bighorn Sheep permit would defiantly be in that category.

I know that I can speak on behalf of all our wonderful Chapter Committees (16), Volunteers (400), and Members (3500) in the great state of South Dakota. We all work extremely hard to raise money for the cause of the greater good, but we also like to bring the money home to South Dakota to help preserve our wildlife and outdoor spaces. I hope that with our National and State track records for fundraising and putting funds on the ground would give us the opportunity to utilize your Bighorn Sheep tag to the best of its ability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Conservation,

Sam Silacci, RMEF W/SD & W/NE Regional Director

Cc: Ray Ames, RMEF SD State Volunteer Chairman

December 17, 2024

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks
John Kanta Terrestrial Section Chief
4130 Adventure Trail
Rapid City, SD 57702

Dear John,

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. On behalf of the Iowa Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (Iowa FNAWS), I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity to present our application to auction one bighorn sheep license, valid for the 2024 season.

At Iowa FNAWS, our mission is crystal clear: we are dedicated to promoting outdoor hunting and fishing activities, natural resource stewardship, and wildlife conservation. Our goals are multifaceted, encompassing the enhancement of the image of outdoor enthusiasts, the expansion of our conservation community, the promotion of ethical hunting and fishing practices, and the provision of additional opportunities for all who share our passion. Our unwavering commitment to engaging with youth and veterans underscores our dedication to nurturing the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts.

Let me elaborate on some of our key initiatives:

*Big Game Management: Iowa FNAWS has been instrumental in supporting numerous guzzler projects across states like California, Utah, Arizona, and Texas. Furthermore, we have dedicated significant resources to fund studies aimed at addressing bighorn diseases, a critical aspect of wildlife conservation.

*Alaska Advocacy: We have partnered with the Alaska Professional Hunters Association to safeguard access for non-resident hunters and protect the right to hunt in Alaska, preserving this cherished tradition for generations to come.

*Canadian Conservation: In Canada, Iowa FNAWS has made meaningful contributions to ungulate enhancement projects, as well as habitat reclamation and restoration initiatives, playing an active role in preserving wildlife habitats.

*Veterans and Youth Engagement: We have proudly sponsored numerous veterans and youth in various hunting activities, providing them with opportunities to connect with the great outdoors and experience the thrill of hunting and fishing firsthand.

*Local Collaboration: Closer to home, we have forged a strong partnership with Nebraska Game and Parks. Our support has facilitated the translocation of bighorn sheep into Nebraska, aided in capturing, collaring, and monitoring these animals, and contributed to the annual auction of premier elk and bighorn tags. We've also provided essential funding to the Nebraska Land Trust, helping to open up new

big game habitat and fishing opportunities. Funding was also provided towards the South Dakota Shooting Complex.

Our primary source of funding for these impactful projects is our annual fundraiser, which, for several years, has consistently generated over a million dollars. What sets us apart is our commitment to stewardship, exemplified by our 100% volunteer staff – a rarity in our industry. This dedication has resulted in remarkably low overhead costs, enabling us to allocate substantial funds towards our various initiatives. In the current year alone, Iowa FNAWS has invested a total of \$810,480 in these critical projects. For your reference, we have enclosed our latest 990 return (7/2021-6/2022), a synopsis of our communications with our tax preparer Rich Meyer for our 7/2022-6/2023 filing, and our IRS Tax Exempt Status documentation, including our EIN and DLN.

We stand ready to pledge virtually 100% of the proceeds from auctioning off the South Dakota Bighorn Tag towards projects in line with the purpose of your department, and our own mission. In addition to our unwavering commitment to directing 100% of the proceeds from the auction of a Bighorn tag towards conservation, education, and advancing our shared objectives, we are eager to forge a lasting partnership with South Dakota, mirroring the successful cooperation we have cultivated in Nebraska.

Thank you for taking the time to consider Iowa FNAWS as a potential partner. Should you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to either myself or any of our Board members. We are eager to engage with you and explore the possibilities of working together for the betterment of our shared natural heritage. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Regards,

Craig Nakamoto
President, Iowa FNAWS

Enclosed: Latest 990 Return, Synopsis of financials, IRS Tax Exempt Status Document, Statement in Agreement with §41:06:56:1

Midwest Chapter – Wild Sheep Foundation

1448 Eastlake Drive - Chaska, MN. 55318 - (612) 940-1979

Website: www.midwestwildsheep.org - Email: midwestwildsheep@gmail.com

December 26, 2024

Secretary Monae L. Johnson
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Secretary Johnson,

I present this application to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks for the purpose of applying for the opportunity to auction sale the coveted South Dakota's Bighorn Sheep tag. If selected, WSF-Midwest Chapter is prepared to enter into an agreement with SDGF&P as referred to in 41:06:56:11

This past March, our chapter once again had the privilege to nationally auction the South Dakota Bighorn Sheep tag at our annual Midwest Chapter Banquet and Fundraiser. The Bighorn Sheep tag sale continued to reflect the quality of South Dakota's Bighorn Sheep with a strong sale price. The Bighorn Sheep auction tag has raised over 1.5 million dollars for South Dakota's Bighorn Sheep and other wildlife conservation.

The Midwest Chapter has been in existence for nearly five decades and maintains a MN. 501c3 non-profit status, number 41-1628899. A certificate of Existence and Registration (formerly Certificate of Good Standing) copy has been attached for reference.

Our Midwest Chapter is committed to the fulfillment of our mission statement: "To enhance, expand and preserve wild sheep populations; to educate the public about wild sheep and conservation efforts surrounding wildlife; to encourage lawful hunting and hunters' rights and to encourage youth participation in hunting.

In 2024, the Midwest Chapter reached an all-time high in total contributions to conservation and has passed the \$8.8 million dollar mark. We have contributed over the years to all wild sheep

states and provinces, along with many tribal agencies and regions throughout Mexico. This year, the Midwest Chapter has impacted wild sheep in many jurisdictions throughout North America. For example: Arizona water development, British Columbia and Yukon Dall Sheep monitoring and predation control, ID/OR/NV Bighorn Sheep capture, test, monitor; Colorado Bighorn respiratory disease straining. Some GIA contributions are on multi-year commitment. Additional GIA funding documents are attached for referencing.

We hold an annual two-day spring banquet and fundraiser each March with approximately 400 sportsmen and women in attendance. Our auctions have raised strong revenues for many years, with 2024 topping one million dollars in revenue. Our chapter takes great pride in the national reputation we've built over the years of top-quality auctions which have allowed us to make significant contributions in wild sheep conservation.

A quick note; In 2022, our Midwest Chapter was awarded the opportunity to host the 15th annual WSF Chapters and Affiliates meetings. Our Chapter chose to host the 15th annual WSF C&A annual meetings in Rapid City. The Summit event went well and attendees really enjoyed their time in South Dakota. This past summer, I attended the C&A event in Alberta, Canada and during the event many attendees spoke about the wonderful time they had while in South Dakota and were amazed at the diversity of the beautiful landscapes they witnessed.

Within the application, you will find current and past yearly GIA documentation to review, along with recent endowment/membership fund financial positions. The Midwest Chapter's endowment fund has given our chapter a tremendous foundation and the ability to fulfill our mission statement in perpetuity.

Thank you for this opportunity and for your review of our application. We truly appreciate the partnership that we have with SDGF&P and our joint effort to "Put and Keep Wild Sheep on South Dakota's Landscapes".

Respectfully,

Mike Bouton
Midwest Chapter WSF
Executive Director

CC: John Kanta

TURKEY HUNTING RECRUITMENT LICENSE APPLICATION

Background: In an effort to encourage youth to become more involved with non-governmental organizations (NGO's) that promote turkey conservation and the recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is offering NGO's the opportunity to sponsor youth turkey hunters in obtaining a turkey hunting recruitment license and mentoring these hunters.

Eligibility: Any NGO committed to wildlife management; preservation; propagation; habitat; research; hunter retention, recruitment, and reactivation; and recognized as an exempt organization under § 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code may apply for such licenses. Youth less than sixteen years of age and accompanied by a hunting mentor are eligible for the licenses as described in SDCL 41-6-81.

Availability: No more than ten male turkey hunting recruitment licenses may be issued with no more than two of the allocated licenses issued per sponsoring NGO. The sponsoring NGO shall be responsible for associated license fees.

Open Area: The turkey hunting recruitment license is valid statewide, excluding Custer State Park, and hunting is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day beginning on the open dates for the Prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively.

Application Deadline: The completed application must be received by GFP no later than December 31, 2024.

NGO's applying for these licenses must provide the information requested below:

NGO NAME: Mule Deer Foundation, South Dakota

ADDRESS: 

NGO REPRESENTATIVE: Eric Sharpe

NUMBER OF LICENSES REQUESTED: 2

EMAIL: 

PHONE: 

Please provide evidence of the organization's goals and objectives relating to promoting wildlife conservation and the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of hunters. To meet the criteria listed under eligibility, provide examples and details of the activities or on-going efforts that describes how your organization meets these requirements.

Please provide evidence of exempt organization status under § 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

Applicants will be reviewed and selected by the GFP Commission at their January 2025 meeting. GFP will notify all applicants regarding the commission's selection.

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Application Deadline: The completed application must be received by GFP no later than December 31, 2024.

NGO's applying for these licenses must provide the information requested below:

NGO NAME: Lake County Landward

ADDRESS: 

NGO REPRESENTATIVE: Russell Olson

NUMBER OF LICENSES REQUESTED: 2

EMAIL: 

PHONE: 

Please provide evidence of the organization's goals and objectives relating to promoting wildlife conservation and the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of hunters. To meet the criteria listed under eligibility, provide examples and details of the activities or on-going efforts that describes how your organization meets these requirements.

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Open Area: The turkey hunting recruitment license is valid statewide, excluding Custer State Park, and hunting is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day beginning on the open dates for the Prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively.

Application Deadline: The completed application must be received by GFP no later than December 31, 2024.

NGO's applying for these licenses must provide the information requested below:

NGO NAME: Pheasants Forever

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

NGO REPRESENTATIVE: Isaac Full NUMBER OF LICENSES REQUESTED: 2

EMAIL: [REDACTED] PHONE: [REDACTED]

Please provide evidence of the organization's goals and objectives relating to promoting wildlife conservation and the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of hunters. To meet the criteria listed under eligibility, provide examples and details of the activities or on-going efforts that describes how your organization meets these requirements.

Please provide evidence of exempt organization status under § 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

Applicants will be reviewed and selected by the GFP Commission at their January 2025 meeting. GFP will notify all applicants regarding the commission's selection.

**South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks - Wildlife Division
Land Acquisition and Disposal Report
January 2025**

Informational Items:

Swan Lake GPA Exchange (Walworth County)

Location: 3 miles northwest of Hoven on Swan Lake.

Size: GFP exchange 1/3 of an acre of current GPA for 1/3 of acre of private land.

Management Objective: Improve access for users and staff, provide parking area.

Easements: None

Previous Use: All land being exchanged is upland (mowed yard/pasture)

Appraised Value: Appraised value is equal for both parcels – Appraiser didn't provide actual value due to difficulty finding comparable sales. Looked at the properties for differences that would change values.

Acquisition Cost: Closing fees, appraisal cost, split 50/50 with other party.

Commission Acquisition Priorities: Parcels that improve public use on and access to existing Department lands and parcels that facilitate more efficient and effective wildlife habitat or recreation management and development activities on existing Department lands.

Additional Information: Moving access lane further south will improve access for staff to manage the GPA as well as improve access for users. It will avoid a wetland on the east end. Eliminate issues with hunters in the front yard of lodge.

Expected Closing: 3 to 6 months.

Requested Commission Action: None, Informational item at January meeting. Will ask commission to take action in March.

Property Map



Lake Faulkton Disposals (Faulk County)**Location:** Just west of the city of Faulkton**Size:** 25 Acres total to dispose, 19 lot groups**Total Appraised Value:** \$248,000**Requested Commission Action:** None – Informational item at January meeting. Will ask commission to take action in March.**Parcel Descriptions & Separate Parcel Values****Group 1:** Lots 10 & 11 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 16,250 SqFt of land with rural water and electricity available. 120 Front Feet (94' Along Road) x 152' Average Depth

Estimated 107 Effective Front Feet x \$150/FF = **\$16,000****Group 2:** Lots 24, 25 & 26 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 20,150 SqFt of land with rural water and electricity available. 153 Front Feet (150' Along Road) x 133' Average Depth

Estimated 150 Effective Front Feet x \$150/FF = **\$22,500****Group 3:** Lot 43 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 5,550 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 58 Front Feet (50' Along Road) x 108' Average Depth

The cabin on Lot 42 is noted to encroach 6' onto Lot 43 Estimated 50 Effective Front Feet x \$50/FF = **\$2,500****Group 4:** Lots 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 & 54 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision This parcel contains approximately 136,000 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 677 Front Feet (650' Along Road) x 225' Average Depth (Approximately 3.10 Acres) Estimated 650 Effective Front Feet x \$50/FF = **\$32,000****Group 5:** Lots 55, 57 & 58 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 40,550 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 172 Front Feet (150' Along Road) x 268' Average Depth

The wood deck on Lot 56 is noted to encroach 4.4' onto Lot 57

Estimated 150 Effective Front Feet x \$60/FF = **\$9,000****Group 6:** Lots 59, 60, 61, 62, 63 & 64 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 78,250 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 302 Front Feet (300' Along Road) x 264' Average Depth (Approximately 1.80 Acres)

Estimated 300 Effective Front Feet x \$60/FF = **\$18,000****Group 7:** Lots 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 & 75 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision and Lot A of Lake Faulkton Second Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 74,600 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 771 Front Feet (679' Along Road) x 113' Average Depth along 163rd Street (Gravel Road) Approximately 1.70 Acres x

\$10,000/Acre = **\$17,000****Group 8:** Lot B of Lake Faulkton Second Subdivision and Lot 76 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision This parcel contains approximately 49,500 SqFt of land with only electricity available.

234 Front Feet (420' Along Road) x 257' Average Depth along 163rd Street (Gravel Road)

Approximately 1.1 Acres x \$10,000/Acre = **\$11,000****Group 9:** Lots 77 x 78 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 35,800 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 121 Front Feet (100' Along Road) x 352' Average Depth

There are 3 sheds located on and encroaching on this parcel along with 1"-2" of the cabin located on Lot 79

Estimated 100 Effective Front Feet x \$50 = **\$5,000**

Group 10: Lot 82 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 15,650 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 52 Front Feet (50' Along Road) x 313' Average Depth

Estimated 50 Effective Front Feet x \$60/FF = **\$3,000**

Group 11: Lot 83 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 14,800 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 52 Front Feet (50' Along Road) x 296 Average Depth

A 16' portion of the cabin on Lot 84 is noted to encroach onto Lot 83

Estimated 50 Effective Front Feet x \$50/FF = **\$2,500**

Group 12: Lot 86 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 11,600 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 53 Front Feet (50' Along Road) x 231' Average Depth

Estimated 50 Effective Front Feet x \$60/FF = **\$3,000**

Group 13: Lots 90, 91, 92, 93, 94 & 95 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision and Lot C of Lake Faulkton Second subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 51,300 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 740 Front Feet (750' Along Road) x 85' Average Depth (Approximately 1.2 Acres) Estimated 750 Effective Front Feet (Narrow) x \$15/FF or \$10,000/Acre = **\$12,000**

Group 14: Lots 97 & 98 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 11,250 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 53 Front Feet (100' Along Road) x 146' Average Depth

Estimated 76.5 Effective Front Feet x \$65/FF = **\$5,000**

Group 15: Lot F of Lake Faulkton Second Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 77,000 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 226 Front Feet (65' Along Road) - Peninsula Habitat Area

Approximately 1.8 Acres x \$5,000/Acre = **\$9,000**

Group 16: Lot G of Lake Faulkton Second Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 87,550 SqFt of land with no utilities available. All island area with boat access only.

Approximately 2 acres x \$1,500/Acre = **\$3,000**

Group 17: Lots 110, 111 & 112 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision and Lot E of Lake Faulkton Second Subdivision.

This parcel contains approximately 35,500 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 274 Front Feet (170' Along Road) x 182' Average Depth

Estimated 220 Effective Front Feet x \$55/FF = **\$12,000**

Group 18: Lots 118, 119, 120, 121, 122 & 123 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision and Lot D of Lake Faulkton Second Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 96,900 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 860' Front Feet (730' Along Road) x 130' Average Depth (Approximately 2.25 Acres) Estimated 770 Effective Front Feet x Approx. \$35/FF or \$12,500/Acre = **\$28,000**

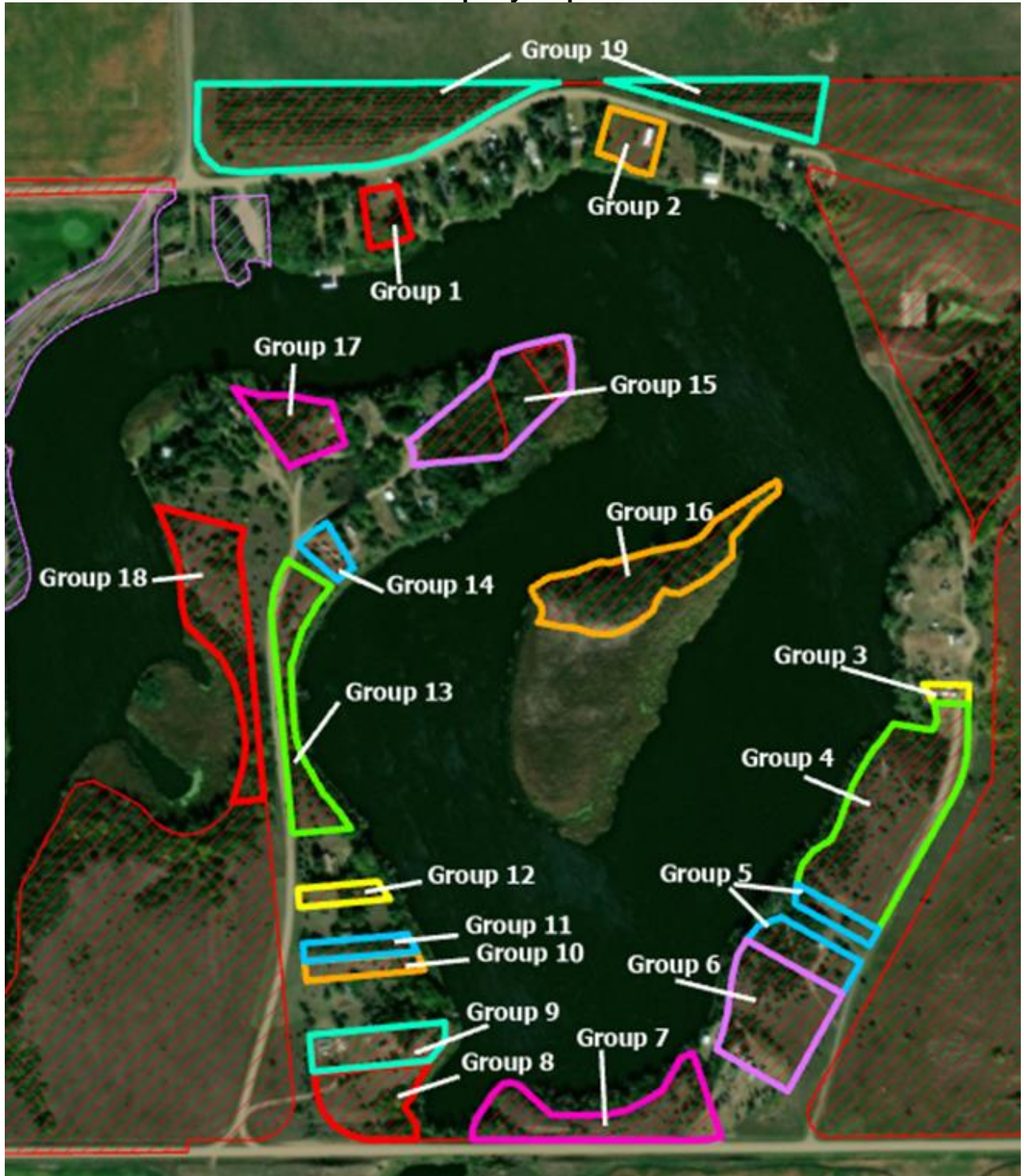
Group 19: Outlot A and Lot 1 of Outlot B of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 220,000 SqFt of land with rural water and electricity available.

5.04 Acres, More or Less of wooded backlot area at the north end of the property 5 Acres x \$7,000/Acre = **\$37,500**

\$248,000 Total Appraised Value

Property Map



Twin Lakes Diversion Ditch Disposal (Spink County)

Location: North and west a few miles from Tulare.

Size: 17.68 Acres, two parcels, west piece is 2.28 acres and east piece is 15.4 acres.

Total Appraised Value: \$45,000, \$3,420 for west piece and \$41,580 for east piece.

Requested Commission Action: None – Informational item at January meeting. Will ask commission to take action in March.



SOUTH DAKOTA MOUNTAIN GOAT ACTION PLAN 2024–2028



**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA**

WILDLIFE DIVISION REPORT 2024–02AP

DECEMBER 2024

This document is for general, strategic guidance for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and serves to identify what we strive to accomplish related to mountain goat management. By itself this document is of little value; the value is in its implementation. This process will emphasize working cooperatively with interested publics in both the planning process and the regular program activities related to mountain goat management. This plan will be used by Department staff and Commission on an annual basis and will be formally evaluated at least every five years. Plan updates and changes, however, may occur more frequently as needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan is a product of substantial discussion and input from many wildlife professionals and the South Dakota public sector. In addition, those comments and suggestions received from private landowners, hunters, and those who recognize the value of mountain goats and their associated habitats were also considered.

Management Plan Coordinator – Chad Lehman, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP).

SDGFP Mountain Goat Management Plan Team that assisted with plan writing, data review and analyses, critical reviews and/or edits to the South Dakota Mountain Goat Management Plan – Trenton Haffley, John Kanta, Chad Switzer, Brady Neiles, Mandy Pearson, and Andrew Norton.

All text and data contained within this document are subject to revision for corrections, updates, and data analyses.

Cover photo was provided by Chad Lehman (SDGFP).

Recommended Citation:

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. 2024. South Dakota Mountain Goat Action Plan 2024–2028. Completion Report 2024–02AP. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Peter Norbeck was instrumental in introducing the mountain goat into the Black Hills in the 1920s. Throughout the early 1900s, mountain goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) were introduced outside of their endemic range into new areas of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada. The mountain goat is an impressive mountain ungulate in its ability to negotiate steep terrain and cliffs and it provides hunting and viewing opportunities across the highest elevations of the Black Hills.

This management plan provides important historical background and relevant biological information for the sustainable management of mountain goats. Current mountain goat survey methodology and relevant biological literature are presented, along with a thorough discussion of objectives and strategies to guide management of this important resource into the future. This plan is intended to guide managers and biologists over the next five years, but should be considered a working document that will be amended as new biological and social data provide opportunities to improve management of mountain goat resources in South Dakota.

The management of mountain goats and their habitats can be challenging for wildlife and habitat managers. One challenge facing managers is maintaining open landscapes around granite outcroppings in a heavily forested ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) ecosystem. Using tools such as prescribed burning and timber management in these landscapes can enhance mountain goat habitat. Additionally, the mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae* Hopkins), a native insect, provides a natural disturbance creating habitat. Disease initiated by *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* can occur in bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goats (*Capra hircus*), and mountain goats in the Black Hills leading to possible deaths from pneumonia for both bighorn sheep and mountain goats. This pathogen has been linked to limiting recruitment of mountain goats in other areas of the west and is a concern for managers.

For the management of mountain goats the following objectives have been identified: 1) maintain, manage, and protect existing mountain goat habitat in the Black Hills; 2) determine status of mountain goat populations; 3) bi-annually review and set mountain goat management objectives; use harvest strategies to manage the population with the available resource; 4) management and monitoring of disease pathogens in mountain goat herds in the Black Hills; 5) continue to use science-based research, habitat inventories, and surveys to answer questions related to mountain goat ecology and public attitudes towards mountain goat management; and 6) inform and educate the public on mountain goat ecology, management, research, and provide viewing opportunities.

The “*South Dakota Mountain Goat Action 2024–2028*” will serve as the guiding document for decision making and implementation of actions to ensure mountain goat populations and their habitats are managed appropriately. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks will work closely with Black Hills National Forest, National Park Service, and sportsmen and women to overcome the challenges and take advantage of opportunities regarding the future management of mountain goats in South Dakota.

INTRODUCTION

The mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) is not native to South Dakota and was first introduced in 1924. Peter Norbeck was instrumental in introducing the mountain goat into the Black Hills as Custer State Park (CSP) obtained six animals from Alberta, Canada and placed them in an enclosure, or zoo, at CSP (Table 1). The mountain goats did not stay in captivity long, as two of the goats, an adult female and a yearling male, escaped the first night. By 1929, all remaining goats had escaped. These goats moved approximately 10 miles northwest onto the Black Elk Peak range (formerly known as Harney Peak). The introduced goats did very well in the granite outcroppings around Black Elk Peak and by the early 1950s there were an estimated 300 to 400 mountain goats. The population remained stable through the 1950s and 60s. From 1954 to 1968, 40 mountain goats were transplanted to Spearfish Canyon in the Black Hills and to the states of Wyoming and Colorado. The population declined through the 1970s likely due to overharvest and transplants. Hunter observations and department surveys conducted in 1981–1982 indicated a substantial decrease in the mountain goat population and by 1983 the mountain goat population was reported to be approximately 80 animals (Benzon and Rice 1987). By the 1990s the mountain goat population increased to an estimated 150 to 170 animals. In the early 2000s the mountain goat population started to decline again in the Black Hills and therefore South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) captured and translocated 19 mountain goats from Colorado in 2006 and 21 mountain goats from Utah in 2013 (Table 1).

Table 1. History of mountain goat translocations in South Dakota, 1924–2024.

Year	Number Translocated	Capture Location	Release Location
1924	6	Alberta, Canada	Custer State Park, Black Hills, South Dakota
1954	6	Black Hills, South Dakota	Spearfish Canyon, Black Hills, South Dakota
1960	8	Black Hills, South Dakota	Wyoming
1961-1968	26	Black Hills, South Dakota	Colorado
2006	19	Colorado	Black Hills, South Dakota
2013	21	Utah	Black Hills, South Dakota
Totals	86		

SURVEYS AND MONITORING

Population estimates prior to 2007 surveys indicate the Black Hills population has fluctuated greatly from 80–400 animals from the 1940s through the 1980s (Richardson 1971, Benzon and Rice 1987). Mountain goat abundance estimates have been generated through aerial surveys using helicopters and radio-collared mountain goats since 2007 (Table 2). If the radiomarked sample size of mountain goats get so small as to preclude estimating population size using mark-resight, managers will utilize minimum counts and occupancy modeling data to set seasons.

Additionally, mountain goat age and gender ratio estimates have been collected by department staff and volunteers from the ground using binoculars to count mountain goats in the core area of their range in 2014–2018 and 2024. Ground surveys were conducted in late April 2014–2018 and late June 2024. In 2022–2024, ratio counts were conducted via helicopter. Mature billy:mature nanny ratios have varied from 0.19–0.69, and the kid:mature nanny ratios have varied from 0.23–0.93 (Table 3).

Occupancy estimates have also been generated with data collected during helicopter aerial surveys from 2013–2024 (Table 4). We provide estimates across 2 time periods for both detection probability (ψ) and also for occupancy lambda, or growth in occupancy (λ). Occupancy lambda of mountain goats was positive from 2013–2018, and occupancy estimates then declined from 2018–2024.

MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNTING- HISTORICAL HARVEST AND LICENSES

Mountain goats have been hunted in the Black Hills with season dates ranging from September 1–December 31 in recent years (Figure 1). The first season for mountain goats was held in 1967 and 25 licenses were offered (Table 5). Harvest and season closures have varied through time, and in recent years there have been 2 licenses offered each year to hunters. In 2016, the mark-resight mountain goat population estimate was 133, and a harvest of 2 males was 1.5% of the population, a conservative harvest based on recommendations for harvest in native populations (Côté and Festa-Bianchet 2003, Rice and Gay 2010). Surveys in 2022 indicated a minimum count of 42 animals and therefore the hunting season was closed in 2023. Management of mountain goats is closely monitored and population growth is closely tied to nanny survival and reproduction. If females are removed by harvest at a higher rate the response from the population can be negative growth due to fewer kids being recruited back into the population (Figure 2). It is important that hunters only harvest males from this population to ensure a sustainable population of mountain goats for everyone to enjoy.

HARVEST STRATEGY

For the management of mountain goats, it is recommended that harvest will not exceed 4% of the minimum number counted within the mountain goat core area as determined during bi-annual surveys. When the minimum number counted reaches less than 50 individuals the

season will be closed. Other demographic data can be used in assessing season closures and the season can be closed with minimum counts of greater than 50.

Table 2. Survey data for estimating abundance for mountain goats in the Black Hills, South Dakota, 1948–2022.

Year	Minimum Count	Population Estimate	95% Confidence Interval	Method ^a
1948	-	64	NA	Ground count
1951	-	337	NA	Ground count
1983	41	-	NA	Helicopter
1984	12	-	NA	Helicopter
1985	34	-	NA	Helicopter
1986	26	115	NA	Helicopter
1987	31	125	NA	Helicopter
1988-1990	-	-	-	-
1991	-	150-170	NA	Ground count
1992-1993	-	-	-	-
1994	54	157-234	NA	Helicopter
1995	68	213	NA	Helicopter
1996	43	197	NA	Helicopter
1997	38	170-190	NA	Helicopter
1998	18	140-180	NA	Helicopter
1999	32	140-180	NA	Helicopter
2000	47	140-180	NA	Helicopter
2001	15	140-180	NA	Helicopter
2002	25	160	NA	Helicopter
2003	26	150	NA	Helicopter
2004	15	125	NA	Helicopter
2005	21	90	NA	Helicopter
2006	20	70	NA	Helicopter
2007	15	62	53-71	Helicopter-Sightability
2008	23	71	60-81	Helicopter-Sightability
2009	20	56	48-65	Helicopter-Sightability
2010	23	76	64-88	Helicopter-Sightability
2011	18	55	46-63	Helicopter-Sightability
2012	34	104	89-120	Helicopter-Sightability
2013	37	111	95-127	Helicopter-Sightability
2014	99	121	99-207	Helicopter-Log-normal Mark-Resight
2016	106	133	106-236	Helicopter-Log-normal Mark-Resight
2018	95	135	95-373	Helicopter-Log-normal Mark-Resight
2022	42	NA	NA	Helicopter-Minimum Count
2024	29	NA	NA	Helicopter-Minimum Count

^aGround counts were used from 1948–1951. A helicopter survey was used from 1983–2006 using a mix of mark-resight and detection probability adjustments. Using helicopters, a sightability model was used to estimate population size using radio-collars and the mean detection rate from several flights conducted from 2007–2013. Using helicopters from 2014–2018, a Poisson log-normal mark-resight estimate was used to estimate population size from radio-marked mountain goats.

Table 3. Ratio data for mountain goats in the Black Hills, South Dakota, 2014–2024.

Year	Mature Billy:Mature Nanny Ratio	Kid:Mature Nanny Ratio	Method
2014	0.19	0.23	Ground Counts
2015	0.44	0.93	Ground Counts
2016	0.39	0.31	Ground Counts
2018	0.38	0.25	Ground Counts
2022	0.48	0.33	Helicopter
2024	0.69	0.39	Helicopter

Table 4. Occupancy estimates using aerial surveys for mountain goats in the Black Hills, South Dakota, 2013–2024.

Time Period	PSI (Detection Probability) (95% CI)	Lambda (Occupancy Estimate) (95% CI)
2013-2014	0.39 (0.29-0.49)	1.30 (0.93-1.68)
2014-2016	0.45 (0.32-0.57)	1.15 (1.01-1.29)
2016-2018	0.49 (0.36-0.61)	1.18 (0.81-1.54)
2018-2022	0.30 (0.18-0.43)	0.55 (0.35-0.75)
2022-2024	0.31 (0.13-0.49)	0.77 (0.39-1.15)

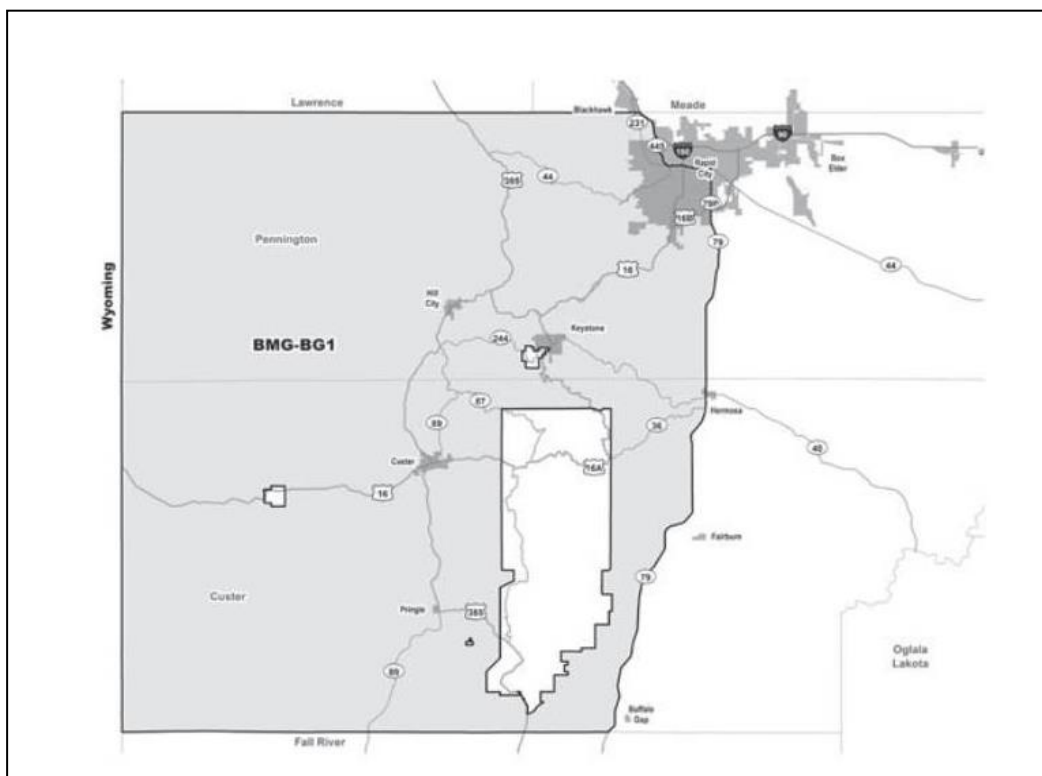


Figure 1. Mountain Goat Hunting Unit Map for South Dakota in 2022.

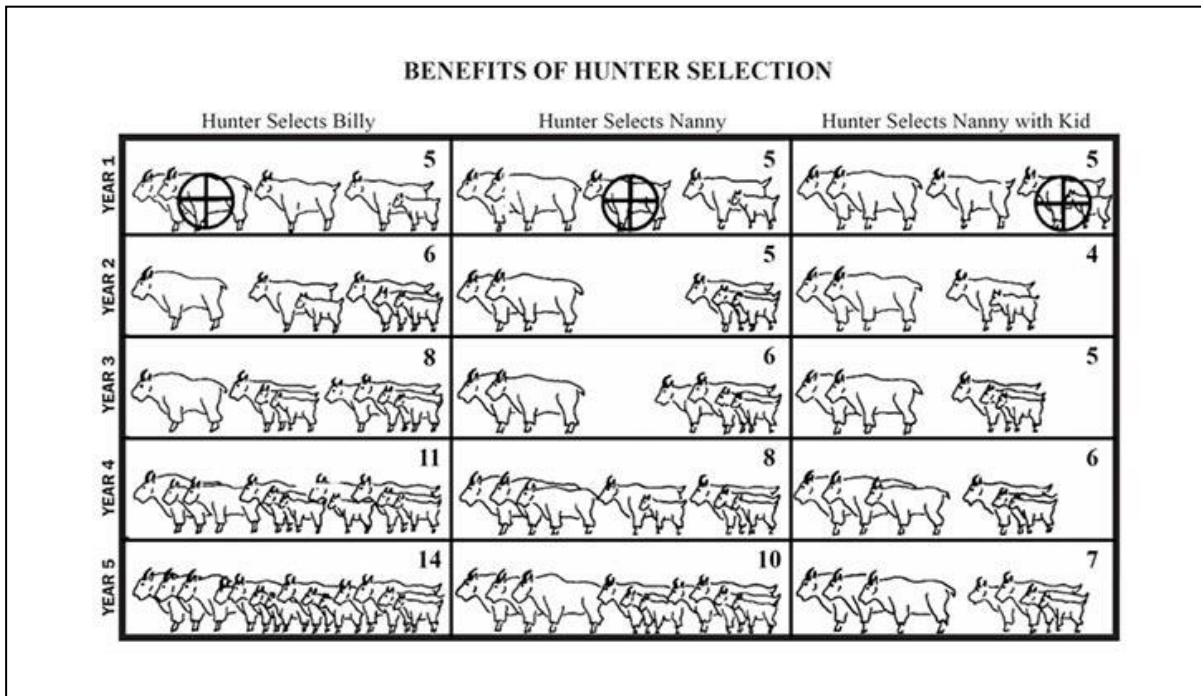


Figure 2. Five-year trend which exemplifies the benefits of harvesting males and passing up females; if hunters take the time to select males instead of females, more goats will be available for future harvest and viewing by the public. Figure credit Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Table 5. Historical harvest of mountain goats in the Black Hills, South Dakota, 1967–2024.

Year	Licenses Issued	Total Harvest	Male	Female	Unknown
1967	25	24	13	11	0
1968	25	21	13	8	0
1969	25	24	19	5	0
1970	25	24	14	10	0
1971	15	12	5	7	0
1972			No Season		
1973	15	12	3	9	0
1974-1975			No Season		
1976	15	12	4	8	0
1977	10	9	1	1	7
1978	10	9	4	5	0
1979	10	10	6	4	0
1980	10	10	6	4	0
1981	10	10	8	2	0
1982-1984			No Season		
1985	4	4	3	1	0
1986	3	3	2	1	0
1987	5	5	5	0	0
1988	5	5	4	1	0
1989	5	5	1	4	0
1990	4	4	3	1	0
1991	4	4	4	0	0
1992	4	4	2	2	0
1993	4	4	3	1	0
1994	4	4	3	1	0
1995	4	4	3	1	0
1996	5	5	1	4	0
1997	4	4	3	1	0
1998	4	4	4	0	0
1999	4	4	4	0	0
2000	4	3	3	0	0
2001	4	4	2	2	0
2002	3	3	2	1	0
2003	3	3	1	2	0
2004	3	3	1	2	0
2005	2	2	0	2	0
2006	2	1	0	1	0
2007-2014			No Season		
2015	2	2	1	1	0
2016	2	2	2	0	0
2017	2	2	2	0	0
2018	2	2	1	1	0
2019	2	2	1	1	0
2020	2	2	2	0	0
2021	2	2	1	1	0
2022	2	2	2	0	0
2023-2024			No Season		
Total	295	275	162	106	7

Disease

A potentially concerning threat is respiratory disease initiated by *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* which can occur in bighorn sheep, domestics, and mountain goats in the Black Hills leading to possible deaths from pneumonia for both bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Pneumonia deaths related to *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* and other forms of bacteria have been the primary mortality factor limiting bighorn sheep herds in the Black Hills (Smith et al. 2014, Garwood et al. 2020) and throughout the west (Besser et al. 2013, Cassirer et al. 2018). This pathogen has been linked to limiting recruitment of kids in a population of mountain goats in Nevada (P. Wolff, Nevada Department of Wildlife, personal communication). A mountain goat tested positive for a new strain of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* in the Black Hills in 2016 and we will continue to monitor the influence such pathogens may have on mountain goats in the Black Hills. Unfortunately, mountain goats may be a reservoir for transmission of a new strain of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* to populations of bighorn sheep, and vice-versa, and is a concern for wildlife managers. Continued monitoring and research of the disease, and its various strains in the Black Hills, may provide insights into potential for disease transfer and implications for population growth for both species.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

Guiding Principles

The following statements have guided the development of the mountain goat management plan goals and objectives and reflect the collective values of the SDGFP in relation to management of mountain goats in South Dakota:

- that wildlife, including mountain goats, contributes significantly to the quality of life in South Dakota and therefore must be sustained for future generations.
- that recreational hunting is a legitimate use of mountain goats and must be encouraged and preserved.
- that the collaboration among various agencies, including the NPS, USFS and the State, is critical for the future of mountain goats and their habitats in the Black Hills, and is deserving of recognition and respect.
- that reasonable regulations are necessary for equitable distribution of the benefits of wildlife, including mountain goats, and to promote ethical and safe behavior.
- that the future of wildlife, including mountain goats, depends on a public that appreciates, understands, and supports wildlife and in the public's right to participate in decisions related to wildlife issues.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

The goal for mountain goat management in South Dakota is to maximize user opportunity while maintaining populations consistent with ecological, social, aesthetic, and economic values of the people of South Dakota and our visitors.

Objectives and Strategies

Objective 1. Maintain, manage, and protect existing mountain goat habitat in the Black Hills.

Strategy A: Maintain existing partnerships with the USFS, NPS, and other state, local, and private conservation partners to support programs and practices encouraging proper mountain goat habitat management on public and private lands.

Strategy B: Avoid disturbance during critically sensitive parturition and nursery periods. Parturition for nannies can occur from May 1–June 15. Nursery groups can be raising kids in sensitive areas during May 1–August 31.

Objective 2. Determine status of mountain goat populations.

Strategy A: Annually implement surveys including ground and hunter harvest.

Strategy B: Bi-annually conduct helicopter aerial surveys to obtain minimum counts and generate occupancy estimates.

Strategy C: Supplement survey data with research findings when available.

Objective 3. Bi-annually review and set mountain goat management objectives; use harvest strategies to manage the population with the available resource.

Strategy A: Bi-annually review mountain goat harvest strategies, license allocation, hunting unit boundaries, and develop 2-year hunting recommendations based on available biological data, public input, and staff recommendations.

Strategy B: Harvest will not exceed 4% of the minimum number counted within the mountain goat core area as determined during bi-annual surveys. When the minimum number counted reaches less than 50 individuals the season will be closed. Other demographic data can be used in assessing season closures and the season can be closed with minimum counts of greater than 50.

Objective 4. Manage and monitor disease pathogens in mountain goat herds in the Black Hills.

Strategy A: Continue to inventory and document domestic sheep and goats in areas adjacent to mountain goat herds.

Strategy B: Work with conservation organizations to develop cooperative programs to discourage domestic sheep and goat ownership in areas adjacent to mountain goat herds.

Strategy C: Manage and monitor mountain goat disease events and attempt to mitigate losses of goats through disease mitigation management when feasible; implement testing and removal of mountain goats that are identified as shedders of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* in populations that are experiencing pneumonia die-offs in an attempt to recover these populations at a faster rate.

Objective 5. Continue to use science-based research, habitat inventories, and surveys to answer questions related to mountain goat ecology and public attitudes towards mountain goat management.

Strategy A: Annually evaluate and prioritize research/survey needs. Develop research/survey proposals and seek funding opportunities.

Strategy B: Use research/survey findings to guide mountain goat management where available and feasible.

Objective 6. Inform and educate the public on mountain goat ecology, management, research, and provide viewing opportunities.

Strategy A: Provide an electronic copy of the “South Dakota Mountain Goat Action Plan 2024–2028” on the department’s website. Printed copies will be available upon request by March 2025.

Strategy B: Use all available media to educate and inform the public regarding mountain goat status, ecology, and harvest.

Strategy C: Brief mountain goat hunters annually in accurately determining gender of mountain goats and encourage harvest of males as harvest of females contributes to additive mortality.

Strategy D: Promote viewability of mountain goats for the enjoyment of the public. Opportunities exist where tourism viewsheds such as Mount Rushmore and the Needles Eye provide the public a unique setting to observe their behavior as a quality experience.

Table 6. Implementation schedule and primary responsibility.

Goals, Objectives & Strategies	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Primary Responsibility
GOAL: The goal for mountain goat management in South Dakota is to maximize user opportunity while maintaining populations consistent with ecological, social, aesthetic, and economic values of the people of South Dakota and our visitors.						
OBJECTIVE 1: Maintain, manage, and protect existing mountain goat habitat in the Black Hills.						
Strategies						
Strategy A: Maintain existing partnerships with the US Forest Service, NPS, and other state, local, and private conservation partners to support programs and practices encouraging proper mountain goat habitat management on public and private lands.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Senior Biologist Regional Wildlife Manager Administration Habitat Program Administrator USFS–SDGFP liaison
Strategy B: Avoid disturbance during critically sensitive parturition and nursery periods. Parturition for nannies can occur from May 1–June 15. Nursery groups can be raising kids in sensitive areas during May 1–August 31.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Administration Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor Habitat Program Administrator USFS–SDGFP liaison
OBJECTIVE 2: Determine status of mountain goat populations.						
Strategies						
Strategy A: Annually implement surveys including ground and hunter harvest.						
Strategy B: Bi-annually conduct helicopter aerial surveys to obtain minimum counts and generate occupancy estimates.	✓		✓		✓	Regional Wildlife Manager Senior Biologist Harvest Survey Coordinator
Strategy C: Supplement survey data with research findings when available.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Senior Biologist Regional Wildlife Manager
OBJECTIVE 3: Bi-annually review and set mountain goat management objectives; use harvest strategies to manage the population with the available resource.						
Strategies						

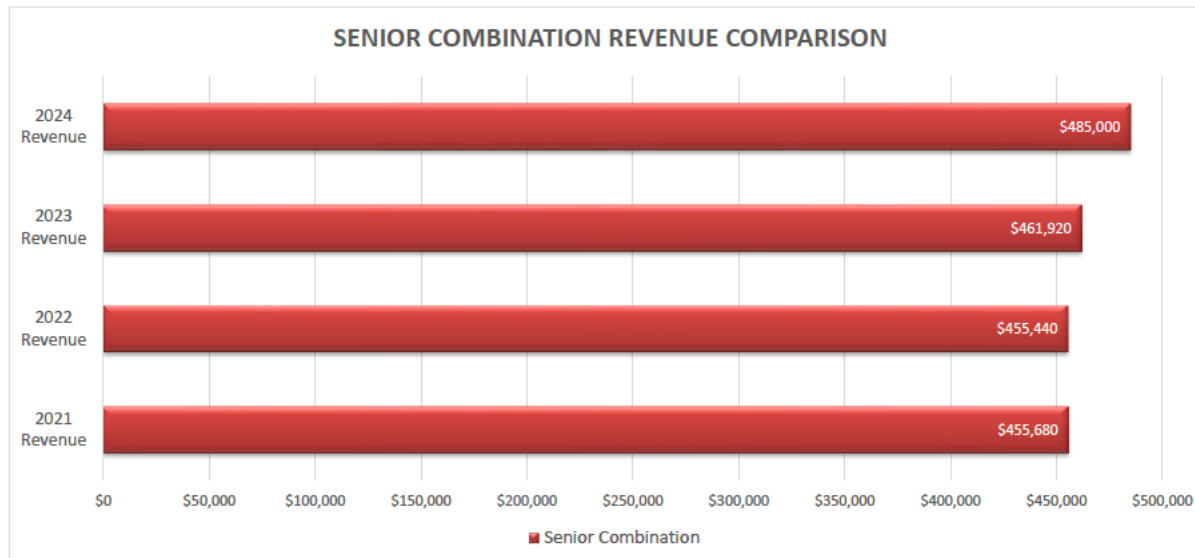
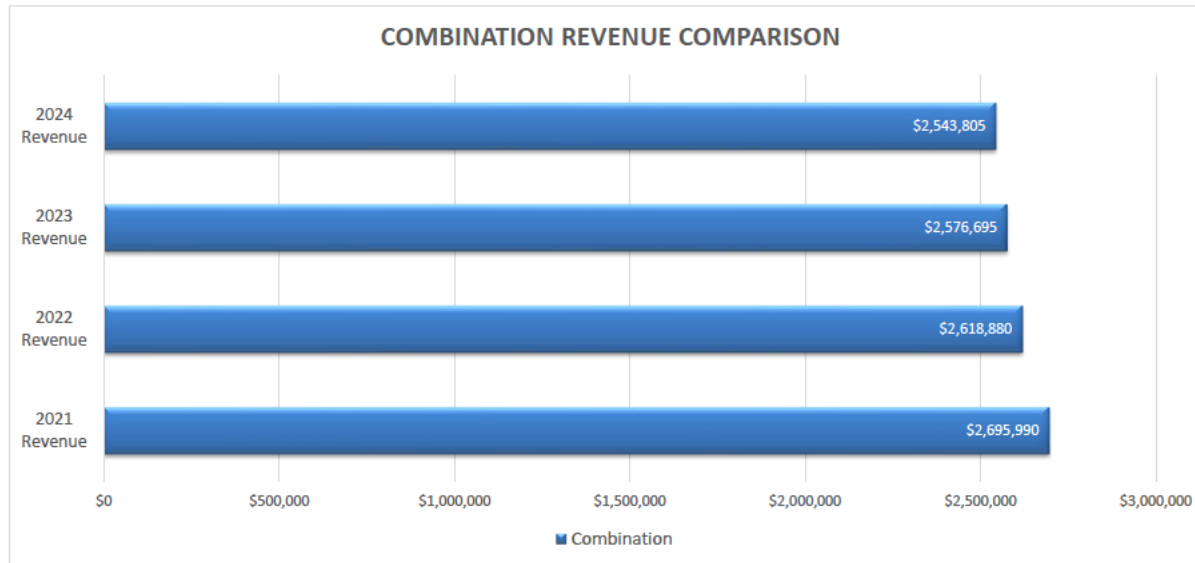
Strategy A: Bi-annually review mountain goat harvest strategies, license allocation, hunting unit boundaries, and develop 2-year hunting recommendations based on available biological data, public input, and staff recommendations.		✓		✓		Senior Biologist Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor Regional Wildlife Manager Administration
Strategy B: Harvest will not exceed 4% of the minimum number counted within the mountain goat core area as determined during bi-annual surveys. When the minimum number counted reaches less than 50 individuals the season will be closed. Other demographic data can be used in assessing season closures and the season can be closed with minimum counts of greater than 50.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Senior Biologist Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor Regional Wildlife Manager Administration
OBJECTIVE 4: Management and monitoring of disease pathogens in mountain goat herds in the Black Hills.						
Strategies						
Strategy A: Continue to inventory and document domestic sheep and goats in areas adjacent to mountain goat herds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Regional Wildlife Manager Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor
Strategy B. Work with conservation organizations to develop cooperative programs to discourage domestic sheep and goat ownership in areas adjacent to mountain goat herds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Regional Wildlife Manager Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor
Strategy C. Manage and monitor mountain goat disease events and attempt to mitigate losses of goats through disease mitigation management when feasible; implement testing and removal of mountain goats that are identified as shedders of <i>Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae</i> in populations that are experiencing pneumonia die-offs in an attempt to recover these populations at a faster rate.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Senior Biologist Regional Wildlife Manager Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor
OBJECTIVE 5: Continue to use science-based research, habitat inventories, and surveys to answer questions related to mountain goat ecology and public attitudes towards mountain goat management.						
Strategies						
Strategy A: Annually evaluate and prioritize research/survey needs. Develop research/survey proposals and seek funding opportunities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor Regional Wildlife Manager Senior Biologist

Strategy B: Use research/survey findings to guide mountain goat management where available and feasible.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor Regional Wildlife Manager Senior Biologist
OBJECTIVE 6: Inform and educate the public on mountain goat ecology, management, research, and provide viewing opportunities.						
Strategies						
Strategy A: Provide an electronic copy of the “South Dakota Mountain Goat Action Plan 2024–2028” on the department’s website. Printed copies will be available upon request by March 2025.	✓					Communications Staff
Strategy B: Use all available media to educate and inform the public regarding mountain goat status, ecology, and harvest.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Communication Staff
Strategy C: Brief mountain goat hunters annually in accurately determining gender of mountain goats and encourage harvest of males as harvest of females contributes to additive mortality.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Regional Wildlife Manager Regional Staff
Strategy D: Promote viewability of mountain goats for the enjoyment of the public. Opportunities exist where tourism viewsheds such as Mount Rushmore and the Needles Eye provide the public a unique setting to observe their behavior as a quality experience.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Regional Wildlife Manager Regional Staff

COMBINATION LICENSES

December 15 - December 14

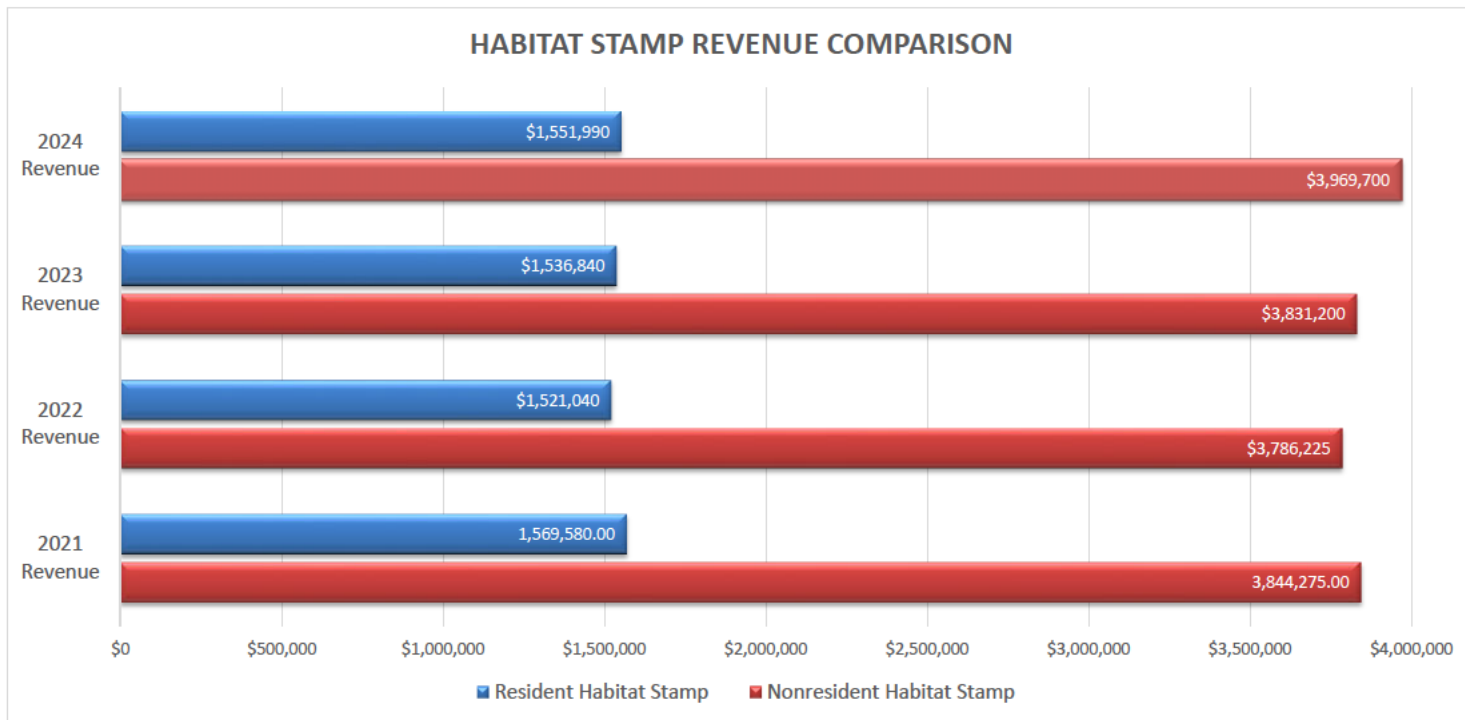
License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	from 3 Yr. Avg
Combination	49,018	47,616	46,849	47,828	46,251	\$2,543,805	(598)	(1,577)	(\$32,890)	(\$86,717)	-3%
Senior Combination	11,392	11,386	11,548	11,442	12,125	\$485,000	577	683	\$23,080	\$27,320	6%
Combination License Totals	60,410	59,002	58,397	59,270	58,376	\$3,028,805	(21)	(894)	(\$9,810)	(\$59,397)	-1.51%



HABITAT STAMP

December 15 - December 14

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	from 3 Yr. Avg
Resident Habitat Stamp	156,958	152,104	153,684	154,249	155,199	\$1,551,990	1,515	950	\$83,325	\$52,268	1%
Nonresident Habitat Stamp	153,771	151,449	153,248	152,823	158,788	\$3,969,700	5,540	5,965	\$221,600	\$238,613	4%
Habitat Stamp Totals	310,729	303,553	306,932	307,071	313,987	\$5,521,690	7,055	6,916	\$304,925	\$290,882	2.25%

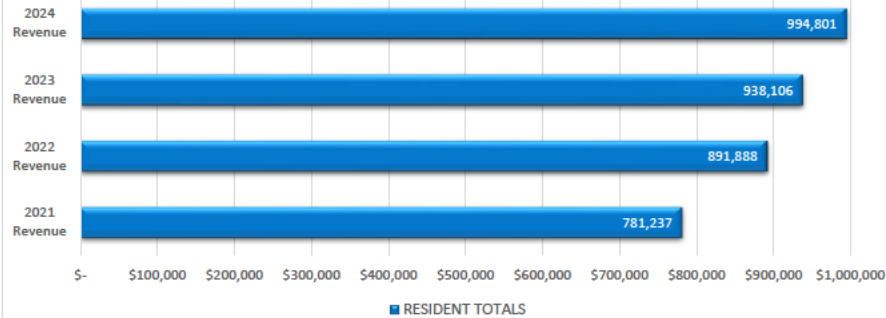


SMALL GAME LICENSES

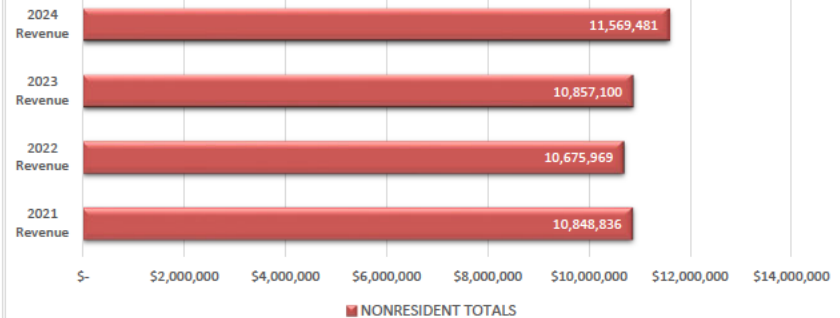
December 15 - December 14

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
Small Game	14,765	18,511	20,154	17,810	21,677	\$715,341	1,523	3,867	\$50,259	\$127,611	22%
1-Day Small Game	1,371	935	917	1,074	935	\$11,220	18	(139)	\$216	(\$1,672)	-13%
Youth Small Game	4,795	6,004	6,058	5,619	6,318	\$31,590	260	699	\$1,300	\$8,388	12%
Furbearer	4,047	3,625	3,383	3,685	3,566	\$106,980	183	(119)	\$5,490	(\$3,570)	-3%
Predator/Varmint	1,386	2,040	1,906	1,777	1,671	\$8,355	(235)	(106)	(\$1,175)	(\$532)	-6%
Res Migratory Bird Cert - 3 Duck	532	1,419	1,791	1,247	1,467	\$7,335	(324)	220	(\$1,620)	\$1,098	18%
Res Migratory Bird Cert - Traditional	24,513	22,748	22,351	23,204	22,796	\$113,980	445	(408)	\$2,225	(\$2,040)	-2%
RESIDENT TOTALS	51,409	55,282	56,560	54,417	58,430	994,801	1,870	4,013	\$56,695	\$129,284	7.37%
Small Game	78,012	76,517	78,266	77,598	83,989	\$10,162,669	5,723	6,391	\$692,483	\$773,271	8%
Youth Small Game	3,247	3,226	3,303	3,259	3,484	\$34,840	181	225	\$1,810	\$2,253	7%
Shooting Preserve 1-Day Nonresident	1,374	1,231	1,161	1,255	1,118	\$51,428	(43)	(137)	(\$1,978)	(\$6,317)	-11%
Shooting Preserve 5-Day Nonresident	13,963	14,409	13,852	14,075	14,019	\$1,065,444	167	(56)	\$12,692	(\$4,231)	0%
Shooting Preserve Annual Nonresident	382	362	301	348	275	\$33,275	(26)	(73)	(\$3,146)	(\$8,873)	-21%
Furbearer	12	4	3	6	6	\$1,650	3	(0)	\$825	(\$92)	-5%
Predator/Varmint	4,405	4,194	4,286	4,295	4,334	\$173,360	48	39	\$1,920	\$1,560	1%
NR Migratory Bird Cert - 3 Duck	315	375	561	417	561	\$2,805	0	144	\$0	\$720	35%
NR Migratory Bird Cert - Traditional	5,045	3,781	7,247	5,358	8,802	\$44,010	1,555	3,444	\$7,775	\$17,222	64%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	106,755	104,099	108,980	106,611	116,588	\$11,569,481	7,608	9,977	\$712,381	\$775,513	9.36%
COMBINED TOTALS	158,164	159,381	165,540	161,028	175,018	\$12,564,282	9,478	13,990	\$769,076	\$904,796	8.69%

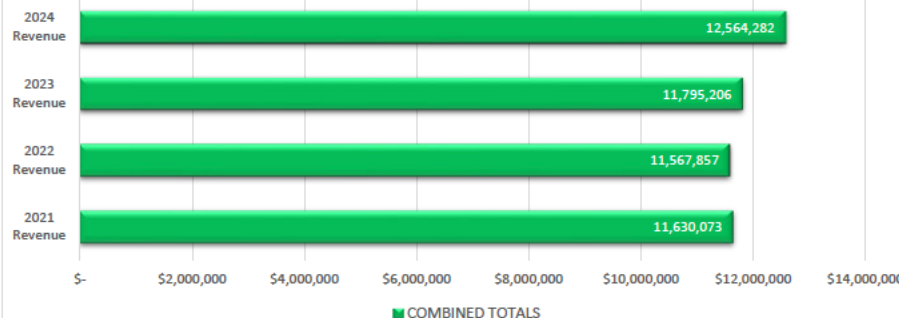
RESIDENT SMALL GAME REVENUE COMPARISON



NONRESIDENT SMALL GAME REVENUE COMPARISON



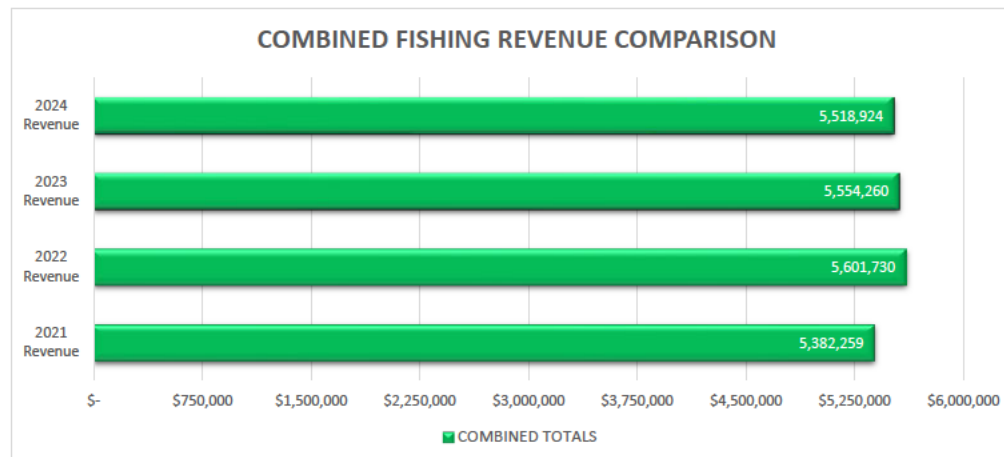
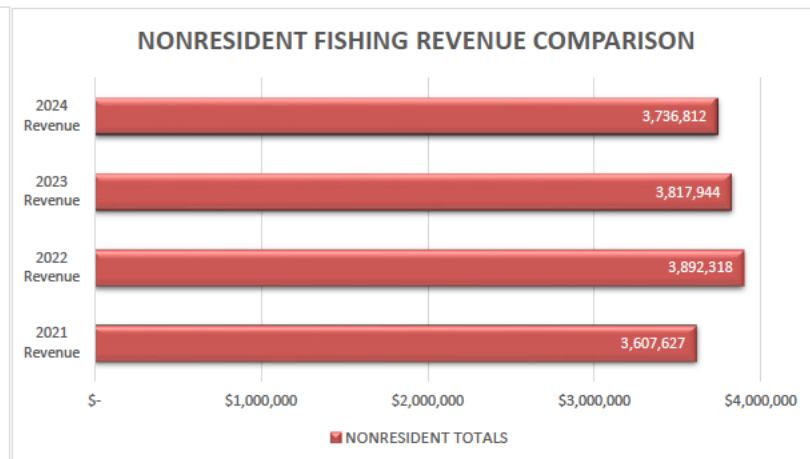
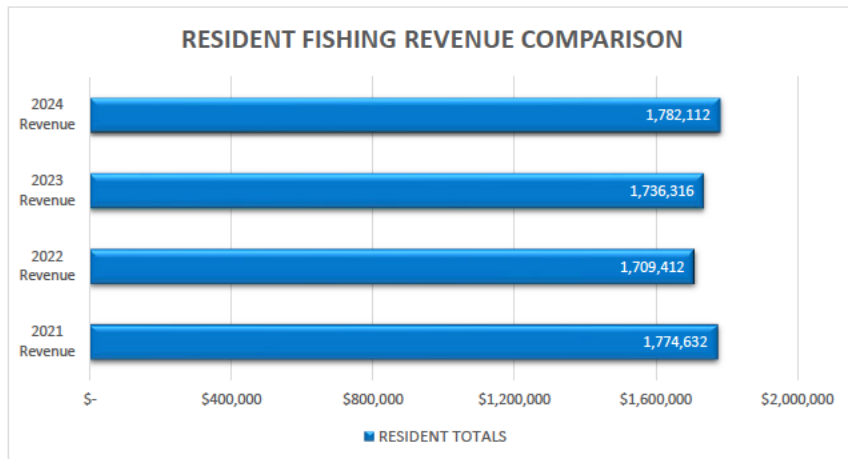
COMBINED SMALL GAME REVENUE COMPARISON



FISHING LICENSES

December 15 - December 14

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
1-Day Fishing	6,654	6,614	7,082	6,783	7,968	\$63,744	886	1,185	\$7,088	\$9,477	17%
Annual Fishing	55,518	53,345	54,014	54,292	55,258	\$1,547,224	1,244	966	\$34,832	\$27,039	2%
Senior Fishing	13,908	13,570	13,939	13,806	14,262	\$171,144	323	456	\$3,876	\$5,476	3%
RESIDENT TOTALS	76,080	73,529	75,035	74,881	77,488	\$1,782,112	2,453	2,607	\$45,796	\$41,992	3.48%
1-Day Fishing	43,946	37,984	37,050	39,660	37,309	\$596,944	259	(2,351)	\$4,144	(\$37,616)	-6%
3-Day Fishing	19,882	18,980	18,750	19,204	18,515	\$685,055	(235)	(689)	(\$8,695)	(\$25,493)	-4%
Annual Fishing	32,371	38,542	37,782	36,232	36,639	\$2,454,813	(1,143)	407	(\$76,581)	\$27,291	1%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	96,199	95,506	93,582	95,096	92,463	\$3,736,812	(1,119)	(2,633)	(\$81,132)	(\$35,818)	-2.77%
COMBINED TOTALS	172,279	169,035	168,617	169,977	169,951	\$5,518,924	1,334	(26)	(\$35,336)	\$6,174	-0.02%



Public Comments

License Fee Package

James Anderson James Anderson

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

If surveys were required to submit for tags next year, it would lead to a better idea of populations without gfp surveys

Other

Jonathan Lee

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in support of mandatory harvest reporting its an easy way to dial in harvest number and take any guess work out of harvest statistics that would only benefit the management of wild game in the South Dakota

Jason Stone

Chamberlain SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am writing in support of the petition submitted by the South Dakota Bowhunters Association looking to implement mandatory Harvest Reporting in South Dakota.

I understand that E-Tagging may be in the "works" and that it may make sense for mandatory harvest reporting to go along with that, however I think it is important to establish that harvest reporting must become mandatory so that the department has as much information as possible, let alone more accurate information than what they've had in the past available to them when making decisions based on and for our fragile wildlife populations. I think we can all agree, that "sound" wildlife management, involves having and utilizing as much accurate data and up-to-date relevant data as possible.

Although I'm not in favor of E-Tagging becoming mandatory, I do firmly believe it is imperative that Mandatory Harvest Reporting be implemented here in South Dakota for all Residents and Non-Residents as it is in 45 out of 50 states. As other states who utilize our same system can prove, our existing website/vendor is capable of handling this.

As always, thank you for your time and all of the hard work the commission does!

Donald Massa

Edgemont SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support Mandatory big game harvest reporting. It is insane to think that we can continue to manage herd populations without knowing how many animals are harvested. 100% response rate should be achieved.

Justin Broughton

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the SDBA's petition to require mandatory harvest reporting. Our biologists deserve to have the very best, most accurate data available to them when making decisions regarding our big game populations. 45 other states have some form of mandatory reporting. I hope we can find a way to work together to become the 46th.

Dylan Sommers

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support Mandatory harvest reporting.

James Kickland

Atlantic IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose closing the airport

Tina Harnois

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

Bow Hunting Harvest report is a useful tool for all SD hunters and gfp. I personal feel that all of the out of state hunting tags are taking a toll on our deer population. Public hunting grounds are become over populated and SD residents are getting the short end of the stick.

R Jeremy Schaaf

Yankton SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in support of mandatory harvest reporting. I see this as an important part of keeping tabs on our big game herd numbers

William Dulitz

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory deer harvest reporting.

The reason I support it is so the state has a chance at finding how successful law-abiding hunters are so a more precise estimation can be made on the impacts of natural causes and poaching have on deer populations.

I know many will be unhappy with this idea, but it should make for a better idea of how the GFP manages the deer herd.

Jordan Bauer

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Support mandatory harvest reporting

Melissa Jihson

Viborg SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory tag reporting. After a tag has been filled the hunter reports the result.

Eric Cotton

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting for big game in South Dakota.

Kurt Halfmann

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

Unleashed dogs in the Big Sioux Rec. Area.

I have archery hunted this park for 5 years and am frustrated by the dogs running loose with owners trailing in the vicinity. I've lost two deer I hit during the archery season while tracking. I've spoken to John Carlson, the park manager and he suggested I contact you. He told me unleashed dogs are his number one complaint. Dogs need to be leashed starting Oct 1 through Jan.1 Signs can be posted at parking areas. The commission needs to act on this so everyone can enjoy the park.

DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The January 2025 South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Regular Commission Meeting will be held January 9-10, 2025, at the Ramkota Convention Center located at 920 W Sioux Ave, Pierre, SD 57501. This meeting will be held in person, Zoom Webinar, and Livestream.

Listen to the meeting beginning January 9, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. CST via Livestream at <https://www.sd.net/remote1/> or join via Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link below. Depending on your application, you may be required to enter the Zoom Webinar ID and password. Meeting attendees will not be able to have video and will be muted upon entry.

Meeting Dates and Times:

- **Thursday, January 9, 2025, starting at 1:00 p.m. CST**
- **Friday, January 10, 2025, starting at 8:00 a.m. CST**

Zoom Webinar Link: <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/91264176710?pwd=Vm00NEowdGV6N09lb1hnVUkMUF3Zz09>

Or join via phone:

- **Dial:** 1-669-900-9128
- **Webinar ID:** 912 6417 6710
- **Passcode:** 970458

Public Input: To provide comments, join the meeting in person, via Zoom, or via conference call using the information above. The public hearing (if there is one) and the open forum will begin promptly at 2 pm CST. To ensure an efficient public hearing and/or open forum, those wishing to testify should register by 1:00 p.m. CST on the day of the meeting by emailing Karina VanZee at karina.vanzee@state.sd.us. Testifiers should provide their full names, whom they represent, their city of residence, and the topic they will address.

Online and Phone Testimony: Testifiers wishing to speak online during the commission meeting will be asked to 'raise their hands' during the public hearing and open forum if they'd like to testify. The meeting hosts will call your name and give you permission to unmute when it is your turn to speak. Those joining online will not be able to share video and will be granted audio only. Those joining via phone can raise and lower their hands by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.

Written Comments: Written comments can be submitted at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record, comments must include the complete name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of seventy-two hours before the meeting (not including the day of the meeting).

Dated this 2nd day of January 2025.

Stephanie Rissler

Stephanie Rissler, GFP Commission Chair