



# SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

APRIL 4-5, 2024 | MATTHEWS TRAINING CENTER | PIERRE, SD

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

### Division of Administration

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#### 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

#### Informational Items

4. South Dakota Shooting Sports Complex Update
5. New Staff Introductions

## Public Hearing – 2 pm CST / 1 pm MT

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*The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment finalizations.*

## Open Forum – following the conclusion of the Public Hearing

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

### Petition

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6. Landowner Muzzleloader Deer Preference
7. West River Turkey Tag

### Proposals

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8. Furbearer Seasons and Methods: Hunting Raccoons with Dogs
9. Firearm Deer License Unit Changes
  - a. East River Prairie and Archery Deer Hunting Season
  - b. Archery Deer Hunting Season Information Item
  - c. General Muzzleloading Deer Hunting Season Information Item
10. Landowner Own Land Elk
11. Custer State Park Hunting Seasons (*Second Reading*)
  - a. Custer State Park Bison
  - b. Custer State Park Coyote Hunting Season
12. Small Game Hunting Seasons (*Second Reading*)
  - a. Grouse Hunting Season
  - b. Partridge Hunting Season
  - c. Quail Hunting Season
  - d. Cottontail Rabbit Hunting Season
  - e. Tree Squirrel Hunting Season
  - f. Snipe Hunting Season



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## Finalizations

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13. Use of Parks and Public Lands: Tree Stands and Trail Cameras
14. Time Restrictions for Use of Park Systems and Public Lands
15. Bighorn Sheep Hunting
  - a. Bighorn Sheep Information Item
  - b. Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season
  - c. Bighorn Sheep Hunting License Allocation
16. Elk Hunting Seasons
  - a. Custer State Park Early Archery Elk Hunting Season
  - b. Custer State Park Early Archery Elk Hunting License Allocation
  - c. Custer State Park Firearm Elk Hunting Season
  - d. Custer State Park Firearm Elk Hunting License Allocation
  - e. Special Custer State Park Antlerless Elk Hunting Season
  - f. Archery Black Hills Elk Hunting Season
  - g. Archery Black Hills Elk Hunting License Allocation
  - h. Black Hills Firearm Elk Hunting Season
  - i. Black Hills Firearm Elk Hunting License Allocation
  - j. Prairie Elk Hunting Season
  - k. Prairie Elk Hunting License Allocation
17. Waterfowl Hunting Seasons
  - a. August Management Take
  - b. Nonresident Waterfowl Hunting Seasons

## Division of Parks and Recreation

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### Informational Items

18. DOT Collector Road Program
19. Water and Sewer Project List
20. Reel in Memories Campaign
21. Revenue and Camping Reports

## Division of Wildlife

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### Informational Items

22. Bon Homme County Land Donation
23. Krause Land Donation – Day County
24. Nest Predator Bounty Program – Youth Recap
25. Prairie Dog Program Update
26. License Sales Reports



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## Solicitation of Agenda Items

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*Now is the time to submit agenda items for the Commission to consider at a following Commission Meeting.*

## Adjourn

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*A Commissioner Governance Meeting will be held on May 2, 2024, starting at 9 am MT, at the Event Barn located in Custer State Park. The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on May 2-3, 2024, starting at 1 pm MT also at the Event Barn located in Custer State Park.*



# Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

## South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Missouri Avenue Event Center | Pierre, SD | March 7-8, 2024

### Call Meeting to Order

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 1 pm CST at the Missouri Avenue Event Center in Pierre, SD, on March 7, 2024. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Julie Bartling, Jim White, Robert Whitmyre, Jon Locken, Travis Bies, Travis Theel, and Bruce Cull were present. With eight commission members present, a quorum was established. The public and staff can listen via SDPB Livestream and participate via conference or in person, with approximately 107 total participants attending via Zoom or in person.

### 1. New Commissioner Introduction

[Info Item]

Chair Rissler introduced Commissioner Theel to the other commissioners as well as the public.

### 2. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

[Action Item]

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

### 3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

[Action Item]

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

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

### 4. Additional Salary Days

[Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for additional salary days from the Commissioners. The following additional days were submitted: Rissler (4), Theel (1), Cull (2), Whitmyre (1), and White (1).

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS. The motion carried unanimously.

### 5. 2024 Legislative Item Update

[Info Item]

Secretary Robling gave a brief update on the legislative items that were heard during the 2024 legislative session.

### 6. South Dakota Shooting Sports Complex Update

[Info Item]

Secretary Robling provided the Commission with an update on the South Dakota Shooting Range Complex. Dirt work has commenced, and fundraising efforts are fully underway.

### 7. South Dakota Go Outdoors Update

[Info Item]

Keith Fisk, Licensing Program Administrator, gave the commission an update on the South Dakota Go Outdoors licensing system.

Jodi Bechard, Parks Business Manager, reported that things are starting to warm up for the season, on the Parks & Recreation side of Go Outdoors South Dakota. Staff continue to make improvements for both internal and external customers. The 90-day window was reported open into June and reservations are starting to come in quickly.

Chad Switzer, Wildlife Deputy Director, provided some information on the work behind the scenes for system improvements to overall functionality, user experience, and overall efficiency. This includes weekly status meetings with Brandt and GFP teams, submission and review of work tickets, numerous workgroups on all aspects of the system (Parks, Fish/Hunt, events, specialty permits, law enforcement app, mobile app,





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marketing and communications, reporting, call center, ACH (automated clearing house) sweeps when funds are pulled from license agents, accounting/invoicing), quarterly on-site visits with Brandt to review and discuss numerous items related to upcoming enhancements to system updates, identify priorities, etc. In addition, staff conduct extensive testing before moving new functionality or updates to production or before drawings are conducted. Switzer asked the Commissioner to please continue to pass along comments or conservations you have with the public to us so we can follow up with those customers to assist them and take any suggestions they might have to improve our system.

### 8. New Staff Introduction

[\[Info Item\]](#)

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann introduced several new staff throughout the department to the Commissioners. Those new staff introduced were Andrea Beck, Karina Popek, Sheila Stahl, Brendan Kamerzell, and Tom Mitzel.

### Open Forum

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor at 2:00 pm CST for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda not as a finalization or may not be on the agenda.

- 2:01 pm: Bill Waeckerle of Pierre, SD representing the Lake Oahe Walleye Restoration Coalition testified in person on improvements for fisheries and updates on hatchery capabilities.
- 2:04 pm: Bills Hinds of Pierre, SD representing the Lake Oahe Walleye Restoration Coalition testified in person on improvements for fisheries and updates on hatchery capabilities.
- 2:08 pm: Dick Werner of Herreid, SD testified in person as a proponent to the waterfowl hunting season proposals.
- 2:12 pm: Cody Warner of Webster, SD representing the South Dakota Waterfowl Association testified virtually in opposition to the waterfowl hunting season proposals.
- 2:14 pm: Paul Lepisto of Pierre, SD representing the Izaak Walton League testified in person in opposition to the waterfowl hunting season proposals.
- 2:16 pm: Roger Hating of Pierre, SD testified in person in opposition to the waterfowl hunting season proposals.
- 2:17 pm: Chuck Dieter of Brookings, SD representing the South Dakota Wildlife Federation and the South Dakota Waterfowl Association testified in person in opposition to the waterfowl hunting season proposals.
- 2:22 pm: Zach Hunke of Watertown, SD representing the South Dakota Wildlife Federation as their president testified virtually in opposition to the waterfowl hunting season proposals.
- 2:26 pm: Greg Fischer of Lake City, SD testified in person in opposition to the waterfowl hunting season proposals.
- 2:29 pm: George VanDel of Pierre, SD testified in person in opposition to the waterfowl hunting season proposals.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the Open Forum at 2:32 pm CST.



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### **9. Petition #209: Deer Draw Structure**

[Action Item]

Tate Glader of Rapid City submitted petition #209 in which requested the Commission to change the deer drawing structure back to unlimited first choice options for deer seasons.

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann described the petition submitted by Tate Glader and the direct result of the petition. The petition requested the Commission to repeal the current combined deer draw structure and go back to the prior structure where individuals could apply for all six seasons if desired. It was described that the current structure has resulted in more individuals getting their preferred licenses and less hunters having more than 2 buck licenses. Because there is on-going conversations about the deer management plan and discussions around potential adjustments to the drawing structure, the commission denied the petition.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITE TO DENY PETITION #209. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY WHITE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-03 DENYING PETITION #209. The motion carried unanimously.

### **10. Use of Parks and Public Lands: Tree Stands and Trail Cameras**

[Action Item]

Law Enforcement Section Chief Sam Schelhaas presented a proposal to expand requirements on trail camera placement, tree stand placement and construction on Walk-In-Areas and all private lands leased by the Department for public hunting access. This proposal will allow an individual to hunt without permission from the landowner or lessee on all private lands leased for public hunting access by GFP. This was previously only described as walk-in areas. This proposal would also specify the restriction to only active hunting on lands leased for public hunting by GFP. In addition to all public lands owned, leased, managed, and controlled by GFP, on all private lands leased for public hunting access by GFP, this proposal would restrict an individual from constructing or using permanent tree stands, permanent blinds, and climbing devices. It would require an individual's name and address, or customer identification number (instead of big game license number) to be legibly labeled on the exterior of unoccupied portable blinds, tree stands, and trail cameras.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BIES TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BRINGING BEFORE THE COMMISSION FOR FINALIZATION IN APRIL 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

### **11. Time Restrictions for Use of State Park Systems and Public Lands**

[Action Item]

Law Enforcement Section Chief Sam Schelhaas presented a proposal that would clarify that Oahe Downstream Recreation Area and West Shore Lakeside Use Area, and other areas north of Fort Pierre, observe the Central Time zone. This clarifies that while these areas are technically located within the Mountain Time zone, they operate on the Central Time zone as that is what the communities in which they are associated with operate.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY THEEL TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BRINGING BEFORE THE COMMISSION FOR FINALIZATION IN APRIL 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

### **12. Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season Proposal**

[Action Item]

Director Kirschenmann provided information to the Commission prior to discussion beginning on bighorn sheep proposals and license allocations. He informed the commission that staff have determined that multiple sheep are showing clinical signs of illness (coughing) in Hell Canyon that follows prior confirmation of pneumonia from exposure to *Mycoplasma ovipneumonia* in other herds. Twenty-two radio collars were deployed and will be used to help monitor the situation as well as on the ground surveillance by department



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staff. Depending on how illness progresses, it may result in the department providing additional license allocation adjustments at the April Commission meeting.

The Commission approved an amendment to the Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season proposal to add the Rapid City bighorn sheep herd in the Hell Canyon hunting unit (BHS-BH4). Specifically, all of Pennington County within the Black Hills was added to the Hell Canyon unit. As a result, the Rapid City hunting unit (BHS-BH1) will be removed from administrative rule. License number recommendations, totaling 16, for the Bighorn Sheep Hunting Seasons were presented and included an increase from 3 to 4 ram bighorn sheep licenses in Custer State Park (CU1-CSP), an increase from 4 to 8 ram bighorn sheep licenses in Hell Canyon, and no change to Elk Mountain (BHS-BH2; 3 ram bighorn sheep licenses) or the single auction license available. Finalizations for the Bighorn Sheep Hunting Seasons and license numbers are scheduled for the April Commission meeting.

### 12a. Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

This proposal removes BHS-BH1. Expands the unit boundary for BHS-BH4 to include the former boundaries of BHS-BH1 and those portions of Pennington County west of Interstate 90, Elk Vale Road and Highway 79.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BRINGING FINALIZATION IN THE APRIL 2024 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

### 12b. Bighorn Sheep Hunting License Allocation

NO ACTION TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO PROPOSED CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE APRIL 2024 MEETING.

## 13. Custer State Park Hunting Seasons

[Action Item]

### 13a. Custer State Park Bison

Matt Snyder, Regional Parks Supervisor and Jason Gooder, Natural Resource Manager, introduced this proposal to clean-up administrative rule to remove "bull" and edit "nontrophy" for rule consistency when referring to non-trophy bison harvest in § 41:06:07:01. Will allow the use of archery equipment during the Custer State Park trophy and non-trophy bison harvest season. Decreases the allowable hunting days for trophy bison from three to two days. Increases the number of trophy bison licenses available by random lottery drawing from eight to ten. Increases the number of non-trophy bison licenses from fifteen to twenty.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY CULL TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BRINGING FINALIZATION IN THE MAY 2024 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

### 13b. Custer State Park Coyote Hunting Season

Andrew Norton, Wildlife Program Administrator, proposed to extend the Custer State Park Coyote Hunting Season to November 1 through April 30 and allow coyote hunting any time of the day or night. Previously, the season started December 26 and shooting hours were restricted to one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. In addition, a rule in the Custer State Park Hunting Season chapter was removed because it was redundant to a rule in the Custer State Park Restrictions chapter describing restrictions to hunting on roads and rights of ways.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BRINGING FINALIZATION IN THE MAY 2024 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

## 14. Small Game Hunting Seasons

[Action Item]

The Commission approved proposals to extend the Grouse, Partridge, and Quail hunting seasons to end on January 31 to coincide with the end date for the Pheasant hunting season. The Commission also



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approved a proposal to remove the word “common” from the Snipe hunting season to refer to Snipe more generally. There was also a question from the Commission regarding the possibility to extend the Cottontail and Tree Squirrel hunting seasons through March and April. No Commission action was taken for the Pheasant, Cottontail, Tree Squirrel, Crow, and Mourning Dove seasons.

### **14a. Grouse Hunting Season**

This proposal modifies the grouse season end date to align with the end date for the pheasant season of January 31. This will result in an approximate 4-week extension to the season.

MOTIONED BY BARLTING, SECONDED BY CULL TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BRINGING FINALIZATION AT THE MAY 2024 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

### **14b. Pheasant Hunting Season**

NO ACTION TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO PROPOSED CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE MAY 2024 MEETING.

### **14c. Partridge Hunting Season**

This proposal modifies the partridge hunting season end date to align with the end date of the pheasant season of January 31. This will result in an approximate 4-week extension to the season.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BARLTING TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BRINGING FINALIZATION AT THE MAY 2024 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

### **14d. Quail Hunting Season**

This proposal modifies the quail hunting season end date to align with the end date for the pheasant hunting season of January 31. This will result in an approximate 4-week extension to the season.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BRINGING FINALIZATION AT THE MAY 2024 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

### **14e. Cottontail Rabbit Hunting Season**

NO ACTION TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO PROPOSED CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE MAY 2024 MEETING.

### **14f. Tree Squirrel Hunting Season**

NO ACTION TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO PROPOSED CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE MAY 2024 MEETING.

### **14g. Crow Hunting Season**

NO ACTION TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO PROPOSED CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE MAY 2024 MEETING.

### **14h. Snipe Hunting Season**

This proposal would remove the word “common” before snipe to allow harvest of all snipe species.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BIES TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BRINGING FINALIZATION AT THE MAY 2024 MEETING. Motioned carried unanimously.

### **14i. Mourning Dove Hunting Season**

NO ACTION TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO PROPOSED CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE MAY 2024 MEETING.



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### 15. Waterfowl Hunting Seasons Proposals

[Action Item]

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann brought the following proposals to the Commission for consideration.

#### 15a. August Management Take

Proposed changes from last year would be to remove Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Brookings, Clay, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Sanborn, Turner, Union, and Yankton counties from the August Management Take Hunting season unit from the August Management Take Hunting Season unit.

NO ACTION TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO PROPOSAL CHANGES FROM JANUARY 2024 MEETING. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE APRIL 2024 MEETING.

#### 15b. Nonresident Waterfowl Hunting Season

This proposal would add 210 additional licenses to NRW-00B, 50 additional licenses to NRW-00V, and 55 additional licenses to NRW-00Z for a total of 315 additional licenses added to the Nonresident Waterfowl Hunting Seasons.

NO ACTION TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO PROPOSAL CHANGES FROM JANUARY 2024 MEETING. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE APRIL 2024 MEETING.

### 16. Elk Hunting Season Proposals

[Action Item]

Andy Lindbloom, Senior Big Game Biologist, informed the Commission that the GFP conducts multiple surveys to collect biological and social data on elk herds across the state. The South Dakota Elk Action Plan provides guidelines on population objectives, license allocation, harvest age, and hunter success. An update on elk surveys and objectives was presented. Elk season regulations and licenses for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons are being proposed to meet established population and management objectives.

The Commission approved an amendment to the proposal for the Black Hills (Firearm) Elk Hunting Season to include the BHE-9A any elk hunting unit among the list of units open from October 1 – 31 and to restrict antlerless elk hunting to October 15 - 31 for BHE-H2B and BHE-H2E. The Commission also approved an amendment to the proposal for the Prairie Elk Hunting Season to exclude BHE-BH4 from hunting unit PRE-27A in Fall River County. All of these changes are minor rule clean-ups that are not expected to notably change elk hunting regulations. License number recommendations for the Elk Hunting Seasons were presented and included increases to archery and firearm any elk licenses in Custer State Park, Black Hills, and Prairie hunting units. In addition, recommended increases to the number of antlerless licenses during the Prairie Elk Hunting Seasons from 175 to 210 were presented. Finalizations for the Elk Hunting Seasons and license numbers are scheduled for the April Commission meeting.

#### 16a. Custer State Park Early Archery Elk Hunting Season

This proposal would increase the maximum number of licenses from ten to twenty “any elk” licenses and provide the option for up to twenty “antlerless elk” licenses. License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years are included in the following administrative action item.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE APRIL 2024 MEETING.

#### 16b. Custer State Park Early Archery Elk Hunting License Allocation

This proposal would update the 2024-2025 Custer State Park Early Archery Elk hunting season licenses from 4 to 5 resident CEE-CU1 “Any Elk” licenses and keep the resident CEE-CU1 “Antlerless Elk” at zero licenses.





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### **16c. Custer State Park Firearm Elk Hunting Season**

This proposal would increase the maximum number of licenses from twenty to thirty "any elk" licenses and the option to provide up to thirty "antlerless elk" licenses. License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years are included in the following administrative action item.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE APRIL 2024 MEETING.

### **16d. Custer State Park Firearm Elk Hunting License Allocation**

This proposal would update the 2024-2025 Custer State Park Firearm Elk hunting season licenses from 11 to 15 resident CUE-CU1 "Any Elk" licenses, zero "Antlerless Elk," and would keep the resident Raffle at one license.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE APRIL 2024 MEETING.

### **16e. Special Custer State Park Antlerless Elk Hunting Season**

This proposal would specify the option to provide up to twenty "antlerless elk" licenses. No antlerless licenses are recommended for this season.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE APRIL 2024 MEETING.

### **16f. Black Hills Archery Elk Hunting Season**

This proposal would increase the maximum number of "any elk" licenses from 200 to 300 and "antlerless elk" licenses from 150 to 300. It also cleans-up administrative rule to match unit boundary descriptions for Black Hills Archery Elk with Black Hills Firearm Elk.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE APRIL 2024 MEETING.

### **16g. Black Hills Archery Elk Hunting License Allocation**

This proposal would update the total "Any Elk" licenses from 182 to 192 licenses and would keep 90 "Antlerless Elk" licenses for a total of 282 Black Hills Archery Elk Hunting licenses.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE APRIL 2024 MEETING.

### **16h. Black Hills Firearm Elk Hunting Season**

This proposal would increase the maximum number of "any elk" licenses from 600 to 800 and "antlerless elk" licenses from 1,200 to 1,500.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY THEEL TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BRINGING FINALIZATION AT THE APRIL 2024 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

### **16i. Black Hills Firearm Elk Hunting License Allocation**

This proposal would increase the Black Hills Firearm Elk hunting licenses from 535 to 570 "Any Elk" licenses and would keep 730 "Antlerless Elk" licenses for a total of 1,300 total Black Hill Firearm Elk hunting season licenses.



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### 16j. Prairie Elk Hunting Season

This proposal would increase the maximum number of “any elk” licenses from 150 to 200 and “antlerless elk” licenses from 300 to 400.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO APPORVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES, BRINGING FINALIZATION TO THE APRIL 2024 MEETING. Motioned carried unanimously.

### 16k. Prairie Elk Hunting License Allocation

This proposal would increase “Any Elk” Prairie Elk hunting season licenses from 102 to 126 and the “Antlerless Elk” licenses from 175 to 210, increase the total Prairie Elk hunting season licenses from 277 to 336.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES FROM THE JANUARY 2024 MEETING. FINALIZATION WILL BE BROUGHT AT THE APRIL 2024 MEETING.

## 17. Go Forth, Parks RX, and Library Checkout

[Info Item]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Parks & Recreation Director, and April Laron, Marketing Coordinator, provided an overview of the park pass partnership programs: Park Prescription (Rx), Go Forth, and Library Checkout. Funded by DOH (Park Rx, Go Forth) and DOE (Library Checkout), these initiatives contribute to park accessibility, building healthy habits, and community engagement. In 2023, both the Park Rx and Go Forth programs achieved record-breaking participation levels, with 340 Park Rx passes redeemed, benefiting approximately 1148 individuals, and 708 students redeeming Go Forth vouchers, allowing an estimated 2840 individuals to enjoy the park. Additionally, in 2023 the Library Checkout program launched, allowing 98 libraries to lend out 3-day park passes, which were redeemed an impressive 1691 times.

## 18. Marketing Update

[Info Item]

April Larson, Marketing Coordinator and Jeff VanMeeteren, Parks & Recreation Director presented an update on the 2024 Marketing Plan for the Parks & Recreation Division. This first year-round marketing campaign focuses on three main priorities: increasing lodging awareness and reservations, increasing shoulder season and mid-week camping reservations, and increasing park day use visitation, focusing on sales of park entrance licenses to new users. The strategies emphasize consistent and recognizable messaging, targeting key promotional channels including targeted emails and social media, as well as cross-promotion. Since January, the open rate of the targeted emails has been 30-35%, while social media posts have had as many as 21,000 views and 1,100 interactions. Spring will continue to focus on additional targeted messaging and maintaining consistent, creative content, while also reaching new audiences.

## 19. Parks & Recreation Revenue and Camping Reports

[Info Item]

Director of Parks & Recreation Jeff VanMeeteren presented the Commission with the revenue and camping reports for February and YTD. February was a positive month for both revenue and camping units. YTD 2024 park entrance license sales remain strong due to marketing and weather at 24% above 2023. Camping reservations were up 6% in February and 2% YTD.

## 20. Avian Influenza Update

[Info Item]

Chad Switzer, Wildlife Deputy Director, provided an update on the disease, how it is transmitted, symptoms displayed by birds, and best management practices that hunters can implement. Currently, avian flu is not





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expected to impact wild bird populations to the point of a population altering event and that the 2024 migration has been quiet thus far from disease mortalities. GFP continues to work with other wildlife management agencies and commercial poultry facilities to minimize domestic and wild bird interactions. Switzer asked that the public continue to report all observations of sick or dead birds to the department so they can be investigated and documented.

### 21. Nest Predator Bounty Program

[Info Item]

Jacquie Ermer, Regional Wildlife Supervisor, gave a brief overview of the 2024 Nest Predator Bounty Program and shared the Tail Tracker Dashboard. The program started March 1 for all resident youth under age of 18 and will begin April 1 for all ages. Eligible species include raccoon, striped skunk, red fox, badger and opossum. Payment is \$10/tail with maximum payout of \$500,000. A free live trap will be given to each participating youth that did not receive a live trap last year. Additionally, participating youth have a chance to be drawn for the Benton Howe Weekly Giveaway Package.

### 22. Ring-necked Pheasant Action Plan

[Info Item]

Alex Solem, Senior Wildlife Biologist, presented the draft Ring-necked Pheasant Action Plan to the commission which will be open for public comment. This action plan serves as a guiding document for pheasant management in South Dakota from 2024 to 2028. Objectives and strategies include measurable goals to improve pheasant habitat on public and private lands, increase hunting access on public and private lands, and will continue to monitor populations through harvest surveys.

### 23. Deer Action Plan

[Info Item]

Andy Lindbloom, Senior Big Game Biologist, brought the Deer Action plan before the Commission. The South Dakota White-tailed and Mule Deer Action Plan outlines priorities, objectives, and management strategies to focus GFP's efforts over the next 4 years. Development of the plan has been an expansive process, to include numerous internal committee meetings, a public opinion survey, and public stakeholder meetings. The current objectives of the draft action plan focus on managing deer for biologically and socially acceptable levels, distributing hunting opportunity fairly and equitably, working with private landowners to alleviate depredation, and increasing deer habitat and hunter access. The draft of the action plan was presented to the GFP commission and is now available for public comment.

### 24. Bobcat Management and Action Plans

[Info Item]

Chad Lehman presented a summary of the Bobcat Management Plan, information from both the action plan, and larger Management Plan Document. The presentation focused on the management strategies that can be implemented in each zone: 1) Moderate Harvest- a 52-day season that allows for unlimited bobcat harvest per trapper or hunter in that zone; and 2) Low Harvest- a 52-day season that allows for the harvest of only one bobcat per trapper or hunter in that zone. A threshold of importance was from a harvest data collected on bobcat juvenile-to-adult ratios where below 10% could be an indication of population declines. Strategies can adjust based on that ratio and other research data collected.

### 25. Lake Oahe Update

[Info Item]

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Administrator, presented to the Commission an overview of recent fisheries management activity on Lake Oahe. Information was provided on recent public meetings and where recordings of those meetings can be found. Additionally, previous stocking numbers and results of 2023 lake survey efforts were provided. Plans for stocking of approximately 1,700 pre-spawn adult gizzard shad and approximately 3.7 million walleye fingerings in 2024 were also shared.



# Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

## South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Missouri Avenue Event Center | Pierre, SD | March 7-8, 2024

### **26. License Sales Update**

[Info Item]

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann provided a brief summary of license sales through the end of February. Overall, licenses sales are good, with fishing licenses lagging slightly. Likely influence is contributed to a shortened ice fishing season resulting from abnormally warm conditions. Warm weather conditions may result in an early open water fishing season and could assist in fishing license sales rebounding. Kirschenmann also discussed how the open, mild winter is a positive environmental factor for many species like pheasants and deer.

### **27. Adjourn**

[Action Item]

A Commissioner Governance Meeting will be held on April 4, 2024, starting at 9 am CST, at the Matthews Training Center in Pierre, South Dakota. The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on April 4-5, 2024, starting at 1 pm CST also in the Matthew Training Center.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY CULL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 12:10 PM CST ON MARCH 8, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,

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

Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

**From:** [info@gfp.sd.us](mailto:info@gfp.sd.us)  
**To:** [chris@uguidesdpheasants.com](mailto:chris@uguidesdpheasants.com)  
**Cc:** [Kierl, Liz](#); [Harrington, Nick](#)  
**Subject:** Petition for Rule Change Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 2:37:32 PM

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## 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: 210  
Petitioner Name: Chris Hitzeman  
Address: 38274 286th St  
Lake Andes, SD 57356  
Email: [chris@uguidesdpheasants.com](mailto:chris@uguidesdpheasants.com)  
Phone: 605-469-9725  
Rule Identification: 46:06:01  
Describe Change: Apply landowner Preference to the Muzzleloader Tag or other acceptable solution.  
Reason for Change: I, a resident landowner, own and manage 700 acres of good farmland for habitat in Charles Mix County. We produce and carry an abundant supply of wildlife far beyond what I can personally harvest and manage. For trophy deer hunting purposes, as was the case this year due to abnormally warm temperatures, deer hunting improves as the weather cools and the calendar moves towards the end of Dec. Archery equipment becomes less effective. Adding a landowner preference option to the muzzleloader tag would be a great option. Another option would be to allow the landowners gun deer tag to convert to a muzzleloader tag is not used. If i had to pick between Nov. or Dec. to hunt deer I would pick Dec. The muzzleloader season fits well but the 7 year lottery and 1000 tags per state method of using this weapon is obsolete. Currently I have good weapons/tags options to put meat in the freezer for our family (does).

**From:** [info@gfp.sd.us](mailto:info@gfp.sd.us)  
**To:** [kylegutormson@hotmail.com](mailto:kylegutormson@hotmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Kierl, Liz](#); [Harrington, Nick](#)  
**Subject:** Petition for Rule Change Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 5:01:06 PM

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## 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: 212  
Petitioner Name: Kyle Gutormson  
Address: 405 Ohio Drive  
Brookings, SD 57006  
Email: [kylegutormson@hotmail.com](mailto:kylegutormson@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 605-695-5372  
Rule Identification: 41:06:13:06.  
Decribe Change: I would like to see a "west river special" turkey tag created. A tag that is simply for purchase and not a draw tag.  
Reason for Change: This proposed tag would only be able to be used on private land, with the landowner being identified. Similar to the special antelope and deer tags the state currently offers. Making it a one or two-bird tag, that is only legal to hunt turkeys on private land west of the Missouri river, excluding the Black Hills turkey unit. This tag would be a one or two-bird tag, each individual allowed one special tag. If an individual has sole access to a property with turkeys, there should be a way for them to hunt there. The tag fee can be increased from the current price, it could only be available to non-residents. I am not the brightest person here and this is simply an idea for the state to act upon if they choose. The rule identified may not be the correct one and that is something I could use some assistance on. I only have the idea not the brain power to take the right steps with the correct actions. Any assistance offered would be greatly appreciated.

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

### Furbearer Seasons and Methods Chapter 41:08

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>April 4-5, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>June 6, 2024</b>	<b>Yankton</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>June 6-7, 2024</b>	<b>Yankton</b>

#### SEASON INFORMATION

**Duration of Recommendation:** Beginning in 2024

**Season Dates and Open Areas:**

Statewide:

Residents – year-round.

Nonresidents – December 1 to March 15.

**Licenses:** Unlimited

**Daily and Possession Limit:** Unlimited

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Hunting and trapping are legal methods of take for raccoons.
2. Nonresidents may not use a dog as an aid in the taking of a raccoon.
3. A habitat stamp and one of the following licenses is required to hunt raccoons: predator/varmint license, furbearer license, any hunting license other than nonresident private shooting preserve license.
4. A habitat stamp and a furbearer license is required to trap raccoons.
5. Exceptions when residents do not need a license to hunt or trap raccoons:
  - a. Youth under 18 years of age.
  - b. Between April 1 and August 31.
  - c. Landowners or lessees upon land they own or lease.

#### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

**Recommended changes from last year:**

1. Allow nonresidents to use a dog as an aid in the taking of a raccoon.

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

A petition (#203) was received during the October 2023 GFP Commission meeting stating the desire to allow nonresidents to use dogs as an aid in tracking raccoons during competitions to count the number of raccoons that could be bayed, usually in a tree, by a dog within a certain time interval. While this activity is currently legal for residents, the use of dogs as an aid in the taking of raccoons is not allowed per administrative rule § 41:08:01:12. Removal of this restriction will allow nonresidents with the appropriate licenses to use dogs in tracking competitions, in addition to attempted harvest of raccoons. Although the change is not expected to result in notably increased competition with resident hunting opportunities nor

an increased raccoon harvest, any additional raccoon harvest may result in benefits to waterfowl and upland bird nesting success.

#### DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:08:01:12. Nonresident restrictions. Notwithstanding the season dates established in this chapter, no nonresident may take any mink or weasel from February 1 through November 30, or take any muskrat, beaver, or raccoon from March 16 through November 30, or take any bobcat from February 16 through the Friday preceding the second Saturday of January. ~~No nonresident may use a dog as an aid in the taking of a raccoon.~~

#### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue
  - Nonresidents are not allowed to use dogs to aid in the taking of a raccoon.
2. Historical Considerations NA
3. Biological Considerations
  - Removal of additional raccoons may enhance waterfowl and game bird nesting success rates.
4. Social Considerations
  - Nonresidents will aid in the removal of nest predators by removing restrictions of their methods of take.
5. Financial considerations
  - More nonresidents may purchase habitat stamps, hunting, and furbearer licenses.

#### 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, it provides additional opportunity for nonresidents to take raccoons.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? This regulation would provide an increase in opportunity for current and new raccoon trappers and hunters.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Additional revenue may be generated if additional nonresidents purchase habitat stamps, hunting, and furbearer licenses.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

## **GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

### **East River Prairie and Archery Deer Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:21 and 41:06:22**

**Commission Meeting Dates:**    **Public Hearing**       **May 2, 2024**               **Pierre**  
    **Finalization**        **May 2-3, 2024**               **Pierre**

**COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

*Recommended Changes from 2023 for East River Deer Units and Archery Access Permits*

<b>County</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024 Rec</b>	<b>License Change</b>	<b>Tag Change</b>
Yankton	East River	07A	1	350	250	-100	-100
Yankton	East River	07B	13	0	50	50	50
Yankton	East River	07B	19	75	0	-75	-150
Bon Homme	East River	12A	1	300	225	-75	-75
Bon Homme	East River	12B	13	0	50	50	50
Bon Homme	East River	12B	19	50	0	-50	-100
Clay	East River	19A	1	200	100	-100	-100
Clay	East River	19A	13	50	0	-50	-50
Hutchinson	East River	37A	11	250	200	-50	-50
Lincoln	East River	44A	1	200	150	-50	-50
Lincoln	East River	44A	13	100	0	-100	-100
Turner	East River	61A	1	200	150	-50	-50
Union	East River	62A	1	350	250	-100	-100
Union	East River	62A	13	100	0	-100	-100
Union	Archery Access Permit	Adams Nature Preserve	13	60	0	-60	-60

Detailed East River Prairie Deer Hunting Season licenses and Archery Deer Access Permits are included in supportive information tables.

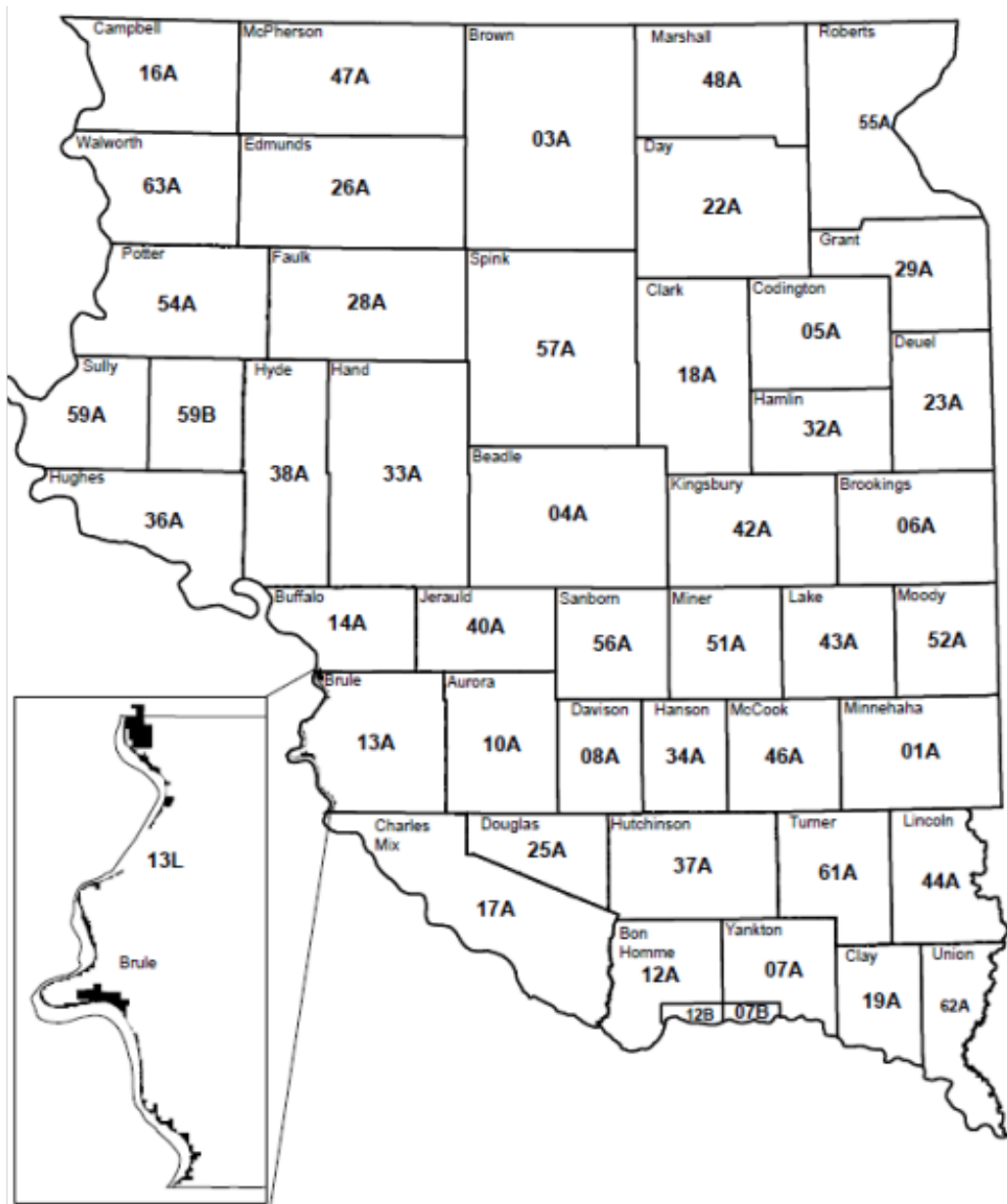
**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Harvest data and observation reports from GFP staff, landowners, and hunters all suggest deer numbers are low in southeastern South Dakota following die-offs because of the severe 2022-2023 winter and hemorrhagic disease in 2023. In response, changes are being recommended to the numbers and types of East River Deer Hunting Season licenses. The recommended changes would result in a reduction of 860 firearm deer licenses (38% reduction) or 985 tags (650 fewer any deer tags and 335 fewer antlerless whitetail tags) among seven counties including: Bon Homme, Clay, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Turner, Union, and Yankton. In addition, archery and muzzleloader hunters in Clay, Lincoln, and Union Counties would no longer be allowed to harvest antlerless deer using their antlerless whitetail deer license (LM1 type). However, they would still be allowed to harvest a deer using their archery or muzzleloader any deer license type (01 type).

Potential administrative action to modify deer license numbers would occur during the May Commission meeting.



Figure 1. Map of East River Deer (ERD) Hunting Season units.



**2024 ARCHERY ACCESS PERMITS**

Designated Area	Number of Access Permits		
	Any Deer	Antlerless Whitetail Deer	Total
Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve	10	0	10
Good Earth State Park	5	0	5
WRD-27L (Residents)	20	0	20
WRD-27L (Nonresidents)	5	0	5
WRD-35L (Residents)	400	0	400
WRD-35L (Nonresidents)	100	0	100

**2023 vs. 2024 Comparison**

Designated Area	Number of Access Permits		
	Any Deer	Antlerless Whitetail Deer	Total
2023 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve	10	60	70
2024 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve	10	0	10
2023 Good Earth State Park	5	0	5
2024 Good Earth State Park	5	0	5
2023 WRD-27L (Residents)	20	0	20
2024 WRD-27L (Residents)	20	0	20
2023 WRD-27L (Nonresidents)	5	0	5
2024 WRD-27L (Nonresidents)	5	0	5
2023 WRD-35L (Residents)	400	0	400
2024 WRD-35L (Residents)	400	0	400
2023 WRD-35L (Nonresidents)	100	0	100
2024 WRD-35L (Nonresidents)	100	0	100

2024 EAST RIVER DEER

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident Licenses											License Totals					
		AnyD 01	AtID 03	AtID 03P	AD+AtID 08	2 AtID 09P	AnyW 11	AtIW 13	AtIW 13P	3 AtIW 17P	AW+AtIW 18	2 AtIW 19	2 AtIW 19P	RES 1-tag	RES 2-tag	RES 3-tag	RES Licenses	RES Tags
01A	Minnehaha	400						200						600	0	0	600	600
03A	Brown	800						600						1400	0	0	1400	1400
04A	Beadle						500	150						650	0	0	650	650
05A	Codington	400						200						600	0	0	600	600
06A	Brookings	450						150						600	0	0	600	600
07A	Yankton	250												250	0	0	250	250
07B	Yankton							50						50	0	0	50	50
08A	Davison						250							250	0	0	250	250
10A	Aurora						250	150						400	0	0	400	400
12A	Bon Homme	225												225	0	0	225	225
12B	Bon Homme							50						50	0	0	50	50
13A	Brule	100					800		150					1050	0	0	1,050	1,050
13L	Brule	20												20	0	0	20	20
14A	Buffalo	100							50		250			150	250	0	400	650
16A	Campbell	30					400							430	0	0	430	430
17A	Charles Mix	25					250							275	0	0	275	275
18A	Clark	600										200		600	200	0	800	1,000
19A	Clay	100												100	0	0	100	100
22A	Day	600						300						900	0	0	900	900
23A	Deuel	500						200						700	0	0	700	700
25A	Douglas						250	100						350	0	0	350	350
26A	Edmunds	600						300						900	0	0	900	900
28A	Faulk	600						500						1100	0	0	1,100	1,100
29A	Grant	400						100						500	0	0	500	500
32A	Hamlin	600						200						800	0	0	800	800
33A	Hand	10					350							360	0	0	360	360
34A	Hanson						250	50						300	0	0	300	300
36A	Hughes	150						250						400	0	0	400	400
37A	Hutchinson							200						200	0	0	200	200
38A	Hyde	10						300						310	0	0	310	310
40A	Jerauld						250	150						400	0	0	400	400
42A	Kingsbury	500						200						700	0	0	700	700
43A	Lake	300						150						450	0	0	450	450
44A	Lincoln	150												150	0	0	150	150
46A	McCook	350						300						650	0	0	650	650
47A	McPherson	500						500						1000	0	0	1,000	1,000
48A	Marshall	500						150						650	0	0	650	650
51A	Miner	400						350						750	0	0	750	750
52A	Moody	300						250						550	0	0	550	550
54A	Potter	50					400							450	0	0	450	450
55A	Roberts	500						200						700	0	0	700	700
56A	Sanborn						350	300						650	0	0	650	650
57A	Spink	900						300						1200	0	0	1,200	1,200
59A	Sully	100					200							300	0	0	300	300
59B	Sully	20					200							220	0	0	220	220
61A	Turner	150												150	0	0	150	150
62A	Union	250												250	0	0	250	250
63A	Walworth	50					400	100						550	0	0	550	550
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,990</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,850</b>	<b>6,250</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,290</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,740</b>	<b>25,190</b>
Unit #	Unit Name	AnyD 01	AtID 03	AtID 03P	AD+AtID 08	2 AtID 09P	AnyW 11	AtIW 13	AtIW 13P	3 AtIW 17P	AW+AtIW 18	2 AtIW 19	2 AtIW 19P	RES 1-tag	RES 2-tag	RES 3-tag	RES Licenses	RES Tags

**EAST RIVER DEER 2023 vs. 2024 Comparison**

Unit #	Unit Name	2023 Resident Licenses	2024 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2023 Resident Tags	2024 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
01A	Minnehaha	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
03A	Brown	1,400	1,400	0	0%	1,400	1,400	0	0%
04A	Beadle	650	650	0	0%	650	650	0	0%
05A	Codington	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
06A	Brookings	600	600	0	0%	600	600	0	0%
07A	Yankton	350	250	-100	-29%	350	250	-100	-29%
07B	Yankton	75	50	-25	-33%	150	50	-100	-67%
08A	Davison	250	250	0	0%	250	250	0	0%
10A	Aurora	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
12A	Bon Homme	300	225	-75	-25%	300	225	-75	-25%
12B	Bon Homme	50	50	0	0%	100	50	-50	-50%
13A	Brule	1,050	1,050	0	0%	1,050	1,050	0	0%
13L	Brule	20	20	0	0%	20	20	0	0%
14A	Buffalo	400	400	0	0%	650	650	0	0%
16A	Campbell	430	430	0	0%	430	430	0	0%
17A	Charles Mix	275	275	0	0%	275	275	0	0%
18A	Clark	800	800	0	0%	1,000	1,000	0	0%
19A	Clay	250	100	-150	-60%	250	100	-150	-60%
22A	Day	900	900	0	0%	900	900	0	0%
23A	Deuel	700	700	0	0%	700	700	0	0%
25A	Douglas	350	350	0	0%	350	350	0	0%
26A	Edmunds	900	900	0	0%	900	900	0	0%
28A	Faulk	1,100	1,100	0	0%	1,100	1,100	0	0%
29A	Grant	500	500	0	0%	500	500	0	0%
32A	Hamlin	800	800	0	0%	800	800	0	0%
33A	Hand	360	360	0	0%	360	360	0	0%
34A	Hanson	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
36A	Hughes	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
37A	Hutchinson	250	200	-50	-20%	250	200	-50	-20%
38A	Hyde	310	310	0	0%	310	310	0	0%
40A	Jerauld	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
42A	Kingsbury	700	700	0	0%	700	700	0	0%
43A	Lake	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
44A	Lincoln	300	150	-150	-50%	300	150	-150	-50%
46A	McCook	650	650	0	0%	650	650	0	0%
47A	McPherson	1,000	1,000	0	0%	1,000	1,000	0	0%
48A	Marshall	650	650	0	0%	650	650	0	0%
51A	Miner	750	750	0	0%	750	750	0	0%
52A	Moody	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
54A	Potter	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
55A	Roberts	700	700	0	0%	700	700	0	0%
56A	Sanborn	650	650	0	0%	650	650	0	0%
57A	Spink	1,200	1,200	0	0%	1,200	1,200	0	0%
59A	Sully	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
59B	Sully	220	220	0	0%	220	220	0	0%
61A	Turner	200	150	-50	-25%	200	150	-50	-25%
62A	Union	450	250	-200	-44%	450	250	-200	-44%
63A	Walworth	550	550	0	0%	550	550	0	0%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,540</b>	<b>24,740</b>	<b>-800</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>26,115</b>	<b>25,190</b>	<b>-925</b>	<b>-4%</b>

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

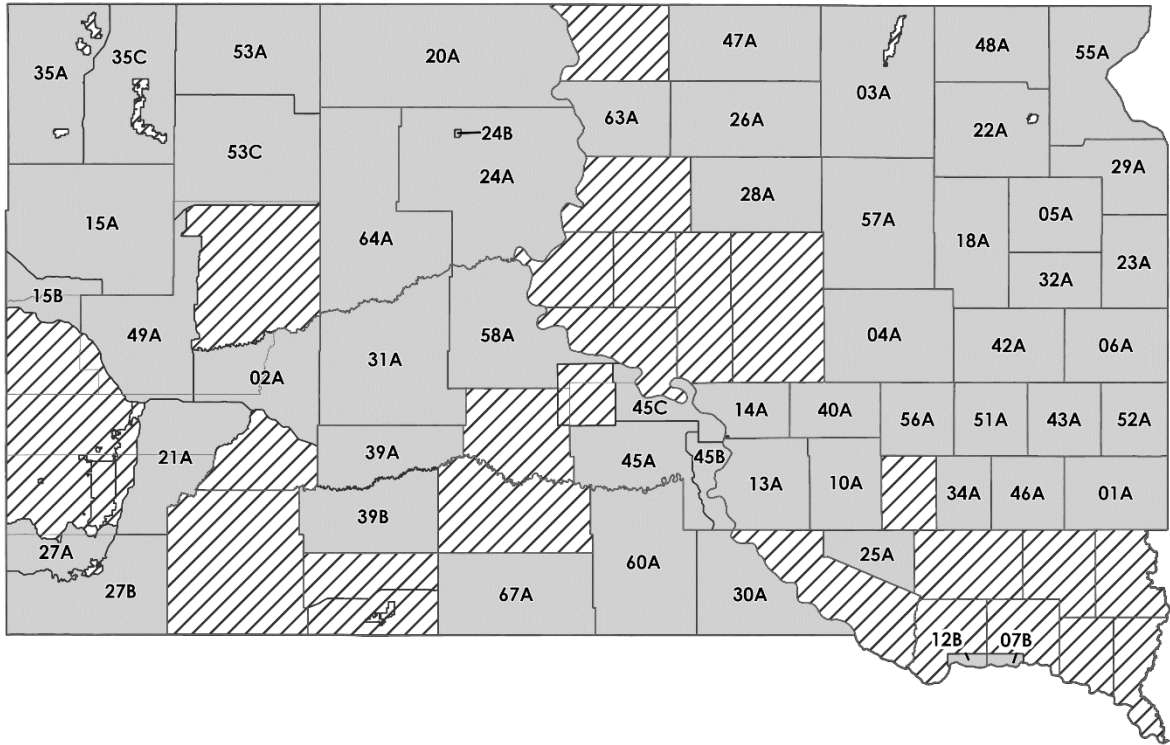
## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION INFORMATION ITEM

### Archery Deer Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:22

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Information Item April 4-5, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Information Item May 2-3, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>

**INFORMATION ITEM**

2024 Archery Deer Hunting Season Antlerless Whitetail Deer Map (gray units license is valid)



**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Harvest data and observation reports from GFP staff, landowners, and hunters all suggest deer numbers are low in southeastern South Dakota following die-offs because of the severe 2022-2023 winter and hemorrhagic disease in 2023.

In response, changes are being recommended to the numbers and types of East River Deer Hunting Season licenses and this would modify the open unit for archery antlerless whitetail deer based on § 41:06:22:01.01 (4). Archery hunters in Clay, Lincoln, and Union Counties would no longer be allowed to harvest antlerless deer using their antlerless whitetail deer license (LM1 type). However, they would still be allowed to harvest a deer using their archery any deer license type (01 type).

Potential administrative action to modify deer license numbers would occur during the May Commission meeting.



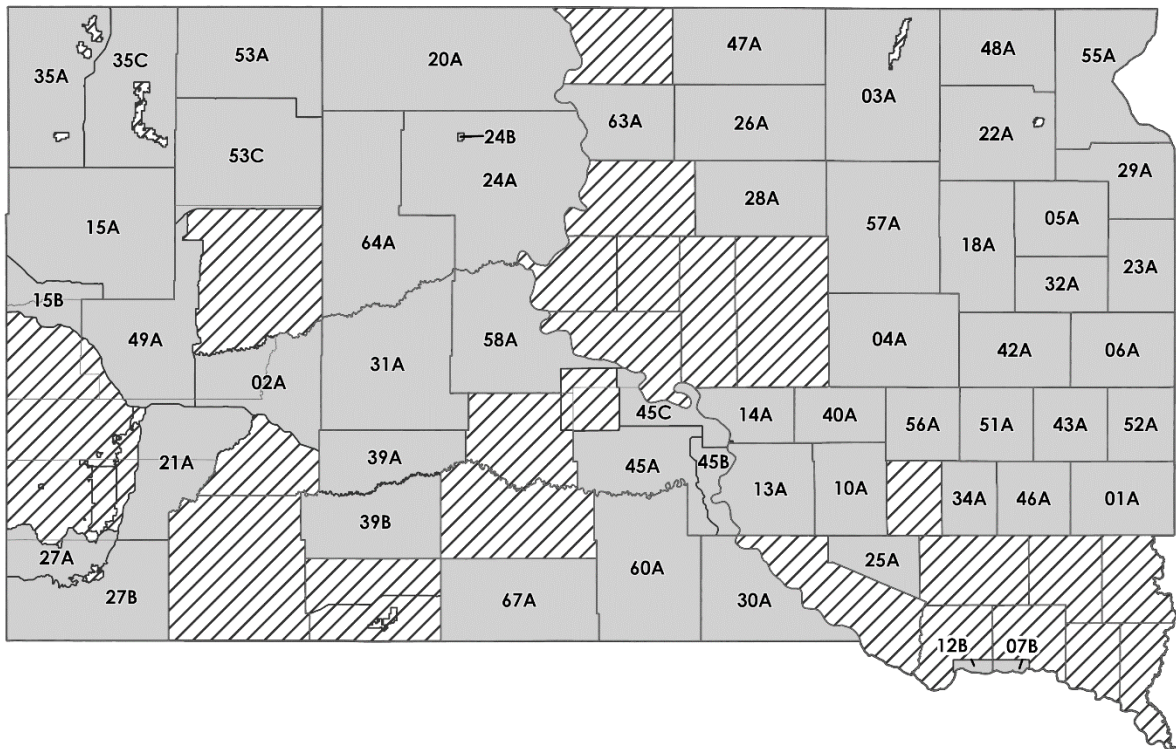
## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION INFORMATION ITEM

### General Muzzleloading Deer Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:45

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	Information Item April 4-5, 2024	Pierre
	Information Item May 2-3, 2024	Custer State Park

**INFORMATION ITEM**

2024 Muzzleloading Deer Hunting Season Antlerless Whitetail Deer Map (gray units license is valid)



**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Harvest data and observation reports from GFP staff, landowners, and hunters all suggest deer numbers are low in southeastern South Dakota following die-offs because of the severe 2022-2023 winter and hemorrhagic disease in 2023.

In response, changes are being recommended to the numbers and types of East River Deer Hunting Season licenses and this would modify the open unit for muzzleloader antlerless whitetail deer based on § 41:06:45:02 (4). Muzzleloader hunters in Clay, Lincoln, and Union Counties would no longer be allowed to harvest antlerless deer using their antlerless whitetail deer license (LM1 type). However, they would still be allowed to harvest a deer using their muzzleloader any deer license type (01 type).

Potential administrative action to modify deer license numbers would occur during the May Commission meeting.

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

**Application for License**  
Chapter 41:06:00, 41:06:01, 41:06:20, 41:06:21, and 41:06:23

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>April 4-5, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>June 6, 2024</b>	<b>Yankton</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>June 6-7, 2024</b>	<b>Yankton</b>

**SEASON INFORMATION**

There is currently no landowner own land elk season.

During the 2024 South Dakota Legislative session, Senate Bill 173 enrolled an act to provide a landowner own land elk license for antlerless elk in the prairie elk season by adding a NEW SECTION to chapter 41-6:

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission shall, by rules promulgated to chapter 1-26:

- (1) Establish the number of resident landowner own land licenses available for the taking of antlerless elk;
- (2) Establish eligibility criteria for the license; and
- (3) Establish the fee for the license.

Upon receipt of an application, as prescribed by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, and payment of the requisite license fee, the department shall issue a landowner-on-own-land license that authorizes the holder to take one antlerless elk, from land owned or leased by the holder, for agricultural purposes, within a designated unit, during the prairie elk hunting season.

**Duration of Recommendation:** Beginning in 2024

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

**Recommendation:**

- (1) Describe a new prairie elk hunting season resident antlerless elk landowner own land license type in § 41:06:01:07.03.
  - a. The landowner own land elk license is valid in Prairie elk hunting season units in Bennett and Jackson County (PRE-11D and PRE-11E) and the West River Area (PRE-WRA) as described in § 41:06:59.
- (2) Describe a qualifying landowner own land landowner or landowner-operator in § 41:06:01:15 (4).
  - a. A minimum of 240 acres of land within an elk unit.
  - b. Members of the qualifying landowner-operator's family including grandparents, parents, spouse, children, children's spouse, or grandchildren who live on the ranch or in the closest community and have an active role in the ranch operation also qualify.
  - c. Only one qualifying applicant per ranch unit per year may purchase a landowner own land elk license.
  - d. A qualifying applicant for a ranch unit may not purchase a landowner own land elk license if any qualifying member of the ranch unit holds an elk license valid in that unit.
  - e. A ranch unit is described as all private property owned and leased for agricultural purposes by written agreement by an individual qualifying landowner in the state.
  - f. A ranch unit may not be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one landowner own land elk license.
- (3) Establish a fee for landowner on own land antlerless elk license of one-half the fee of the antlerless elk license in § 41:06:02:03 (15).



**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Currently there are landowners that are not receiving an elk license in Prairie elk hunting season units (Figure 1, Table 1) where GFP is seeking to mitigate depredation and landowner conflicts with elk. GFP recommends establishing a landowner own land elk license to ensure that landowners can hunt elk on agricultural lands they own or operate within some Prairie elk hunting season units (Figure 1). Landowner licenses help to build tolerance for elk and promote elk hunter access and serve to demonstrate the appreciation that GFP has for landowners and producers that help support elk populations, hunter access, the GFP’s mission and other wildlife management objectives.

Because antlerless elk harvest with landowner own land licenses is currently unknown, the Department recommendation is to be conservative initially. The Department recommends opening the Bennett and Jackson County units (PRE-11D and PRE-11E) and the West River Area unit (PRE-WRA) for landowner own land antlerless elk licenses. These units are almost exclusively privately owned and have a high potential for elk-landowner conflict from agricultural crop depredation, specifically in corn fields.

Figure 1. Map of Prairie elk season hunting units.

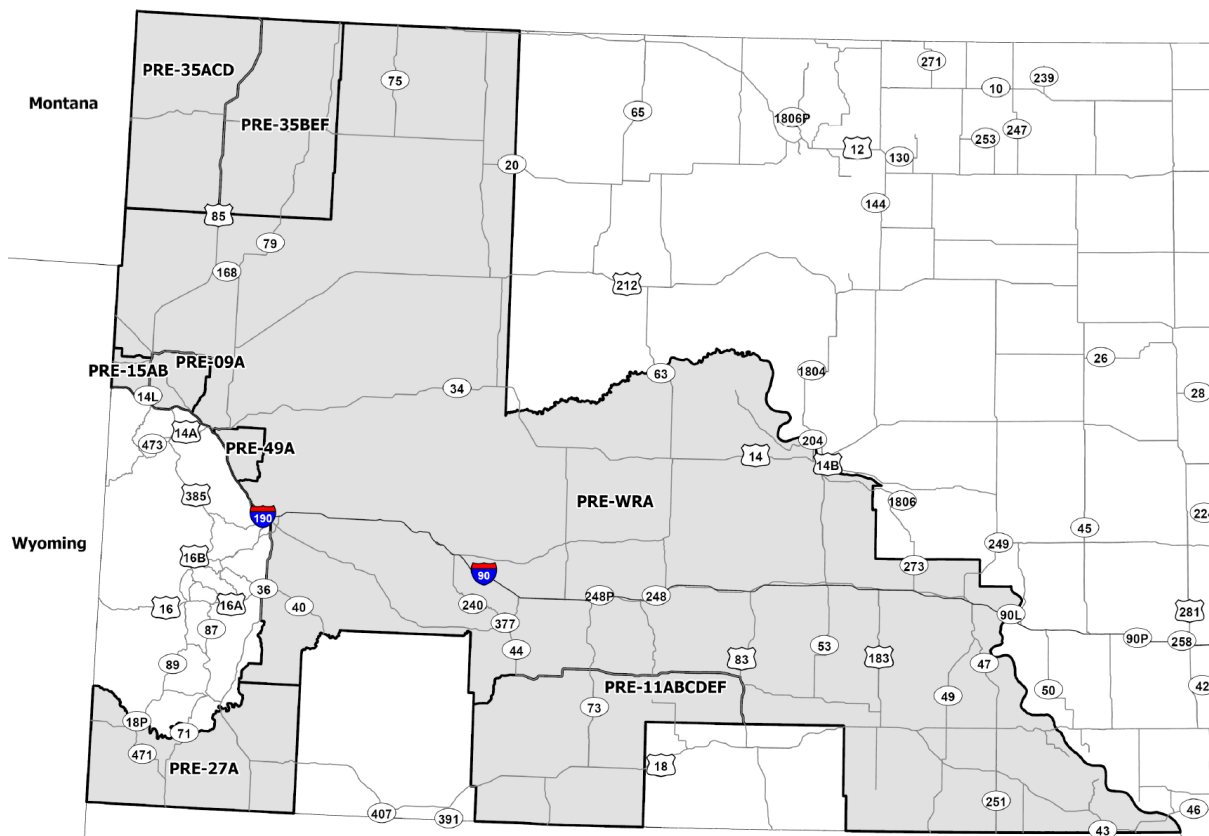


Table 1. 2024 and 2025 Prairie antlerless elk landowner own land open units and season dates

Units	Season Dates
PRE-11D	Sep 1 - Oct 31
PRE-11E	Nov 1 - Dec 31
PRE-WRA	Sept 1 - Dec 31

Figure 2. Landowner elk comparison

LICENSE COMPARISON	LANDOWNER PREFERENCE (Current)	LANDOWNER OWN LAND (New)
Applicant Eligibility	Qualifying resident landowner-operators and qualifying family members whose owned or leased property is used for agricultural purposes	
Land Eligibility Requirements	Applicant must own or operate a minimum of 240 acres of land within elk unit	
Elk Use Requirement	Qualifying land must have experienced 500 days of elk use since the last day of the previous application period	None
Open Areas	Any land within the respective hunting unit	Elk must be harvested on applicant's land that is owned or leased within the respective Prairie Elk hunting unit
Number of Elk Hunting Licenses	No more than one license among qualifying members of ranch unit from limited draw elk licenses in that unit and landowner own land license. No individual may obtain more than one elk license in a single year, including landowner own land license.	
License Availability	Available for hunting units with an allocation of elk licenses	Available for Prairie elk hunting season and units 11D, 11E, and WRA
License Type	Any elk or antlerless elk	Antlerless elk
License Fee	50% of regular license fee	
Season Dates	Regular season dates for the respective season and hunting unit	Any regular antlerless elk season and dates within the respective unit in designated prairie elk units

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

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, and PRE-WRA, as described in § 41:06:59, a qualifying landowner own land landowner or owner-operator, as described in § 41:06:01:15 (4), may purchase one "antlerless elk" license.

41:06:01:15. Elk application requirements. The following requirements and restrictions apply to all license applications for elk seasons:

(1) Only a resident of the state may apply for a license;

(2) Except for a qualifying landowner-operator applicant, and except as provided in § 41:06:01:09, a person who received an elk hunting license for this season in the first lottery drawing or the second drawing by using preference points in any of the nine preceding years may not apply for a license under this chapter for the next nine years; and

(3) Fifty percent of the licenses are available to persons who qualify for landowner-operator preference under the provisions of SDCL 41-6-21. A minimum of 240 acres of land within an elk unit which has had at least 500 days of elk use since the last day of the previous application period is required to qualify. An elk use day is any day an elk feeds or waters on private land. For purposes of elk preference eligibility, members of the qualifying landowner-operator's family including grandparents, parents, spouse, children, children's spouse, or grandchildren who live on the ranch or in the closest community and have an active role in the ranch operation also qualify. Only one qualifying applicant per ranch unit per year may apply for a landowner-operator preference elk license in the first draw. A ranch unit is described as all private property owned and leased for agricultural purposes by written agreement by an individual qualifying landowner in the state. A ranch unit may not be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one landowner-operator preference.

(4) Landowners or owner-operators who qualify for landowner own land license types under the provisions of SDCL 41-6-21 and 2024 South Dakota Senate Bill 173. A minimum of 240 acres of land within an open prairie elk hunting season unit is required to qualify. For purposes of landowner own land eligibility, members of the qualifying landowner-operator's family including grandparents, parents, spouse, children, children's spouse, or grandchildren who live on the ranch or in the closest community and have an active role in the ranch operation also qualify. Only one qualifying applicant per ranch unit per year may purchase a landowner own land elk license. A qualifying applicant for a ranch unit may not purchase a landowner own land elk license if any qualifying member of the ranch unit holds an elk license obtained using landowner-operator preference in that unit. A ranch unit is described as all private property owned and leased for agricultural purposes by written agreement by an individual qualifying landowner in the state. A ranch unit may not be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one landowner-operator preference. The elk must be harvested only on land that is owned or leased within an open prairie elk hunting season unit by the qualifying landowner-operator.

41:06:02:03. Hunting license fees. Hunting license fees are as follows:

- (1) Resident predator/varmint license, five dollars;
- (2) Resident small game license:
  - (a) Eighteen years of age and older, \$27; and
  - (b) Under 18 years of age, five dollars;
- (3) Resident one-day small game license, \$12;
- (4) Resident combination license, \$49;
- (5) Senior combination license, 65 years of age and older, \$34;
- (6) Resident furbearer license, \$30;
- (7) Nonresident furbearer license, \$275;
- (8) Resident spring one-tag wild turkey license, \$19;
- (9) Resident spring two-tag wild turkey license, \$29;
- (10) Resident fall one-tag wild turkey license, nine dollars;
- (11) Resident fall two-tag wild turkey license, \$14;
- (12) Resident deer or antelope one-tag license, \$34;

- (13) Resident deer or antelope two-tag license, \$44;
- (14) Resident antelope three-tag license, \$44;
- (15) Landowner-on-own land elk deer or antelope license, one-half the fee of the elk deer or antelope license that has been applied for;
- (16) Resident one-tag antlerless deer or doe-fawn antelope license, \$14;
- (17) Resident two-tag antlerless deer or doe-fawn antelope license, \$24;
- (18) Resident three-tag any deer and two any antlerless deer license, \$44;
- (19) Resident three-tag three any antlerless deer license; \$24;
- (20) Resident three-tag any whitetail and two antlerless whitetail deer license, \$44;
- (21) Resident three-tag three antlerless whitetail deer license, \$24;
- (22) Resident three-tag doe-fawn antelope license, \$24;
- (23) Resident elk license:
  - (a) Any elk or bull elk, \$169; and
  - (b) Antlerless elk, \$110;
- (24) Resident landowner depredation elk, one-half the fee of the elk license that has been applied for;
- (25) Resident mountain goat license, \$274;
- (26) Resident Black Hills bighorn sheep license, \$274;
- (27) Canada goose special unit permit, ten dollars;
- (28) Nonresident small game license:
  - (a) Eighteen years of age and older, \$115; and
  - (b) Under 18 years of age, ten dollars;
- (29) Special nonresident waterfowl license, \$110;
- (30) Fall three-consecutive days temporary nonresident waterfowl license, \$75;
- (31) Spring snow goose temporary nonresident license:
  - (a) Eighteen years of age and older, \$39; and
  - (b) Under 18 years of age, \$15;
- (32) Early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident license, \$39;
- (33) Nonresident youth waterfowl season hunting license under 18 years of age, five dollars;
- (34) Nonresident spring one-tag wild turkey license, \$94;
- (35) Nonresident spring two-tag wild turkey license, \$119;
- (36) Nonresident fall one-tag wild turkey license, \$84;
- (37) Nonresident fall two-tag wild turkey license, \$94;
- (38) Nonresident deer or antelope one-tag license, \$280;
- (39) Nonresident deer or antelope two-tag license, \$330;
- (40) Nonresident antelope three-tag license, \$330;
- (41) Nonresident one-tag antlerless deer or doe-fawn antelope license, \$74;
- (42) Nonresident two-tag antlerless deer or doe-fawn antelope license, \$114;
- (43) Nonresident three-tag doe-fawn antelope license, \$114;
- (44) Nonresident three-tag any deer and two any antlerless deer license, \$330;
- (45) Nonresident three-tag three any antlerless deer license, \$114;
- (46) Nonresident three-tag any whitetail and two antlerless whitetail deer license, \$330;
- (47) Nonresident three-tag three antlerless whitetail deer license, \$114;
- (48) Nonresident predator license, \$40;
- (49) Custer State Park elk license:
  - (a) Custer State Park rifle any elk license, \$300;
  - (b) Custer State Park early archery elk license, \$300;
  - (c) Custer State Park late archery elk license, \$200; and
  - (d) Custer State Park special antlerless elk license, \$200;
- (50) Custer State Park deer license:
  - (a) Custer State Park any deer license, \$150;
  - (b) Custer State Park one-tag any whitetail deer license, \$150; and
  - (c) Custer State Park one-tag muzzleloader whitetail antlerless deer license, \$25;

- (51) Custer State Park bison license:
  - (a) Custer State Park trophy bull bison license, \$6,500;
  - (b) Custer State Park nontrophy bull bison license, \$3,250; and
  - (c) Custer State Park cow bison license, \$1,750;
- (52) Custer State Park bighorn sheep license, \$500;
- (53) Custer State Park coyote license, ten dollars;
- (54) Custer State Park antelope license:
  - (a) Custer State Park any antelope license, \$150; and
  - (b) Custer State Park doe-fawn license, \$25;
- (55) Nonrefundable application fee:
  - (a) Archery and rifle elk, ten dollars;
  - (b) Mountain goat, ten dollars;
  - (c) Bighorn sheep, ten dollars;
  - (d) Resident hunt for habitat, ten dollars; and
  - (e) Nonresident hunt for habitat, \$20;
- (56) Resident special any deer, any whitetail deer, or any antelope license, \$169;
- (57) Nonresident special any deer, any whitetail deer, or any antelope license, \$554;
- (58) Youth deer license:
  - (a) Resident, five dollars; and
  - (b) Nonresident, ten dollars;
- (59) Tundra swan permit:
  - (a) Resident, \$12; and
  - (b) Nonresident, \$19;
- (60) Migratory bird certification permit, five dollars;
- (61) Nonresident shooting preserve license:
  - (a) One-day, \$40;
  - (b) Five-consecutive days, \$70; and
  - (c) Annual, \$115;
- (62) Mountain lion license, \$22;
- (63) Mentored youth deer, antelope, or turkey license:
  - (a) Resident, five dollars; and
  - (b) Nonresident, ten dollars;
- (64) Resident Apprentice hunter deer license, five dollars; and
- (65) Any unit, other than elk, bighorn sheep, or mountain goat, for which no licenses have been allocated for the purpose of acquiring a preference point or any unit for which a preference point is awarded for an unsuccessful application for license:
  - (a) Resident, five dollars; and
  - (b) Nonresident, ten dollars.

**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

### Custer State Park Bison Chapter 41:06:07, 41:06:42, and 41:06:60

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>March 7-8, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>May 2, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>May 2-3, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>

### SEASON INFORMATION

**Duration of Recommendation:** 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 hunting seasons.

**Season Dates:**

- Trophy: a licensee is restricted to three consecutive days for the hunt\*
  - November 18, 2024 – January 17, 2025
  - November 17, 2025 – January 16, 2026
- Non-trophy: a licensee is restricted to one day for the hunt\*
  - October 7 – November 15, 2024
  - October 6 – November 14, 2025

\*all licensees shall be accompanied by an authorized Custer State Park official while hunting.

**Open Areas:** Custer State Park.

**Licenses:**

- Eight trophy bull licenses available by lottery.
  - Two licenses allocated to residents in a first draw.
- One trophy bull license available by raffle.
  - § 41:06:62:03
- Fifteen non-trophy bull licenses available by lottery.
  - Seven allocated to residents in a first draw.
- Zero non-trophy cow licenses.

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Open to residents and nonresidents.
2. No person may hunt bison within 200 yards of any public access road or building in Custer State Park.
3. Bison may only be hunted with a weapon which is at least .270 caliber and which produces at least 2,200 foot-pounds of muzzle energy.

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

**Recommended changes from last year:**

1. Clean-up administrative rule to remove “bull” and edit “nontrophy” for rule consistency when referring to non-trophy bison harvest in § 41:06:07:01. Non-trophy cow licenses are currently set at zero and this is specified in Custer State Park Non-trophy Bison Harvest, Number and type of licenses § 41:06:60:02

2. Allow the use of archery equipment during the Custer State Park trophy and non-trophy bison harvest season.
3. Decrease the allowable hunting days for trophy bison from 3-2. Past hunters typically fill their tag within 2 days. The change will allow increased opportunity for scheduling of hunts.
4. Increase the number of trophy bison licenses available by random lottery drawing from 8 – 10. This would result in a total of 11 trophy bison licenses, including the 1 license available through the Hunt for Habitat raffle drawing.
5. Increase the number of non-trophy bison licenses from 15-20.

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Archery equipment has not been allowed during the Custer State Park trophy and non-trophy bison harvest season. However, there is a desire to use archery equipment to harvest a bison during the Custer State Park trophy and non-trophy bison harvest season.

Increase the trophy and nontrophy bull licenses to allow for additional hunting opportunities.

### DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:07:01. Eligibility. Except for the Custer State Park trophy bison bull harvest and ~~nontrophy non-trophy~~ non-trophy bison ~~bull~~ harvest only residents of the state may apply for special Custer State Park hunting seasons.

41:06:07:03. Minimum ~~gun~~ weapon size for bison. Bison may only be hunted with a weapon which is at least .270 caliber and which produces at least 2,200 foot-pounds of muzzle energy. However, during the Custer State Park non-trophy bison harvest season, § 41:06:60, bison may also be harvested with archery equipment as described in § 41:06:05.

41:06:42:01. Season established. The trophy bull bison harvest in Custer State Park is open for 61 days beginning the third Monday in November. A licensee is restricted to ~~three~~ two consecutive days for the hunt.

41:06:42:02. Number of licenses. ~~Eight~~ Eleven "trophy bull bison" licenses are available by lottery, with two "trophy bull bison" licenses allocated to residents in a first draw.

41:06:60:02. Number and type of licenses. ~~Fifteen~~ Twenty non-trophy bull bison licenses are available by lottery, with seven non-trophy bull bison licenses allocated to residents in a first draw. No cow bison licenses may be issued.

### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

### RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? There will be more opportunity for hunting.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? There will be more hunting opportunities.



3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? The regulation is intended to increase the opportunity to harvest a bison.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The sale of 2 additional trophy bull licenses and 5 additional non-trophy bull licenses will increase revenue from license sales.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

### Custer State Park Coyote Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:04, 41:06:07 and 41:06:37

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>March 7-8, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>May 2, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>May 2-3, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>

**COMMISSION PROPOSAL**

**Duration of Proposal:** Beginning November 1, 2024

**Season Dates:** November 1 – April 30

**Open Areas:** Custer State Park.

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Open to residents only with one of the following licenses: predator/varmint, furbearer, or any resident hunting license.
  - a. No license is required for youth under the age of 18.
2. No person may hunt coyotes within 200 yards of any public access road or building in Custer State Park.

**Changes from last year:**

1. Extend the season to start November 1 and continue through April 30.
2. Remove closure of season from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and allow coyote hunting throughout the day and night.
  - a. Based on SD statute § 41-8-17, from January 1 to August 31, a person may use night vision equipment, but not artificial light, to take coyotes on public land between sunset and sunrise.
  - b. From November 1 to December 31, a person may only use natural light to take coyote, and neither night vision nor artificial light are permitted.
3. Repeal § 41:06:37:04 because the hunting area restrictions are redundant to restrictions described in Custer State Park restrictions § 41:06:07:10.

**RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL**

None

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

A primary objective in Custer State Park is to provide maximum wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities. Coyote predation may adversely affect some prey populations and limit wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities. This recommendation will allow additional coyote hunting opportunity in Custer State Park during the deer hunting season in November, the entire month of December, and allow hunting of coyotes at night. Removal of additional coyotes may result in higher survival and subsequently larger populations of prey species including white-tailed and mule deer, elk, turkey, bighorn sheep, and antelope.

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:37:01. Season established. The coyote hunting season in Custer State Park is Unit CUC-CU1 and is open ~~from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset each day from December 26~~ November 1 through April 30.

41:06:37:04. ~~Open area — Exceptions. The fenced area of the park is open to coyote hunting in this season. However, the roads and rights of way of U.S. Highway 16A are closed to hunting.~~

**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? The regulation provides additional hunting opportunity.
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? The additional opportunity may encourage more people to go outdoors and hunt coyotes in Custer State Park.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

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

### Grouse Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:09

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>March 7-8, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>May 2, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>May 2-3, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>

#### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2024, 2025, and 2026 hunting seasons

**Season Dates and Open Areas:** Statewide  
   September 21, 2024 – January 31, 2025  
   September 20, 2025 – January 31, 2026  
   September 19, 2026 – January 31, 2027

**Daily Limit:**                   3 grouse

**Possession Limit:**       15 grouse

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.
2. “Grouse” includes sharp-tailed grouse, ruffed grouse, and prairie chicken.

**Changes from last year:**

1. Modify the season end date to align with the end date for the pheasant season of January 31. This will result in an approximately 4-week extension to the season.

#### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed change will simplify season dates and provide consistency among grouse, partridge, quail, and pheasant season end dates. The Department recommends extending the grouse hunting season end date to January 31. With the pheasant hunting season end date extended to January 31 during the 2020 hunting season, hunting opportunity for grouse could also be extended without having any negative impact on the population. South Dakota is one of just a few other states that offer an opportunity to harvest ring-necked pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie-chicken, partridge, and quail. Limited harvest is expected to occur during the month of January, and it would provide an opportunity for pheasant hunters to opportunistically harvest grouse.

Comparison of the 2013 - 2022 prairie grouse season statistics

Year	Residents					Nonresidents				
	Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2013	7,149	19,858	4.28	2.76	4.11	4,523	7,840	3.87	1.73	4.95
2014	6,503	25,847	4.55	4.01	4.85	4,254	9,943	3.99	2.31	5.52
2015	7,866	34,506	4.72	4.40	4.98	5,032	15,388	4.05	3.08	5.49
2016	7,199	31,611	4.88	4.40	4.72	5,203	11,294	4.04	2.18	5.43
2017	5,703	15,863	4.57	2.80	4.23	3,645	6,290	3.81	1.73	5.06
2018	5,868	16,431	4.36	2.83	4.64	3,979	7,429	4.08	1.87	5.38
2019	5,583	18,601	4.45	3.33	4.67	4,637	11,452	3.74	2.47	5.28
2020	10,487	48,947	5.14	4.78	5.06	6,389	18,314	4.33	2.88	5.75
2021	8,680	36,583	5.55	4.28	4.75	6,597	16,636	4.22	2.53	5.38
2022	9,149	40,263	5.53	4.46	5.09	7,616	23,354	3.97	3.10	5.85

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:09:01. Grouse hunting season established. The grouse hunting season is open statewide from sunrise to sunset each day beginning on the third Saturday of September. The season remains open through the first Sunday end of January. "Grouse" includes sharptail grouse, ruffed grouse, and prairie chicken.

**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? Extending the season would allow additional hunting opportunity.
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

### Partridge Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:12

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>March 7-8, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>May 2, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>May 2-3, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>

**COMMISSION PROPOSAL**

**Duration of Proposal:** 2024, 2025, and 2026 hunting seasons

**Season Dates and Open Areas:** Statewide  
 September 21, 2024 – January 31, 2025  
 September 20, 2025 – January 31, 2026  
 September 19, 2026 – January 31, 2027

**Daily Limit:** 5 partridge

**Possession Limit:** 15 partridge

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.

**Changes from last year:**

1. Modify the season end date to align with the end date for the pheasant season of January 31. This will result in an approximately 4-week extension to the season.

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL**

None

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

The proposed change will simplify season dates and provide consistency among grouse, partridge, quail, and pheasant season end dates. The Department recommends extending the partridge hunting season end date to January 31. With the pheasant hunting season end date extended to January 31 during the 2020 hunting season, hunting opportunity for partridge could also be extended without having any negative impact on the population. South Dakota is one of just a few other states that offer an opportunity to harvest ring-necked pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie-chicken, partridge, and quail. Limited harvest is expected to occur during the month of January, and it would provide an opportunity for pheasant hunters to opportunistically harvest partridge.

Comparison of the 2013 - 2022 partridge harvests

Year	Residents				Nonresidents			
	Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag	Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag
2013	2,666	2,990	7.09	1.13	1,926	2,761	4.23	1.43
2014	2,355	5,942	6.27	2.43	1,985	3,609	4.13	1.82
2015	3,189	5,840	5.63	1.85	2,133	5,019	4.05	3.08
2016	2,516	7,053	5.87	2.73	2,204	3,272	4.21	1.48
2017	2,005	2,496	5.44	1.24	1,682	2,224	3.93	1.32
2018	1,672	1,223	4.82	0.75	1,904	3,900	4.38	2.05
2019	1,850	1,703	5.48	1.04	1,565	2,478	4.34	1.58
2020	2,432	3,505	6.85	1.46	1,806	2,177	4.32	1.21
2021	1,851	2,766	4.78	1.50	2,398	3,448	4.47	1.44
2022	2,236	4,362	6.70	1.99	2,318	4,379	4.15	1.94

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:12:01. Partridge hunting season established -- Open area and dates. The partridge hunting season is open statewide from sunrise to sunset each day beginning on the third Saturday of September and remains open through the ~~first Sunday~~ end of January.

**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? Extending the season would allow additional hunting opportunity.
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

### Quail Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:11

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>March 7-8, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>May 2, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>May 2-3, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>

#### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2024, 2025, and 2026 hunting seasons

**Season Dates and Open Areas:** Statewide

- October 19, 2024 – January 31, 2025
- October 18, 2025 – January 31, 2026
- October 17, 2026 – January 31, 2027

**Daily Limit:** 5 quail

**Possession Limit:** 15 quail

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.

**Changes from last year:**

1. Modify the season end date to align with the end date for the pheasant season of January 31. This will result in an approximately 4-week extension to the season.

#### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed change will simplify season dates and provide consistency among grouse, partridge, quail, and pheasant season end dates. The Department recommends extending the quail hunting season end date to January 31. With the pheasant hunting season end date extended to January 31 during the 2020 hunting season, hunting opportunity for quail could also be extended without having any negative impact on the population. South Dakota is one of just a few other states that offer an opportunity to harvest ring-necked pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie-chicken, partridge, and quail. Limited harvest is expected to occur during the month of January, and it would provide an opportunity for pheasant hunters to opportunistically harvest quail.

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:11:01. Quail hunting season established. The quail hunting season is open statewide from sunrise to sunset each day beginning on the third Saturday of October and remains open through the ~~first Sunday~~ end of January.

**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? Extending the season would allow additional hunting opportunity.
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

### Cottontail Rabbit Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:34

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>April 4-5, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>May 2, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>May 2-3, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>

**SEASON INFORMATION**

**Duration of Recommendation:** 2024, 2025, and 2026 hunting seasons

**Season Dates and Open Areas:** Statewide; September 1 – February 28.

**Daily Limit:** 10 cottontail rabbits

**Possession Limit:** 30 cottontail rabbits

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.
2. A landowner and any person with permission may take cottontail rabbits on the landowner's property year-round without restriction.

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

**Changes from last year:**

1. Extend the Cottontail Rabbit Hunting Season to September 1 through March 31 on publicly accessible land.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Comparison of the 2013 - 2022 cottontail and squirrel harvests

Year	Cottontails				Squirrels			
	Hunters		Harvest		Hunters		Harvest	
	Resident	Nonres	Resident	Nonres	Resident	Nonres	Resident	Nonres
2013	4,199	516	21,682	846	2,911	116	10,962	61
2014	5,366	754	28,276	1,591	2,552	150	9,587	241
2015	5,779	1,020	37,407	2,397	2,870	171	13,311	180
2016	5,584	754	35,649	2,224	2,786	181	11,614	262
2017	4,628	607	22,711	1,561	2,571	87	9,850	260
2018	4,341	475	19,386	937	2,302	141	8,241	293
2019	3,563	437	19,329	604	2,542	87	12,077	116
2020	4,871	597	27,026	928	3,174	119	12,757	239
2021	4,063	754	19,385	754	2,248	74	8,014	59
2022	5,333	796	33,910	1,943	2,466	80	9,949	48

Survey design changed in 2010 and 2014 so results may not be directly comparable to previous years.

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:34:01. Cottontail rabbit hunting season established. The cottontail rabbit hunting season is open statewide from sunrise to sunset each day beginning on September 1 through the last day of ~~February~~ March except as provided in § 41:06:34:04.

**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? The recommendation will provide more hunting opportunity.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Young hunters would have more opportunity to hunt in March.
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

### Tree Squirrel Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:35

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b> <b>Public Hearing</b> <b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 4-5, 2024</b> <b>May 2, 2024</b> <b>May 2-3, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b> <b>Custer State Park</b> <b>Custer State Park</b>
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#### SEASON INFORMATION

**Duration of Recommendation:** 2024, 2025, and 2026 hunting seasons

**Season Dates and Open Area:** Statewide; September 1 – February 28.

**Limit:** 5 tree squirrel

**Possession Limit:** 15 tree squirrels

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.
2. Only red squirrel, gray squirrel, and fox squirrel may be hunted.

#### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

**Changes from last year:**

1. Extend the Tree Squirrel Hunting Season to September 1 through March 31.

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Comparison of the 2013 - 2022 cottontail and squirrel harvests

Year	<b>Cottontails</b>				<b>Squirrels</b>			
	<b>Hunters</b>		<b>Harvest</b>		<b>Hunters</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	
	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Nonres</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Nonres</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Nonres</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Nonres</b>
2013	4,199	516	21,682	846	2,911	116	10,962	61
2014	5,366	754	28,276	1,591	2,552	150	9,587	241
2015	5,779	1,020	37,407	2,397	2,870	171	13,311	180
2016	5,584	754	35,649	2,224	2,786	181	11,614	262
2017	4,628	607	22,711	1,561	2,571	87	9,850	260
2018	4,341	475	19,386	937	2,302	141	8,241	293
2019	3,563	437	19,329	604	2,542	87	12,077	116
2020	4,871	597	27,026	928	3,174	119	12,757	239
2021	4,063	754	19,385	754	2,248	74	8,014	59
2022	5,333	796	33,910	1,943	2,466	80	9,949	48

Survey design changed in 2010 and 2014 so results may not be directly comparable to previous years.

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:35:01. Tree squirrel hunting season established. The tree squirrel hunting season is open statewide from sunrise to sunset each day from September 1 through the last day of ~~February~~ March. Only red squirrel, gray squirrel, and fox squirrel may be hunted pursuant to this section.

**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? The recommendation will provide more hunting opportunity.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Young hunters would have more opportunity to hunt in March.
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	_____
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## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

### Snipe Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:17

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>March 7-8, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>May 2, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>May 2-3, 2024</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>

#### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2024, 2025, and 2026 hunting seasons

**Season Dates and Open Area:** Statewide; September 1 – October 31

**Daily Limit:** 5 snipe

**Possession Limit:** 15 snipe

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.
2. Nontoxic shot rules apply to snipe hunting.

**Changes from last year:**

1. Remove the word “common” before snipe to allow harvest of all snipe species.

#### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The common snipe is generally found in Europe and the Wilson’s snipe is generally found in North America. The snipe season is not intended to differentiate among species of snipe.

#### DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

CHAPTER 41:06:17

~~COMMON~~ SNIPE HUNTING SEASON

41:06:17:01. Snipe hunting season established. The ~~common~~ snipe hunting season is open statewide from sunrise to sunset each day from September 1 through October 31.

41:06:17:03. Daily bag limit. The daily bag limit is 5 ~~common~~ snipe.

41:06:17:04. Possession limit. A person may have in possession at one time no more than 15 ~~common~~ snipe taken according to the daily limit.



**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

None

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

None

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

### Uses of Parks and Public Lands Chapter 41:03:01

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>March 7-8, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 4, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 4-5, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

#### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. An individual may hunt on walk-in areas without permission from the landowner or lessee, provided the person only travels on foot, unless otherwise authorized.
2. On public lands owned, leased, managed, or controlled by GFP:
  - a. An individual is prohibited from constructing or using permanent tree stands, permanent blinds, and climbing devices.
  - b. An individual’s name, address, year and applicable big game license number must be legibly labeled on the exterior of unoccupied portable blinds, tree stands, and trail cameras.
  - c. Bait stations are prohibited.

**Changes from last year:**

1. On all private lands leased for public hunting access by GFP:
  - a. Allow an individual to hunt without permission from the landowner or lessee.
    - i. Previously this was only described on walk-in-areas.
  - b. Specify the restriction to only active hunting on lands leased for public hunting by GFP.
2. In addition to all public lands owned, leased, managed, and controlled by GFP, on all private lands leased for public hunting access by GFP:
  - a. Restrict an individual from constructing or using permanent tree stands, permanent blinds, and climbing devices.
    - i. Previously this was only described on walk-in-areas.
  - b. Require an individual’s name and address or customer identification number (instead of big game license number) to be legibly labeled on the exterior of unoccupied portable blinds, tree stands, and trail cameras.
  - c. Trail cameras would require landowner’s permission.
  - d. Bait would be prohibited on lands leased for public hunting.

#### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

**Changes from proposal:**

1. Strike the words “or phone number” and the words “name and” from 41:03:01:19 and 41:03:01:36. This limits the amount of personal identifiable information that a person puts out for the public to see.

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Current rule only specifies use requirements on walk-in areas. The proposed edit to rule would expand this to all private lands leased by GFP for public hunting access. Because individuals may use tree stands, hunting blinds, or trail cameras for uses other than hunting big game, the recommendation is to allow a user to label these with either their name and address or their GFP

customer identification number. The final recommendation will specify that individuals need to obtain permission to use trail cameras on private land leased for hunting access by GFP.

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:03:01:01.04. Prohibited use of ~~walk-in areas~~ private lands leased for public hunting access. No person may enter, use, or occupy private lands leased for public hunting access by the department ~~under the state walk-in area program~~ for any purpose other than hunting without the permission of the landowner or any lessee of the land other than the department. A person may enter, use, or occupy these private lands leased by the department under the state walk-in area program for the purposes of hunting, provided the person only travels on foot, unless otherwise authorized.

41:03:01:19. Limitation on tree stands, elevated platforms, and portable blinds. Construction or use of permanent tree stands, permanent blinds, and climbing devices is prohibited on public lands owned, leased, managed, or controlled by the department and on all private lands leased for public hunting access by the department. Portable tree stands, portable blinds, and climbing devices that do not utilize nails, wire, or bolts for attachment are allowed from August 1 through March 31. Portable blinds may be used during the spring turkey seasons established in chapters 41:06:13 and 41:06:15, by licensed spring turkey hunters. One screw-in "T" may be used to stabilize a tree stand. Removable screw-in steps may be used to access a tree stand. The name and address ~~or phone number~~ number or ~~the year and current applicable big game license name and customer identification~~ number of the owner or user must be on the exterior of an unoccupied portable blind or tree stand and legible from the ground on a tree stand. Other elevated platform devices that are not attached to a tree must meet the requirements of this rule for permitted dates and for labeling if left overnight or unattended.

41:03:01:35. Bait stations prohibited. No person may establish, utilize, or maintain a bait station, as defined in § 41:06:04:03, on public lands owned, leased, managed, or controlled by the department and on all private lands leased for public hunting access by the department.

41:03:01:36. Limitation on trail cameras. Any trail camera placed on public lands owned, leased, managed, or controlled by the department may be attached to a tree, post, or other structure by utilizing no more than one nail, bolt, or screw. The name and address ~~or phone number of the owner or user~~ number of the owner or user or ~~the year and current applicable big game license name and customer identification~~ number of the owner or user must be on the exterior of an unattended trail camera. Trail cameras are prohibited, without the permission of the landowner or lessee, on all private lands leased by the department. A trail camera is a remotely activated device set to capture photos, video, sound, or other evidence of activity while the user is absent from the location.

**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? No
- 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 FINALIZATION

### Time Restrictions for Use of State Park System and Public Lands Chapter 41:03:01:01.01

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>March 7-8, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 4, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 4-5, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

#### INFORMATION

**Duration of Proposal:** Beginning in 2024

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Only persons utilizing the state park system for lawful camping, hunting, fishing, trapping snowmobiling or boating may use these lands from 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM
2. Only persons utilizing a game production area for lawful fishing, hunting, trapping or boating activities may use these areas between the hours of 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM.
3. The Mickelson Trail may only be used 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

#### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Provide a clarification that the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area and the West Shore Lake Access Area, and other areas north of Fort Pierre, observe Central Standard Time zone;

#### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO PROPOSAL

None

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

There are several recreation areas and lakeside use areas that are technically located in the Mountain Time Zone but logistically they operate on the Central Time Zone as that is what the communities in which they are associated with operate. While this works in its current form, this has caused some concern with the enforcement of these rules. Law enforcement officers need to abide by the jurisdictional lines that are established to include the established time zones.

#### DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

**41:03:01:01.01. Time restrictions for use of state park system and public lands.** Only persons utilizing the state park system for lawful fishing, hunting, trapping, snowmobiling, boating, or camping may enter, use, or occupy the state park system from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Only persons who are engaged in lawful fishing, hunting, trapping, or boating activities may enter, use, or occupy public shooting areas, game production areas, wildlife refuges, and water access areas from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Oahe Downstream Recreation Area, West Shore Lakeside Use Area, Chantier Creek Lakeside Use Area, Minneconjou Lakeside Use Area and Foster Bay Lakeside Use Area north of Fort Pierre observe Central Time Zone; and The George Mickelson Trail may only be utilized for one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.

#### 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	_____
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## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

### Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

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

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b> <b>Public Hearing</b> <b>Finalization</b>	<b>January 11-12, 2024</b> <b>April 4, 2024</b> <b>April 4-5, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b> <b>Pierre</b> <b>Pierre</b>
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**COMMISSION PROPOSAL**

**Duration of Proposal:** 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

**Season Dates:** September 1 – December 31

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

**Licenses:** License recommendations included in administrative action document

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.

**Changes from last year:**

1. Modify administrative rule to specify a maximum of 20 ram bighorn sheep licenses. License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years are included in the following administrative action item.
2. Remove BHS-BH1. Expand the unit boundary for BHS-BH4 to include the former boundaries of BHS-BH1 and those portions of Pennington County west of Interstate 90, Elk Vale Rd. and SD Highway 79. See Figure 2 on the following administrative action item for proposed unit boundaries.

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL**

**Recommended changes from proposal:**

1. Rule (§ 41:06:56:02) clean-up to edit SD Hwy 16 and SD Hwy 18 to US Highway 16 and US Highway 18, respectively.
2. Rule (§ 41:06:56:02) clean-up to edit Highway 79 to SD Highway 79.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

The proposed maximum number of bighorn sheep licenses is established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission will propose and finalize the specific number of licenses, tag types, and allocations amongst hunting units via administrative action which is included in the following action item.

Minimum counts of bighorn sheep in the Rapid City herd were 45 in 2023, which is approaching the population count of 50 required for recommended ram harvest based on objective 3, strategy C in the bighorn sheep action plan. However, bighorn sheep in the Rapid City herd are mostly distributed on private land where hunters may be unable to obtain permission to pursue those animals. As a result, if bighorn sheep licenses were provided in the current BHS-BH1 (i.e., Rapid City unit), a hunter obtaining a once in a lifetime license may not have a realistic opportunity to harvest a bighorn sheep. As an alternative, based on the unit boundary modification, a hunter that is successful in obtaining a license for unit BHS-BH4 would be able to hunt sheep in the Hell Canyon herd and the Rapid City herd, if permission was obtained on private land or a ram moved onto a property that was open to public hunting.

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:56:03. Number and type of licenses. No more than 44 20 ram bighorn sheep licenses may be issued for the bighorn sheep hunting season. One bighorn sheep license may be issued for sale by auction pursuant to the procedures established in this chapter, valid for one ram bighorn sheep.

41:06:56:02. Open units. The following is a description of the open units:

~~—— (1) Unit BHS-BH1: that portion of Pennington County within an area beginning at Highway 385 and the Pennington County line, then south on Highway 385 to Sheridan Lake Road, then east on Sheridan Lake Road to Highway 79 in Rapid City, then north on Highway 79 to the Pennington County line;~~

~~(2) (1) Unit BHS-BH2: that portion of Custer and Fall River counties within a line beginning at the junction of SD Hwy US Highway 16 and the WY state line, east on SD Hwy US Highway 16 to the intersection of SD Hwy US Highway 16 and Mann Rd (USFS Rd 270) then south along the Mann Rd to Pass Creek Rd (USFS Rd 272) then south on Pass Creek to Richardson Cutoff (USFS Rd 276) then east on Richardson Cutoff to Pleasant Valley Rd (USFS Rd 715) then south on Pleasant Valley Rd to Pilger Mountain Rd (USFS 317) then south on Pilger Mountain Rd to County Rd 15 then south on County Rd 15 to SD Hwy US Highway 18 then west on SD Hwy US Highway 18 to County Rd 16 then north on County Rd 16 to Dewey Rd (USFS Rd 769) then north and west on Dewey Rd to the Custer County line then west on the Custer county line to the WY state line then north on the WY state line to the point of origin;~~

~~(3) (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;~~

~~(4) (3) Unit BHS-BH4: that portion of Custer and Pennington counties beginning at the junction of the Wyoming state line, Lawrence county line, and Pennington county line then east on Pennington county line to Interstate 90 then south on Interstate 90 to Elk Vale Road then south on Elk Vale Road and Summit Ridge Road then north on Summit Ridge Road to Boles Canyon Road then north o Boles~~



~~Canyon Road to Six Mile Road then east on Six Mile Road to Ditch Creek Road then south on Ditch Creek Road to the Custer/Pennington county line then east on the Custer/Pennington county line 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 US Highway 16 then west on US 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~~

(5) (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? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? The regulation provides additional hunting opportunity.
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? The additional opportunity will provide more opportunity to harvest bighorn sheep for successful applicants.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

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

### Bighorn Sheep Hunting License Tables Chapter 41:06:56

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	Public Hearing Finalization	April 4, 2024 April 4-5, 2024	Pierre Pierre
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**COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

2024 and 2025 Ram Bighorn Sheep Licenses

Season	Unit	Ram Bighorn Sheep
Custer State Park (CBS)	CU1	4
Bighorn Sheep (BHS)	BH2	3
	BH3	0
	BH4	2
Auction	All	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Surveys resulting in a minimum count of 61 bighorn sheep in Custer State Park (CBS-CU1; Figure 1) suggest the ram population could sustain additional harvest without significantly affecting age-structure. Although 85 bighorn sheep were counted in 2023 in the Hell Canyon unit (BHS-BH4), this herd is currently experiencing a *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* related die-off and projected losses before the upcoming hunting season are unknown. The March Commission proposal was to absorb the current Rapid City unit (not displayed on Figure 1) into the Hell Canyon unit (BHS-BH4; Figure 2). As a result, it is expected the resulting population between the two herds (Table 1), even after projected losses as a result of the *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* related die-off will be enough to sustain the ram harvest.

Table 1. Minimum bighorn sheep counts, previous license allocation (2022 and 2023) and proposed license allocation (2024 and 2025) by bighorn sheep hunting unit.

Season	Unit	Herd	2023 Min. Count	Licenses	
				2022-2023	2024-2025
Custer State Park (CBS)	CU1	CSP	61	3	4
Bighorn Sheep (BHS)	BH1	Rapid City	45	0	Combined with BH4
	BH2	Elk Mountain	58	3	3
	BH3	Badlands	66	0	0
	BH4	Hell Canyon	85	4	2
Not Described in Admin. Rule		Deadwood	26	NA	NA
Auction	All	All	NA	1	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>341</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>

Figure 1. Custer State Park (CBS-CU1) and Black Hills bighorn sheep units (BHS-BH2, BHS-BH3, BHS-BH4).

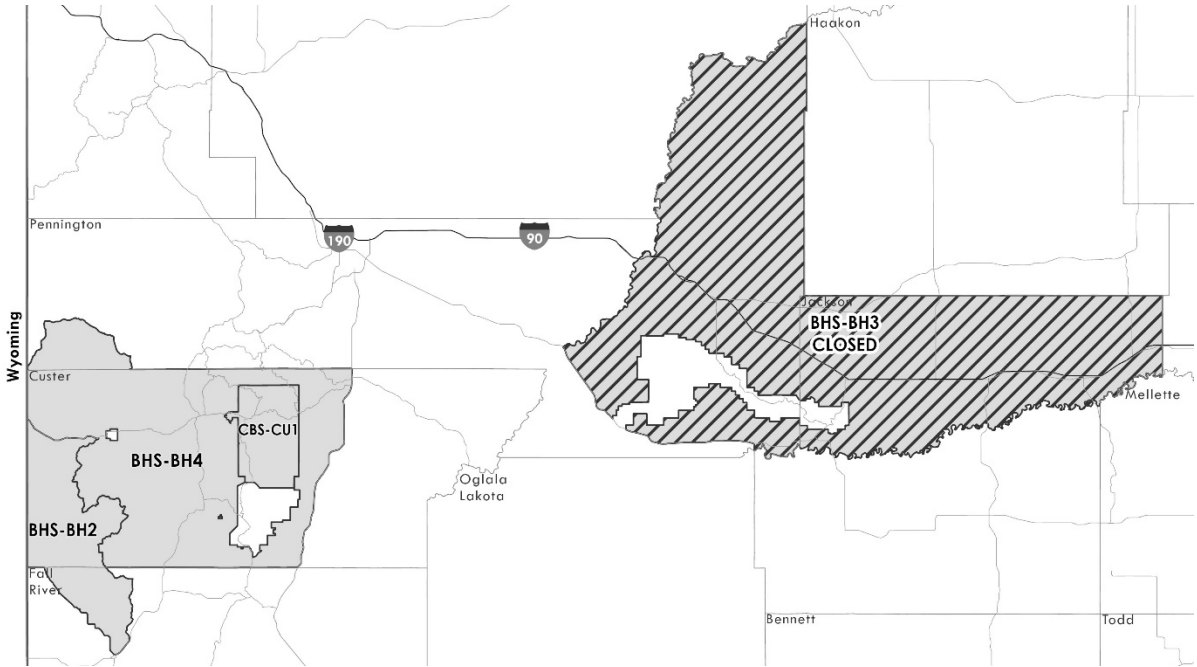
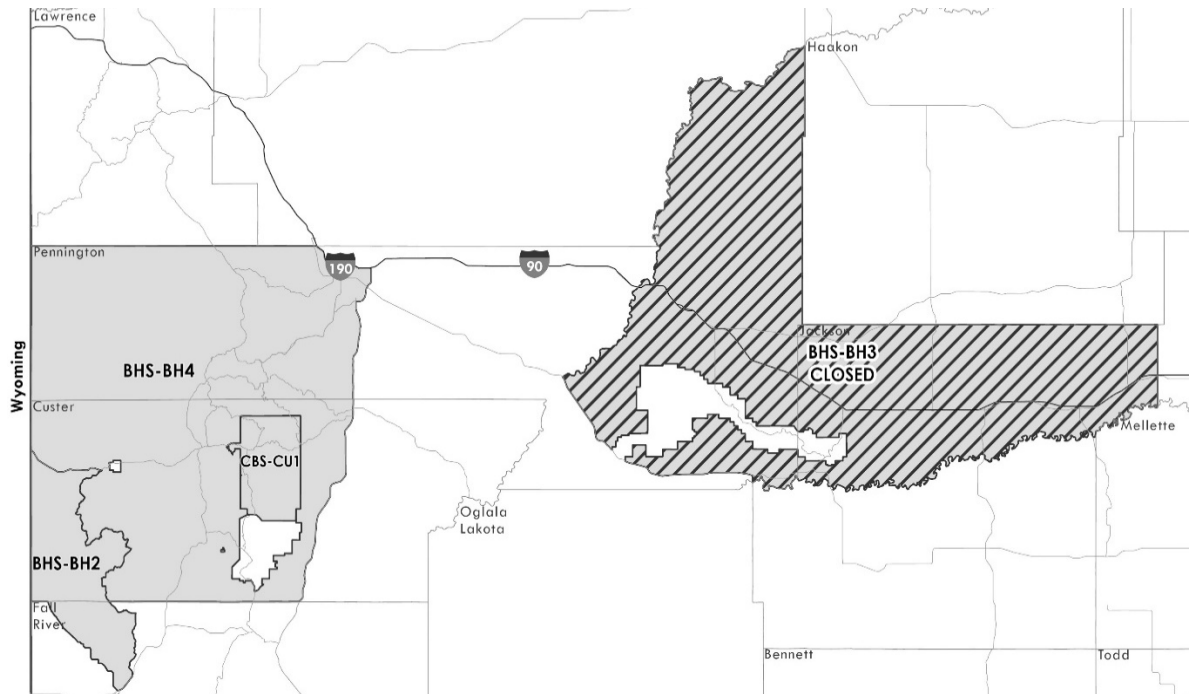


Figure 2. Custer State Park (CBS-CU1), Black Hills bighorn sheep units (BHS-BH2, BHS-BH3), and recommended change to Black Hills bighorn sheep unit (BHS-BH4).



APPROVE  MODIFY  REJECT  NO ACTION

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

### Custer State Park Early (Archery) Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:28

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	Proposal	January 11-12, 2024	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 4, 2024	Pierre
	Finalization	April 4-5, 2024	Pierre

#### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

**Season Dates:** September 1 – 30.

**Licenses:** License recommendations included in administrative action document

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. The unit is open within the boundaries of Custer State Park.
2. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
3. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
4. There is no landowner preference for this season.
5. A person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season may not apply for that license again.
6. Any elk that is harvested must be inspected by a Department representative within 24 hours after kill.

**Changes from last year:**

1. Increase the maximum number of licenses from ten to twenty “any elk” licenses and provide the option for up to twenty “antlerless elk” licenses. License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years are included in the following administrative action item.

#### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed maximum number of elk licenses is established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission will propose and finalize the specific number of licenses and tag types and allocations amongst hunting units via administrative action.

Table 1. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Custer State Park Early Archery Elk season.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	4	3,023	100%	4	0
2015	4	3,600	75%	3	0
2016	3	3,707	33%	1	0
2017	3	3,704	33%	1	0
2018	3	3,772	67%	2	0
2019	3	4,055	100%	3	0
2020	3	4,353	33%	1	0
2021	3	4,456	33%	1	0
2022	4	4,904	50%	2	0
2023	4	5,028	50%	2	0

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:28:01. Custer State Park early archery elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses -- Season dates. The Custer State Park early archery elk hunting season is open one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day and is restricted by chapter 41:06:07. No more than ~~ten~~ twenty "any elk" licenses and no more than twenty "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the Custer State Park early archery elk hunting season. The Custer State Park early archery elk hunting season is open from September 1 through September 30.

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

None

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

None

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

### Custer State Park Early (Archery) Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:28

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	Public Hearing Finalization	April 4, 2024 April 4-5, 2024	Pierre Pierre
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**COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

**Licenses:** 5 resident “Any Elk” licenses and 0 “Antlerless Elk” licenses.

2023 CSP Archery Elk		
Season	Resident Licenses	
	Any Elk	Atl Elk
	21	23
CEE-CU1	4	

2024-2025 CSP Archery Elk		
Season	Resident Licenses	
	Any Elk	Atl Elk
	21	23
CEE-CU1	5	

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Bull harvest age-structure has been currently above the objective of 60% of the harvested bulls 4.5 years old or older. This supports increasing bull harvest to provide more opportunity. Aerial helicopter surveys are planned for 2025, and adjustments can be made to antlerless licenses next year, if the population has exceeded the population objective range of 500 to 600.

### 2023 Custer State Park Archery Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 23 Jan 2024

Unit/Type	Resident Licenses					Harvest Projections							Avg Satisfctn Score	Avg Days Hunted
	Appl. 1st Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Cow Calves	Total Elk Harvested	CI (95%)	Elk Shot Not Recovered		
CU1-21	5,028	4	4	100%	50%	2	0	0	0	2	+/-0	0	7.00	16.8

\* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

### Custer State Park (Firearm) Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:27

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 11-12, 2024	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 4, 2024	Pierre
	Finalization	April 4-5, 2024	Pierre

#### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

**Season Dates:** October 1 – 31.

**Licenses:** License recommendations included in administrative action document

#### Requirements and Restrictions:

1. The unit is open within the boundaries of Custer State Park.
2. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
3. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
4. There is no landowner preference for this season.
5. A person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season may not apply for that license again.
6. Any elk that is harvested must be inspected by a Department representative within 24 hours after kill.

#### Changes from last year:

1. Increase the maximum number of licenses from twenty to thirty “any elk” licenses and the option to provide up to thirty “antlerless elk” licenses. License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years are included in the following administrative action item.

#### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed maximum number of elk licenses is established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission will propose and finalize the specific number of licenses and tag types and allocations amongst hunting units via administrative action.



Table 1. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Custer State Park firearm elk season.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	4	8,084	100%	4	0
2015	8	9,136	100%	8	0
2016	9	8,958	89%	8	0
2017	9	8,828	88%	8	0
2018	9	8,670	86%	8	0
2019	9	8,949	89%	8	0
2020	9	9,385	89%	8	0
2021	8	9,215	89%	8	0
2022	11	9,672	100%	11	0
2023	11	9,725	100%	11	NA

Table 2. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Special Custer State Park antlerless elk season.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	Season Closed				
2015	Season Closed				
2016	20	3,138	90%	0	18
2017	29	3,436	86%	1	24
2018	23	3,175	19%	0	4
2019	Season Closed				
2020	Season Closed				
2021	Season Closed				
2022	Season Closed				
2023	Season Closed				

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:27:01. Custer State Park elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses -- Season dates. The Custer State Park elk hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day of the season and is restricted by chapter 41:06:07. No more than ~~20~~ thirty "any elk" licenses and no more than thirty "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the Custer State Park elk hunting season. The Custer State Park elk hunting season for Unit CUE-CU1 is open from October 1 through October 31.

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

None

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

None

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

### Custer State Park (Firearm) Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:27

**Commission Meeting Dates:**      **Public Hearing**      **April 4, 2024**      **Pierre**  
    **Finalization**      **April 4-5, 2024**      **Pierre**

#### COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

**Licenses:** 16 resident “Any Elk” licenses, including 1 raffle “Any Elk” license, and 0 “Antlerless Elk” licenses.

One of the licenses shall be a raffle “Any Elk” license that is valid during the Custer State Park elk hunting season and the Black Hills elk hunting season. The raffle license is not valid during the Custer State Park archery hunting season nor the Black Hills archery elk hunting season.

**2023**

CSP Firearm Elk		
Season	Resident Licenses	
	Any Elk	Atl Elk
	21	23
CUE-CU1	11	
RAFFLE	1	

**2024-2025**

CSP Firearm Elk		
Season	Resident Licenses	
	Any Elk	Atl Elk
	21	23
CUE-CU1	15	
RAFFLE	1	

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Bull harvest age-structure has been above the objective of 60% of the harvested bulls 4.5 years old or older and harvest success has consistently been 100% or slightly below. The recommendation follows the elk action plan objective and supports increasing bull harvest to provide more opportunity. Aerial helicopter surveys are planned for 2025, and adjustments can be made to antlerless licenses next year, if the population has exceeded the population objective range of 500 to 600.

### 2023 Custer State Park Firearm Elk Harvest Projections

*Last Revised: 23 Jan 2024*

Resident Licenses						Harvest Projections						Avg	Avg		
Appl. 1st						Bull						Elk Shot Not	Satisfctn	Days	
Unit/Type	Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Calves	Total Elk	Harvested	CI (95%)	Recovered	Score	Hunted
CU1-21	9,725	11	11	64%	100%	11	0	0	0	11	+/-0	0	6.86	3.4	

\* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

### Special Custer State Park Antlerless Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:47

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 11-12, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 4, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 4-5, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

#### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

**Season Dates:** Season is currently closed.

**Licenses:** 0 “Antlerless Elk” licenses.

#### Requirements and Restrictions:

1. The unit is open within the boundaries of Custer State Park.
2. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
3. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
4. There is no landowner preference for this season.
5. No person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season shall be eligible to apply for a Special Custer State Park antlerless elk license in first drawings for next nine years.
6. Any elk that is harvested must be inspected by a Department representative within 24 hours after kill.

#### Changes from last year:

1. Specify the option to provide up to twenty “antlerless elk” licenses. No antlerless licenses are recommended for this season.

#### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed maximum number of elk licenses is established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission will propose and finalize the specific number of licenses and tag types and allocations amongst hunting units via administrative action. GFP recommends to keep the Custer State Park Special Antlerless Elk Hunting Season closed.

Table 1. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Special Custer State Park antlerless elk season.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	Season Closed				
2015	Season Closed				
2016	20	3,138	90%	0	18
2017	29	3,436	86%	1	24
2018	23	3,175	19%	0	4
2019	Season Closed				
2020	Season Closed				
2021	Season Closed				
2022	Season Closed				
2023	Season Closed				

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:47:01. Special Custer State Park antlerless elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available -- Season dates. The ~~special~~ Special Custer State Park "antlerless elk" hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day of the season and is restricted by chapter 41:06:07. No more than twenty "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the ~~special~~ Special Custer State Park "antlerless elk" hunting season.

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

None

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

None

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

### Archery (Black Hills) Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:43

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b> <b>Public Hearing</b> <b>Finalization</b>	<b>January 11-12, 2024</b> <b>April 4, 2024</b> <b>April 4-5, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b> <b>Pierre</b> <b>Pierre</b>
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#### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

**Season Dates:** September 1 – 30.

**Licenses:** License recommendations included in administrative action document

**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 Black Hills archery elk hunting 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.

**Changes from last year:**

1. Increase the maximum number of “any elk” licenses from 200 to 300 and “antlerless elk” licenses from 150 to 300. License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years are included in the following administrative action item.
2. Clean-up Administrative Rule to match unit boundary descriptions for Black Hills Archery Elk with Black Hills Firearm Elk.

#### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The proposed maximum number of elk licenses is established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission will propose and finalize the specific number of licenses and tag types and allocations amongst hunting units via administrative action.

Figure 1. Map of Archery Elk Season hunting units in the Black Hills.

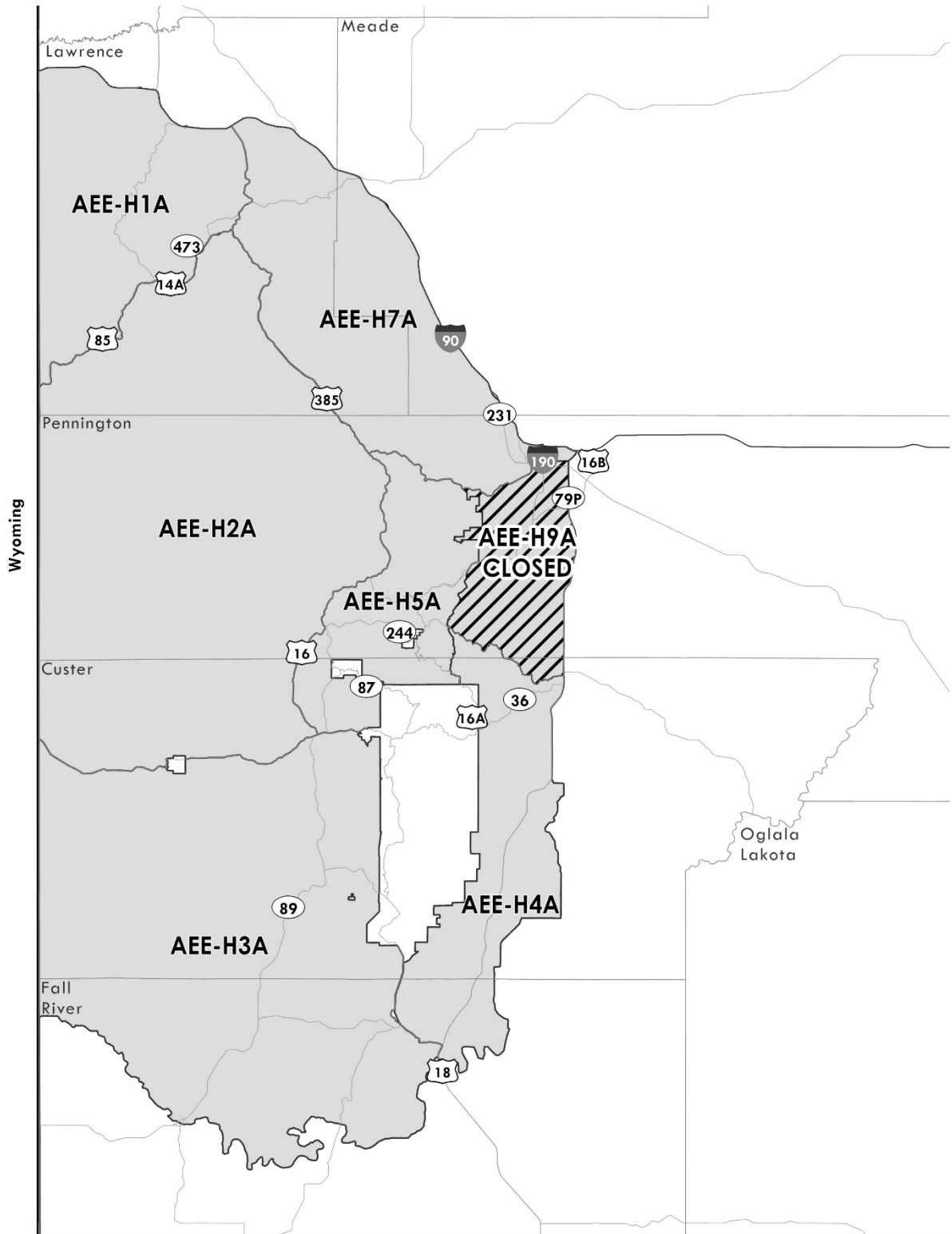


Table 1. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Archery Elk Season in the Black Hills.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	106	4,256	40%	38	4
2015	196	4,761	34%	55	12
2016	280	4,965	29%	57	25
2017	269	4,892	26%	50	20
2018	219	5,006	38%	65	19
2019	216	5,382	42%	77	14
2020	204	5,884	45%	80	12
2021	219	5,966	44%	82	14
2022	269	6,319	40%	89	18
2023	258	6,375	44%	103	10

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:43:01. Archery elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available -- Season dates. The archery 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 ~~200~~ three hundred "any elk" licenses and ~~450~~ no more than three hundred "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the archery elk hunting season. The archery elk hunting season for Units AAE-H1A, AAE-H2A, AAE-H3A, AAE-H4A, AAE-H5A, AAE-H7A, and AAE-H9A is open from September 1 through September 30.

41:06:43:02. Open units. The following is a description of the open units for the archery elk hunting season:

- (1) Unit AEE-H1A: the portion of Lawrence County within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and Interstate 90, then easterly on Interstate 90 to the junction of U.S. Highway 85 at Exit 17, then southerly on U.S. Highway 85 to its junction with the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then northerly along the South Dakota-Wyoming border to its junction with Interstate 90, the point of beginning;
- (2) Unit AEE-H2A: those portions of Lawrence, Pennington, and Custer Counties beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 85, then northerly and easterly along U.S. Highway 85 to its junction with U.S. Highway 385, then southerly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with U.S. Highway 16 at Custer, then westerly along U.S. Highway 16 to its junction with the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then northerly along the South Dakota-Wyoming border to its junction with U.S. Highway 85, the point of beginning;
- (3) Unit AEE-H3A: ~~those portions of Pennington, Lawrence, and Meade Counties beginning at U.S. Highway 14A at Sturgis, then westerly along U.S. Highway 14A to its junction with U.S. Highway 85 at Deadwood, then southerly along U.S. Highway 85 to its junction with U.S. Highway 385 at Pluma, then southeasterly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with Pennington County Road C228 (Sheridan Lake Road), then easterly along Pennington County Road C228 to its junction with State Highway 44 in Rapid City, then northerly along State Highway 44 in Rapid City to its junction with State Highway 79 (Sturgis Road) in Rapid City, then northwesterly along State Highway 79 to its junction with Interstate 90 in Black Hawk, then northwesterly along Interstate 90 to Sturgis, the point of beginning;~~ those portions of Custer and Fall River Counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming state line and U.S. Highway 16, then east along U.S. Highway 16 to the Custer State Park western boundary, then south along the Custer State Park western boundary and the Wind Cave National Park western boundary to U.S. Highway 385, then south along U.S. Highway 385 to State Highway 79, then south along State Highway 79 to the Cheyenne River, then west along the Cheyenne River to the South Dakota-Wyoming state line, then north along the state line to the point of beginning;
- (4) Unit AEE-H4A: those portions of Pennington, Custer, and Fall River Counties beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 385 and the southern boundary of Wind Cave National Park, then southerly

along U.S. Highway 385 through Hot Springs and Maverick Junction to its junction with the Cheyenne River, then northeasterly along the Cheyenne River to its junction with Fall River County Road 6291 (South Buffalo Gap Road), then northerly along Fall River County Road 6291 and Custer County Road 101 to Buffalo Gap and its junction with Custer County Road 656 (River Side Road), then easterly along Custer County Road 656 one-half mile to Custer County Road 17 (Beaver Valley Road), then northerly and easterly along Custer County Road 17 to its junction with Custer County Road 719 (South Fairburn Road), then northerly along Custer County Road 719 to Fairburn to its junction with Custer County Road 18, then northerly along Custer County Road 18 (North Fairburn Road) to its junction with U.S. Highway 79, then northerly along U.S. Highway 79 to its junction with State Highway 40, then northwesterly along State Highway 40 to its junction with Pennington County Road 330 (Playhouse Road), then southerly along Pennington County Road 330 to its junction with U.S. Highway 16A, then southerly along U.S. Highway 16A to its junction with the north boundary of Custer State Park, then easterly along the Custer State Park boundary to the northeast corner of Custer State Park, then southerly along the east boundaries of Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park to the southeast corner of Wind Cave National Park, then westerly along the south boundary of Wind Cave National Park to its junction with U.S. Highway 385, the point of beginning;

(5) Unit AEE-H5A: those portions of Pennington and Custer Counties beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 16A and the west boundary of Custer State Park, then westerly along U.S. Highway 16A to its junction with U.S. Highway 385 at Custer, then northerly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with State Highway 44 near Pactola Lake, then easterly along State Highway 44 to its junction with the Black Hills National Forest boundary, then southerly along the Black Hills National Forest boundary to its junction with U.S. Highway 16, then westerly along U.S. Highway 16 to its junction with the South Rockerville Road at Rockerville, then southerly along the South Rockerville Road to its junction with State Highway 40 at Harney, then easterly along State Highway 40 approximately 1,000 feet to its junction with the Playhouse Road, then southerly along the Playhouse Road to its junction with U.S. Highway 16A near Spokane, then southeasterly along U.S. Highway 16A to its junction with the north boundary of Custer State Park, then westerly and southerly along the Custer State Park boundary to its junction with U.S. Highway 16A, the point of beginning. The Rushmore National Memorial, including all private lands within the memorial, is closed;

(6) Unit AEE-H7A: those portions of Pennington, ~~Meade, and Lawrence~~ Lawrence, and Meade Counties within a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 85 and Interstate 90 at Exit 17, then southerly along U.S. Highway 85 to its junction with U.S. Highway 385 at Pluma, then southerly along U.S. Highway 385 to its junction with State Highway 44 near Pactola, then easterly along State Highway 44 to its junction with State Highway 79 (Sturgis Road) ~~at~~ in Rapid City, then northerly along State Highway 79 to its junction with Interstate 90 at Black Hawk, then northerly along Interstate 90 to its junction with U.S. Highway 85 at Exit 17, the point of beginning; and

(7) Unit AEE-H9A: those portions of Custer and Pennington Counties within an area bounded as follows: beginning at the junction of State Highway 40 and State Highway 79 at Hermosa, then northerly along State Highway 79 to its junction with State Highway 44 in Rapid City, then westerly along State Highway 44 to its junction with U.S. Highway 16, then westerly along U.S. Highway 16 to its junction with the South Rockerville Road, then southerly along the South Rockerville Road to its junction with State Highway 40, then easterly along State Highway 40 to its junction with State Highway 79 at Hermosa, the point of beginning.

**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 ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

### Archery (Black Hills) Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:43

Commission Meeting Dates:	Public Hearing Finalization	April 4, 2024 April 4-5, 2024	Pierre Pierre
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#### COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

**Licenses:** 192 resident “Any Elk” licenses and 90 resident “Antlerless Elk” licenses

2023			
Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	23	
H1A	30	20	
H2A	100	40	
H3A	40	30	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	10		
H9A			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>272</b>

2024-2025			
Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk	Atl Elk	
	21	23	
H1A	30	10	
H2A	100	40	
H3A	40	30	
H4A	10	10	
H5A	2		
H7A	10		
H9A			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>282</b>

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Population modeling results suggest the elk population increased between 2022 and 2024. More bulls can be harvested from a larger population without adversely affecting the age-structure. In addition, bull harvest age-structure has been above the objective of 60% of the harvested bulls 4.5 years old or older, which supports increasing bull harvest. Forage conditions across the Black Hills are favorable and maintaining the same number of antlerless licenses will continue to grow the population towards 8,000 elk. Aerial helicopter surveys are planned for 2025, and adjustments can be made to antlerless licenses next year, if the population has exceeded the population objective range of 6,000 to 8,000.

Elk populations in unit H4A have increased and meetings with landowners in the mostly privately owned unit have resulted in support for opening the archery season and including 10 any elk and 10 antlerless archery elk licenses.

## 2023 Archery Elk Harvest Projections

*Last Revised: 23 Jan 2024*

Resident Licenses						Harvest Projections						Avg	Avg		
Appl. 1st						Bull			Cow		Total Elk		Elk Shot Not	Satisfctn	Days
Unit/Type	Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Calves	Harvested	CI (95%)	Recovered	Score	Hunted	
H1A-21	792	30	30	83%	64%	18	0	1	0	19	+/-2	6	6.0	11.2	
H1A-23	7	20	16	47%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	+/-0	2	5.2	11.6	
H2A-21	4,458	100	100	75%	63%	63	0	0	0	63	+/-6	17	6.3	12.3	
H2A-23	58	40	36	59%	20%	0	7	0	0	7	+/-4	7	5.6	10.5	
H3A-21	834	40	40	88%	43%	17	0	0	0	17	+/-2	5	5.1	13.1	
H3A-23	8	30	24	67%	13%	0	3	0	0	3	+/-2	0	4.3	8.7	
H5A-21	19	2	2	50%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	+/-0	0	1.0	6.0	
H7A-21	199	10	10	90%	44%	4	0	0	0	4	+/-1	0	5.3	12.9	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,375</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>73.7%</b>	<b>44.1%</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>+/- 18</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>5.66</b>	<b>11.64</b>	

The response rate for all units combined is: 73.7%

Satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied.

\* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

### Black Hills (Firearm) Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:26

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b> <b>Public Hearing</b> <b>Finalization</b>	<b>January 11-12, 2024</b> <b>April 4, 2024</b> <b>April 4-5, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b> <b>Pierre</b> <b>Pierre</b>
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**COMMISSION PROPOSAL**

**Duration of Proposal:** 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

**Season Dates:** See Figure 2 for map.

Units	Season Dates
Any Elk Units: H1A, H2A, H3A, H4A, H5A, and H7A*	October 1 - 31
Antlerless Elk Units: H1B, H2B, H2E, H4B, H7B, and H9B	October 15 - 31 AND December 1 - 16
Antlerless Elk Units: H2H, H3B, and H3E	October 15 - 31
Antlerless Elk Units: H2C, H2F, H2I, H3C and H3F	December 1 - 16
Antlerless Elk Units: H2G, H2J, H3D, and H3G	December 17 - 31

\* H9A is not currently listed in § 41:06:26:01. See recommended changes from proposal.

**Licenses:** License recommendations included in administrative action document

**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 Black Hills (firearm) 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.

**Changes from last year:**

1. Increase the maximum number of “any elk” licenses from 600 to 800 and “antlerless elk” licenses from 1,200 to 1,500. License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years are included in the following administrative action item.
2. Rule clean-up to include BHE-9A among units with a season that runs from October 1 through October 31. These season dates include all any elk licenses during the Black Hills Firearm Elk hunting season.
3. Rule clean-up to change BHE-2B and BHE-2E season dates from October 15 through October 31 and December 1 through December 16 to only occur from October 15 through October 31.

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL**

None

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

The proposed maximum number of elk licenses is established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission will propose and finalize the specific number of licenses and tag types and allocations amongst hunting units via administrative action.

Black Hills Firearm Elk hunting unit BHE-H9A season was excluded from administrative rule § 41:06:26:01. The recommended change is intended to accurately include BHE-H9A season dates to coincide with all other any elk hunting seasons including BHE-H1A, BHE-H2A, BHE-H3A, BHE-H4A, BHE-H5A, and BHE-H7A.

Black Hills Firearm Elk hunting units BHE-H2B and BHE-H2E seasons were specified in administrative rule § 41:06:26:01 to run from October 15 to October 31 and December 1 to December 16. However, the December season dates overlap with other antlerless hunting seasons in these units, BHE-H2C and BHE-H2F. The recommended change is intended to accurately specify season dates for BHE-H2B and BHE-H2E to coincide with other antlerless elk hunting seasons including BHE-H2H, BHE-H3B, and BHE-H3E.

Figure 1. Proposed rule clean-up to any elk (H9A) and antlerless elk (H2B, H2E) hunting season dates. Underlined text indicates added units and struck through text indicates removed units.

<b>Recommended Units</b>	<b>Season Dates</b>
Any Elk Units: H1A, H2A, H3A, H4A, H5A, H7A, <u>H9A</u>	October 1 - 31
Antlerless Elk Units: H1B, <del>H2B, H2E</del> , H4B, H7B, and H9B	October 15 - 31 AND December 1 - 16
Antlerless Elk Units: <u>H2B, H2E</u> , H2H, H3B, and H3E	October 15 - 31
Antlerless Elk Units: H2C, H2F, H2I, H3C and H3F	December 1 - 16
Antlerless Elk Units: H2G, H2J, H3D, and H3G	December 17 - 31

Figure 1. Map of Black Hills elk season hunting units for “any elk” license types (left panel) and proposed units for “antlerless elk” license types (right panel).

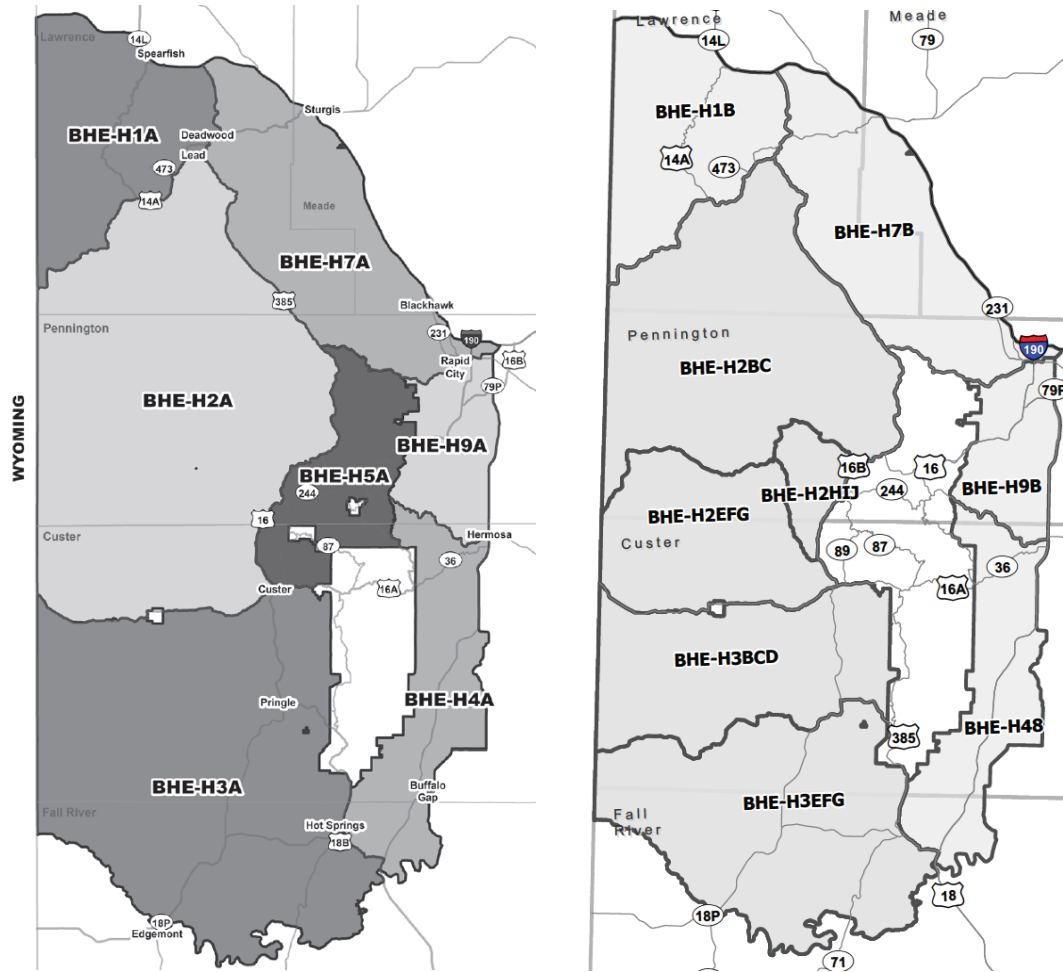


Table 1. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Black Hills firearm elk season.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	664	11,461	71%	295	178
2015	922	12,126	71%	312	345
2016	1,745	12,692	62%	363	724
2017	1,581	12,201	66%	364	682
2018	1,124	11,871	64%	315	402
2019	1,108	12,396	62%	332	354
2020	926	13,198	63%	360	224
2021	954	12,656	65%	370	249
2022	1,265	13,447	64%	426	381
2023	1,232	12,999	63%	435	344

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:26:01. Black Hills elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses -- Season dates. The Black Hills 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 ~~600~~ eight hundred "any elk" licenses and ~~4,200~~ no more than one thousand five hundred "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the Black Hills elk hunting season. The Black Hills elk hunting seasons are as follows:

- (1) Units BHE-H1A, BHE-H2A, BHE-H3A, BHE-H4A, BHE-H5A, ~~and BHE-H7A,~~ and BHE-H9A are open from October 1 through October 31;
- (2) Units BHE-H1B, ~~BHE-H2B, BHE-H2E,~~ BHE-H4B, BHE-H7B, and BHE-H9B are open from October 15 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 16;
- (3) Units BHE-H2B, BHE-H2E, BHE-H2H, BHE-H3B, and BHE-H3E are open from October 15 through October 31;
- (4) Units BHE-H2C, BHE-H2F, BHE-H2I, BHE-H3C, and BHE-H3F are open from December 1 through December 16; and
- (5) Units BHE-H2D, BHE-H2G, BHE-H2J, BHE-H3D, and BHE-H3G are open from December 17 through December 31.

**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 ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

### Black Hills (Firearm) Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:26

**Commission Meeting Dates:**    **Public Hearing**    **April 4, 2024**    **Pierre**  
    **Finalization**    **April 4-5, 2024**    **Pierre**

#### COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

**Licenses:** 570 resident “Any Elk” licenses and 730 resident “Antlerless Elk” licenses

2023			
Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	60		
H1B		65	
H2A	290		
H2B		50	
H2C		50	
H2D			
H2E		40	
H2F		40	
H2G		40	
H2H		10	
H2I		10	
H2J		10	
H3A	120		
H3B		45	
H3C		45	
H3D		45	
H3E		60	
H3F		60	
H3G		60	
H4A	20		
H4B		40	
H5A	5		
H7A	25		
H7B		20	
H9A	15		
H9B		40	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>1,265</b>

2024-2025			
Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	60		
H1B		65	
H2A	300		
H2B		50	
H2C		50	
H2D			
H2E		40	
H2F		40	
H2G		40	
H2H		10	
H2I		10	
H2J		10	
H3A	120		
H3B		45	
H3C		45	
H3D		45	
H3E		60	
H3F		60	
H3G		60	
H4A	40		
H4B		40	
H5A	5		
H7A	30		
H7B		20	
H9A	15		
H9B		40	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>1,300</b>

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Population modeling results suggest the elk population increased between 2022 and 2024. More bulls can be harvested from a larger population without adversely affecting the age-structure. In addition, bull harvest age-structure has been above the objective of 60% of the harvested bulls 4.5 years old or older, which supports increasing bull harvest. Forage conditions across the Black Hills are favorable and maintaining the same number of antlerless licenses will continue to grow the population towards 8,000 elk. Aerial helicopter surveys are planned for 2025, and adjustments can be made to antlerless licenses next year, if the population has exceeded the population objective range of 6,000 to 8,000.

## 2023 Black Hills Firearm Elk Harvest Projections

*Last Revised: 23 Jan 2024*

Resident Licenses						Harvest Projections						Avg	Avg		
Appl. 1st						Bull			Cow		Total Elk		Elk Shot Not	Satisfctn	Days
Unit/Type	Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Calves	Harvested	CI (95%)	Recovered	Score	Hunted	
H1A-21	1,290	60	60	73%	79%	45	3	0	0	47	+/-4	4	5.74	8.7	
H1B-23	51	65	62	69%	60%	0	35	1	0	37	+/-5	1	5.90	7.8	
H2A-21	8,649	290	289	74%	85%	235	9	0	0	244	+/-7	23	5.90	7.2	
H2B-23	202	50	47	64%	53%	0	22	0	3	25	+/-5	2	4.83	5.3	
H2C-23	28	50	48	67%	69%	0	30	0	3	33	+/-4	2	5.61	4.8	
H2E-23	108	40	37	68%	68%	0	25	0	0	25	+/-4	7	5.76	5.6	
H2F-23	38	40	39	77%	67%	0	26	0	0	26	+/-3	5	5.70	4.9	
H2G-23	19	40	39	72%	50%	0	18	1	0	20	+/-4	0	5.88	2.9	
H2H-23	9	10	8	88%	57%	0	5	0	0	5	+/-1	0	5.43	7.0	
H2I-23	7	10	9	44%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	+/-0	0	2.50	11.0	
H2J-23	2	10	10	70%	57%	0	6	0	0	6	+/-2	0	6.00	4.6	
H3A-21	1,859	120	120	71%	85%	96	6	0	0	102	+/-5	7	5.79	7.9	
H3B-23	28	45	44	48%	33%	0	13	2	0	15	+/-6	4	4.70	5.7	
H3C-23	11	45	41	56%	48%	0	18	2	0	20	+/-6	2	4.77	4.5	
H3D-23	16	45	45	80%	33%	0	14	0	1	15	+/-3	0	4.47	5.4	
H3E-23	26	60	58	69%	35%	0	20	0	0	20	+/-5	1	4.29	4.5	
H3F-23	14	60	57	77%	32%	0	18	0	0	18	+/-4	3	4.45	4.2	
H3G-23	5	60	57	53%	50%	0	29	0	0	29	+/-7	2	5.14	4.3	
H4A-21	91	20	20	65%	100%	20	0	0	0	20	+/-0	2	5.62	4.4	
H4B-23	5	40	40	65%	35%	0	14	0	0	14	+/-4	0	4.88	5.1	
H5A-21	44	5	5	100%	80%	4	0	0	0	4	+/-0	0	5.20	3.0	
H7A-21	402	25	25	60%	87%	18	3	0	0	22	+/-3	2	5.93	8.9	
H7B-23	23	20	18	72%	62%	0	10	1	0	11	+/-3	1	6.31	5.6	
H9A-21	67	15	15	33%	60%	9	0	0	0	9	+/-5	3	6.00	1.8	
H9B-23	5	40	39	72%	36%	0	14	0	0	14	+/-4	0	4.63	6.6	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,999</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>1,232</b>	<b>68.9%</b>	<b>63.2%</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>+/- 94</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>5.41</b>	<b>6.13</b>	
The response rate for all units combined is:					68.9%										
Satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied.															
* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.															

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_



## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

### Prairie Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:59

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b> <b>January 11-12, 2024</b> <b>Public Hearing</b> <b>April 4, 2024</b> <b>Finalization</b> <b>April 4-5, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b> <b>Pierre</b> <b>Pierre</b>
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#### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

**Season Dates:** Recommended changes to season dates in supportive information Table 2.

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

**Licenses:** License recommendations included in administrative action document

**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.

**Changes from last year:**

1. Increase the maximum number of “any elk” licenses from 150 to 200 and “antlerless elk” licenses from 300 to 400. License number and tag type recommendations for the next two years are included in the following administrative action item.
2. Minor rule clean-up to specify PRE-27A currently includes the portions of Fall River county not included in units BHE-H3 and BHE-H4. Previously, only BHE-H3 was listed as areas within Fall River County not included in PRE-27A.

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL**

**Changes from proposal:**

1. Include the month of November in the elk season dates for units 15A, 35A, and 35B. The resulting season dates would be September 1 through December 31 for unit 15A and September 15 through December 31 for units 35A And 35B (Table 2).

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

The proposed maximum number of elk licenses is established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission will propose and finalize the specific number of licenses and tag types and allocations amongst hunting units via administrative action.

Figure 1. Map of Prairie elk season hunting units.

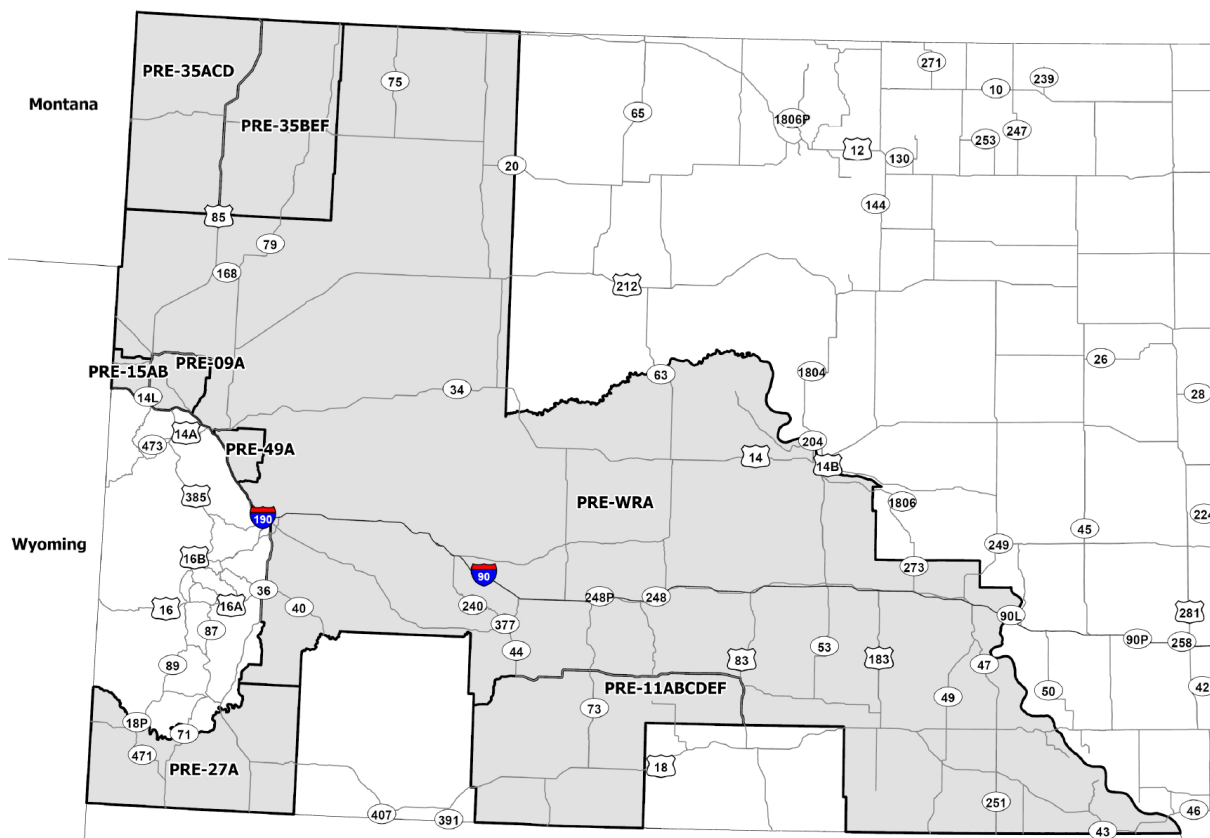


Table 1. Number of elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and elk harvested by year during the Prairie elk season.

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

Table 2. Recommended changes to include the month of November during the 15A, 35A, and 35B season dates. Edited season dates are underlined below.

Units	License Types	Season Dates
PRE-09A	Both	Sept 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-11A	Antlerless Elk	July 15 - Aug 31
PRE-11B	Any Elk	Sept 1 - Oct 15
PRE-11C	Any Elk	Oct 16 - Nov 31
PRE-11D	Antlerless Elk	Sep 1 - Oct 31
PRE-11E	Antlerless Elk	Nov 1 - Dec 31
PRE-15A	Both	<u>Sept 1 - Dec - 31</u>
PRE-15B	Antlerless Elk	Dec 1 - Jan 31
PRE-27A	Both	Oct 1 - 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-35A	Both	<u>Sept 15 - Dec - 31</u>
PRE-35B	Both	<u>Sept 15 - Dec - 31</u>
PRE-35C	Antlerless Elk	Oct 1 - Nov 15
PRE-35D	Antlerless Elk	Nov 16 - Dec 31
PRE-35E	Antlerless Elk	Oct 1 - Nov 15
PRE-35F	Antlerless Elk	Nov 16 - Dec 31
PRE-49A	Both	Sept 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-WRA	Both	Sept 1 - Dec 31

**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 ~~450~~ two hundred "any elk" licenses and

~~300~~ 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 15 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 31;
- (2) Unit PRE-11A is open from July 15 through August 31;
- (3) Unit PRE-11B is open from September 1 through October 15;
- (4) Unit PRE-11C is open from October 16 through November 30;
- (5) Unit PRE-11D is open from September 1 through October 31;
- (6) Unit PRE-11E is open from November 1 through December 31;
- (7) Unit PRE-11F is open from January 1 through the last day of February;
- (8) Unit PRE-15A is open from September 1 through ~~October 31 and from December 1 through~~ December 31;
- (9) Unit PRE-15B is open from December 1 through January 31;
- (10) Unit PRE-27A is open from October 1 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 31;
- (11) Unit PRE-35A is open from September 15 through ~~October 31 and December 1 through~~ December 31;
- (12) Unit PRE-35B is open from September 15 through ~~October 31 and December 1 through~~ December 31;
- (13) Unit PRE-35C is open from October 1 through November 15;
- (14) Unit PRE-35D is open from November 16 through December 31;
- (15) Unit PRE-35E is open from October 1 through November 15;
- (16) Unit PRE-35F is open from November 16 through December 31;
- (17) Unit PRE-49A is open from September 15 through October 31 and from December 1 through December 31; and
- (18) Unit PRE-WRA is open from September 1 through December 31.

41:06:59:02. Open units. The following is a description of the open units for the prairie elk hunting season:

- (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 133rd Avenue, then south on 133rd Avenue to 206th Street, then west on 206th Street to Lazelle Street 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, excluding the Lower Brule Indian Reservation and Corson, Dewey, Oglala Lakota, Todd, and Ziebach Counties.

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

None

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

None

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

APPROVE	_____	MODIFY	_____	REJECT	_____	NO ACTION	_____
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## 2023 Prairie Firearm Elk Harvest Projections

*Last Revised: 23 Jan 2024*

Unit/Type	Resident Licenses					Harvest Projections						Elk Shot Not Recovered	Avg Satisfctn Score	Avg Days Hunted
	Appl. 1st					Bulls	Cows	Bull Calves	Cow Calves	Total Elk Harvested	CI (95%)			
	Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success									
09A-21	151	4	4	100%	100%	4	0	0	0	4	+/-0	0	6.5	2.3
11A-23	17	5	4	100%	50%	0	2	0	0	2	+/-0	0	4.8	4.8
11B-21	491	16	16	63%	90%	14	0	0	0	14	+/-2	3	5.5	6.0
11C-21	186	16	16	75%	67%	11	0	0	0	11	+/-2	1	5.1	5.3
11D-23	88	30	28	78%	38%	0	11	0	0	11	+/-3	1	4.4	4.1
11E-23	19	10	10	40%	25%	0	0	0	3	3	+/-3	0	3.5	5.3
15A-21	134	8	8	75%	67%	5	0	0	0	5	+/-2	1	5.7	8.2
15B-23	5	5	3										0.0	0.0
27A-21	679	20	19	84%	88%	17	0	0	0	17	+/-1	2	5.7	8.0
27A-23	21	20	16	75%	50%	0	8	0	0	8	+/-2	0	5.1	2.1
35A-21	993	10	10	80%	88%	9	0	0	0	9	+/-1	3	6.4	8.3
35B-21	1,304	8	8	75%	83%	7	0	0	0	7	+/-1	0	5.0	6.0
35C-23	30	15	15	73%	36%	0	5	0	0	5	+/-2	0	4.0	8.0
35D-23	14	15	13	77%	20%	0	3	0	0	3	+/-2	0	3.8	7.0
35E-23	52	20	18	67%	33%	0	5	0	2	6	+/-3	0	4.2	4.8
35F-23	29	20	20	78%	29%	0	4	0	1	6	+/-3	0	3.6	7.4
49A-21	166	10	10	80%	50%	5	0	0	0	5	+/-2	1	6.1	14.8
49A-23	10	15	12	67%	38%	0	5	0	0	5	+/-2	0	4.7	8.0
WRA-21	985	10	10	80%	63%	6	0	0	0	6	+/-2	1	5.4	15.5
WRA-23	64	20	18	78%	36%	0	6	0	0	6	+/-2	0	5.6	6.2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,438</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>74.6%</b>	<b>51.0%</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>+/- 34</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4.81</b>	<b>6.65</b>
The response rate for all units combined is:						74.6%								
Satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied.														
* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.														

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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2024-2025 Elk Hunting Seasons

**2023**

<b>Black Hills (Firearm) Elk</b>			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	60		
H1B		65	
H2A	290		
H2B		50	
H2C		50	
H2D			
H2E		40	
H2F		40	
H2G		40	
H2H		10	
H2I		10	
H2J		10	
H3A	120		
H3B		45	
H3C		45	
H3D		45	
H3E		60	
H3F		60	
H3G		60	
H4A	20		
H4B		40	
H5A	5		
H7A	25		
H7B		20	
H9A	15		
H9B		40	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>1,265</b>

**2024-2025**

<b>Black Hills (Firearm) Elk</b>			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	60		
H1B		65	
H2A	300		
H2B		50	
H2C		50	
H2D			
H2E		40	
H2F		40	
H2G		40	
H2H		10	
H2I		10	
H2J		10	
H3A	120		
H3B		45	
H3C		45	
H3D		45	
H3E		60	
H3F		60	
H3G		60	
H4A	40		
H4B		40	
H5A	5		
H7A	30		
H7B		20	
H9A	15		
H9B		40	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>1,300</b>

**2023**

<b>Archery (Black Hills) Elk</b>			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	30	20	
H2A	100	40	
H3A	40	30	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	10		
H9A			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>272</b>

**2024-2025**

<b>Archery (Black Hills) Elk</b>			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	30	10	
H2A	100	40	
H3A	40	30	
H4A	10	10	
H5A	2		
H7A	10		
H9A			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>282</b>



2024-2025 Elk Hunting Seasons

**2023**

<b>Prairie Elk</b>			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
9A	4		
11A		5	
11B	16		
11C	16		
11D		30	
11E		10	
11F			
15A	8		
15B		5	
27A	20	20	
35A	10		
35B	8		
35C		15	
35D		15	
35E		20	
35F		20	
49A	10	15	
WRA	10	20	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>277</b>

**2024-2025**

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

**2023**

<b>CSP Early (Archery) Elk</b>		
Season	Resident Licenses	
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23
CEE-CU1	4	

**2024-2025**

<b>CSP Early (Archery) Elk</b>		
Season	Resident Licenses	
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23
CEE-CU1	5	

**2023**

<b>CSP (Firearm) Elk</b>		
Season	Resident Licenses	
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23
CUE-CU1	11	
RAFFLE	1	

**2024-2025**

<b>CSP (Firearm) Elk</b>		
Season	Resident Licenses	
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23
CUE-CU1	15	
RAFFLE	1	

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

### August Management Take Chapters 41:06:16

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 11-12, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 4, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 4-5, 2024</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

#### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2024 hunting season

**Season Dates:** August 17 - 31, 2024

**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.

**Changes from last year:**

1. Remove Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Brookings, Clay, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Sanborn, Turner, Union, and Yankton counties from the August Management Take Hunting season unit (Figure 2 and 3).

#### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The August Management Take Canada goose season is intended to reduce local Canada goose populations, especially in areas where they are causing chronic depredation to agricultural crops. While depredation concerns continue in some of the counties that are recommended to be removed, there is a greater concern the August Management Take is not currently necessary as a management tool and provides minimal hunting opportunity in counties with low Canada goose populations in August. Canada goose kill permits issued to affected landowners, and harvest during other goose seasons can still be used to remove Canada geese at a localized scale within the proposed closed areas to mitigate potential depredation concerns.

Figure 1. Number of hunters, harvest and effort for the August Management Take by year from 2011 to 2023.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Average Days Hunted</b>	<b>Average Season Bag</b>
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

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

Figure 2. Areas open to hunting (gray shaded areas) for the Canada Goose August Management Take in 2023.

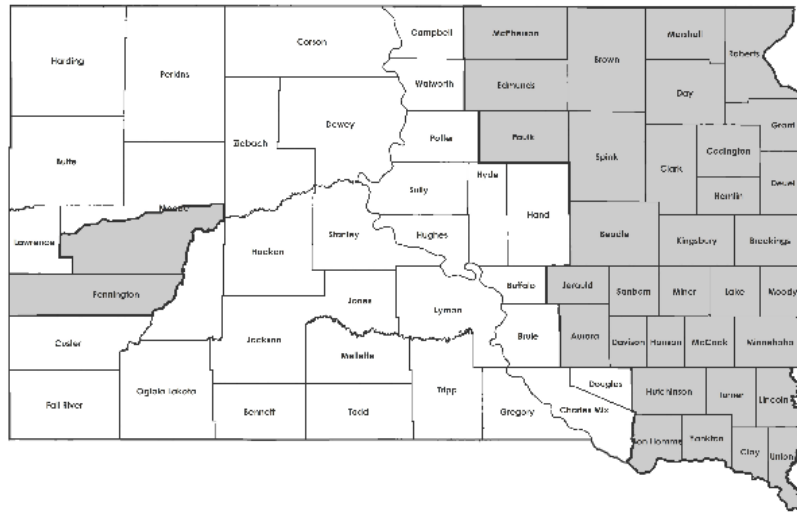
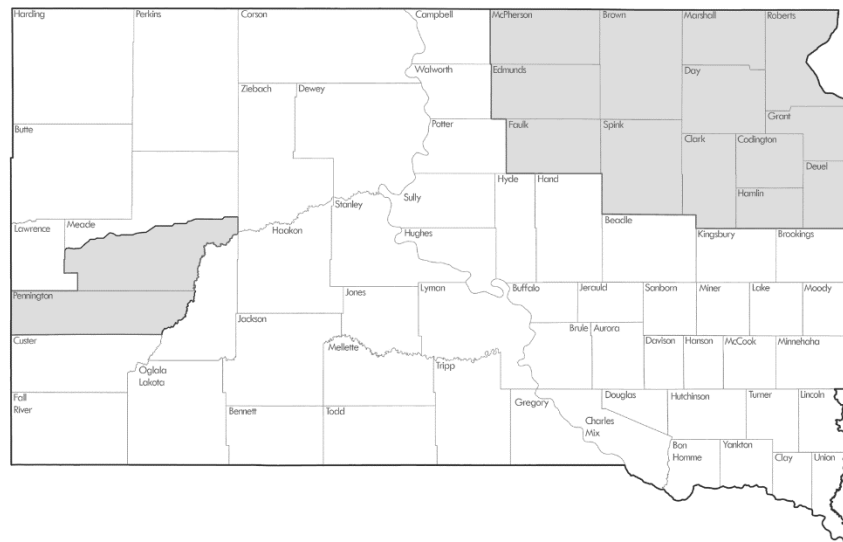


Figure 3. Proposed areas open to hunting (gray shaded areas) for the Canada Goose August Management Take in 2024.



**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 105 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 15. 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 (MCLG). The law authorizes the use of additional hunting methods (electronic calls and unplugged guns) to increase the take of MCLG. As a result, a Conservation Order for the reduction of the MCLG population was authorized.

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 31 in Meade County south of South Dakota Highway 34, Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River, and the counties of ~~Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Clark, Clay, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Grant, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Marshall, McCook, McPherson, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Sanborn, and Spink, Turner, Union and Yankton.~~

The white-fronted goose season is open statewide for 74 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 7 miles to 350<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south to Interstate 90 on 350<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south and east on State Highway 50 to Geddes, east on 285<sup>th</sup> 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 (306<sup>th</sup> Street) to U.S. Highway 81, then north on U.S. Highway 81 to 303<sup>rd</sup> Street, then east on 303<sup>rd</sup> Street to 444<sup>th</sup> Avenue, then south on 444<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 305<sup>th</sup> Street, then east on Bluff Road (305<sup>th</sup> Street) to County Highway 19, south to State Highway 50 and east to the Clay/Union County line, and 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 (254<sup>th</sup> Street) west to its junction with County Highway 149 (464<sup>th</sup> Avenue), the portion west of County Highway 149 (464<sup>th</sup> Avenue) to Hartford, the portion west of County Highway 151 (463<sup>rd</sup> 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 107 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 1;

(2) Unit 2: those portions of the state not described in Unit 1 and Unit 3. The season is open for 105 consecutive days preceding and including the Sunday closest to February 15; 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**

None

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? There will be less opportunity for hunting in order to conserve Canada goose populations.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? There will be less hunting opportunities.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? The regulation is intended to conserve Canada goose populations.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Waterfowl license sales may decrease because hunting opportunity is decreased.

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

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

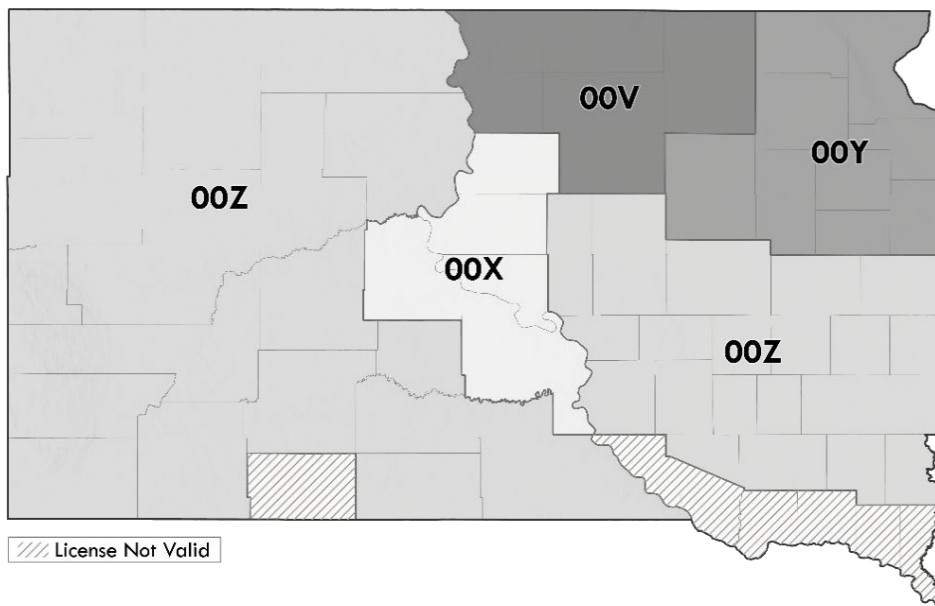
Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 11-12, 2024	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 4, 2024	Pierre
	Finalization	April 4-5, 2024	Pierre

### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

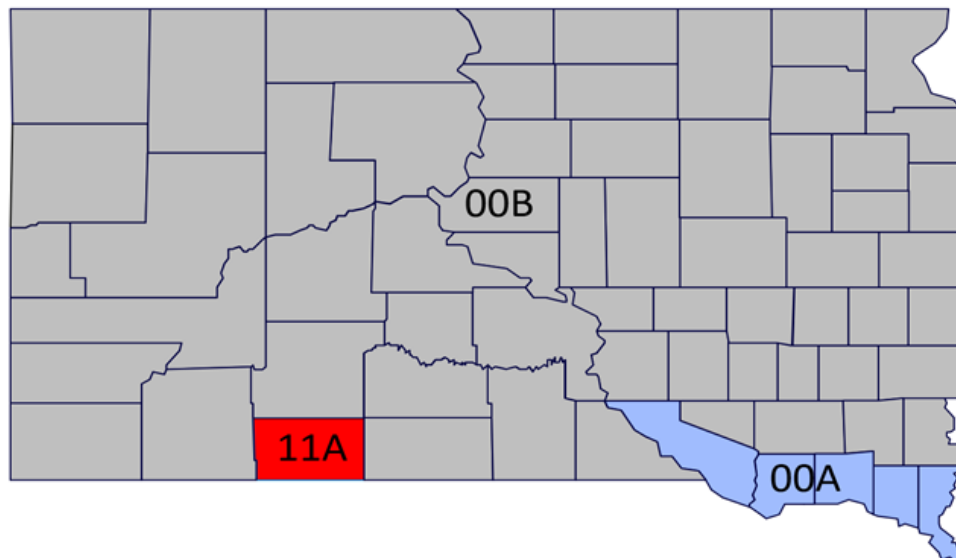
**Duration of Proposal:** 2024/2025 waterfowl hunting seasons

**Licenses:** Nonresidents: Limited in all units and seasons. 6,615 licenses.

Current 3-day Nonresident Waterfowl Units



Current 10-day and Season-long Nonresident Waterfowl Units



**Changes from last year:**

Increase nonresident waterfowl licenses by 5%. Results in 210 additional two 5-day period licenses and 105 additional temporary, 3-day licenses.

**Nonresident Waterfowl System**

Season/Unit	Private/Public	Length	Description	2023 Licenses	Recommended 2024 Licenses
<b>NRW-00A</b>	Public and Private	Season long	Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Union, and Yankton counties	250	250
<b>NRW-00B</b>	Public and Private	Two 5-day periods	Statewide except 00A and 11A	3,925	4,135
<b>NRW-11A</b>	Public and Private	Two 5-day periods	Bennett County	25	25
<b>NRW-00V</b>	Private	3 day	Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson and Walworth counties	550	600
<b>NRW-00X</b>	Private	3 day	Hughes, Lyman, Potter, Stanley and Sully counties	750	750
<b>NRW-00Y</b>	Public and Private	3 day	Clark, Codington, Day, Duel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts and Spink counties	500	500
<b>NRW-00Z</b>	Private	3 day	Statewide except Unit 00A, 00X, 00V, 00Y and 11A	300	355

**Total    6,300    6,615**

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL**

None

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

In the past 20 years, waterfowl hunter numbers in South Dakota have dropped 47% from 32,217 in 2003 to 17,042 in 2022. Nearly all of this decrease was the result of fewer resident waterfowl hunters. A 5% license increase to nonresident waterfowl licenses would result in 315 additional licenses compared to the 15,175 fewer waterfowl hunters since 2003. The Nonresident Waterfowl System table above details the proposed 5% nonresident license increase across current units. The recommendations will provide more opportunity in areas where it is difficult to draw licenses while still limiting licenses in the highest hunter density areas.

**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~~ four thousand four hundred and ten special nonresident waterfowl licenses, two thousand early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident licenses, ~~two thousand one hundred~~ two thousand two hundred and five 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~~ four thousand one hundred and thirty five 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~~ six hundred 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~~ three hundred and fifty five 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

- With the current number of resident hunters participating, increased opportunity for nonresident waterfowl hunting exists without undue impact to hunters or the resource. Standard public input through the commission process will be solicited regarding these proposed changes. Changes can be evaluated through harvest



surveys to gauge participation and satisfaction levels of both resident and nonresident hunters.

2. Historical Considerations NA
3. Biological Considerations
  - Waterfowl populations are generally strong in South Dakota and the Central Flyway. While breeding conditions across the prairie pothole region are constantly changing, current wetland habitat conditions in South Dakota are expected to be good. Duck and Canada goose harvest increases from the proposed changes to nonresident waterfowl will be minimal.
4. Social Considerations
  - The nonresident waterfowl issue is and will continue to be contentious issue, but given the large decrease in resident waterfowl hunter participation in the past 20 years, there is opportunity for nonresidents while still remaining well below hunter numbers in the early 2000s.
5. Financial considerations
  - As with most hunting activities, declining participation threatens funding for conservation, monitoring and management. While increases in financial return will be nominal, increased revenue through license sales is expected. Financial returns of the sporting goods and hospitality industry may also increase through these proposed changes.

#### **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, it slightly increases the number of licenses available for the season.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? This regulation would provide a slight increase in opportunity for current and new waterfowl hunters.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Additional revenue may be generated from the sale of increased license availability for nonresidents.

APPROVE	_____	MODIFY	_____	REJECT	_____	NO ACTION	_____
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Attachment A

<b>FY24 DOT Collector Road Funding Projects</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>County, Township, Park</b>
Bush's Landing Lakeside Use Area Collector Road Mag Chloride	\$35,142.25	Sully County
Oakwood State Park Collector Road FDR and New Asphalt Mat	\$139,357.79	Oakwood State Park
Buryanek Recreation Area Collector Road Repairs and Maintenance	\$4,933.46	Gregory County
Palisades State Park Widen, Prepare Base, and Pave 256th Street	\$259,282.42	Red Rock Township
Palisades State Park FDR and Pave 485th Avenue	\$200,000.00	Palisades Township
Roughlock Falls Nature Area Collector Road Mag Chloride	\$7,814.68	Lawrence County
Shadehill Recreation Area Collector Road 4" Asphalt Overlay	\$751,340.93	Perkins County
Custer State Park Interior Collector Roads Gravel Lift	\$16,500.00	Custer State Park
Custer State Park Playhouse Road Asphalt Surface Treatment	\$34,500.00	Custer County
Shep's Canyon Recreation Area Collector Road Mag Chloride	\$18,279.36	Lawrence County
North Point Recreation Area 381st Avenue Survey and Grading Design	\$18,095.00	White Swan Township
Custer State Park Wildlife Loop Road Bridge Replacement Design and Replacement	\$45,698.70	Custer State Park
Chantier Creek Lakeside Use Area Collector Road Gravel Supplement and Shaping	\$16,000.00	Stanley County
Springfield Recreation Area Collector Road FDR and New Asphalt Mat	\$300,534.55	Springfield Recreation Area
Custer State Park Collector Road Mag Chloride	\$66,825.00	Custer County
West Bend Recreation Area Collector Road Slide Dig Out and Repair	\$4,295.00	Hughes County
Burke Lake Recreation Area Collector Road FDR and Revert to Gravel	\$276,123.55	Burke Lake Recreation Area
Pierson Ranch Recreation Area Collector Road Asphalt Surface Treatment	\$56,587.86	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area
Rocky Point Recreation Area Collector Road Core Testing	\$5,000.00	Rocky Point Recreation Area
Lake Thompson Recreation Area Collector Road Core Testing	\$2,200.00	Lake Thompson Recreation Area
	\$2,258,510.55	
<b>First reimbursement made at \$1,911,800.97. Remaining balance of \$888,199.03 will be requested before the end of the state fiscal year.</b>		
<b>FY25 DOT Collector Road Projected Funding</b>		
	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>County, Township, Park</b>
North Point Recreation Area 381st Avenue Improvements	\$220,000.00	Whiteswan Township
Buryanek Recreation Area Collector Road gravel and mag chloride	\$14,000.00	Gregory County
Bush's Landing Lakeside Use Area Collector Road Mag Chloride	\$45,000.00	Sully County
Bush's Landing Lakeside Use Area Collector Road Slide Repairs	\$40,000.00	Sully County
Custer State Park Collector Road Mag Chloride	\$35,000.00	Custer County
Custer State Park Interior Collector Road Gravel Lift	\$50,000.00	Custer State Park
Custer State Park Wildlife Loop Road Bridge #17-359-109 Replacement	\$650,000.00	Custer State Park
Custer State Park Wildlife Loop Road Asphalt Surface Treatment	\$1,255,000.00	Custer State Park
Custer State Park Playhouse Bridge Replacement #17-314-043	\$100,000.00	Custer State Park
Oakwood State Park Collector Road Asphalt Surface Treatment	\$223,000.00	Oakwood State Park
Shep's Canyon Recreation Area Collector Road Mag Chloride	\$22,000.00	Fall River County
Roughlock Falls Nature Area Collector Road Mag Chloride	\$8,000.00	Lawrence County
Lewis & Clark Gavins Point Road FDR and Pave	\$138,000.00	Lewis & Clark Recreation Area
	\$2,800,000.00	
<b>FY25 Alternate Projects</b>		
Rocky Point Recreation Area Collector Road Asphalt Surface Treatment	\$50,000.00	Rocky Point Recreation Area
Custer State Park Playhouse Bridge #17-314-043 Surfacing	\$20,000.00	Custer State Park
Custer State Park Playhouse Bridge #17-316-043 Replacement	\$100,000.00	Custer State Park
Custer State Park Playhouse Bridge #17-316-043 Surfacing	\$20,000.00	Custer State Park
Spring Creek Recreation Area Collector Road Improvements	\$50,000.00	Spring Creek Recreation Area

Location	Project
Amsden LUA	Waterline Installation
Angostura RA	Lagoon Cell Construction & Dump Station Expansions
Chief White Crane RA	Septic System Upgrades
Custer SP	Game Lodge Sewer Repairs Phase I
Custer SP	Game Lodge Sewer Repairs Phase II
Custer SP	Center Lake/Playhouse Sewer System Upgrades
Custer SP	Grace Coolidge Water Line Replacement
Custer SP	French Creek Horse Camp Well & Water Distribution System
Custer SP	Blue Bell Dump Station Construction
Custer SP	Shop Complex lift station replacement
Farm Island RA	Lift Station Replacements
Farm Island RA	Lagoon & Sewer System Upgrades
Fischer Grove SP	Water Line Replacement
Fort Sisteon SP	Lagoon repairs & Sewer System Repairs
Hartford Beach SP	Drainfield Replacement & Sewer Repairs
Indian Creek RA	Lift Station and Sewer Repairs
Lake Andes	Outlet Pipe Replacement
Lake Herman SP	Water Line Replacement
Lake Poinsett RA	Lift Station Repairs
Lake Thompson RA	Lift Station Repairs
Lake Vermillion RA	Lift Station Repairs
Lewis and Clark RA	Sewer Line Repairs & Waterline Upgrades
Mina Lake RA	Water Line Replacement
Newton Hills SP	Water Line Replacement & Sewer Upgrades
North Point RA	Water Line Upgrades
Oahe Downstream RA	Sewer & Lift Station Repairs
Oahe Downstream RA	Dump Station Replacement
Palisades SP	Waterline Upgrades
Pelican Lake RA	Dump Station Replacement
Pelican Lake RA	Waterline Upgrades
Platte Creek RA	Lagoon and Sewer System Repairs
Randall Creek RA	Lift Station and Septic Repairs
Randall Creek RA	Waterline Upgrades
Rocky Point RA	Lagoon Construction & Dump Station Upgrades
Roy Lake SP	Dump Station Replacement
Sandy Shore	Sewer System Upgrades
Sica Hollow SP	Well & Waterline Upgrades
Snake Creek RA	Sewer System & Waterline Upgrades
Snake Creek RA	Waterline Upgrades
Union Grove SP	Waterline Upgrades
West Bend RA	Sewer System Repairs
White Swan LUA	Waterline Installation



## SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

### **New Fishing Amenities Added Last Year For Park Users To Enjoy In 2024** Aquatic Habitat and Access Projects in South Dakota State Parks

#### **Northeast Area Completed Projects:**

- Pelican RA – Installed kayak dock
- Pickerel RA (West Unit) – Installed kayak dock
- Pickerel RA (East Unit) – Installed kayak dock
- Roy Lake SP – Installed kayak dock
- Lake Faulkton LUA – Repaired dam and spillway
- Bullhead Lake LUA – Boat ramp replacement

#### **Southeast Area Completed Projects:**

- Springfield RA – Installed fish habitat structures
- Sand Creek LUA – Installed fish habitat structures

#### **Central Area Completed Projects:**

- Lake Louise RA – Repaired dam and spillway
- Lake Louise RA – Improved shoreline access at cabins
- Ft George RA – New gravel parking area at boat ramp
- Ft George RA – Grass overflow parking area at boat ramp
- Ft George RA – Stair system to new grass overflow parking area
- DeGrey RA – New shorefishing locations
- West Bend RA – Improved shorefishing opportunities (brush clearing)

#### **West Area Completed Projects:**

- Bear Butte Lake LUA – New fishing pier on north side by campground
- Sheps Canyon LUA – Installed fish habitat structures
- Angostura (Bailey LUA) – Installed fish habitat structures
- Rocky Point RA (Orman) – Installed fish habitat structures
- Newell Lake LUA – Boat ramp extension
- Newell Lake LUA – Installed fish habitat structures



# March Camping

3/1/2023 - 3/31/2023
<b>Nights</b>
<b>526</b>

3/1/2024 - 3/31/2024
<b>Nights</b>
<b>1017</b>

District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	0	2
	Pickerel Lake Recreation Area	4	5
	Roy Lake State Park	20	11
	Fisher Grove State Park	0	4
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	1	0
2	Mina Lake Recreation Area	5	7
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	2	6
	Hartford Beach State Park	7	6
3	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	2	1
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	4	8
4	Oakwood Lakes State Park	0	15
	Lake Herman State Park	21	8
5	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	16	23
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	0	31
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	0	2
6	Buryanek Recreation Area	6	8
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	4	11
	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	37	66
7	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	6	34
	Palisades State Park	40	106
	Newton Hills State Park	15	57
8	Union Grove State Park	1	5
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	0	12
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	17	94
9	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	8	10
	Springfield Recreation Area	1	4
	North Point Recreation Area	4	32
10	Randall Creek Recreation Area	18	13
	Farm Island Recreation Area	6	20
11	West Bend Recreation Area	6	4
	Cow Creek Recreation Area	0	3
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	15	72
12	Spring Creek Recreation Area	20	3
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	0	2
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	1	3
13	West Whitlock Recreation Area	0	9
14	Bear Butte State Park	43	0
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	6	5
15	Shadehill Recreation Area	1	0
16	Custer State Park	148	242
	Angostura Recreation Area	39	50
17	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	2	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>526</b>	<b>1017</b>



# March YTD Camping

1/1/2023 - 3/31/2023

**Nights**

**1096**

1/1/2024 - 3/31/2024

**Nights**

**1766**

District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	0	4
	Pickerel Lake Recreation Area	4	12
	Roy Lake State Park	68	121
	Fisher Grove State Park	0	4
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	3	2
2	Mina Lake Recreation Area	7	14
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	6	11
	Hartford Beach State Park	26	25
3	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	0	55
	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	8	10
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	5	8
4	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	11	20
	Oakwood Lakes State Park	15	23
5	Lake Herman State Park	24	13
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	49	82
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	5	36
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	0	2
6	Buryanek Recreation Area	12	15
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	6	14
	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	87	106
7	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	29	46
	Palisades State Park	101	157
8	Newton Hills State Park	53	103
	Union Grove State Park	2	10
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	0	12
9	Clay County Park	8	0
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	22	113
	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	8	10
	Springfield Recreation Area	1	4
	North Point Recreation Area	6	41
10	Pease Creek Recreation Area	0	1
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	18	14
11	Farm Island Recreation Area	10	26
	West Bend Recreation Area	49	7
	Cow Creek Recreation Area	0	5
12	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	33	150
	Spring Creek Recreation Area	20	3
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	0	2
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	13	13
13	West Pollock Recreation Area	10	2
	West Whitlock Recreation Area	0	9
	Bear Butte State Park	107	0
14	Rocky Point Recreation Area	18	20
	Shadehill Recreation Area	19	23
15	Custer State Park	175	309
16	Angostura Recreation Area	56	85
	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	2	24
17			
<b>Total</b>		<b>1096</b>	<b>1766</b>

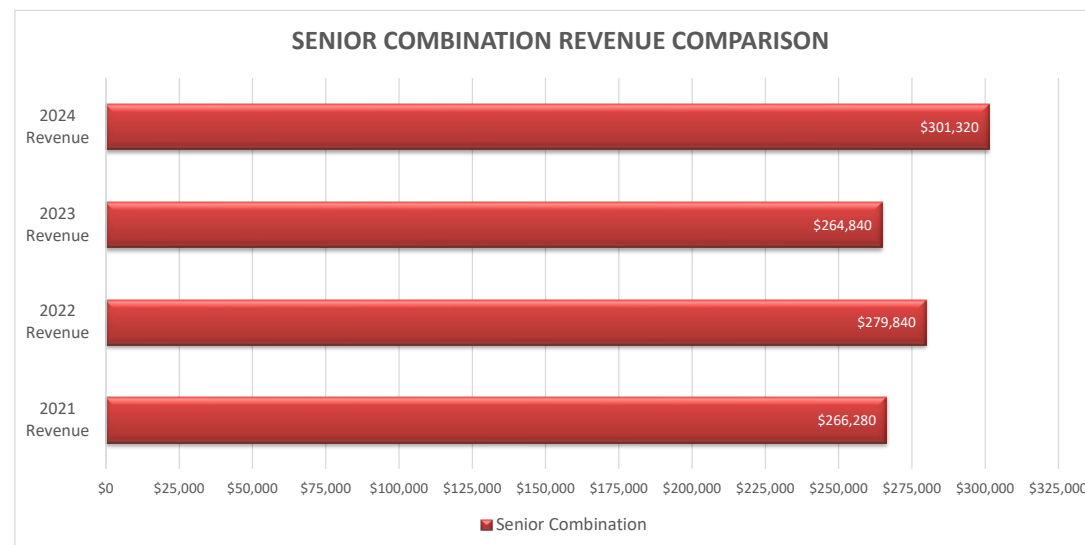
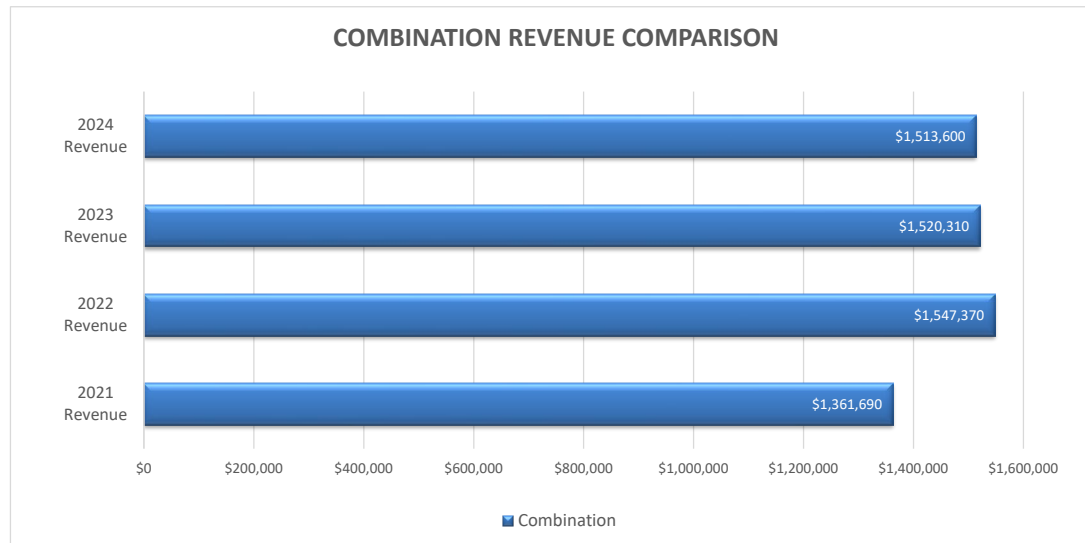
Division of Parks and Recreation					
March 2024 Revenue by Item					
	2023		2024		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Annual	1,300	\$ 46,494	2,101	\$ 75,196	62%
2nd Annual	168	\$ 2,718	186	\$ 3,042	12%
Double	1,826	\$ 98,154	2,727	\$ 147,022	50%
Transferable	156	\$ 12,400	156	\$ 12,480	1%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	131	\$ 1,965	196	\$ 2,940	50%
<b>Annual Licenses</b>	<b>3,581</b>	<b>\$ 161,731</b>	<b>5,366</b>	<b>\$ 240,680</b>	<b>49%</b>
Daily License	545	\$ 4,360	1,146	\$ 9,152	110%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	6	\$ 90	15	\$ 225	150%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	172	\$ 688	42	\$ 168	-76%
Motorcoach Permit	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
CSP 7 Day Pass	1,381	\$ 27,620	2,297	\$ 45,940	66%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
One-Day Special Event	6	\$ 300	3	\$ 150	-50%
<b>Daily Licenses</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>\$ 33,058</b>	<b>3,503</b>	<b>\$ 55,635</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>Licenses</b>	<b>5,691</b>	<b>\$ 194,789</b>	<b>8,869</b>	<b>\$ 296,315</b>	<b>52%</b>
Camping Services		\$ 1,959,910		\$ 1,727,148	-12%
Pet Fees	0	\$ -	146	\$ 1,460	
<b>LODGING</b>		<b>\$ 1,959,910</b>		<b>\$ 1,728,608</b>	<b>-12%</b>
Picnic Shelters & Boat Rentals		\$ 1,635		\$ 955	-42%
Firewood	6	\$ 36	76	\$ 456	1167%
Gift Card	3	\$ 950	13	\$ 1,687	78%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ -		\$ 138,999	
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 20		\$ -	-100%
Retail		\$ 459		\$ 679	48%
Call Center Fee	1701	\$ 3,368	1,408	\$ 2,792	-17%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ -		\$ 7,745	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		<b>\$ 6,468</b>		<b>\$ 153,313</b>	<b>2270%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 2,161,167</b>	<b>8,869</b>	<b>\$ 2,178,235</b>	<b>1%</b>

Division of Parks and Recreation					
March YTD 2024 Revenue by Item					
	2023		2024		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Annual	3,866	\$ 131,742	5,282	\$ 189,342	44%
2nd Annual	306	\$ 4,968	366	\$ 5,886	18%
Double	4,941	\$ 264,816	6,372	\$ 343,654	30%
Transferable	418	\$ 33,040	456	\$ 36,400	10%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	376	\$ 6,090	468	\$ 7,005	15%
<b>Annual Licenses</b>	<b>9,907</b>	<b>\$ 440,656</b>	<b>12,944</b>	<b>\$ 582,287</b>	<b>32%</b>
Daily License	1,915	\$ 14,200	2,728	\$ 21,808	54%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	41	\$ 615	83	\$ 1,245	102%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	209	\$ 868	141	\$ 564	-35%
Motorcoach Permit	-	\$ -	4	\$ 12	
CSP 7 Day Pass	1,855	\$ 41,780	3,367	\$ 67,340	61%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
One-Day Special Event	8	\$ 400	4	\$ 200	-50%
<b>Daily Licenses</b>	<b>4,028</b>	<b>\$ 57,863</b>	<b>6,327</b>	<b>\$ 91,169</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Licenses</b>	<b>13,935</b>	<b>\$ 498,519</b>	<b>19,271</b>	<b>\$ 673,456</b>	<b>35%</b>
Camping Services		\$ 3,200,671		\$ 2,999,991	-6%
Pet Fees	0	\$ -	275	\$ 2,750	
<b>LODGING</b>		<b>\$ 3,200,671</b>		<b>\$ 3,002,741</b>	<b>-6%</b>
Picnic Shelter & Boat Rentals		\$ 5,760		\$ 1,525	-74%
Firewood	98	\$ 588	112	\$ 672	14%
Gift Card	37	\$ 4,574	49	\$ 5,576	22%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ -		\$ 138,999	
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 360		\$ 205	-43%
Retail		\$ 1,783		\$ 2,005	12%
Call Center Fee	2,896	\$ 5,714	2,954	\$ 5,106	-11%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ 12,725		\$ 142,445	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		<b>\$ 31,504</b>		<b>\$ 296,534</b>	<b>841%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 3,730,695</b>		<b>\$ 3,972,731</b>	<b>6%</b>

### COMBINATION LICENSES

December 15 - March 31

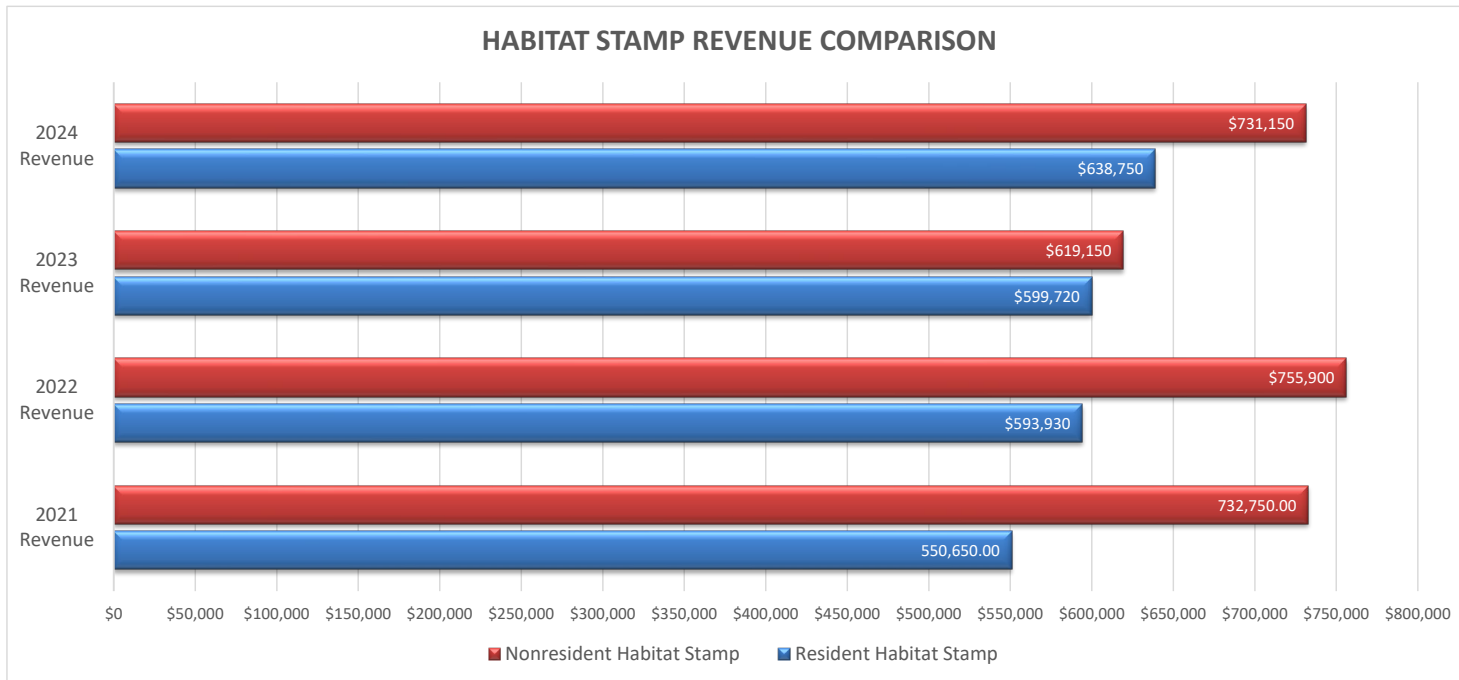
License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg	
						2024 Revenue	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024		3 Yr. Avg vs 2024
Combination	24,758	28,134	27,642	26,845	27,520	\$1,513,600	(122)	675	(\$6,710)	\$37,143	3%
Senior Combination	6,657	6,996	6,621	6,758	7,533	\$301,320	912	775	\$36,480	\$31,000	11%
<b>Combination License Totals</b>	<b>31,415</b>	<b>35,130</b>	<b>34,263</b>	<b>33,603</b>	<b>35,053</b>	<b>\$1,814,920</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>\$29,770</b>	<b>\$68,143</b>	<b>14%</b>





### HABITAT STAMP December 15 - March 31

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	+/- Licenses			+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
						2024 Revenue	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
Resident Habitat Stamp	55,065	59,393	59,972	58,143	63,875	\$638,750	3,903	5,732	\$214,665	\$315,242	10%
Nonresident Habitat Stamp	29,310	30,236	24,766	28,104	29,246	\$731,150	4,480	1,142	\$179,200	\$45,680	4%
<b>Habitat Stamp Totals</b>	<b>84,375</b>	<b>89,629</b>	<b>84,738</b>	<b>86,247</b>	<b>93,121</b>	<b>\$1,369,900</b>	<b>8,383</b>	<b>6,874</b>	<b>\$393,865</b>	<b>\$360,922</b>	<b>8%</b>



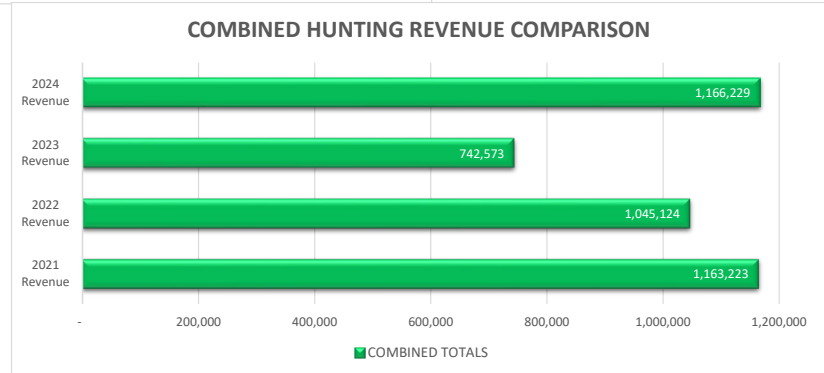
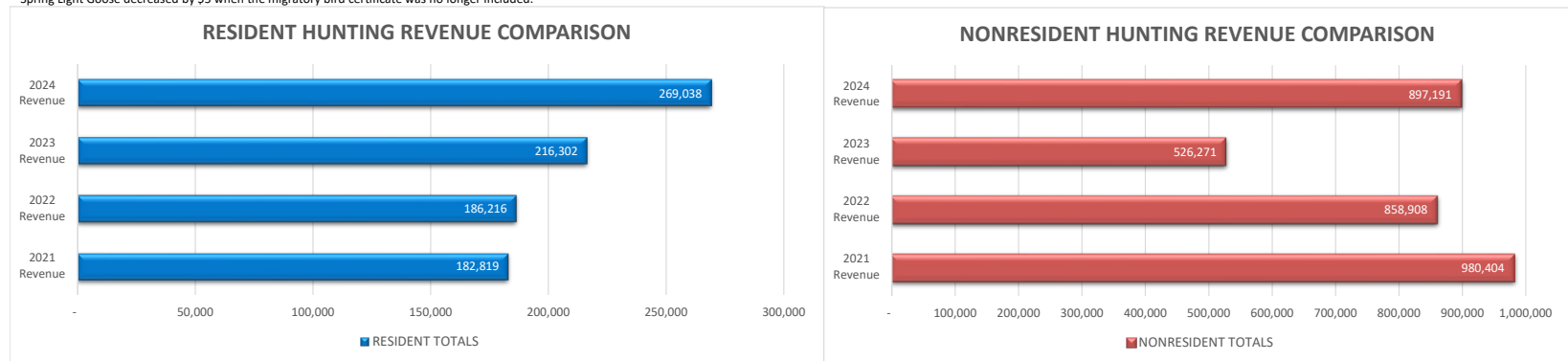
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission Book | April 2024  
**SMALL GAME LICENSES**  
 December 15 - March 31

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	1,229	2,128	3,732	2,363	4,983	\$164,439	1,251	2,620	\$41,283	\$86,460	111%
1-Day Small Game	361	151	88	200	192	\$2,304	104	(8)	\$1,248	(\$96)	-4%
Youth Small Game	626	910	753	763	921	\$4,605	168	158	\$840	\$1,896	21%
Furbearer	2,732	2,560	2,462	2,585	2,707	\$81,210	245	122	\$7,350	\$3,670	5%
Predator/Varmint	661	1,242	1,127	1,010	1,170	\$5,850	43	160	\$215	\$800	16%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck	9	151	165	108	132	\$660	(33)	24	(\$165)	\$118	22%
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	9,898	5,173	1,601	5,557	1,994	\$9,970	393	(3,563)	\$1,965	(\$17,817)	-64%
<b>RESIDENT TOTALS</b>	<b>15,516</b>	<b>12,315</b>	<b>9,928</b>	<b>12,586</b>	<b>12,099</b>	<b>\$269,038</b>	<b>2,171</b>	<b>-511</b>	<b>\$52,736</b>	<b>\$75,032</b>	<b>-4.06%</b>
Small Game	5,251	4,211	2,422	3,961	4,711	\$570,031	2,289	750	\$276,969	\$90,710	19%
Youth Small Game	233	289	154	225	314	\$3,140	160	89	\$1,600	\$887	39%
Shooting Preserve 1-Day Nonresident	181	194	102	159	163	\$7,498	61	4	\$2,806	\$184	3%
Shooting Preserve 5-Day Nonresident	997	1,176	794	989	982	\$74,632	188	(7)	\$14,288	(\$532)	-1%
Shooting Preserve Annual Nonresident	68	90	55	71	58	\$7,018	3	(13)	\$363	(\$1,573)	-18%
Furbearer	4	3	0	2	5	\$1,375	5	3	\$1,375	\$733	114%
Predator/Varmint	717	696	776	730	892	\$35,680	116	162	\$4,640	\$6,493	22%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck	0	3	22	8	28	\$140	6	20	\$30	\$98	236%
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	363	197	2,182	914	4,014	\$20,070	1,832	3,100	\$9,160	\$139,500	339%
Spring Light Goose	4,294	3,993	2,521	3,603	3,846	\$173,070	1,325	243	\$72,875	\$10,950	7%
Youth Spring Light Goose	157	307	213	226	314	\$6,594	101	88	\$2,121	\$1,855	39%
<b>NONRESIDENT TOTALS</b>	<b>12,265</b>	<b>11,159</b>	<b>9,241</b>	<b>10,888</b>	<b>15,327</b>	<b>\$899,248</b>	<b>6,086</b>	<b>4,439</b>	<b>\$386,227</b>	<b>\$249,305</b>	<b>40.77%</b>
<b>COMBINED TOTALS</b>	<b>27,781</b>	<b>23,474</b>	<b>19,169</b>	<b>23,475</b>	<b>27,426</b>	<b>\$1,168,286</b>	<b>8,257</b>	<b>3,951</b>	<b>\$438,963</b>	<b>\$324,337</b>	<b>16.83%</b>

\*The license year for Migratory Bird Certificates changed in 2021 so license sales are not comparable between years.

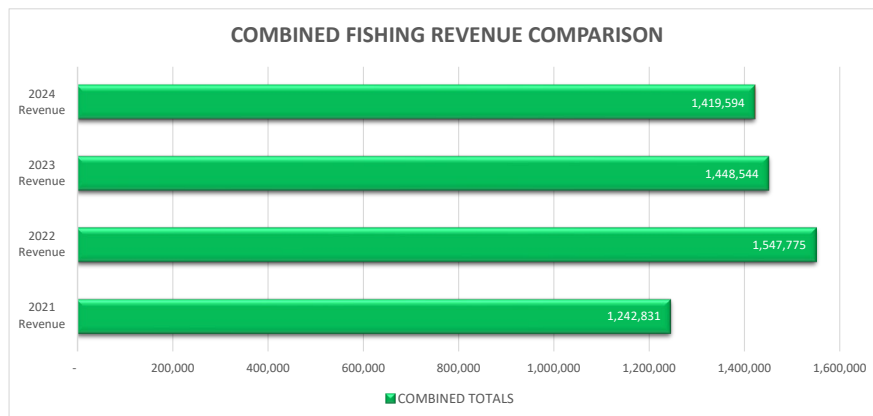
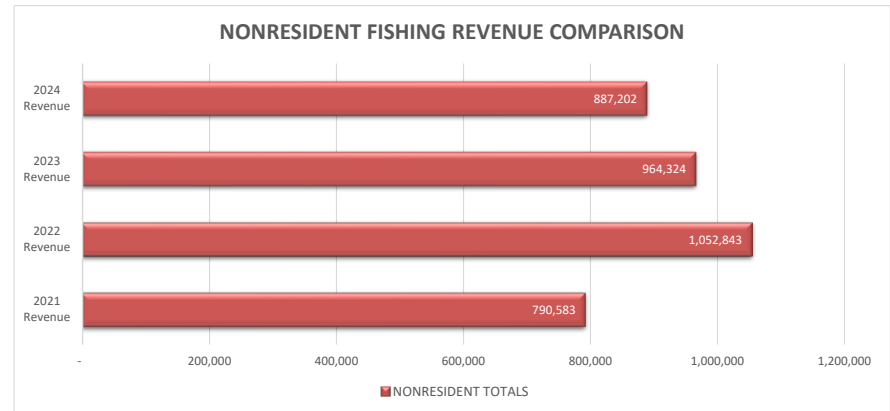
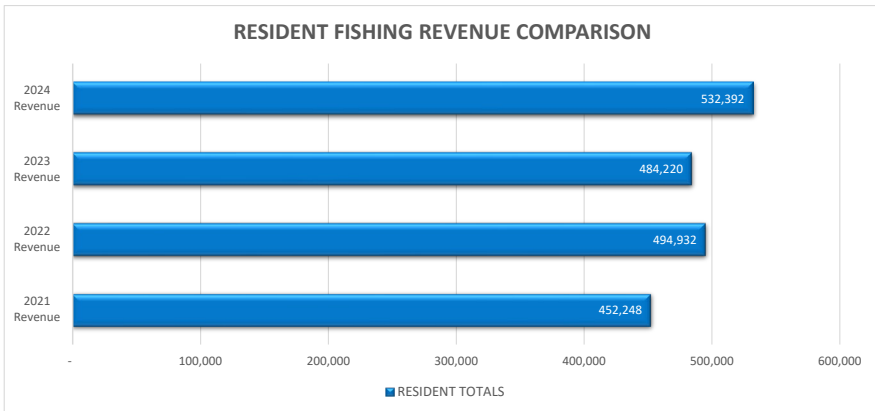
\*Migratory Bird Certificates changed from 1 option to 2 in 2022

\*Spring Light Goose decreased by \$5 when the migratory bird certificate was no longer included.



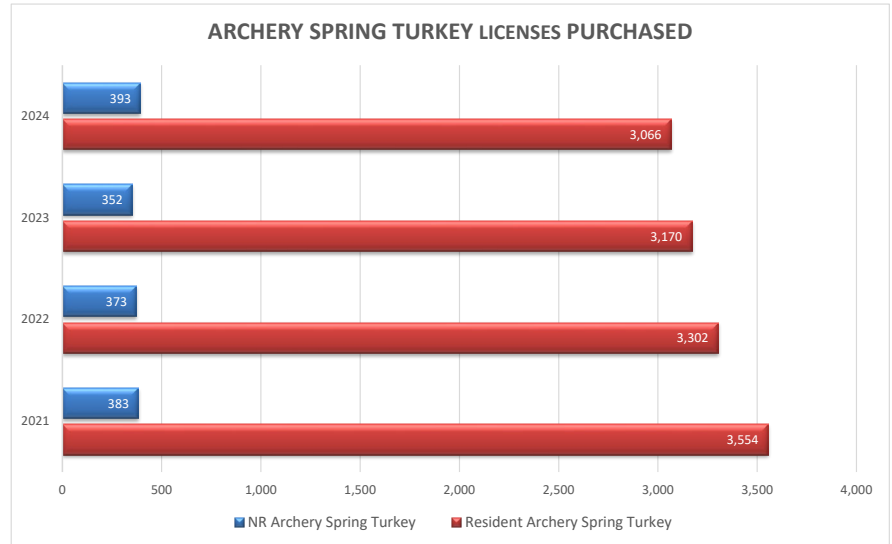
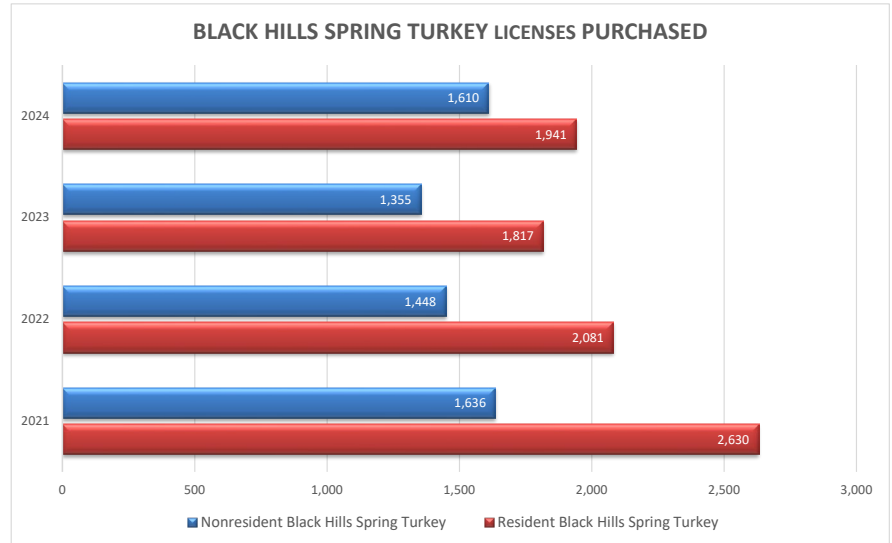
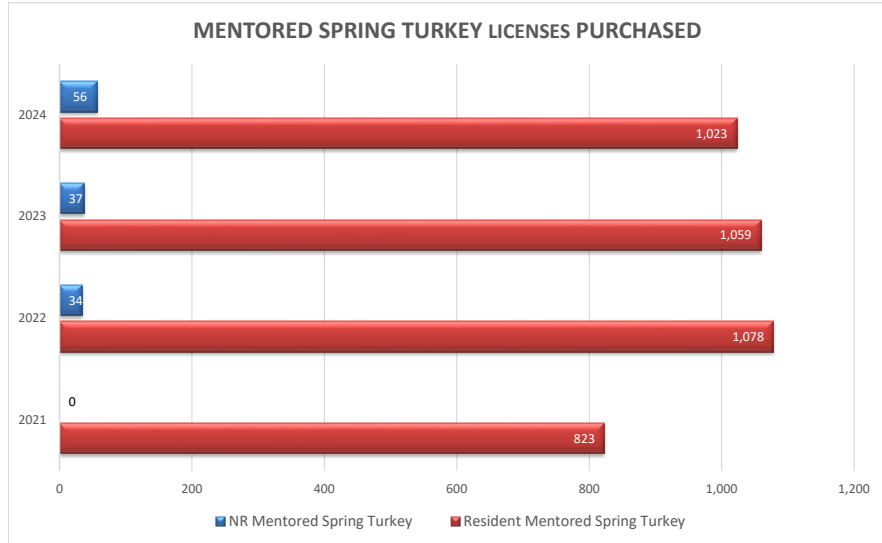
**FISHING LICENSES**  
December 15 - March 31

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	645	559	634	613	556	\$4,448	(78)	(57)	(\$624)	(\$453)	-9%
Annual Fishing	14,116	15,725	15,519	15,120	16,738	\$468,664	1,219	1,618	\$34,132	\$45,304	11%
Senior Fishing	4,320	4,180	3,718	4,073	4,940	\$59,280	1,222	867	\$14,664	\$10,408	21%
<b>RESIDENT TOTALS</b>	<b>19,081</b>	<b>20,464</b>	<b>19,871</b>	<b>19,805</b>	<b>22,234</b>	<b>\$532,392</b>	<b>2,363</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>\$48,172</b>	<b>\$55,259</b>	<b>12.26%</b>
1-Day Fishing	4,517	4,854	3,961	4,444	3,232	\$51,712	(729)	(1,212)	(\$11,664)	(\$19,392)	-27%
3-Day Fishing	3,064	3,444	3,388	3,299	2,211	\$81,807	(1,177)	(1,088)	(\$43,549)	(\$40,244)	-33%
Annual Fishing	9,029	12,653	11,576	11,086	11,249	\$753,683	(327)	163	(\$21,909)	\$10,921	1%
<b>NONRESIDENT TOTALS</b>	<b>16,610</b>	<b>20,951</b>	<b>18,925</b>	<b>18,829</b>	<b>16,692</b>	<b>\$887,202</b>	<b>(2,233)</b>	<b>(2,137)</b>	<b>(\$77,122)</b>	<b>(\$48,715)</b>	<b>-11.35%</b>
<b>COMBINED TOTALS</b>	<b>35,691</b>	<b>41,415</b>	<b>38,796</b>	<b>38,634</b>	<b>38,926</b>	<b>\$1,419,594</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>(\$28,950)</b>	<b>\$6,544</b>	<b>0.76%</b>



**BIG GAME LICENSES**

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	
Mountain Lion	3,076	2,831	2,517	2,808	2,720	\$76,160	203	(88)	\$5,684	(\$2,464)	-3%
Resident Mentored Spring Turkey	823	1,078	1,059	987	1,023	\$5,115	(36)	36	(\$180)	\$182	4%
NR Mentored Spring Turkey	0	34	37	24	56	\$560	19	32	\$190	\$323	137%
Resident Black Hills Spring Turkey	2,630	2,081	1,817	2,176	1,941	\$48,525	124	(235)	\$3,100	(\$5,875)	-11%
Nonresident Black Hills Spring Turkey	1,636	1,448	1,355	1,480	1,610	\$161,000	255	130	\$25,500	\$13,033	9%
Resident Archery Spring Turkey	3,554	3,302	3,170	3,342	3,066	\$76,650	(104)	(276)	(\$2,600)	(\$6,900)	-8%
NR Archery Spring Turkey	383	373	352	369	393	\$39,300	41	24	\$4,100	\$2,367	6%



# Public Comments March 4 to March 31, 2024

## Bighorn Sheep

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**Ron Schauer**

**Crooks SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

This is just a suggestion, If the commission finalizes the Big Horn Sheep proposal for CSP (4 licenses), I believe the 4th tag should go to Applicants with 20 or more years of preference. This would help give those hunters with the most years of preference a better chance to draw. I also realize with the phenomena outbreak 4 tags may not end up being finalized. Thanks you for your consideration. Ron Schauer

## Elk

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**Ron Schauer**

**Crooks SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am opposed to the CSP Elk proposal. I believe there is no biological reason why the CSP elk proposal could not include a FEW (5-10) cow elk tags. As a retired wildlife manager with over 37 years of experience and a person that spends a fair amount of time in the park, I see many elk and to let a few hunters harvest 5-10 cows would not harm the population. Also, there are hundreds of hunters sitting on many years of preference that could possibly draw a tag. This might even free up another elk tag in another unit that another hunter might be able to draw. Thank you for your consideration. Ron Schauer

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**Ryan Duffy**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

no additional tags needed especially no land owner preferences that can be re sold to non residents for profit.

## Nonresident Waterfowl

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**David Ode**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Additional non-resident waterfowl licenses are simply not needed at this time.

**William Koupal**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The proposal for an additional increase in nonresident licenses is universally opposed by resident waterfowlers, and for good reason. The proposal increases already intense competition for access, particularly in the eastern part of the state. Passage, in spite of overwhelming opposition, will add to the feeling that the commission is indifferent to the interests of of South Dakota's sportsmen and women.

---

**William Koupal**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The proposal for an additional increase in nonresident licenses is universally opposed by resident waterfowlers, and for good reason. The proposal increases already intense competition for access, particularly in the eastern part of the state. Passage, in spite of overwhelming opposition, will add to the feeling that the commission is indifferent to the interests of of South Dakota's sportsmen and women.

---

**Jeffrey Olson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Duck survey numbers show a decline in numbers the last two years and the GFP raises the non-resident numbers two year in a row. Please start looking at the science and listen to the sportsmen of our great state.

---

**Charles Dieter**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The residents of South Dakota are tired of being bombarded with nonresident waterfowl hunters. Last year, I had 4 separate incidents where non-residents ruined a hunting trip. The Commission is supposed to protect hunting and fishing for residents of the state. We live here, pay taxes here, buy our things here and raise our kids here. Please do not support the increase in nonresident hunting licenses. If you want to add licenses, add them all to Fall River county rather to where residents hunt. Northeast SD is covered with NR hunters from November 1- Thanksgiving. They all come to a 5-county area during the same time frame. I am asking you to support the residents of the state by voting against the increase. For every NR license added, we will lose at least one resident waterfowl hunter. The SD Waterfowl Association has 500 members and all are opposed to the increase. The SD Wildlife Federation has 4,000 members all opposed to an increase in NR waterfowl licenses. That represents 4,500 people against the increase. How many letters of support have you received?

**Alan Thomas**

**Huron SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

GF&P COMMISSION MEMBERS: am not sure if my first message was sent so I am sending another.

Please do not increase the Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses by 5% or any percent.

Thank you,  
Alan Thomas  
Huron

---

**Jon Olson**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly urge the commission to vote no on increasing NR waterfowl licenses. The reason fewer residents duck hunt is due to the overwhelming influence NR have on the sport. The land-leasing, the guiding and outfitting leaves nothing for the blue-collar resident. And when the public ground, which now is mostly dry, we just give up. Your bad decisions in policy is destroying the very culture you love to promote to the high rollers.

---

**Jake Sheffield**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a resident Waterfowl hunter I oppose this proposition. After calling and speaking to several Commissioners, their main argument for this proposal is that they are allowed to increase it by 5% and haven't done so in a while so they should now. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should, especially if the majority of the resident waterfowl community is against it. By his own admission, the commissioner who put forward this proposal doesn't waterfowl hunt and doesn't plan on starting. There are more than enough opportunities for non-residents as it is and efforts towards habitat improvement and hunter recruitment would be far more justified. Just to be clear if this is passed, the Commission will be doing so based on nothing other than previous legislation that allows them to do so and it will be in direct contradiction of what their fellow sportsman and constituents want.

---

**Paul Lepisto**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

**See Attachment #12301**

**Tye Kjeldgaard**

**Wagner SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Marc Hamiel**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It's hard enough getting on land to hunt. With more non resident tags that would only make it harder for us residents. Land owners would start leasing more land than they already do for paid hunting.

---

**Tim Smith**

**Bowdle SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

My name is Tim Smith and I have been a resident of South Dakota for over 20 years.

I am heavily invested in resident waterfowl hunting in the state of South Dakota. I am opposed to increasing the numbers of nonresident waterfowl licenses.

Primary concern is increased hunting pressure will have a significant impact on the well-being of the flyway for the state of South Dakota. I have observed the negative impact of non-resident hunters in the state of North Dakota. Nonresident, hunters, create conflict situations with local landowners owners And decrease the quality of hunting opportunities for our youth programs.

The increase of non-resident hunters will be a vital blow to the youth mentorship opportunities that we offer to Young hunters in our area.

We have experienced significant hunting pressure and reduced participation of locals pheasant hunting due to the popular industry of pheasant and deer hunting.

Waterfowl hunting is a natural right for South Dakota citizens that should be defended.

I will actively oppose any lawmaker and committee member that advocates for the increase of nonresident hunting permits.

---

**Adam Spies**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.



**Tom Viet**

**Renner SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**James Kirk**

**Springfield SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tom Curran**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please oppose any increase in nonresident waterfowl permits for the sake of quality hunts for our residents, nonresidents, and our youth. As the number of nonresident permits increase, overall pressure on the resources increase which decreases the quality for all. I have witnessed this first hand on the South Dakota waters I hunt. Waterfowl gets so pressured that nothing stays around. Another outcome of increased nonresident licenses is that the number of guides increases and subsequently puts more pressure on the limited availability of hunting and diminishing the quality. It is also unfortunate for our residents that guides are able to purchase and tie up access to private property further decreasing opportunity for residents and other nonresidents that then must find new private or public areas to hunt. This increases pressure on what's left of the private resource (often less desirable) and limited public resources. I respectfully request that you respect and do what's best for your South Dakota resident hunters that you represent. Please vote to oppose any increase in nonresident licenses. Thank you for the great job you do in managing our state's resources.

---

**Michael Moe**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose this Proposal. There are already left over licenses after the first draw which tells me that not all the licenses are sold. Why add more? On another note, I feel like adding additional licenses is a step towards the commercialization of waterfowl hunting just like deer and pheasant hunting in this state.

**Justin Allen**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Dear Commission,

Please oppose the increase to NR waterfowl licenses and hunting opportunities in South Dakota. Resident waterfowl hunters numbers have not decreased over the last several years. GFP likes to use data ranges to prove a point. Over 25 years yes waterfowl hunters have decreased but certainly they haven't over the last 5-7 years, GFP numbers show a steady number of SD resident waterfowl hunters. The vast majority of the sportsman the commission are supposed to represent do not suppose increased NR hunters hunting opportunities in SD. Waterfowl hunting is no different. Between leasing of land, guides/outfitters, NR hunters, social media there has not been a time over the last few decades that it is harder to have quality waterfowl hunting in SD. Pouring gas on the fire is irresponsible to the resource and the residents of SD. Please vote no on increasing non-resident waterfowl licenses in SD.

Thank you for your time,

Justin Allen  
Pierre, SD

---

**Ed Spies**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

we need more roost lakes like Reed Lake in Clark County.

---

**Jim Mose**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I have already been rejected by out of state leased land I would like to have hunted

---

**Joshua Gabbert**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I don't see a need. Currently, I travel more than an hour to get to a location with water. If I do find a location that isn't already occupied by several groups, it is only a matter of time before they overrun me. Hunting ethics are fading as fast as the habitat. I think time would be spent more effectively preserving what South Dakota has.

**Peter Koupal**

**Rapid Citu SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Nick Suss**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jeremy South**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kathy Ford**

**Denver CO**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Samuel Sheffield**

**Huron SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Boyd Schulz**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I have been hunting waterfowl for 40 years as a SD resident. There has been a marked reduction in waterfowl habitat over time. Access to private land for hunting is ever more challenging. Commercialization of waterfowl hunting for non-resident hunters is having a major impact on access to private land. Please do not increase non-resident waterfowl licenses.

---

**John Cooper**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I firmly oppose this proposal. If passed, the Commission will just continue to add to the hunting pressure on waterfowl and increase the places where waterfowl hunting is leased by commercial outfitters.

---

**Monte Vande Kop**

**No SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Austin Fritz**

**Hartford SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Ducks are not an "unlimited resource"

---

**Jake Sohns**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose a increase to any NR waterfowl hunting licenses. It is hard enough to get permission on private land as is. It has gotten way worse over the last 10 years from guys with money and non residents leasing land or using guides that lease land. SD is being over ran with non residents hunters and fisherman, especially in NE SD. Please oppose any increase to Non resident hunting opportunities.

---

**Joseph Barnett**

**Sioux Falls Sd SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Joseph Barnett**

**Sioux Falls Sd SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jeffrey Olson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not increase non-resident waterfowlers coming to our state. Every state around us and Canada are reducing tags for non-resident to provide their residents with a better opportunity. Please vote for South Dakotans.....

---

**Stephen Knoble**

**Gettysburg SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sam Butterfield**

**Marshall MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I have become aware that SD GFP is trying to raise license numbers for Non-resident duck hunters in South Dakota. As a Non resident that enjoys your great state most years waterfowl hunting, I hope you do not pass these additional licenses. SD has a good thing going by restricting out of state pressure on waterfowl. It is the reason why we have come to South Dakota for the last 25 years. In 25 years we have only not drawn a license 4 times. But it is well worth the wait. Take it from someone that has watch the hunting resources & the quality of hunting in Minnesota diminish over the last 40 years to tell the GFP & GFP Commissioners that you need to protect what South Dakota has from the commercialization of hunting (guides/outfitters/Non-resident). Coming from a out of state hunter please do not pass additional waterfowl licenses in South Dakota. -Sam

---

**Craig Margulies**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Eric Paulson**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Darrel Reinke**

**Ft. Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Access to hunting for resident waterfowl hunters is increasingly under pressure. I strongly believe this is because of the increased number of non resident permits allowed. With that increase in non resident hunters comes the increase in the number of outfitters. That increase leads to way more waterfowl areas off limits because they are leased up. I strongly oppose the decision to add even more non resident licenses. Thank you

---

**William Schwarz**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the increase in NR waterfowl licenses. These increases will not slow or reverse the decline in resident hunter numbers, it will only continue to decrease resident hunter "access and opportunity". The loss of access and opportunity is the documented #1 reason residents and all hunters quit waterfowl hunting. Thank you.

---

**Chris Gukeisen**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I believe this will prevent new resident hunters from waterfowl hunting. There is too much competition. We need more residents to participate, not nonresidents with guides, pushing the residents out.

**Tim Brown**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I believe allowing more non resident waterfowl licenses would degrade the hunting access and opportunity that residents have. Please do not pass this bill for the sake of all resident hunters now and yet to get into the sport. Thank You for considering.

---

**Thomas Steele**

**Lake Preston SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Scott Claus**

**Chesterfield VA**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Please consider opening South Dakota waterfowl hunting to all out of state hunters willing to buy a license and obey SD game laws. I have been hunting private land for pheasants in SD for over 20 years, but for some reason SD has they ultra restrictive laws on out of state waterfowl hunters that I don't find in the other states I hunt (TX, KS, NE, VA, NC, and AR). Please stop allowing the narrative that out of state hunters are the reason why access is getting harder. That is BS!

---

**Joe Swenson**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Out of state duck hunters "burn off" the local ducks from our public waters so that we see very few birds past opening day.

**Ryan Roehr**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

My dad and I have been taking a youth hunting for 2 years now and this year that kid asked 5 landowners that he previously year had permission to hunt waterfowl on, and last year those landowners leased out 15 quarters to a guide in NE SD (flatland flyway) according to the one landowner. The guide never hunted that one quarter according to neighbors. The kid we took hunting has stated he is NOT getting a waterfowl tag again(3 of his friends said the same thing)! We blame this 100% on the GFP and the greed of guides. Some guides want to take away land from kids and adults and force them to pay the guide. The one landowner had a 80 that was in CREP, the guide told him that people left a mess out there and he wouldn't, so the landowner took it out of CREP(no known mess was left out there). We are losing youth hunters and adults at a alarming rate, and this is making it WAY worse. This makes no sense money wise either for the GFP, in the long run you will lose hunters/money by having less resident hunters that spend more money in small towns than guides and non res do(numbers prove this.) So if you want to continue to lose youth hunters, approve this, but if you want to keep youth hunters Oppose this. Its that simple.

---

**Todd Andrews**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These increases will not halt or reverse the decline in resident hunter numbers; instead, they will perpetuate the reduction in resident hunters 'access and opportunity. The documented primary reason for South Dakota residents and all hunters to discontinue waterfowl hunting is due to the loss of access and opportunity! Stop giving it away!

The challenges faced by hunters and the impact on their ability to engage in waterfowl hunting are crucial considerations for conservation efforts and sustainable practices of this state. Too many times hunters compete for access and opportunities. FACT!

---

**Mark Heck**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Frank Alvine**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Life long waterfowl supporter and hunter. Massive loss of wetlands has limited us residents to far fewer hunting sites. We live here and should not to face increasing competition Thank You FGA



**Mike Van Cleave**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose this increase in non-resident waterfowl license. I have watched greed ruin the pheasant hunting in south dakota ,now i am seeing it ruin duck and goose hunting in south dakota.

---

**Troy Spitzer**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Joe Arbach**

**Hoven SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Jeff Rud**

**Madison SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Competition for hunting spots is already intense, adding more non-residents will only make it worse. The commercialization of a migratory, non-stockable, public resource will only hurt waterfowl hunting in SD. Don't follow the pheasant hunting path, they can and are stocked to mimic wild birds, waterfowl cannot.

**Alan Thomas**

**Huron SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Good Afternoon Commission Members.

As an 81 year now "part time" waterfowl hunter. I am very much opposed to any increase in non-resident waterfowl licenses.

We residents live here and spend most our money here. We buy ALL of our hunting and groceries in South Dakota and hit the South Dakota restaurants.

We fought this game on the Missouri River and the "political system" continues to beat on the resident hunters.

Commission Members, give one for the RESIDENTS, including our children and grandchildren, and do not increase the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses.

Thank you.

Alan Thomas

Huron

---

**Aaron Olson**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These increases will further limit "access and opportunity". The loss of access and opportunity is the #1 reason residents and all hunters quit waterfowl hunting.

---

**Donald Edman**

**Clearwater FL**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

As a former resident of 30 years in SD who had to leave for employment reasons, I support the increase in nonresident licenses. As a side note I am tired of the nonresidents fees that keep increasing while residents aren't. The license numbers show that there are more nonresident hunters than resident so give us a break instead of asking us to foot the bill that residents are not stepping up to do.

---

**Wyatt Vantol**

**Tea SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

**Dominique Arpan**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose the proposed increase of Non Resident waterfowl licenses.

Waterfowl is one of the only sporting options left that you can easily access private land without the need to pay landowners.

We as a state cater to Non resident hunters in all things big game and especially pheasants.

Can we resident hunters not have just one option to hunt that doesn't cost us big money to get on prime private land.

With the increase of Young South Dakotans interested in and starting to waterfowl hunt this will only hurt that opportunity even more. Isn't one of Game fish and Parks missions currently to increase the amount of resident waterfowl's, especially with the federal help with the 3 duck license.

Passing this would only be a step back from the direction we are going.

Thank you

---

**Chris Hitzeman**

**Lake Andes SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

South Dakota raises an incredible amount of waterfowl and to limit tags so other states can shoot all our ducks is unreasonable.

---

**Colin Pugsley**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

More non resident licenses will mean less hunting opportunities for residents. There are a lot of people coming to our state because of it's great habitats and diverse animals and birds. Non residents want to experience that and I don't blame them. But if we start giving out record number of licenses, what will that do for residents? Yes give them a chance which is what they have now and should be thankful for but I oppose increasing non resident licenses. Leave some birds for those of us that work and live in our great state.

---

**Roger Thue**

**Colman SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I believe that increasing non-resident waterfowl licenses reduces opportunity for resident waterfowl hunters. When non-residents come in, they are often willing and able to pay for access to high quality hunting grounds, which makes it much more likely that ground will be removed from the residents that can't afford or are not willing to pay for access. Wildlife resources in SD should be available with first priority to resident hunters, even if they are not financially capable of paying for access. Hunting should be a sport for the everyday person, even those of low means, not just for those with deep pockets.

**Janessa Moe**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I feel like this is one step closer to commercializing waterfowl and hunting.

---

**Charles Rokusek**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

By continuing to add 5% to the number of non-resident waterfowl hunters you are continuing to compound the number which accelerates the number that would be allowed in the state to hunt. Then adding the conversion of grasslands to row crops also decreases areas which are suitable for waterfowl hunting. Then the additional loss of wetlands due to tiling and drainage also impacts the places that are available for individuals to hunt. Then add into the mix the lack of small grains being grown in Southeast South Dakota also adds to fewer places that would be available for waterfowl hunting. Therefore, I am opposed to any additional non-resident waterfowl hunters and would support a change to 8% of the number of resident waterfowl hunters from the previous year.

---

**Lance Wollmann**

**Hartford SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I started duck hunting at 12 and now 65. Never missed a season. Duck numbers are not even close now when I started. We could pick 10 point ducks for a limit. Now you need to shoot what comes by. We do not need MORE pressure on the ducks. If the game dept wants to raise more money raise the non res. Licences.

---

**Andrew J Jackson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Enough already! Can't find a place to hunt without paying. Lived in South Dakota my entire 75 years! Been buying a SD hunting and fishing license, plus big game and waterfowl longer than most of you've been alive. Quit selling out to commercial hunting!

**Andy Vandel**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the increase of non-resident waterfowl licenses in SD. This was not identified as a need by the department and the public is yet to be told a reason for the increase. Resident waterfowl hunters are concerned with the trend of increasing NR licenses by 5% every year without an end number in mind the commission is striving to achieve. There needs to be measurable metrics in place that trigger an increase, decrease, or no change.

There have been many changes to NR waterfowl licenses in the recent past that continue to put more pressure on the limited resources available. These include the shift of 1250 unused 3-day permits away from the Missouri River unit to other areas of the state, converting the statewide 1-10 day licenses to 2-5 day licenses, and last year's 5% increase in NR licenses. Other uncontrolled changes include a change in the Missouri River corridor Canada goose migration, a reduction in duck populations, and drought conditions reducing the number and size of huntable wetlands. All of these changes have combined to reduce access and opportunity which was identified as the #1 reason resident hunters quit waterfowl hunting. Adding even more NR waterfowl licenses will continue to tip this trend in the wrong direction.

---

**Jordan Edwards**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Merrill Nelson**

**Lake Preston SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I'm a landowner, and get tired of folks always asking to hunt, especially the professional ones from out of state. The locals need to have the opportunity, they can't compete with a 1,000+ decoy spreads.

---

**Timothy Weber**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

**Timothy Reynolds**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Let focus on expanding hunting opportunities for people that choose to live in south dakota not non residents that are here for 5 days.

---

**Bob Peterson**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Charles Lebeda**

**Humboldt SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Gabe Steinborn**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Our own commission lobbying against the people of South Dakota doesn't make sense.

---

**Logan Kolb**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As the state loses more and more resident waterfowlers, the last thing we need to do is allow more nonresidents. The single greatest thing causing a decline in resident hunters is a complete loss of access to private ground. The guide services that are able to lease tens of thousands of acres for hunting are pushing the freelance guys out. And will continue to push out the resident hunters. Flatland Flyways is a big example of a guide service that is able to lease out thousands of acres. You ask permission on any land with birds on it around Sand Lake and the only answer you ever get is talk to Flatland Flyways, they have it leased. By allowing for more nonresidents, we will enable these guide services to lease more and more land and we will see and even bigger drop in resident waterfowl hunter decline.

**Jaron Anderson**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Brings added revenue to state and to many small towns most importantly.

---

**Allan Pudwill**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Actually this state needs to decrease nonresident licenses.

---

**Jim Mose**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Robert Eddy**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Residents hunters first! Not outfitters or non-residents.

---

**Gabe Veurink**

**Lennox SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Aj Martinec**

**Beresford SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

**Patrick Skipper**

**Volga SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Matk Martinson**

**Eagan MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

If the residents of SD do not want non resident hunters and all the revenue we bring to businesses and to GF&P, then maybe their fees and licenses should be raised to at least match what us NR 's pay. MN does not limit how many SD folks get to fish or hunt in MN. Everybody who buys a Federal duck stamp contributes to the purchase of Federal wetlands in SD but we are limited in our access to those lands for waterfowl hunting. Not very fair that I can't hunt land that my money helped buy.

---

**Jason Rumpca**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**David Larson**

**Groton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Larry Lewis**

**Hecla SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a classic example of continued privatizing a public resource. Leasing of the best waterfowl hunting lands continues to expand with each increase in non-resident permits available. True "family farms" and small towns continue to decline and larger operations tend to view "hunting recreation" as another commodity to "sell"! Somehow we need to reverse this trend and providing opportunities to wealthy non-residents is not a step in the right direction. Average residents need opportunities and places to hunt.



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**David Larson**

**Groton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Joseph Harrison**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Nik Lipp**

**See Attachment #12382**

**De Smet SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The continued increase of non-res. waterfowl hunting pressure is synonymous with less access for residents. This is a sad fact. The most painful aspect of this trend is that my representatives continue choosing the few over the many. I am not a landowner, I'm not a business owner, but I am a patron of these very businesses and a tax paying SD resident supporting landowners by paying taxes 365 days of the year. If you don't have my back, then no one does. I oppose increasing nonresident waterfowl licenses, again!

---

**Doug Wanttie**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

You will be ending all waterfowl hunting for resident South Dakotans. The pheasant guides will lease up all the land possible and lock out the residents once again. You started laying the tracks when you changed the one ten day to two five days licenses to align with pheasant licenses. Don't tell us you have South Dakotans best interest in mind. I oppose this increase.

---

**Edward Keller**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The only thing South Dakota has to offer our young people is the outdoors. Why sell it to non South Dakotans?

**Jeffrey Clow**

**Harrisburg SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Thomas Novak**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We cannot afford to make this state like North Dakota. Not good for residents or non residents alike. Keep the quality in a South Dakota non resident hunt. Raise the price for licenses if you must. Do not appease to the few resident guide services.

---

**Reed Schade**

**Chester SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Rick Pudwill**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Juergen Schroeder**

**Hartford SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Douglas Traub**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We have little access and limited waterfowl and habitat now. Selling more nonresident licenses just for the money that goes to GFP is a bad idea and a sellout to the out of staters. If you continue this trend, you will have to rename it the non-resident GFP!

---

**Keaton Whitcomb**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Ben Brown**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

If passed we would have a new, post 1940's record of 6,615 nonresident waterfowl hunting licenses. These increases will not slow or reverse the decline in resident hunter numbers, it will only continue to decrease resident hunter "access and opportunity". The loss of access and opportunity is the documented #1 reason residents and all hunters quit waterfowl hunting. Please OPPOSE this proposal!

---

**Douglas Moe**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I have been hunting from 12 years old to 64 years old . They keep changing what kind of birds you can. And now you want us to compete with more out of state hunters it is hard enough to find water and places to hunt without competing with out of state hunters . They already have a chance to go hunting here. Let them wait their turn like South Dakota residents have to wait for their deer tags Please done pass this

---

**David Finn**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose because it is hard to find good hunting for myself and my family.

---

**Riley Haag**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Steve Bonkrude**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I used to hunt waterfowl, stopped when it became an issue finding access to hunting areas. I would like to get back into it, but this increase in NR lic. will cause a situation of even less hunting access for residents. Shouldn't you be thinking about SD residents instead of how to make more money? Figure out how to give a better experience for resident waterfowl hunters and it will increase the number of resident hunters. Even generate more revenue.

---

**Charlie Stephenson**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

SD should not allow additional out of state waterfowl hunting. We need to preserve our opportunities for residents and not pad the pockets of guides.

---

**Chris Weber**

**Tea SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Patrick Gross**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It's time to roll back the number of non resident waterfowl hunters. On one day alone in the past season we counted over 50 rigs at a river access area in SE South Dakota. All non resident hunters competing with locals for very limited places to hunt. We also need to eliminate the year long licenses for non residents. Non resident waterfowl hunters who hunt water do it all day long. They hunt the roosts and the birds cannot rest. The birds simply leave after two days of hunting pressure. Combining uses of natural resource opportunities, that residents enjoy and support with tax dollars, and tourism is a fairness issue for residents and their families. Make those opportunities an incentive to move to SD and build our economies in a more permanent way.

Strongly opposed to increasing non resident licenses regardless of the legislative authority gfp has been given. Quality of life for local hunters and their kids is far more important than retail sales.

---

**Mark Peterson**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Waterfowl doesn't need commercialized hunting, which is exactly what this push is for. Keep waterfowl hunting the way it is, something that can still be a family, non-paid outdoors event without guides pushing everyone else out or locking up all the private land.

---

**Dana Rogers**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Commissioners,

If you look and listen to the history of public comment and in person testimony, there is overwhelming opposition and little if any support for further NR expansion in S.D. Resident sportsmen have been pushed out and to the side constantly. Be it the commercialization of our public trust resources for profit or the drive to sell these resources to generate tourism by local chambers of commerce.

Who benefits and who suffers? Consistently, the top reason given by people who stop hunting is lack of access. Now we want to bring in more NRs to compete for access and further stress our public lands?

The resident sportsmen do not want this. We S.D. residents live here year round, spend our money here every day and would very much appreciate being considered as priority #2. Only behind what should be the #1 priority of managing healthy abundant wildlife populations.

Please VOTE NO

Thank you for your consideration

**Don Fjerstad**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose any increase in nonresident waterfowl license !

---

**Jessica Bruins**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not support changes to non-resident waterfowl licenses. Support the residents of South Dakota

---

**Daniel Barthel**

**Saint Michael MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Dear; SD Game Fish Parks commissioners, as a non-resident waterfowl hunter, I would prefer not to see an increase in more non-resident waterfowl hunting licenses. I like it the way it is because it's world class waterfowl hunting largely due to the lack of hunting pressure. More hunters will decrease the quality of hunting.

Thanks for taking the time to read my request.

Dan Barthel

---

**Andy Vandel**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the increase of non-resident waterfowl licenses in SD. This was not identified as a need by the department and the public is yet to be told a reason for the increase. Resident waterfowl hunters are concerned with the trend of increasing NR licenses by 5% every year without an end number in mind the commission is striving to achieve. There needs to be measurable metrics in place that trigger an increase, decrease, or no change.

There have been many changes to NR waterfowl licenses in the recent past that continue to put more pressure on the limited resources available. These include the shift of 1250 unused 3-day permits away from the Missouri River unit to other areas of the state, converting the statewide 1-10 day licenses to 2-5 day licenses, and last year's 5% increase in NR licenses. Other uncontrolled changes include a change in the Missouri River corridor Canada goose migration, a reduction in duck populations, and drought conditions reducing the number and size of huntable wetlands. All of these changes have combined to reduce access and opportunity which was identified as the #1 reason resident hunters quit waterfowl hunting. Adding even more NR waterfowl licenses will continue to tip this trend in the wrong direction.

**Josh Hagemann**

**Mission Hill SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The only reason there is a call for increasing NR licenses is to increase revenue. There are real-world limiting factors that come into play. It's not simply that the population can handle increases pressure. The landscape may not support an increase in hunting pressure. There are only so many places where people can hunt.

I'm not against NR hunters but I am against increasing NR opportunity at the detriment of resident opportunity.

If you bring in more non-residents they need a place to hunt which means more pressure on public land or more pay-to-hunt situations. The more pay-to-hunt the less opportunities are available to residents that may not have the money to compete. This could make the resident hunting participation even worse. Then the department will use those numbers to increase NR licenses even more.

At the end of the day the State is supposed to hold wildlife in trust for the residents of South Dakota. State residents are your stakeholders and beneficiaries, not Non-residents.

It's a trend the commission has been following for the past few years, starting with the deer draw changes in 2019. Every time the commission disagrees with the majority of public input, it uses the statement that these decisions "are not a vote." It's a convenient way to disregard the stakeholders and beneficiaries of the trust.

Ignoring the input from your resident sportsmen and women, simply to pull in more license money, is a MISMANAGEMENT OF THE TRUST.

---

**James Lohrman**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As we continue to move towards more non-resident waterfowl hunters than resident hunters like we have in the pheasant season it is no wonder our youth continue to go away from hunting as the guides in this state lease up all the good duck areas and the non-residents move in on all our great public areas to hunt waterfowl. It's all about the money and not about what is good for the citizens of this great state. Put your politics aside and do the right thing. Thank you

---

**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk, SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose increasing the amount of non-resident waterfowl licenses sold each year. When discussing this rule proposal during finalization, you should review the impact of increasing waterfowl hunting on the non-hunting public's use of public waters, non-hunting public's wildlife and nature viewing and also impacts to the populations of water fowl. You should discuss the statistics on how many people in USA engage in wildlife watching vs. hunting and economic benefits from expenditures of wildlife watchers.

**Renee Allen**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a lifelong rural SD resident I do not support any increase in Waterfowl Licenses for out of state hunters. Opportunities for all things hunting and outdoors for residents has been on steady decline for the last 20 years in my opinion to cater to Non-resident interest and their money. Commercialization of the outdoors in SD right now is a run away freight train. South Dakota is being flooded by NRs and it has pushed out residents or lessened the quality of the experience. I ask you to deny the proposal/finalization to increase any Non resident waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Renee Allen, Pierre

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**Kenny Fielder**

**Webster SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Northeast South Dakota is completely over ran with Non-resident hunters and fisherman. We don't need more. The amount of land access I have lost in the last 10 year to out of state hunters and guide business is disheartening. No wonder some residents are quitting waterfowl hunting. They are being pushed aside by GFP and GFP commission as they pass more NR licenses

---

**Isaac Haugen**

**Rineyville KY**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

All though my information attached to this message says I am in KY, it is only because I am active duty Army and I am still a SD resident.

As for the proposal that non resident waterfowl license, I am in opposition. I feel like the opportunity for non resident to waterfowl hunt is sufficient. I have family that come to SD to enjoy our great resources and the frequency they get a license is fine. As someone who hunts multiple states for multiple species I greatly understand and appreciate the opportunity and I think limited number leads to responsible stewardship of the resources. I think that we are at a good balance now, and the frequency of non resident hunters drawing a waterfowl license is helps keep our public resources safe for SD residents to enjoy. Thank you for you time and the opportunity to provide my input.

---

**Joe Critser**

**Webster SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Jerry Zabel**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

More nr hunters only takes from residents that live here year around. Why is game, fish, and parks in a race to fill this state full of nr hunters? No vote on more duck licenses.

---

**William Meyers**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Rob Fjerstad**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

To many hunters affect the quality of the hunting

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**Justin Pliska**

**Hartford SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Cody Warner**

**Webster SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

During the March Commission meeting, there was some great discussion after the testimony regarding the NR waterfowl issue. Especially, the discussion about the pressure in certain areas. I believe there could be some great dialogue between the GFP, the Commission, and the public if given a chance. I urge you to vote no this year and perhaps see what could be figured out in the future. The GFP has all sorts of "working groups" but for some reason doesn't have one for waterfowl related issues. I believe an open dialogue could lead to a compromise in the future. However, if issues like this continue to be passed with very little public support how do you expect the public to have faith in the Commission?

---

**Phil Hudson**

**Huron SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Andy Warner**

**Wabasso MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jesse Weeks**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Nick Connor**

**Winfred SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Paul Bezdicek**

**Grenville SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Michael Davis**

**Trent Woods NC**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

**Robert Naylor**

**Chapel Hill NC**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Dylan Buckingham**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The pressure is already too much. There is only so many good areas and they are already overrun with guides and no residents. Too many people ruins it for everyone.

---

**Tom Whiteing**

**Gretna NE**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Terry Wendler**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Chad Fisher**

**Redfield SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose any increase to NR waterfowl licenses or hunting opportunities in South Dakota. Lets protect the resources for those who choose to stay in SD and raise a family. SD GFP and commission need to start restoring faith to SD resident sportsman. It seems both have done never little for residents over the last several years. You are supposed to represent the sportsman of SD not the governs office and office of tourism.

Chad

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**Blake Pistulka**

**Waconia MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Arturdo Diaz**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Matt Merschdorf**

**Stacy MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Payton Jahnke**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Rebecca King**

**Salem SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Phillip Ronke**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Already too much pressure. It's hard enough for us residents to get permission to hunt

**Tim Foerster**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Daniel Cleland**

**Big Lake MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jake Pettot**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The Northeast corner of the state in un touchable for weeks with all the hunting pressure

---

**Andrew Gusso**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nonresident hunters are destructive towards the instate hunters

---

**John Souter**

**Madison SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It's gotten to be to much. The licenses going out has gotten to me a little much "I'm not opposed to out of state hunting" but it needs to be more selective.

---

**Shane Cunningham**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Rick Frisch**

**Waubay SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Daniel Cleland**

**Big Lake MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jason Andrew Gusso**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Out-of-state hunters can have negative impacts on in-state hunters in South Dakota for several reasons. Firstly, they can increase competition for limited hunting resources, such as prime hunting spots and game populations, potentially reducing the opportunities available to local hunters. Additionally, out-of-state hunters may be less familiar with local regulations and etiquette, leading to conflicts and misunderstandings with local hunters. Moreover, the influx of out-of-state hunters can put pressure on local ecosystems and wildlife populations, disrupting natural balances and habitats. Overall, while tourism revenue from out-of-state hunters can benefit the state economy, there are valid concerns about the potential negative consequences for in-state hunters and the environment.

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**Mitchell Nehlich**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

**Chad Lade**

**Madison SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**David Neubauer**

**Chanhassen MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Eric Bazyn**

**Huron SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We have enough non residents hunters allowed as it is.

---

**Martin Hesby**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Respectfully, for the past 20 years this has been a contentious issue and GFP has flat out ignored the will and opinions of the resident hunter and continued to increase nonresident tags. History shows that you are only trading resident opportunity for nonresident opportunity with these moves, as residents, like myself, drop out of waterfowl hunting due to the over pressure of the resource, the drama, and congestion of hunters. The waterfowl move through our state very fast now or completely fly over it to get to areas with less pressure. It is honestly a shame what GFP has done with this resource and resident opportunity. Very sad.

---

**Melissa Lade**

**Madison SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Luke Miles**

**Colman SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Marcus Quam**

**Webster SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Chad Williams**

**Colman SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jack Ziemer**

**Webster SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Area is over hunted by nonresidents limiting opportunities for residents already

---

**Hunter Mitchell**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Scott Karlson**

**Lennox SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please keep waterfowl hunting the way it is so my kids can enjoy it.



**Jeremy Torkelson**

**Howard SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jared Clark**

**Howard SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jake Prins**

**Eden SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Brad Fontaine**

**Hermosa SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sam Seppanen**

**Castlewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Dylan Reuer**

**Hayti SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

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**Nathan Popham**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jerry Kastein**

**Hayti SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Guide services will lease up all the ground. Hunting will become a rich person only sport. There is nothing that will kill off the next generation of hunters than this.

---

**Ty Beyer**

**Howard SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Dan Eich**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am in opposition to increasing the non-resident waterfowl lisc. As it sits today my family has a difficult time finding good consistent public access without driving 2 - 3 hours. Access to private ground without a 'pay to play' option is becoming more a more a reality.

---

**Kyler Swenson**

**Hayti SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

**Charles Hamre**

**Canton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Being a outfitter in this state for 20 years I have seen first hand the pressure that non resident waterfowl hunting has done to many areas in North East sd. I have seen certain area get leased up and many locals kicked out of areas and just gave up waterfowl hunting all together. This is a terrible idea. I stopped guiding in the fall due to the extra pressure. The kids in high school and college don't have a chance when non resident come over and start throwing money around to farmers.

---

**Tanner Miller**

**Fedora SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kyle Monteith**

**Wallace SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sue Tucker**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Mitchell Reuss**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This commission's duty should be to serve the resident sportsmen and women first and foremost. This proposal to increase non resident waterfowl licenses appears to be yet another instance of holding revenue and commercial interests above resident interests. It should be the commission's goal to support GFP staff efforts to retain existing resident hunters and recruit new resident hunters. Ongoing drought has had a noticeable, obvious, and documented impact on both Central Flyway waterfowl populations and accessible hunting areas, both public and private. Many state and federal public hunting areas are bone dry or have water levels so low they are not feasible for waterfowl hunting. With less accessible available water to hunt, hunting pressure has only further condensed to remaining accessible property. Adding additional hunting pressure during a time of drought and decreasing waterfowl populations is counter productive and will only further decrease resident interest (and their license revenues). More and more, our SD residents are hanging up their waders, throwing their decoys up in the rafters, and choosing golf or fishing, and the main two reasons for doing so are lack of access and ever increasing competition to access private land. Adding more non residents who plan and focus their hunts on prime dates and prime areas, and are willing to pay for access to ensure their trip is a success only exacerbates those two issues. Please vote to deny this proposal.

---

**Mike Stenson**

**Fort Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not support an increase in nonresident license numbers. It has been abundantly clear that the vast majority of both resident AND nonresident waterfowlers oppose this change. Increased nonresident licenses will lead to increased pressure, decreased accessible areas, decreased recruitment of new hunters, and ultimately will cause active hunters to stop waterfowl hunting in South Dakota. I'd urge the Commission to represent the overwhelming majority of their constituents and oppose this increase.

---

**Josh Carda**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I highly encourage the commission to oppose increasing the non resident waterfowl licenses by yet another 5% this year. If revenue loss is why this constant increase keeps being brought up then a simple solution would be to raise the prices of both resident and non resident licenses to account for that. Increasing the amount of non residents allowed to hunt in the NE portion of the state increases hunting pressure, the likelihood of leasing, guide service expansion and landowner frustration all of which equates to lower quality hunting for both residents and non residents alike. Hunting pressure has never been higher than the last few years, regardless of what the license sales indicate. It would be extremely irresponsible to go against the public majority opinion and raise these numbers yet again.

Thanks.

**Spencer Young**

**Fort Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Brock Young**

**Fort Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kieffer Klinkhammer**

**Howard SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Taylor Trick**

**Frederick SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Mia Hannan**

**Webster SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jason Engels**

**Arlington SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Steven McClelland**

**Fort Lierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Davis Leiseth**

**Hayti SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It's hard enough for locals to get permission let alone bring more people in to have to compete with them as well.

---

**Mason Leiseth**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Ryan Roehr**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Hi,

I see my comment was Not listed in the comments so I'm writing again. Please vote NO on this proposal to decrease our resident youth for waterfowl. The past couple years we have taken couple kids waterfowl and fishing. Last year one of the kids asked couple landowners in NE SD to hunt for geese/ducks and he was denied because they leased the land out to a outfitter in NESD, Hecla area to be specific. 15 quarters of land was leased up that we previously hunted on. The kids were so upset that they will not be getting waterfowl licenses and fishing licenses anymore. We tried to talk them out of it but it was their choice. Why are the GFP policies to discourage youth to enjoy the outdoors now? They say they want youth, but policies and rules says another. Please vote no on this very bad policy. over 96% of the comments are against this bad policy, please listen to the youth.

---

**Mitchell Babcock**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

**Lincoln Biermann**

**Lake City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Ryan Duffy**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

hard enough to get access to land as it is. about ready to hang up waterfowl hunting as it is as a resident and if they passes likely give it up all together.

---

**Mason Warner**

**Wabasso SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Joseph Murray**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

South Dakota waterfowl hunting remains amazing because we protect it. Please continue to do so. Oppose nonresident waterfowl expansion.

---

**Andrew Spiess**

**White Bear Lake MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

**Austin Brockhoff**

**Henderson MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not support the increase of non resident waterfowl license numbers. I have been coming to South Dakota for the last +/- 10 years as a non resident waterfowl hunter. I come every year that I get drawn in the fall and I come snow goose hunting every spring. I believe South Dakota has the right number of non resident licenses currently and does not need to increase, also I believe the state is doing the right thing by having a lottery application process unlike its neighboring state North Dakota. If we continue to increase license numbers, hunting quality for both residents and non residents will surely decrease by adding more pressure to an already pressured state. By adding more licenses we would be increasing the pressure on accessing private property and we already see it where farmers are getting upset because they have had many texts, phone calls, and people knocking on their doors asking for permission. Farmers to get tired of it and eventually turn their phones off and even will post signs on their property that say "no hunting, don't even ask". I believe we would also see an increase in people abusing the resources and not abiding by the states regulations and even an increase on trespassing on private property.

As a non resident waterfowl hunter in the state of South Dakota, I do not support the increase of non resident waterfowl licenses but would rather support the decrease in number of non resident waterfowl licenses.

---

**Brian Noeldner**

**Aurora SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Already have overpressure and lack of access to private land/ over hunting on public

---

**Rick Boddicker**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

If GF&P continues to increase non-resident waterfowl licenses our residents and particularly our youth will continue to lose hunting opportunities. Therefore I'm opposed to the increase. Thank you.

---

**Rick Boddicker**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

If GF&P continues to increase non-resident waterfowl licenses our residents and particularly our youth will continue to lose hunting opportunities. Therefore I'm opposed to the increase. Thank you.



**Andrew Swenson**

**Gaylord MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Too many non residents already hunt in South Dakota. I believe less non residents should be able to hunt in South Dakota to keep the pressure down and not make hunting harder for the residents.

---

**Michael Krein**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Nonresident licenses of every kind especially big game licenses should see price increases and number of allocated tags decreased.

---

**Cory Zirbel**

**Webster SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jim Bjorikman**

**Arlington SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

As much as you hear about no room for a few more nonresident waterfowl hunters, don't believe it! Resident or nonresident it shouldn't matter. Duck hunting is on a strong decline and if we want to keep this tradition alive, let's let whoever wants to hunt, hunt! My son likes to come back to South Dakota to hunt and there is plenty of room on my friends land. No one else will hunt those fields except us.

---

**Preston Fejfar**

**Elk Point SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

**Chris Latty**

**Fairbanks AK**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a non-resident whom has visited the state to hunt for over a decade, I would much rather see the prices increased, and not be as successful in the draw as often, rather than the number of available permits increased. South Dakota remains a unique opportunity for non-residents. In my opinion, this will decrease the value of the opportunity and decrease the interest. Right now I continue to come back to South Dakota because of the opportunity for great waterfowl hunting as well as pheasant and big game hunting. I also hunt in other states and provinces such as North Dakota and Saskatchewan. If this passes and the trend continues, I'll likely look for better opportunities elsewhere.

---

**Rich Visker**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a resident Waterfowl hunter I oppose this proposition. It is already tough to get permission on land with leasing, guiding, sloughs are dried up and if they are not, they have some out of state hunter in there already, so where are residents supposed to go? And this gets even worse when pheasant season opens. If it comes to residents only having access to public ground that is over hunted/populated/pressured, residents stop hunting. Do you think residents are going to want to take their kids out and get youth involved when the success will be limited? Nope, kids won't have fun either. Yes, it is hunting but also needs to be opportunity for success now and then as well.

As another person said, your bad decisions in policy are destroying the very culture you love to promote to high rollers. It's all about the money for the state, you guys don't care about resident waterfowl hunters or what's good for the state outside of the money.

I've always said, if you want more money, forget the NR licenses and charge guiding/outfitting licenses to operate in sodak. A lot of other states have it. But nooo, that won't happen because that's the only thing you all support are guides/outfitters. That's the only reason for the increase in licenses. God forbid they have to pay for an annual license to run a business in sodak. You have had opposition from residents on increasing licenses for years, if not decades now and yet you still don't listen or think about residents in your decisions. I bet if all of us residents owned an outfitter or guide service you'd listen!

The other issue with continually increasing licenses is the increased pressure on birds which decreases quality of hunts for both residents and non-residents. Oh, but you don't care of about hunters having quality hunts anyways, it's all about the money.

Not only does this put pressure on birds but how about land owners? Do you think they want more people showing up to their front door or calling them. They also get sick of people always asking, but yet, let's make that a bigger issue to.

You know what I hear from NR? Is that they like the system, They always get drawn 2 out of 3 years anyways. They understand the system and are ok with how it works.

Maybe we should pull up the public comments and compare the oppose vs support. We all know which way it leans but yet you don't follow the needs/wants of residents. Isn't that who you are suppose to represent?

Anyways, Thanks for all you do for the State and the Residents.

**Matt Paulson**

**Garden City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Dain Schwan**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Mathew Paulson**

**Garden City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Brad Vail**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Non-resident waterfowl should remain limited. Access is getting more difficult for residents. Non-resident hordes attack mallard feeds making it nearly impossible for residents to get access to dry land hunts. I oppose any lessening of restrictions for non-residents for waterfowl or pheasants.

---

**John Bender**

**Leola SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I don't think adding additional non resident permits is the right choice for South Dakota. It will lead to more commercialization of hunting and less opportunity for residents. Father of three young aspiring hunters that wants them to continue to have access moving forward.

**Tim Olson**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I urge you to not increase the number of licenses available to non-resident waterfowl hunters. As with similar proposals in past years, the public comments you have already received overwhelmingly oppose the increase. It's time for the commission to listen to the resident and even non-resident hunters that have shared their experiences with the declining quality of waterfowl hunting in eastern SD due to increased competition and less access in the field resulting from more non-residents, more leasing of access, and more commercial hunting.

---

**Dan Svobodny**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

With serious concern that the GFP Commission will continue to not listen to the resident waterfowl hunters in this state and pander to commercial interests, this is my formal objection to the rise in non-resident waterfowl licenses. Why do I object? I moved to this state in 2005 from Minnesota, a state that has had little respect for waterfowl and wetlands. When the opportunity, due to work arose and my family had an opportunity to move to Brookings, I jumped at the chance. Having the opportunity and privilege to hunt waterfowl in this state was a huge draw. Yet, between 2005 and now, here is what has happened:

-We've drained a ton of temporary wetlands, ensuring that they will never appear again.

-We've dealt with drought.

-Land access has become incredibly hard.

-Commercial waterfowl hunting has expanded, unabated.

-Non-resident waterfowl numbers continue to increase, due to pressure and negotiations from commercial interests.

All these points have taken away opportunities on resident waterfowl hunters and it is not as good as it used to be, like back in 2005 when I moved here.

And now we want to add more non-residents? Where does this end? What is the actual goal of the GFP Commission? To add 5% every single year until we are completely overrun with non-residents?

It's time to put an end of this and listen to the resident waterfowlers of this state and stop the increases.

---

**Collin Heupel**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Collin Heupel**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jeremy Hoven**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Caleb Caton**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Josh Florey**

**Clark SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Dan Waldman**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please vote no on the proposal to increase the NR waterfowl licenses. This will only increase the pressure residents face on our public lands and further promote the commercialization of waterfowl hunting by more guides and more land being leased up. This state has done enough to cater to the non resident hunters and outfitters. Its high time to do something that is in the best interest of the resident hunters. Please surprise us and listen to what the majority of the people that send in comments have say and vote this proposal down. I fear this proposal just like many other things that have been heavily opposed by the majority of SD sportsmen will again fall upon deaf ears. This proposal is just another money grab and average resident hunters will suffer in the end.

**John Fuglsang**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

5% last year, 5% this year, when will it end? Appears the intent is to keep raising the number until no one is declined a license. I guess instead of arriving 2 hours before sunrise in hopes I'll get a decent hunting spot (public land) I can start sleeping in my truck in the parking lot. Please listen to the public comments you receive on this.

---

**Jim Lessard**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Clint Hay**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Oppose the increase for non resident waterfowl licenses. South Dakota freelance hunting is getting worse and worse every year due to the increase in pressure and lack of access for field hunting. Landowners don't let anyone hunt anymore. I've given up waterfowl hunting...and used to hunt 60-70 days a year.

---

**Mark Pistulka**

**Nowthen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**C Paul Vinatieri**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The residence of South Dakota have very few areas in which they can waterfowl hunt. Our first priority should be to the resident hunters of South Dakota and not the outer stators.

**Andrew Seymour**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Crowding has increased at my public land waterfowl hunting area

---

**Chad Atwood**

**Crooks SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Doug Brage**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Residents have a hard time finding a place to hunt the way it is

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**Nathan Holida**

**Hayti SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Curt Tesch**

**Rosholt SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I moved to South Dakota a little over 30 years ago. One of my primary reasons for moving was to be a resident hunter especially waterfowl. I live in the northeast. This was great for the first several years. Then came the transfer of the 3 day Missouri River nonresident licenses to the northeast. Made a huge quality hunting reduction due to the increased pressure. Waterfowl respond to increased pressure by just plain leaving. Then there is also the issue of only so many quality places to hunt being taken and over used by nonresidents. Please don't increase these licenses anymore.

**Leonard Spomer**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the increase of nonresident waterfowl licenses for the following reasons.  
It is imperative that the Commission act first to maintain or increase the number of resident waterfowl hunters, not nonresident.  
Access and uncrowded access to public and private land is key to maintaining resident hunters.  
Furthermore, we must maintain the quality of the resource and the hunt.  
Adding additional nonresident licenses does none of the above.  
Please oppose the increase.  
Sincerely

---

**Brian Grovijahn**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please no more non resident licenses for NE South Dakota.

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**Sarah Ries**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The Northeast portion of the state is already overcrowded

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**Travis Runia**

**Wolsey SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose any increase to non-resident waterfowl licenses. I commonly host non-resident waterfowl hunters and they appreciate the quality of hunting under the current structure.



**Mark Smedsrud**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a lifelong resident that enjoys duck hunting I am opposed to the 5% addition to NR tags. Every year we have what I call mission creep with these small additional amounts. As they seems benign, over time it adds up! We have a heritage here that is more important than the commercialized hunting the GFP keeps pushing for. We have tourismized pheasant hunting, let's not do the same with duck hunting. There is a reason by grandparents lobbied in the 40s and 50s to keep the residents first. Please don't succumb to the pressure of tourism and outfitters.

---

**Kurt Dagel**

**Astoria SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Quality hunting experiences will diminish in NE South Dakota by increasing the density of "intensive hunting" which is more non-resident license holders. With a license, a destination and ample technical resources, but limited time additional nonresident waterfowl hunters pressure resources that are limited. Anyone familiar with hunting understands a pressured resource will vacate habitat and move. Quality hunting cannot continue by incremental increases in hunting intensity brought about by nonresident hunters.

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## Other

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**Steve Cherkas**

**Edgemont SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I listened into the bobcat management action plan 3/7. The plan is primarily based on juvenile harvest. IMO this is not accurate data to base the plan on. I (common among cat trappers) release all juvenile (if foot not frozen) bobcats along with any stained (from feeding kittens) adult females. This thereby makes your statistics flawed. The primary factor on cat numbers is rabbit population. I saw nothing in plan relating to rabbit population. We recently (last 10 years) went thru a major wipeout of rabbits (hemorrhagic I believe) but they are now on the comeback the last 2-3 years. And cat numbers are also coming back with them. Lots of kitten sign last 2 seasons. I also do not believe your black hills bobcat population estimates (have been told by biologist twice as many lions as bobcats in black hills). I have caught 20+ black hills bobcats each of last 2 seasons myself which would be over 15% (per season) myself in just a small portion of the hills. Females and kittens also have a small territory (1-2 sq miles) compared to the males. When I see kitten tracks in snow I try to avoid those areas. I am strongly opposed to a per trapper limit in black hills and west river. BTW ... where is the 2022 furbearer harvest? Usually online by Sept and still not on website.

---

**John Wrede**

**See Attachment #12295**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Cameron Lahndorf**

**Fort Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I strongly support the lining up of the grouse and pheasant season for closing on Jan 31.

The chance of actually taking a few more grouse at the end of the season is slim, but would be nice to have the opportunity if it does present itself in the rare opportunity.

---

**Travis Neebling**

**Casper WY**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am a non-resident, but I hunt in South Dakota every couple of years. I do not support extending the quail, partridge, and grouse seasons through the end of January. The extension amounts to an ~25% increase in days. On the limited public areas to hunt, I am not sure the populations can sustain 25% more harvest. Thank you for your consideration

---

**Jodie Provost**

**Valley City ND**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Topic – lengthening the grouse season – I oppose it due to lack of monitoring data to show it is feasible without negatively, impacting the population in the long run. The desire to boost hunting and tourism in the state cannot come at the cost of the very wildlife populations that help support it, or they will both tank in the long run. Let's not be shortsighted. Let's be good stewards and get the data we need to make solid management decisions. In the larger picture, prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse are in decline due to habitat loss and other factors. South Dakota lies in the heart of their range and thus has an extraordinary stewardship responsibility and opportunity to maintain and increase their populations.

**Josh Tatman**

**Sheridan WY**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose lengthening the grouse season through January. Hunters can't trust SDGFP's management of the public wildlife trust if they greenlight significant increases in harvest, without even having meaningful population monitoring. Increasing take and pressure through the depths of winter should only take place if SD can demonstrate that it will not adversely impact native grouse populations. These species deserve competent management.

---

**George Vandel**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I'm in full support of linking the grouse and partridge ending date w/ the pheasant dates.

In central SD both sharp-tailed grouse and prairie chickens are abundant and frequently encountered by late season pheasant hunters - myself included. It's an annual challenge to remember the grouse closing date so as to not "shoot a game bird during a closed season" which I believe requires loss of hunting privileges. I am fortunate having access to some prime hunting land during Dec and Jan. Since the pheasant season was finally and correctly extended to the end of January, I have had ample opportunities to harvest both grouse and chickens. There is no biological justification to restrict their harvest. Please allow hunters to harvest these amazing prairie trophies during the full January season.

Thank you for your consideration.

George Vandel  
Pierre, SD

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission:

I wish to express my strong opposition and objection to the month long extension of the quail, partridge and grouse season as proposed during your March 2024 meeting. Frankly, I continue to oppose the length of all current small game seasons only because the Department of Game, Fish and Parks has failed to show their value, economically or otherwise, to the resources themselves. Is it appropriate to ask who is asking for this change and why? I would point out that you recently curtailed the length and content of several big game seasons for blatantly obvious reasons that are not dissimilar to the instant circumstances! I would suggest that if there is an interest in consistency, then it should be broadly interpreted and succinctly applied.

What biological or socio-economic data and information is available and honestly used to justify this continuing exploitation of populations in apparent decline. The language in the current proposal suggests the only reason to "extend" these seasons is to better align them with the extended pheasant season. How does that purely administrative rationale afford benefit to either the resources this state is challenged to manage for the benefit of it's people or the general public that owns these resources? What possible resource value is added to grouse, or partridge or quail? Is there some sort of socio-economic study and data available to show that extending any season for even a few days is meritorious or beneficial to the resource; the economy, or the average South Dakota outdoorsman who's leisure is fickle at best? We can assume we can not be honestly informed! I submit, ladies and gentlemen; that if there were any scientific, statistical or stewardship merit in these types of proposals, we wouldn't do what we've done, and are doing, with sage grouse, paddlefish, pine martens, otters or any other species with a closed or highly restricted season. Is there any "consistency" between the instant proposals and those that might actually consider knowledge of resource status and trend? What this, and other measures appear to be is nothing more than administrative shuffling without any honest or beneficial purpose to either the resources or the people they belong to. I simply object to anything done with public assets that can't clearly demonstrate traditional conservation minded value!

Given the contemporary trend to consider economics over the conservation and welfare of this state's wildlife, I and many other hunter conservationists in our state are prone to think that these sorts of poorly justified proposals are aimed at further invigorating non-resident hunting tourism and the dollars it allegedly thrusts into a sluggish period in the state's economy. What it also appears to be is yet one more tactic to exploit the public trust ward for fun and profit. Is that strategy in any way beneficial to grouse, pheasants, partridge, quail, or the bulk of our citizenry that enjoys the wildlife without packing a shotgun into the field. Where do you draw the line between statutory responsibility to carefully manage the public trust and unrestrained recreation that can and does negatively impact public resources? What benefit is there to future generations of outdoorsmen and nature loving

citizens from these recommendations? I don't mean to infer an anti-hunting posture by these observations because that is not my intent. I dare say, I've been hunting in South Dakota and other states for longer than most of you and over those 60 plus years I've come to understand that part of respect for wildlife and conservation is being able to say; "enough is enough." My grand dad, from whom I acquired my outdoor values and ethics, served two terms on the Commission and I can honestly say that if he could witness the apparent careless and ill informed management of both our wildlife and the hunting heritage today, he would be appalled as well as deeply hurt as I am.

I must also ask just how this Commission or the Department of Game, Fish and Parks can propose to increase the harvest mortality on any species if it has no idea of population densities, trends, distribution, reproduction, recruitment or annual survival? I submit, ladies and gentlemen, that if there is no annual biological and demographical data collected, carefully analyzed and published for public review, for the species allegedly proposed to be managed (or in these cases, exploited) it can not be said that management or stewardship of those species is rational or even possible. We are failing to observe two of the most important principles in conservation. Compensatory and Additive mortality. Hunting mortality is historically and biologically acknowledged to be compensatory to the functions of natural mortality. Any mortality that does not perform that function is additive and unbeneficial. And the only way to distinguish the effects of either on any population is careful, extensive, repetitive and annual monitoring of that species. I submit, ladies and gentlemen, that we have none of that and as a result, numerous hunters and the general public have lost nearly all trust and confidence in the Department to say nothing about the obvious status and condition of our resources. Anecdotally, the Department has admitted long term, continuing decline in several populations yet it continues this exploitive policy promotion without a showing of concern or remedy.

Allow me to elaborate: In a recent legislative hearing, the Secretary of the Department was asked, point blank, if there was any verifiable data to confirm benefits to pheasant nesting success, chick survival and recruitment from the Nest Predator Bounty Program. He stated there was none to justify the program. He further inferred that the program could not contribute to a positive population trajectory. He further stated that it was not possible to collect relevant information or data to determine the programs effects. Not only is he wrong but his responses raise the more serious question; "Why are you spending millions conducting a program if you don't have in place, a comprehensive series of metrics to measure success or failure and cost to benefit. Isn't that what good businessmen do to assure the future of their business and protect it's assets? Why is he wrong? This state no longer measures pheasant populations. It has never measured partridge populations! It has been decades since any investigation or measurement of quail populations or even ruffed grouse populations in the Black Hills. The Department relies on a single individual to monitor a highly threatened population of Sage Grouse in two counties (one population of birds in a third county has blinked out years ago) and the severely compromised and

inadequate monitoring of Sharptail Grouse and Prairie Chickens yields virtually meaningless information due entirely to statistically inviable numbers and size of the sample frame. And within all that the Commission proposes to add season length and defacto population mortality that it cannot possibly determine to be beneficial, compensatory harvest. Is that responsible? This season proposal includes ruffed grouse in the Black Hills! I can not and will not support this proposal given the severely depleted population of ruffies, and it's austere demographics and geographics. We already have too much traffic, disturbance, stress and habitat alteration in the Black Hills without adding more. Frankly, I would favor a complete closure of the ruffed grouse, grouse and prairie chicken, partridge and quail seasons in this state until we actually know what we have, where it's located, and a responsible estimate of it's numbers, statistical viability, status and annual trend as well as a reasonably accurate estimate of the actual number of recreational man days each produces. If any such data is available to you, I submit that it is neither robust nor comprehensively informative. This business of simply having hunting seasons on species we think are present somewhere isn't responsible in my estimation.

I'm not insensitive to the argument that so few people engage in the pursuit of these species during late seasons that no harm is done. That unverifiable excuse does nothing except allow us to continue down this road of stewardship unaccountability! Not only do we not have any collateral authority to advance that notion but we also insult the professional and historic management experience once dependent on science to prove those assertions. We can assume that our neighboring states have similar duties and responsibilities to their indigenous resources. Do any of them sponsor these seemingly random measures? North Dakota, refuses to extend it's pheasant season past the first weekend in January while maintaining the same monitoring protocols they have conducted for more than 40 years. An enormous data base to inform. Neither do they extend their grouse or partridge seasons even though they have robust monitoring protocols. Even Iowa and Minnesota are towing the season length tolerance limit. Is there a reason I shouldn't think we are just trying to compete with our sister states for the non-resident hunting license dollar? Considering the circumstances in Nebraska, it would appear those thoughts aren't that distantly skewed.

So here we are; suggesting, without evidence that there can't possibly be harm to the resource by fielding an estimated, paltry 1% of total hunters during a late season. It becomes all the justification needed to answer the clamor from business to keep the cash registers ringing. And then the 1% late season hunter can join the administrative juggernaut to enjoy his new- found liberty. The tail wags the dog in my opinion. What are the average number of days the South Dakota commoner hunts small game? What sociological research or canvass is there to show that he actually wants or needs more opportunity to satisfy him? In our history, have those interests ever been a concern? In terms of our most popular game bird, the resident hunts 6.7 days during a 90+ day season and his satisfaction with that season, including it's length, averages 4.7 which hasn't

changed significantly in 10 years to include last year with the season extension. The data for grouse and partridge are not statistically different and there is no data at all to even support a quail or ruffed grouse season. I'm sad to point out, ladies and gentlemen, that we are "reaping without husbanding" and moving to satisfy a want rather than a need.

The absurd logic used previously can be applied in reverse. If there were truly only 1% of the normal hunter numbers and pressure during the late season, the economic impact to business is paltry; to say nothing of locational and economically inconsequential. Its all hollow conjecture. But nobody seems to be willing or able to produce the numbers to support those disingenuous contentions. Not only is there no biological information to show "no significant impact" to resources but there is no "socio-economic data" to show this strategy that we've been tinkering around with works either, much less that it is even relevant resource management necessity. It's the same thing as the Nest Predator Bounty program or any other recent program that is justified solely on speculation and theory. Meanwhile, a supposedly benefitting resource struggles in most places. The resource, regardless of status, is expected to shoulder the burden of cost; in an undefined cost to benefit. I can't fathom how that can be held up to be responsible management.

Lastly, what consideration has been given to the average farmer or rancher that is seemingly expected to host this additional traffic? In the near 60 years of wondering and hunting rural South Dakota, I've heard my share of complaints from property owners about the states expectation that they field all this activity and traffic without being consulted. I've been rather rudely dismissed at the door for being one too many people encroaching on the ranchers good will I can't blame any of them for failing to understand why it is essential to prolong hunting activity to achieve a fictional goal of "harvestable surplus." A lot of them see what happens to public lands and simply refuse any more access out of concern for the residual wildlife that is left. Indeed, without any sort of honest attempt to secure majority of acceptance from ranchers particularly, for added grouse hunting activity, the hunter and the Department invites more disdain and criticism and I don't fault them for that sentiment in the least. The Department fails to understand its vicarious invitation wears out it's welcome. Frankly, I know an abundance of ranchers that have had a belly full of hunting traffic by the end of the deer season. Is this commission sensitive to that? What happens when these folks say no to more access? The pressure falls on already abused and over run public lands and WIA's. These seemingly innocuous proposals have far reaching and long lasting consequences.

Last season, I hunted more days and in more areas of SD than I ever have in my lifetime and more than the average hunter, resident or non-resident. I hunted public lands and WIA's and the areas had sustained so much pressure that even the dog couldn't find much less flush a bird of any species. It was the only reason I kept going was in hopes of finding something that the dog could learn and enjoy as she was bred to do. And we're going to extend hunting seasons and exacerbate that condition? Of course there is always those

commercial operators that welcome this sort of thing but I submit that a government agency doesn't just serve the special interest. I would challenge the Commission and the Department to conduct a large scale canvass of rural landowners in this state to see if they support long, poorly monitored and managed hunting seasons. From there, we'll have a pretty good idea if what we're doing is the "right thing"; particularly since we're refusing to use the biological high ground in management.

Thank you for your consideration!

John Wrede  
Rapid City.



## South Dakota Division



# The Izaak Walton League of America

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters, and Wildlife

March 19, 2024

Re: Nonresident Waterfowl License Proposal

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission  
523 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America (Division) thanks you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed increase in nonresident waterfowl licenses. The proposal would add 315 licenses:

- 210 10-day statewide licenses to NRW-00B
- 50 3-day licenses to NRW-00V
- 55 3-day licenses to NRW-00Z

The proposal was again introduced without any input from the state's waterfowl or outdoor organizations, or from South Dakota's waterfowl hunters.

The South Dakota Division respectfully asks you to reject this proposal. Instead, we ask you to initiate a new effort to turn the decline of resident waterfowl hunters around.

We believe these factors have contributed to the drop in resident waterfowl hunters:

- An aging population is getting too old to participate
- The perception there's no place to hunt
- The knowledge of what is needed to successfully hunt waterfowl
- A lack of the equipment and gear needed

Rather than adopting this increase in nonresident licenses, the Division urges you to support a new, innovative, statewide effort under the R3 Initiative (Recruit, Retain, and Reactivate) that we believe will get more residents, especially our young people, to hunt waterfowl.

We urge the GFP to work with the state's waterfowl and sportsmen's organizations to establish, and then widely promote, free waterfowl hunting classes. The classes could be held at the Outdoor Campuses and the GFP regional offices and include, but not be limited to:

- Waterfowl identification
- Waterfowl hunting methods
  - Over water
    - On small wetlands
    - On larger lakes
  - Field hunting tactics
- Decoy setups – water and field
- How to scout
- How to secure permission to hunt waterfowl on private land

- Equipment and clothing needed
- Cleaning waterfowl
- Cooking waterfowl

The Division believes the decline in resident waterfowl hunters can be reversed through new education and outreach. We believe this new recruitment, outreach, and educational effort will get people of all ages back hunting waterfowl in the state's fields and wetlands.

Getting more resident hunters to enjoy waterfowl hunting will ring cash registers across the state 365 days a year. Adding more nonresident hunters to the already heavily pressured areas in the state will only further decrease hunter success and customer satisfaction. We believe increasing resident hunters will disperse waterfowl hunting pressure across the state. This will help lessen pressure on waterfowl and improve the quality of the hunting experience for all hunters across South Dakota.

The Division believes approving this proposed increase in nonresident waterfowl licenses will only reinforce the perception that many residents have that there's no place for the average person to hunt waterfowl. If this license increase is approved, we believe more resident hunters will stay on their couch.

The proposed additional licenses are within the 5% annual increases allowed in statute. But just because they are allowed doesn't mean they should be approved. There is an exponential function of all "percentage" increases. As with compounding interest, a percentage increase adds more licenses every year. The increases, if approved, will further exacerbate the already tense situation between waterfowl hunters in South Dakota.

We ask you to please reject this license increase. Let's work together to reinvigorate South Dakotans' passion for waterfowl and waterfowl hunting.

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America thanks you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. We appreciate your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Lepisto  
Regional Conservation Coordinator  
Izaak Walton League of America  
1115 South Cleveland Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-4456  
[plepisto@iwla.org](mailto:plepisto@iwla.org)  
605-220-1219

Commissioners,

The continued increase of non-res. waterfowl hunting pressure is synonymous with less access for residents. This is a sad fact. The most painful aspect of this trend is that my representatives continue choosing the few over the many. I am not a landowner, I'm not a business owner, but I am a patron of these very businesses and a tax paying SD resident supporting landowners by paying taxes 365 days of the year. If you don't have my back, then no one does. I oppose increasing nonresident waterfowl licenses, again!

Nik Lipp

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

This meeting will be held in person, via zoom/conference call, and Livestream. Listen to the meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. CST via Livestream at <https://www.sd.net/remote1/> or join via zoom by clicking on the link below. Depending on your application, you may be required to enter the meeting ID and password. Remember to **enter your display name and mute your microphone**. To help keep background noise and distractions to a minimum, make sure you **mute your microphone and turn off your video** when you are not speaking.

**Thursday, April 4, 2024 starting at 1 pm CST and Friday, April 5, 2024 starting at 8 am CST,**

Zoom Meeting Link <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/92827772568?pwd=cHByUFIQNi8rRXJ0dGIEazNRbjBqZz09>

or join via conference call      Dial 1 253 205 0468      Meeting ID: 928 2777 2568      Passcode: 421262

**Public Input:** To provide comments, join the meeting in person, via zoom, or via conference call per the info above. To conduct the public hearing and/or open forum as efficiently as possible, we ask those wishing to testify to **register by 1:00 pm CST the day of the meeting by email to [Liz.Kierl@state.sd.us](mailto:Liz.Kierl@state.sd.us)**. Testifiers should provide **their full names, whom they represent, their city of residence, and which proposed topic they will address**.

**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 25th day of March 2024.

*Stephanie Rissler*

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Stephanie Rissler, GFP Commission Chair

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS**

On April 4, 2024, at 9:00AM (CDT), a quorum of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission will be present at the Matthews Training Center located in the Joe Foss Building, 523 E Capitol Ave, Pierre, SD 57501, to participate in a Governance Meeting.

A Public Hearing will be held at the Matthews Training Center, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501 on April 4, 2024, starting at 2:00PM (CDT), to consider adoption, amendment and repeal of Rules pertaining to:

1. ARSD 41:03:01:01.04 - Prohibited use of walk-in areas.

Effect: The proposed change would modify where an individual could hunt by including all private lands leased for public hunting access.

Reason: The current rule only specifies use requirements on walk-in areas. The proposed change would expand this to all private lands leased by GFP for public hunting access.

2. ARSD 41:03:01:19 – Limitation on tree stands, elevated platforms, and portable blinds.

Effect: The proposed change would modify both where an individual could hunt by including all private lands leased for public hunting access, and methods used for identification on tree stands, platforms, and portable blinds.

Reason: The proposed change would allow the user options for identifying equipment.

3. ARSD 41:03:01:35 - Bait stations prohibited.

Effect: The proposed change would alter where an individual could place bait stations.

Reason: The proposed change would expand this to all private lands leased for public hunting access.

4. ARSD 41:03:01:36 - Limitation on trail cameras.

Effect: The proposed change would modify an individual's name and address, contact information to be legibly labeled on equipment.

Reason: The proposed change would allow the user options for identifying equipment and clarify that individuals need to obtain permission to use trail cameras on private land leased for hunting access by GFP.

5. ARSD 41:03:01:01.01 - Time Restrictions for Use of State Park System and Public Lands.

Effect: Modify the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area and the West Shore Lake

Access Area, and other areas north of Fort Pierre, observing the Central Time zone.

Reason: The proposed change would provide law enforcement officers the need to abide by the jurisdictional lines that are established which includes the established time zones.

6. ARSD 41:06:16:07 - Goose hunting season, Conservation Order, and August Management Take established -- Shooting hours -- Exceptions -- Open units -- Closed areas.

Effect: Adjust counties for the August Management Take Hunting season unit.

Reason: The August Management Take is not currently necessary as a management tool and provides minimal hunting opportunity in counties with low Canada goose populations in August.

7. ARSD 41:06:16:11 - Maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses -- Open units -- Dates -- License restrictions.

Effect: Revise nonresident waterfowl licenses.

Reason: The proposed change would provide more opportunity in areas where it is difficult to draw licenses while still limiting licenses in the highest hunter density areas.

8. ARSD 41:06:26:01 - Black Hills elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses -- Season dates.

Effect: Adjust the number of “any elk” and “antlerless elk” licenses.

Reason: This proposed change considers the maximum number of “any elk” and “antlerless elk” licenses.

9. ARSD 41:06:27:01 - Custer State Park elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses -- Season dates.

Effect: Adjust the number of “any elk” licenses and “antlerless elk” licenses.

Reason: The proposed change would allow the GFP Commission to utilize the appropriate number of elk licenses for management purposes.

10. ARSD 41:06:28:01 - Custer State Park early archery elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses -- Season dates.

Effect: Modify the maximum number of “any elk” licenses and provide the option for “antlerless elk” licenses.

Reason: The proposed change would allow the GFP Commission to utilize the appropriate number of elk licenses for management purposes.

11. ARSD 41:06:43:01 - Archery elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available -- Season dates.

Effect: Modify the maximum number of “any elk” licenses and “antlerless elk” licenses.

Reason: The proposed change would allow the GFP Commission to utilize the appropriate number of elk licenses for management purposes.

12. ARSD 41:06:43:02 - Open units.

Effect: Revamp unit boundary descriptions for Black Hills Archery Elk with Black Hills Firearm Elk.

Reason: Modify the hunting units.

13. ARSD 41:06:47:01 - Special Custer State Park antlerless elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available -- Season dates.

Effect: Adjust the number of “antlerless elk” licenses.

Reason: The proposed change allows the consideration of antlerless elk licenses for the Custer State Park Special Antlerless Elk Hunting Season.

14. ARSD 41:06:56:02 - Open units.

Effect: Modify unit boundary descriptions for bighorn sheep hunting season.

Reason: The proposed change would align unit boundaries with available hunting opportunity.

15. ARSD 41:06:56:03 - Number and type of licenses.

Effect: Modify rule to specify number of ram bighorn sheep licenses.

Reason: The proposed change would adjust the maximum number of bighorn licenses.

16. ARSD 41:06:59:01 - Prairie elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available -- Season dates.

Effect: Modify the number of “any elk” licenses and “antlerless elk” licenses.

Reason: The proposed change would provide the maximum number of licenses available for management purposes.

17. ARSD 41:06:59:02 – Open units.

Effect: Adjust unit boundary descriptions for prairie elk hunting season.

Reason: Modify the hunting units.

Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) at the hearing. Persons unable to attend the hearing may mail amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views to the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, or by going to the GFP website at <http://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions>. All persons who desire to

submit written amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views by mail or email are encouraged to mail or transmit the same in sufficient time so that it is received by and in the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks 72 hours prior to the date of the hearing. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) to the Commission for their consideration. All written and email comments must include the name, hometown/city, and state of the person submitting the comments.

The above rule proposals are available for review on the internet by going to <https://rules.sd.gov/> and copies of the proposed rules may be requested from the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. Notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that this hearing is being held in a physically accessible place. Any individuals with disabilities who will require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the hearing should submit a request to the undersigned at 605.773.3718 or 605.223.7684 (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf).

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

(SEAL)

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Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

This Notice of Public Hearing is published at the approximate cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_.



DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS  
PUBLIC NOTICE

This NOTICE is provided pursuant to SDCL 41-4-1.1. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is proposing acquisition, by donation from Bon Homme County, of approximately a quarter acre of property in Bon Homme County, South Dakota described as:

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company Right of Way across the Southwest quarter (SW1/4) of Section Fifteen (15), Township Ninety-five (95) North, of Range Fifty-nine (59), west of the fifth P.M., Bon Homme County, South Dakota.

The property is located approximately 3 miles north and 3 miles east of Tyndall, South Dakota.

The GFP Commission will be conducting a commission meeting in Custer State Park on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, commencing at 1:00 PM MT on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and continuing to adjournment at the Custer State Park Game Lodge Event Barn, 13389 US Hwy 16A, Custer, SD 57730.

Sometime during the Commission meeting, the Commission is expected to act on the proposed property donation. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity during the open forum beginning at 2:00 PM MT on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to provide oral comment in person or virtually prior to action by the Commission on the intended donation to the department. Any person unable to participate in the meeting may mail or email their comments to: Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, Department of Game, Fish and Parks, 4500 South Oxbow Ave, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106 or [Ryan.Wendinger@state.sd.us](mailto:Ryan.Wendinger@state.sd.us) with comments to be received prior to 12:00 AM MT on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

Date this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

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Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS  
PUBLIC NOTICE

This NOTICE is provided pursuant to SDCL 41-4-1.1. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is proposing acquisition, by donation, of approximately 4.84 acres of property in Day County, South Dakota described as:

The North 430' of the East 490' of the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 124 North, Range 56 West of the 5th P.M., Day County, South Dakota. Said land consists of 4.84 acres, more or less.

The property is located approximately 1 mile north of Roslyn, South Dakota.

The GFP Commission will be conducting a commission meeting in Custer State Park on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, commencing at 1:00 PM MT on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and continuing to adjournment at the Custer State Park Game Lodge Event Barn, 13389 US Hwy 16A, Custer, SD 57730.

Sometime during the Commission meeting, the Commission is expected to act on the proposed property donation. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity during the open forum beginning at 2:00 PM MT on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to provide oral comment in person or virtually prior to action by the Commission on the intended donation to the department. Any person unable to participate in the meeting may mail or email their comments to: Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, Department of Game, Fish and Parks, 4500 South Oxbow Ave, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106 or [Ryan.Wendinger@state.sd.us](mailto:Ryan.Wendinger@state.sd.us) with comments to be received prior to 12:00 AM MT on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

Date this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

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Kevin Robling, Department Secretary