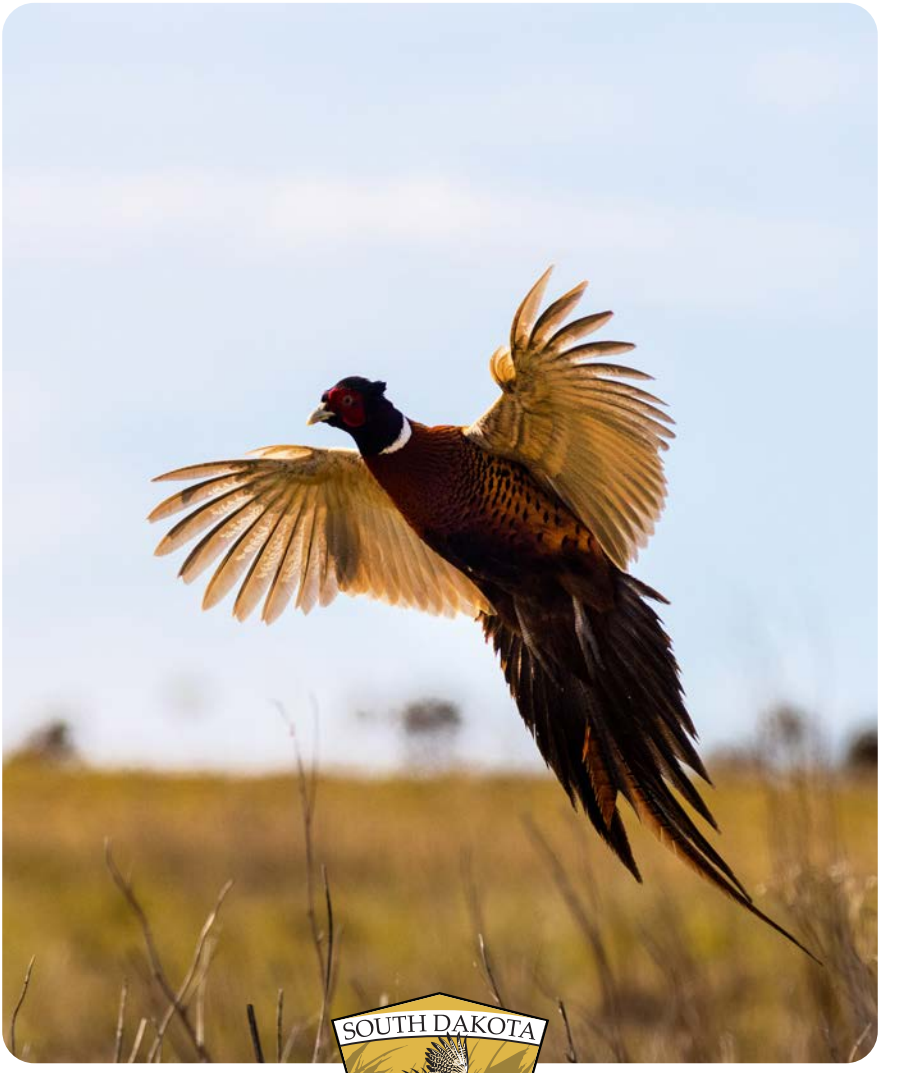
SOUTH DAKOTA

HUNTING AND TRAPPING

HANDBOOK 2026



SOUTH DAKOTA
Game, Fish & Parks

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IMPORTANT **CHANGES**

NEW LICENSE RETURN POLICY

» GFP accepts license returns for all big game and limited-draw seasons prior to the established deadlines. There is now a fee ($10 for residents, $30 for nonresidents) assessed if a customer returns their license. For more information, see page 13.

DEER

» Due to low deer numbers, Apprentice, Mentored, and Youth Deer Hunting seasons are closed in nine southeastern South Dakota counties including Bon Homme, Clay, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Turner, Union, and Yankton counties.

» Archery and Muzzleloader deer season license types for "any deer" were changed to "any buck deer" licenses types. However, in some units with higher deer numbers, "antlerless whitetail deer" Archery and Muzzleloader licenses will be available in addition to the "any buck deer" licenses.

ELK

» Prairie Elk Hunting season dates were aligned among units to run from September 1 through December 31, and Landowner-Own-Land Resident Only Antlerless Elk licenses are available in any Prairie Season unit.

» An East River Elk hunting unit was created with over-the-counter licenses available.

MOUNTAIN LION

» Opportunities for hunting mountain lions with dogs within the Black Hills Fire Protection District were increased to allow hunting with a limited access permit across a larger area of the southern Black Hills and interval lengths were increased from two to three weeks.

FURBEARER

» The harvest limit for river otters was increased from twenty to thirty.

WATERFOWL

» The daily limit during the August Management Take and Early Fall Canada Goose season was changed from fifteen to eight.

» Brown, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, and Spink counties were removed from the August Management Take open unit.

» Nonresidents who successfully draw a nonresident waterfowl license are required to purchase a State Migratory Bird Certificate before they start hunting this fall. State Migratory Bird Certificates can be purchased online at ***GoOutdoorsSouthDakota.com.***

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CONTACT **INFORMATION**

GENERAL INFORMATION: 605.223.7660
TTY: 605.223.7684 | email: wildinfo@state.sd.us

Aberdeen: 605.626.2391, 5850 E. Hwy 12

Chamberlain: 605.734.4530, 1550 E. King Ave.

Ft. Pierre: 605.223.7700, 20641 SD Hwy 1806

Huron: 605.353.7145, 895 3rd Street SW

Mobridge: 605.789.4699, 909 Lake Front Drive

Pierre: 605.773.3387, 523 E. Capitol Ave.

Rapid City: 605.394.2391, 4130 Adventure Trail

Sioux Falls: 605.362.2700, 4500 S. Oxbow Ave.

Watertown: 605.882.5200, 400 West Kemp

Webster: 605.626.3343, 603 E. 8th Ave.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STAFF AROUND THE STATE.

SOUTH DAKOTA
Game, Fish & Parks

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the new process for returning my license?
Individuals wishing to return their license may do so by deadlines set for the respective season.

» For Lake Francis Case Paddlefish, Archery Paddlefish, and Spring Turkey seasons, the deadline is April 1.
» For all elk, bighorn sheep, deer, Gavins Point paddlefish snagging, antelope, and nonresident waterfowl seasons, the deadline is August 1.

New for 2026, there is a $10 fee for residents and $30 fee for nonresidents to return their license. Licenses should be mailed to GFP Licensing Office, 20641 SD Hwy 1806, Fort Pierre, SD 57532 with a note stating it is for a return.

What should I know about Mentored, Youth, and Apprentice hunting seasons?
Individuals hunting in the Mentored, Youth, and Apprentice season need to pay special attention to their application this season. Due to low deer numbers, nine counties in southeast South Dakota are closed for these respective seasons including Bon Homme, Clay, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Turner, Union, and Yankton counties.

What is the East River Elk season?
There are several updates to the 2026 elk hunting seasons, including the creation of a new prairie elk hunting unit east of the Missouri River, excluding the interior boundary of Crow Creek Reservation or tribal land. This unit will operate within the existing Prairie Elk Hunting Season framework and will offer resident-only, over-the-counter “any elk” licenses, with season dates running September 1 through December 31.

What is the best resource for hunting regulations?
The #1 resource for information on hunting regulations in South Dakota is this handbook! Google searches and other artificial intelligence options cannot be trusted completely. If you have any questions regarding hunting and trapping regulations, please contact your local GFP office or Conservation Officer.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:
E-BIKE USE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

As e-bikes continue to grow in popularity, it's critical to understand where they can be used for hunting. Know where you can use them, stay legal, protect wildlife, and preserve hunting access for generations to come.

E-BIKE USE ON THE FOLLOWING LANDS ARE PROHIBITED, EXCEPT ON ROADS OR POSTED DESIGNATED TRAILS:

State-Managed Lands:
- » Game Production Areas
- » Water Access Areas
- » State Park & Recreation Areas
- » School and Public Lands

Federal Lands:
- » U.S Fish and Wildlife Service lands
- » Bureau Of Land Management
- » U.S. Forest Service
- » Bureau of Reclamation
- » U.S Army Corps of Engineers

Private Land Enrolled in Public Access Programs:
- » Walk-In Areas
- » Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- » Controlled Hunting Access Program

LOOK FOR SIGNS: "Foot Traffic Only," "Park Cars Here" "No Vehicles Beyond this Point," "Designated Trail"

GENERAL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

SPECIES	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
ALL SPECIES Fishing, hunting, or trapping	**Habitat Stamp plus the required license for the species and activity for those 18 years or older.***	**Habitat Stamp plus the required license for the species and activity for those 18 years or older.***
Fishing	**Habitat Stamp and one of the following:** • Annual Fishing License • 1-Day Fishing License* • Senior Fishing License (65 and over) • Combination License (Adult or Senior) • No license required for youth under age 18	**Habitat Stamp and one of the following:** • Annual Fishing License • 1-Day Fishing License* • 3-Day Fishing License • No license required for youth under age 18
Small Game (Pheasant, Grouse, Partridge, Quail, Cottontail Rabbit, and Tree Squirrel)	**Habitat Stamp and one of the following:** • Small Game License • 1-Day Small Game License* • Combination License (Adult or Senior) • Youth Small Game License (ages 12-17)* • Mentored Small Game License (youth under age 16)*	**Habitat Stamp and one of the following:** • Nonresident Small Game License • Nonresident Youth Small Game License (ages 12-17)* • Mentored Small Game License (youth under age 16)*
Waterfowl and Migratory Birds (Ducks, Geese, Coot, Tundra Swan, Dove, Snipe, and Sandhill Crane). Tundra Swan and Nonresident Waterfowl must be applied for and received through the lottery drawing. **NOTE:** Federal Waterfowl Stamp is not required for August Management Take, Spring Light Goose, Coot, Dove, Snipe, or Sandhill Crane.	• State Migratory Bird Certificate (Valid July 1– June 30) • Federal Waterfowl Stamp (ages 16 and older) **Plus Habitat Stamp and one of the following:** • Small Game License • 1-Day Small Game License* • Combination License (Adult or Senior) • Youth Small Game License* • Mentored Small Game License (youth under age 16)*	• State Migratory Bird Certificate (Valid July 1–June 30) • Federal Waterfowl Stamp (ages 16 and older) **Plus Habitat Stamp and the following:** • Waterfowl: Nonresident Waterfowl License (received through lottery drawing) • Dove and Snipe: Nonresident Small Game License or Nonresident Youth Small Game License (ages 12-17)*, or Mentored Small Game License (youth under age 16)* • Sandhill Crane: Nonresident Small Game License, Nonresident Youth Small Game License (ages 12-17)*, Mentored Small Game License (youth under age 16)*, or any Nonresident Waterfowl License **NOTE:** The State Migratory Bird Certificate alone does not entitle nonresidents to hunt waterfowl.
Coyote, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Skunk, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, and Jackrabbit **NOTE:** A resident Furbearer License is not required to trap predator/varmint from April 1-August 31.	**HUNTING | Habitat Stamp and one of the following:** • Predator/Varmint License • Furbearer License • Any Resident Hunting License • No license required for youth under age 18	**HUNTING | Habitat Stamp and one of the following:** • Nonresident Predator/Varmint License • Any Nonresident Hunting License other than Nonresident Private Shooting Preserve License • No shooting of badger or raccoon is allowed unless they possess a non-resident furbearer license.
	TRAPPING | Habitat Stamp and one of the following: • Furbearer License • No license required for youth under age 18	**TRAPPING | Habitat Stamp and the following:** • Nonresident Furbearer License
Bobcat, Mink, Weasel, Beaver, Muskrat, and River Otter	**HUNTING OR TRAPPING | Habitat Stamp and the following:** • Furbearer License • No license required for youth under age 18	**HUNTING OR TRAPPING | Habitat Stamp and the following:** • Nonresident Furbearer License • River Otter is resident only
Prairie Dog, Gopher, Crow, Ground Squirrel, Porcupine, and Marmot	**Habitat Stamp and one of the following:** • Predator/Varmint License • Furbearer License • Any Resident Hunting License • No license required for youth under age 18	**Habitat Stamp and one of the following:** • Nonresident Predator/Varmint License • Any Nonresident Hunting License other than Nonresident Private Shooting Preserve License • Nonresident Furbearer License
Licensed Private Shooting Preserve	Same licenses required to hunt that species off a preserve	**One of the following:** • Nonresident Shooting Preserve License* • Nonresident Small Game License • Nonresident Youth Small Game License • Nonresident Mentor Small Game License
Big Game (including Wild Turkey) Except for mentored big game licensees, hunters must be 12 years of age for Spring Turkey or 12 years of age by Dec. 31 for other big game seasons	Resident Big Game License and Habitat Stamp	Nonresident Big Game License and Habitat Stamp

** No Habitat Stamp is required for one-day hunting or one-day fishing licenses, Mentored Small Game License, youth hunting license, any private shooting preserve license, landowner hunting license, resident reduced fee disabled license, or to purchase preference points.*

GENERAL LICENSE **REQUIREMENTS**

BORDER WATERS

On border waters with adjacent states, other than Nebraska, individuals with a valid South Dakota hunting or trapping license may only take wild animals on South Dakota's side of the border. However, on the South Dakota-Nebraska border waters a hunter holding a resident South Dakota or a resident Nebraska license may enter and leave the water from either state's shore. Individuals holding a nonresident license must enter and leave the water from the shore of the state in which they are licensed. Deeded islands in the Missouri River require the license of the state in which they are deeded. South Dakota islands include: James River Island, Gunderson Island, and Jones Island. Nebraska islands include: Mayfield Island and Elk/Rush Island.

Sandbars and islands not deeded and not attached to either state and Lake Yankton are open to hunting by licensed hunters from either state.

The Springfield Bottoms are open only to South Dakota licensed hunters and the Bazile Creek Area is open only to Nebraska licensed hunters.

Hunters licensed by either state may hunt anywhere in the flowing Missouri River if water separates the hunter from the mainland of the other state.

BUYING LICENSES

Resident and nonresident licenses can be purchased online at ***gfp.sd.gov***, or with the GFP mobile app. Many over-the-counter resident and nonresident licenses may be purchased at many retail stores in South Dakota and at some County Treasurer offices. When purchasing licenses over-the-counter you must have your state-issued ID with you.

Big game licenses (including turkey licenses) and Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses are issued by lottery and can be completed through the online licensing application system. Application information can be found at ***gfp. sd.gov/view-applications***.

CARRYING/EXHIBITING LICENSES

A licensee shall exhibit the licensee's license or license authorization issued by GFP upon request by a Conservation Officer or other law enforcement officer. A licensee who is 16 years of age or older who holds the license authorization, shall exhibit, and provide for inspection a driver's license, a state-issued identification card, or another form of valid identification for the purpose of verifying the identity of the licensee.

Hunters can use their smartphone to display a copy of their license instead of a paper copy.

DELINQUENT CHILD SUPPORT

South Dakota law prohibits the issuance of any license or permit issued by GFP if an individual owes $1,000 or more in past-due child support, unless the individual enters into a repayment agreement with the Department of Social Services (DSS) for payment of the delinquent child support. For more information, contact the Division of Child Support at 605.773.3641.

SHOOT FROM A VEHICLE PERMIT

A 'Shoot From a Vehicle' Permit allows a qualified hunter to lawfully shoot game animals from a stationary motor vehicle. This includes big game animals such as deer, antelope, elk, and turkey as well as small game animals such as grouse, pheasants, partridge, rabbits, and waterfowl.

The 'Shoot From a Vehicle' Permits are free to qualified hunters, valid for a four-year period, and may be renewed within 60 days of the expiration date. A temporary permit can be issued for no more than 12 months for temporary ambulatory injuries.

NOTE: *The 'Shoot From a Vehicle' Permit is intended for use only in situations where an applicant's physical or medical condition makes it impossible or causes severe pain or physical hardship for the applicant to walk while hunting.*

Qualifying individuals must have at least one of the following physical disabilities or medical conditions:

» Has lost one or both legs or who has temporarily or permanently lost the use of one or both legs;
» Requires a wheelchair for mobility;
» Is physically unable to walk without the assistance of another person, prosthetic aid, brace, crutch, or other device that is intended to support or assist the person while walking;
» Requires use of portable oxygen;
» Is unable to walk a distance of more than 300 feet without assistance or rest due to arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition;
» Has been diagnosed with a neuromuscular disorder (such as muscular dystrophy or multiple sclerosis);
» Has been diagnosed with a Class III cardiac disease resulting in marked limitation of physical activity;
» Has been diagnosed with a Class IV cardiac disease resulting in the inability to carry on any physical activity without discomfort;
» Is restricted by lung disease to such a degree that the person's forced expiratory volume in one second, when measured by a spirometer, is less than one liter; or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest.

In addition:

» Persons who have lost an arm or permanent or temporary use of an arm or use a wheelchair for mobility may be eligible for a crossbow/draw-lock permit.
» Persons classified as legally blind or quadriplegic may be eligible for a Designated Shooter Permit.

Applications may be downloaded at ***gfp.sd.gov/disabled-hunter*** or obtained from any GFP Wildlife Division office.

LOST LICENSES

Lost general hunting and fishing licenses may be replaced by any local licensing agent. Agents may charge a standard agent fee ($4 or $8) for replacing general hunting and fishing licenses. In addition, licenses may be reprinted at home by the licensee at any time.

Big game licensees should contact GFP at 605.223.7660 for information on replacing lost big game licenses. The cost to replace big game licenses is $4 for residents and $8 for nonresidents.

REVOKED LICENSES

If a person is convicted of certain wildlife violations, the person's hunting or trapping privilege shall be automatically revoked for one or more years and that person is prohibited from buying or applying for another license during that time.

Any person whose hunting or trapping privileges are currently revoked or suspended in any other state or country may not purchase a license or exercise the

same privilege in South Dakota during the period of revocation or suspension.

No person who has an unpaid and unsatisfied judgment issued for wildlife civil damages may hunt, fish, or trap or purchase, attempt to purchase, or possess any South Dakota hunting, fishing, or trapping license.

RESTRICTIONS

No one may, at any time apply for, procure, or possess a license or preference point under an assumed name or in which an address other than the person's regular place of residence is given. Persons may not make any false statement whatsoever in securing a license or preference point. Persons may not lend a license or tag to another person or knowingly issue or aid in securing a license or preference point for any person not legally entitled to it.

TRIBAL INFORMATION

State hunting licenses are valid on private, deeded lands within the exterior boundaries of reservations.

State hunting licenses are not valid on tribal trust lands, and tribal licenses are not valid on private, deeded lands within a reservation. Persons planning to hunt on tribal lands should contact the appropriate tribal office. If hunting on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands adjoining the Crow Creek or Standing Rock Reservations, state licensing requirements, seasons, and bag limits apply.

Ownership of the former U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands on the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation and Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation has been transferred to the respective tribes. All tribal and federal laws apply down to the water's edge. Please contact the appropriate tribal office for specific information.

Scan to register for a HuntSAFE class today.

GENERAL LICENSE **REQUIREMENTS**

RETURNED LICENSES

GFP accepts license returns for all big game and limited draw seasons. A fee ($10 for residents, $30 for nonresidents) is assessed if a customer returns their license. They are not eligible for subsequent draws for that respective season. To be eligible for a refund and reinstatement of preference points, returned tags must be postmarked by the following dates:

August 1

» Elk
» Bighorn Sheep
» Deer
» Gavins Point Paddlefish
» Antelope
» Nonresident Waterfowl

April 1

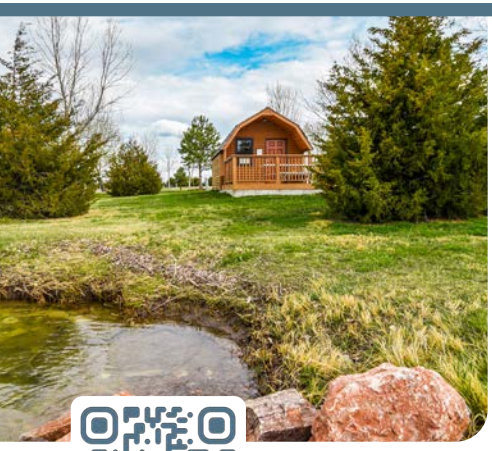
» Lake Francis Case Paddlefish
» Archery Paddlefish
» Spring Turkey

Hunters returning their tags by these deadlines will receive a refund, and preference points for that season will be reinstated. Returned deer licenses will be posted on the GFP licensing website and available via a lottery drawing process. Preference points will not be used during this lottery drawing. For more information about the drawing for returned licenses and eligibility requirements, please visit ***gfp.sd.gov/returned-tags***.

Mail returned licenses with a note specifying it is a return license to:
GFP Licensing Office
20641 SD Hwy 1806
Fort Pierre, SD 57532

YOUTH ACCOMPANIMENT

A parent, guardian, or responsible adult (at least 18 years old) must accompany youth under age 16 while hunting.



THE BEST BASE CAMP

Camping cabins sleep up to five people and are located near prime hunting destinations across the state.

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

gfp.sd.gov/camping-cabins/

RESIDENT LICENSE INFORMATION

RESIDENT LICENSE **INFORMATION**

RESIDENT LICENSES AND FEES

2026 licenses are valid Dec. 15, 2025 through Jan. 31, 2027
2027 licenses are valid Dec. 15, 2026 through Jan. 31, 2028 (license fees subject to change)
State Migratory Bird Certificates are valid from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

Habitat Stamp	$10
Combination (small game and fishing)*	$60
Senior Combination, ages 65+ (small game and fishing)*	$43
Small Game*	$36
One-day Small Game	$15
Youth Small Game, ages 12-17	$5
Mentored Small Game (youth under 16)	$5
State Migratory Bird Certificate	$5
Predator/Varmint	$6
Furbearer	$31
Federal Waterfowl E-Stamp (Online Only)	$29

** Fee includes a $6 surcharge mandated by state law. Revenue derived from this surcharge is dedicated to hunting access, wildlife damage management, and animal damage control programs.*

RESIDENCY

To be eligible for a resident license, a person must meet all the following criteria:

» Have a domicile within this state for at least 90 consecutive days immediately preceding the date of application for purchasing or attempting to purchase any hunting, fishing, or trapping license/permit. A domicile is a person's established, fixed, and permanent home in which the person physically lives, and whenever absent, has the present intention of returning;
» Make no claim of residency in any other state or foreign country for any purpose;
» Claim no resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in any other state or foreign country;
» Transfer the applicant's driver's license and motor vehicle registrations to South Dakota prior to any application.

EXCEPTIONS: The following persons are deemed to be residents of this state if they continue to meet any of the following conditions:

» Any person who previously had a domicile in this state who is absent due to business of the United States or of this state or is serving in the armed forces of the United States or the spouse of an active duty military person;
» Any person who previously had a domicile in this state who is absent due to the person's regular attendance at a post high school institution as a full-time student or in a medical or dental residency program;
» Any person in the active military of the United States, or that person's spouse, who is continuously stationed in this state;
» Any person who is a patient in any war veterans' hospital within this state;
» Any person who is an employee of the veterans' administration or any veterans' hospital in this state;
» Any person residing on restricted military reservations in this state;
» Any person attending regularly a

post-high school institution in this state as a full-time student for 30 days or more immediately preceding the application;

» Any foreign exchange student over 16 years of age attending a public or private high school who has resided in the state for 30 days or more preceding the application;

» Any foreign exchange student between the ages of 12 and 16 who has completed a hunter safety education course and has been issued a certificate of competency upon completion of instruction and who has resided in the state for 30 days or more preceding application for a license;

» Any person who is a minor dependent of a resident of this state;

» For the purpose of acquiring resident small game and fishing licenses, any person who does not reside in South Dakota, but who is a member of the South Dakota National Guard or of any other unit of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States located in South Dakota.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY

To buy a license, a resident age 16 or older needs a valid South Dakota driver's license or a state-issued and expiration-dated South Dakota ID card.

Either can be obtained at a state driver's license office. Hunters under age 16 are required to provide a certificate of completion from a hunter safety education course unless participating in the mentored hunter program.

TERMINATION OF RESIDENCY

A person (other than a person who fits into one of the above EXCEPTIONS) is deemed to have terminated their South Dakota resident hunting, fishing, and trapping status if the person does any of the following:

» Applies for, purchases or accepts a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license issued by another state or foreign country;

» Registers to vote in another state or foreign country;

» Accepts a driver's license issued by another state or foreign country;

» Moves to any other state or foreign country and makes it the person's domicile or makes any claim of residency for any purpose in the other state or foreign country;

» Resides in any other state, territory, or country for an aggregate of 180 or more days in a calendar year.

However, a person who has lawfully acquired a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license and who leaves the state after acquiring the license to take up residency elsewhere may continue to exercise all the privileges granted by the license until the license expires if the person's respective privileges are not revoked or suspended.

MILITARY GENERAL FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSE

Any resident who is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and who is stationed at a location outside the state may fish and hunt small game without payment of a fee or the applicable hunting and fishing license authorizing the activity. However, if the resident is hunting migratory birds, the resident shall obtain a State Migratory Bird Certificate and Federal Waterfowl Stamp (when necessary). While engaged in the permitted activity, the resident shall possess and display appropriate military orders indicating the resident is

on active duty stationed outside of South Dakota and a valid military identification card. This section does not apply to any person who is serving on active duty for training as a member of the armed forces reserve or National Guard.

MILITARY BIG GAME LICENSE - ACTIVE DUTY

Any person in the armed services of the United States who is absent from this state on active duty during the entire time for making application and is otherwise qualified and a resident of South Dakota, may apply for and shall receive deer, turkey, and antelope licenses. In addition, any spouse and minor dependent child of such a person in the armed services who are also absent from this state during the entire time for making application and are otherwise qualified, may apply for and shall receive deer, turkey, and antelope licenses.

BIG GAME LICENSE

Big game licenses allow the licensee to hunt prairie dog, jackrabbit, gopher, ground squirrel, crow, porcupine, marmot, red fox, grey fox, coyotes, skunks, opossum, and other unprotected species through January 31. For a big game license to be valid to hunt these species, the licensee must retain the top portion of the big game license.

HABITAT STAMP

A person eighteen years of age or older shall purchase a habitat stamp when applying for or purchasing a hunting or fishing license. A person is not required to purchase more than one habitat stamp in a license year. Purchase of the habitat stamp is not required for the 1-Day Resident Small Game License, the 1-Day Resident Fishing License, any youth hunting license, any landowner hunting license, any reduced-fee disabled license, or purchasing preference points.

COMBINATION LICENSE

All Combination Licenses grant the same privileges as the Fishing License and Small Game License. They do not include the State Migratory Bird Certificate.

DISABILITY LICENSE

The following residents may apply to the License Office to receive a Disability License that is equivalent to the Fishing License and Small Game License and is valid for four years:

» Persons who are paraplegics or otherwise permanently physically unable to walk;
» Persons blind or visually impaired;
» A person who has a developmental disability (fishing only), contact the GFP License Office at 605.223.7660 or visit ***gfp.sd.gov***.
» Resident veterans can qualify for a Disability License in one of four ways:

1. If they receive a veteran's allotment for a 40% or more disability which is deemed a service-connected injury.
2. If they have received the Department of Veterans Affairs "K" Award.
3. If they have served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or have served as a member of the armed forces reserve or national guard, and the resident is 40% or more disabled for the purposes of receiving social security benefits.
4. If they were a Prisoner of War. A person must apply on forms provided by GFP and provide proof of South Dakota residency with the application.

RESIDENT LICENSE **INFORMATION**

Details and applications are available from GFP Regional Offices or by calling 605.223.7660 for details.

FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP

The Federal Waterfowl Stamp is an additional requirement for those ages 16 and older to hunt ducks, geese, tundra swan, and merganser. An electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp may be purchased online at ***gfp.sd.gov***. The electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp is valid from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. The electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp will not have a physical stamp mailed to the purchaser until March 15, 2027. An electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp can be presented to a wildlife Conservation Officer upon request via the state's electronic licensing system under which it was purchased or a paper license (issued to the hunter/purchaser) that includes the purchase of an electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Physical Federal Waterfowl Stamps must be signed while in possession to be legal. The Federal Waterfowl Stamp is part of the waterfowl hunting requirements in all states. However, hunters are required to purchase only one electronic or physical stamp. A lost or destroyed Federal Waterfowl Stamp can only be replaced by purchasing a new one. To purchase a physical stamp, check with your local U.S. Postal Office.

NOTE: *A Federal Waterfowl Stamp is not needed to hunt sandhill crane, mourning dove, snipe, and coot; or light geese during the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order; or Canada goose during August Management Take. However, a State Migratory Bird Certificate is still required for these species.*

STATE MIGRATORY BIRD CERTIFICATE

Except for landowners hunting on land that they own or lease, residents (including all youth small game license holders) hunting migratory birds and/or waterfowl must complete and purchase this certificate.

Migratory birds that require this certificate for hunting include ducks, geese, tundra swan, Sandhill crane, mourning doves, snipe, and coot. This certificate should not be confused with the Federal Waterfowl Stamp.

Hunters must choose which waterfowl regulation option (Traditional or Three-duck daily bag limit) they want to hunt with for the entire season at the time of purchasing their State Migratory Bird Certificate.

FURBEARER LICENSE

The Furbearer License is required to trap coyote, red fox, grey fox, jackrabbit, raccoon, badger, bobcat, river otter, opossum, mink, weasel, beaver, muskrat, and skunk; and when and where allowed is required to hunt bobcat, river otter, opossum, mink, weasel, beaver and muskrat. However, a Furbearer License is not required for residents to trap raccoon, skunk, badger, opossum, jackrabbit, red fox, grey fox, and coyote from April 1 - Aug. 31. No license is required for resident youth under age 18.

PREDATOR/VARMINT LICENSE

The Predator/Varmint License is needed to hunt coyote, red fox, grey fox, skunk, raccoon, badger, prairie dog, gopher, crow, opossum, jackrabbit, ground squirrel, porcupine, and marmot. Other licenses that may be used in lieu of the Predator/Varmint License include any

valid resident South Dakota hunting license or furbearer license. For a big game license to be valid, the licensee must retain the top portion of the big game license. No license is required for resident youth under age 18.

MENTORED HUNTING PROGRAM (UNDER AGE 16)

See information in the Mentored sections on pages 88-97.

YOUTH LICENSES (AGES 12-17)

See information in the Mentored sections on pages 88-97.

LANDOWNERS

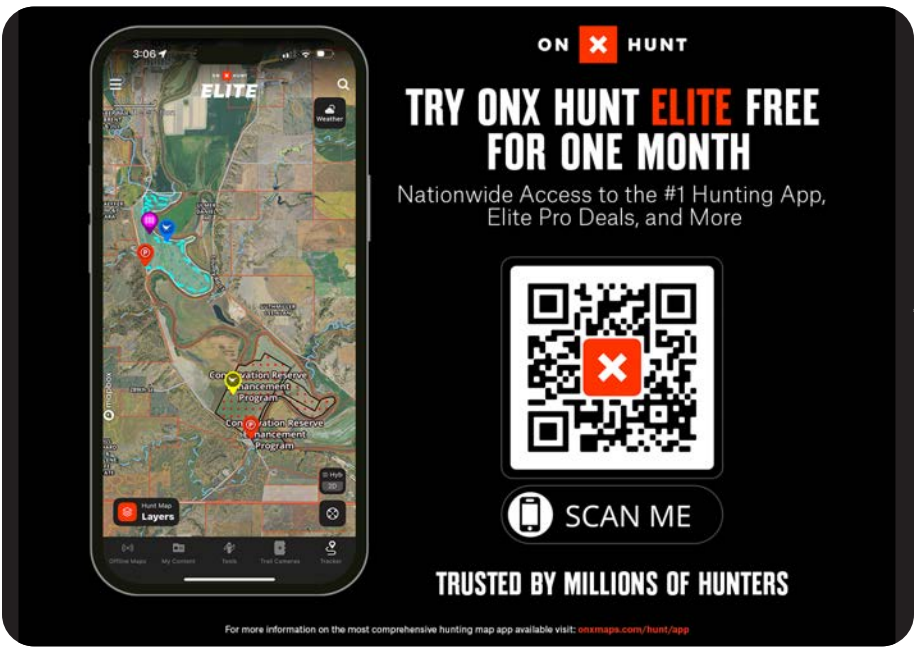
Resident landowners and their immediate family (husband, wife, and children residing at home or on land owned or leased by the landowner) may trap furbearers and hunt their property for small game (pheasant, grouse, partridge, quail, cottontail rabbit, squirrel, mourning dove, and snipe), furbearers (opossum, muskrat, beaver, mink, skunk, raccoon, badger, red fox, grey fox, coyote, bobcat, weasel, river otter, and jackrabbit) and predators/varmints (prairie dog, gopher, crow, chipmunk, ground squirrel, porcupine, and marmot) without obtaining a hunting or Furbearer License.

Landowners are exempt from state licensing requirements for waterfowl hunting on their property but must purchase a Federal Waterfowl Stamp if they hunt ducks, geese, swans and mergansers. All laws and rules (season dates, bag limits, etc.) pertaining to hunting and trapping must be followed.

Landowners are also exempt from the habitat stamp requirement when hunting on their own land.

SHOOTING PRESERVES

Residents hunting small game on licensed shooting preserves must possess a South Dakota license valid to hunt small game.



NONRESIDENT LICENSE INFORMATION

NONRESIDENT LICENSE **INFORMATION**

NONRESIDENT LICENSES AND FEES

2026 licenses are valid Dec. 15, 2025 through Jan. 31, 2027
2027 licenses are valid Dec. 15, 2026 through Jan. 31, 2028 (license fee subject to change)
State Migratory Bird Certificates are valid from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

Habitat Stamp	$25
Small Game (two 5-day periods)*	$142
Youth Small Game, ages 12-17 (two 5-day periods)	$10
Mentored Small Game (youth under 16)	$10
Waterfowl (valid two 5-day periods, lottery application only)*	$145
Waterfowl (valid 3 days, lottery application only)*	$106
Early Fall Canada Goose*	$51
Spring Light Goose Conservation Order*	$61
Youth Spring Light Goose Conservation Order*, ages 12-17	$21
State Migratory Bird Certificate	$5
Predator/Varmint	$46
Furbearer (application only)	$325
Shooting Preserve (annual)*	$146
Shooting Preserve (5-day)*	$96
Shooting Preserve (1-day)*	$50
Federal Waterfowl E-Stamp (Online Only)	$29

** Fee includes a $6 surcharge mandated by state law. Revenue derived from this surcharge is dedicated to hunting access, wildlife damage management, and animal damage control programs.*

BIG GAME LICENSES

Big game licenses allow the licensee to hunt prairie dog, jackrabbit, gopher, ground squirrel, crow, porcupine, marmot, red fox, grey fox, coyotes, skunks, opossum, and other unprotected species through January 31. For a big game license to be valid to hunt these species, the licensee must retain the top portion of the big game license.

HABITAT STAMP

A person 18 years of age or older shall purchase a habitat stamp when applying for or purchasing a hunting or fishing license. A person is not required to purchase more than one habitat stamp within a license year. Any person required to obtain a hunting or fishing license may not fish, hunt, or trap without a habitat stamp.

FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP

The Federal Waterfowl Stamp is an additional requirement for those ages 16 and older to hunt ducks, geese, tundra swan, and merganser. An electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp may be purchased online at ***gfp.sd.gov***. The electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp is valid from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

The electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp will not have a physical stamp mailed to the purchaser until March 15, 2027. An electronic Federal Waterfowl Stamp can be presented to a wildlife Conservation Officer upon request via the state's electronic licensing system under which it was purchased or a paper license (issued to the hunter/purchaser) that includes the purchase of an electronic

Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Physical Federal Waterfowl Stamps must be signed while in possession to be legal. The Federal Waterfowl Stamp is part of the waterfowl hunting requirements in all states. However, hunters are required to purchase only one electronic or physical stamp. A lost or destroyed Federal Waterfowl Stamp can only be replaced by purchasing a new one. To purchase a physical stamp, check with your local U.S. Postal Office.

NOTE: *A Federal Waterfowl Stamp is not needed to hunt sandhill crane, mourning dove, snipe, and coot; or light geese during the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order; or Canada goose during August Management Take. However, a State Migratory Bird Certificate is still required for these species.*

FURBEARER LICENSE

The Nonresident Furbearer License is required to trap coyote, red fox, grey fox, raccoon, badger, bobcat, opossum, mink, weasel, beaver, muskrat, and skunks; and when and where allowed is required to hunt raccoon, badger, bobcat, opossum, mink, weasel, beaver, and muskrat. Applications are available at local offices or online at ***gfp.sd.gov***.

LANDOWNERS

Eligible nonresident landowners may purchase a landowner-own-land license for West River Deer and the firearm antelope hunting season. Eligible nonresident landowners can also apply for East River landowner-own-land deer hunting seasons via drawing only.

PREDATOR/VARMINT LICENSE

Nonresidents may hunt prairie dog, jackrabbit, gopher, ground squirrel, crow, porcupine, marmot, red fox, grey fox, coyotes, and skunks if they possess a Predator/Varmint License or any valid South Dakota Hunting or Furbearer License (other than nonresident shooting preserve).

SHOOTING PRESERVE LICENSE

South Dakota permits private shooting preserves to offer hunting from September 1 - March 31. Nonresidents hunting on a licensed shooting preserve need the Nonresident Shooting Preserve License, Nonresident Small Game License, or a Nonresident Youth Small Game License.

The Shooting Preserve License is valid through January 31 only on licensed shooting preserves and allows the hunter to take only the game for which the preserve is licensed. The license is valid to take Predator/Varmints on preserves through March 31.

The Small Game License is valid outside the shooting preserve for the two 5-day periods specified on the license and valid on licensed shooting preserves through January 31 for the species for which the preserve is licensed.

SMALL GAME LICENSE

The Small Game License, Youth Small Game License, and Mentored Small Game License is valid for two periods of five consecutive days.

Starting dates must be chosen for BOTH periods when the license is purchased. Both dates must be filled in on the license even if the two 5-day periods run consecutively. Nonresidents may buy more than one Small Game License.

The start date for each 5-day period may be changed prior to the start date. The change may be made online or at any license agent. License agents may

charge a fee of up to $8.

This license also allows nonresidents to shoot coyotes, red and grey fox, skunks, prairie dogs, and other unprotected species through January 31 and to hunt on licensed shooting preserves through January 31.

STATE MIGRATORY BIRD CERTIFICATE

All nonresidents hunting migratory birds and/or waterfowl must complete and purchase this certificate.

Migratory birds that require this certificate for hunting include ducks, geese, tundra swan, Sandhill crane, mourning doves, snipe, and coot. This state certificate should not be confused with the Federal Waterfowl Stamp.

NOTE: *The State Migratory Bird Certificate is no longer combined with the Nonresident Waterfowl license. Hunters must choose which duck regulation option (Traditional or Three-Duck daily bag limit) they want to hunt with for the entire season at the time of purchasing their State Migratory Bird Certificate.* *See page 32 for more information.*

MENTORED HUNTING PROGRAM (UNDER AGE 16)

See information in Mentored sections on pages 88-97.

YOUTH LICENSES (AGES 12-17)

See information on pages 88-97.

WATERFOWL LICENSES

A Nonresident Waterfowl license is required for nonresidents to hunt migratory waterfowl and can be purchased online. Licenses for most fall seasons are issued by lottery drawing. Nonresident Youth Waterfowl licenses are only valid during the two-day, Youth Waterfowl season.

Licensed waterfowl hunters may only hunt within the unit designated on their license.

The fall Nonresident Waterfowl license for Unit 00B is valid for two 5-day periods; Unit 00A is valid through the entire season; and Units 00V, 00X, 00Y, and 00Z are valid for three consecutive days. Licenses are valid on private and public land for Units 00A, 00B, and 00Y. Licenses are valid only on private land for Units 00V, 00X, and 00Z; these licenses are not valid on private property leased by GFP for public hunting or on public highways or other rights-of-way otherwise open to hunting.

The Nonresident Early Fall Canada Goose license is valid Sept. 1 - 30. Nonresidents may not hunt geese during this season in Unit 2.

On all limited-days, Nonresident Waterfowl licenses, successful applicants must provide a start date before hunting. The dates can be changed prior to the start date either online, at license agents, or through any GFP Wildlife Division office. Hunters must print their license at home or have on their smartphone. These Nonresident Waterfowl licenses also allow nonresidents to hunt coyotes, red and grey fox, skunks, prairie dogs, opossum, and other unprotected species through January 31.

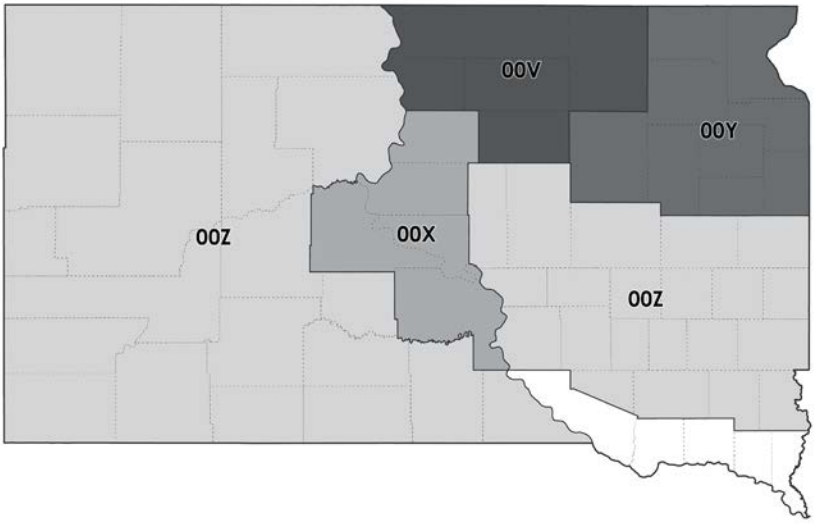
NONRESIDENT MILITARY THREE-DAY WATERFOWL LICENSE

Qualifying nonresident armed forces members who are on active duty may purchase one fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl license. This license is valid only on private land. Complete information is available on ***gfp.sd.gov/nonresident-military-waterfowl-license***.

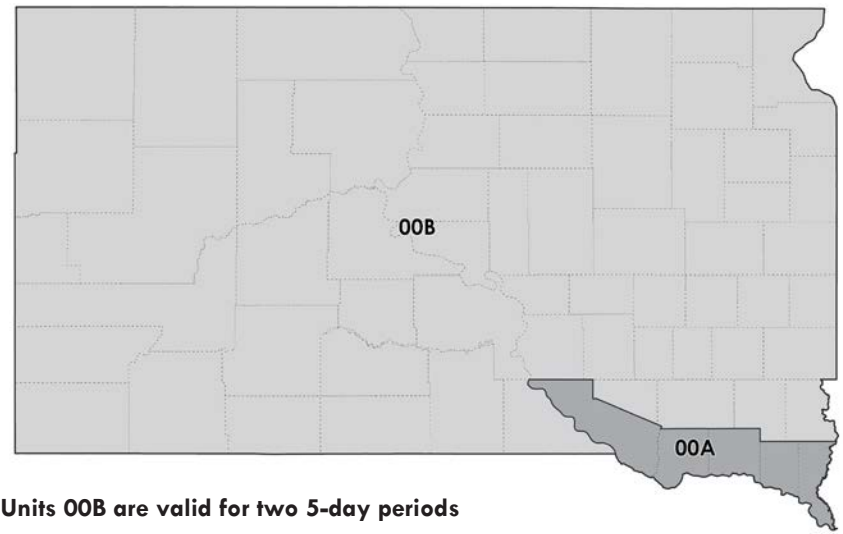
NONRESIDENT LICENSE **INFORMATION**

NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL HUNTING UNITS:

3-DAY SEASON MAP



10-DAY AND SEASON-LONG MAP



Units 00B are valid for two 5-day periods

Unit 00A is valid through the entire season

Units 00V, 00X, 00Y, and 00Z are valid for three consecutive days.

Licenses are valid on private and public for Units 00A, 00B, and 00Y.
Licenses are valid only on private land for Units 00V, 00X, and 00Z.

SCHF WORKING LANDS PROGRAM

SECOND CENTURY HABITAT FUND

Program Overview

Provides landowners with a voluntary working lands option to convert marginal cropland into perennial habitat.

We focus on enrolling saline or moist soils, field edges, and other less productive cropland for 10 years, planting these acres with diverse perennial grasses and forbs that support both nesting birds and livestock.

Program Incentives

10-Year Enrollment Payments:
West River lands: $450 per acre
East River lands: $750 per acre

Seed & Resources

High-quality seed mixes provided at no cost to participating landowners.

Technical assistance provided by SCHF and our many partners.

Stackable Program

Landowners can receive bonuses by enrolling in partner programs such as SD GFP Walk-In Areas or CHAPs program.

Your Impact

- Creates and restores critical habitat for pheasants, pollinators, and other native wildlife.
- Improves soil health and protects water quality.
- Keeps working lands productive through voluntary conservation.
- Strengthens rural communities through voluntary, working-land conservation.

Why Donate?

Every tax-deductible gift directly supports habitat restoration and South Dakota's outdoor heritage.

Give today at *sdhabitatfund.com/donate* or scan the QR code below.

CALL TO ENROLL OR DONATE
605-998-SCHF

director@sdhabitatfund.com

www.sdhabitatfund.com

SMALL GAME HUNTING INFORMATION

SMALL GAME HUNTING **INFORMATION**

RING-NECKED PHEASANT

DATES: October 17 - January 31

OPEN AREA: All of South Dakota except:

» Renziehausen Game Production Area and Game Bird Refuge in Brown and Marshall counties, Gerken Game Bird Refuge in Faulk County, and White Lake Game Bird Refuge in Marshall County are open Dec. 1 - Jan. 31.

» Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County is open Dec. 14 - Jan. 31.

DAILY LIMIT: 3 rooster pheasants

POSSESSION LIMIT: 15 rooster pheasants, taken according to the daily limit. The limit accrues at the rate of 3 birds a day and 15 birds may not be possessed until after the fifth day of hunting.

SHOOTING HOURS: 10 a.m. Central Time to sunset. ***NOTE:*** *Central Time is used for opening shooting hours statewide.*

YOUTH RING-NECKED PHEASANT

DATES: September 26 - October 4

OPEN AREA: Statewide on private and public land. Hunting on road rights-of-way is limited to those contiguous to and a part of public hunting lands open for hunting.

DAILY LIMIT: 3 rooster pheasants

POSSESSION LIMIT: 15 rooster pheasants, taken according to daily limit. The limit accrues at the rate of 3 birds a day and 15 birds may not be possessed until after the fifth day of hunting.

SHOOTING HOURS: 10 a.m. Central Time to sunset. ***NOTE:*** *Central Time is used for opening shooting hours statewide.*

ELIGIBILITY: Resident and nonresident youth hunters must be 12 (or turn 12 by Dec. 31) through 17 years old and properly licensed to hunt during the Youth Pheasant season. Those under age 16 must possess a valid hunter education certificate. If participating in a Mentored Hunt, the youth hunter must be 15 years of age or younger.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: All youth hunters must be accompanied by an unarmed adult. It is advisable that all wear at least one exterior garment of fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink.

RESIDENT-ONLY RING-NECKED PHEASANT

DATES: October 10-12

OPEN AREA: Public lands, statewide, which include the following:

» Hunting on road rights-of-way, limited to those contiguous to and a part of public hunting lands open for hunting

» U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Areas

» U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land adjacent to the Missouri River

SMALL GAME HUNTING **INFORMATION**

» U.S. Forest Service National Grasslands
» U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Land
» SD School and Public Lands
» State parks, recreation areas and lakeside use areas
» GFP managed or leased property otherwise open to public hunting, including Game Production Areas open during the regular pheasant season
» GFP managed and leased property designated as Walk-in Areas and land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

NOTE: *Non-toxic shot is required to hunt small game on most public lands*

DAILY LIMIT: 3 rooster pheasants

POSSESSION LIMIT: 9 rooster pheasants, taken according to the daily limit. Limit accrues at the rate of 3 birds a day; 9 birds may not be possessed until after the third day of hunting.

SHOOTING HOURS: 10 a.m. Central Time to sunset. ***NOTE:*** *Central Time is used for opening shooting hours statewide.*

PRAIRIE CHICKEN AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Includes ruffed grouse.

DATES: September 19 - January 31

OPEN AREA: Statewide

DAILY LIMIT: 3 (any combination)

POSSESSION LIMIT: 15 (any combination) taken according to the daily limit. Limit accrues at the rate of 3 birds a day; 15 birds may not be possessed until after the fifth day of hunting.

SHOOTING HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, statewide

Attention Prairie-Chicken and Grouse Hunters
Prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse hunters are requested to voluntarily submit wings at wing box collection sites found on the Fort Pierre, Grand River and Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, with additional locations found across the state. This information is used to assist biologists in monitoring prairie grouse populations. Your cooperation to collect this information is greatly appreciated. View a listing of all wing box collection locations at ***gfp.sd.gov*** by searching "wing box locations."

GREATER SAGE GROUSE

SEASON CLOSED

PARTRIDGE AND CHUKAR

DATES: September 19 - January 31

OPEN AREA: Statewide

DAILY LIMIT: 5 (any combination)

SMALL GAME HUNTING **INFORMATION**

POSSESSION LIMIT: 15 (any combination) taken according to the daily limit. Limit accrues at the rate of 5 birds a day; 15 birds may not be possessed until after the third day of hunting.

SHOOTING HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, statewide

QUAIL

DATES: October 17 - January 31

OPEN AREA: Statewide

DAILY LIMIT: 5 (any combination)

POSSESSION LIMIT: 15 (any combination) taken according to the daily limit. Limit accrues at the rate of 5 birds a day; 15 birds may not be possessed until after the third day of hunting.

SHOOTING HOURS: Sunrise to sunset statewide.

Attention Dog Owners

Hunters who hunt public lands and road rights-of-way should understand their dogs may encounter fences, barbed wire, posts, old machinery, or other materials that may cause injury. In addition, most public lands allow trapping and snaring. Dog owners should be aware they are sharing these lands with other users and may encounter these activities. Landowner permission is required for trapping on lands leased for public hunting such as Walk-In Areas (WIA), Controlled Hunting and Access Program (CHAP), and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) areas; however, the same potential risks may exist on these lands as well. Visit ***gfp.sd.gov/pages/remove-dog*** to view an informational video.

WATERFOWL HUNTING INFORMATION

DUCK

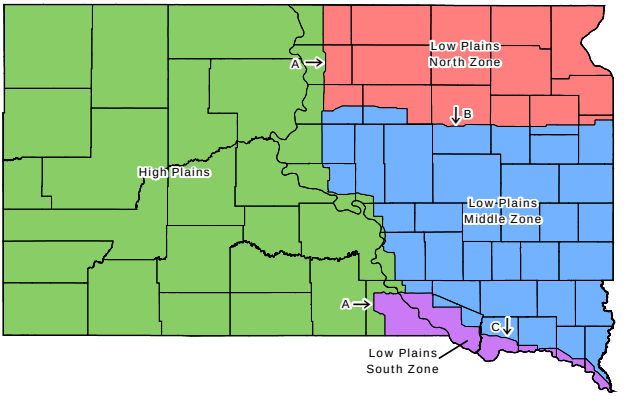
HIGH PLAINS:
Oct. 10 - Jan. 14

The area west of Boundary A (see Boundary Definitions)

LOW PLAINS - NORTH ZONE:
Sept. 26 - Dec. 8

The area east of Boundary A and north of Boundary B

Visit: *gfp.sd.gov/maps* to view an interactive map of these units.



LOW PLAINS - MIDDLE ZONE:
Sept. 26 - Dec. 8

The area east of Boundary A, south of Boundary B and north of Boundary C

LOW PLAINS - SOUTH ZONE:
Oct. 24 - Jan. 5

The area within Boundary C

BOUNDARY DEFINITIONS:

Boundary A - A line beginning at the SD-ND state line and extending south along U.S. 83 to U.S. 14, east on U.S. Hwy 14 to Blunt, south on the Blunt-Canning Road to SD Hwy 34, east and south on SD Hwy 34 to SD Hwy 50 at Lee's Corner, south on SD Hwy 50 to I-90, east on I-90 to SD Hwy 50, south on SD Hwy 50 to SD Hwy 44, west on SD Hwy 44 across the Platte-Winner Bridge to SD Hwy 47, south on SD Hwy 47 to U.S. 18, east on U.S. Hwy 18 to SD Hwy 47, south on SD Hwy 47 to the SD-NE state line.

Boundary B - A line beginning at the junction of U.S. Hwy 83 and U.S. Hwy 212, then east on U.S. Hwy 212 to the SD-MN state line.

Boundary C - A line beginning at the junction of SD Hwy 47 and the SD-NE state line, then north on SD Hwy 47 to SD Hwy 44, then east on SD Hwy 44 to SD Hwy 50, then south on SD Hwy 50 to CFAS 6198 (Geddes Hwy) at Geddes, then east on the Geddes Hwy to U.S. Hwy 281, then south on U.S. Hwy 281 to SD Hwy 50, then east on SD Hwy 50 to I-29, then south on I-29 to the SD-IA state line.

POSSESSION LIMIT: Three times the daily limit; taken according to the daily limit
SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
NON-TOXIC SHOT: Approved non-toxic shot is required to hunt waterfowl. See the "Non-Toxic Shot Regulations" on page 74.

WATERFOWL HUNTING **INFORMATION**

ANTELOPE ISLAND RESTRICTIONS: The Antelope Island area on Lake Sharpe (the area within the water's edge from a north-south line across Lake Sharpe through the dredged channel at the east end of Hipple Lake, downstream to a north-south line across the reservoir 100 yards east of the eastern-most emergent vegetation on Antelope Island) has the following restrictions: No waterfowl decoys or hunting blinds may be left in the area between sunset and 5 a.m.; and no waterfowl decoys may be left unattended between 5 a.m. and sunset.

STATE MIGRATORY BIRD CERTIFICATE OPTIONS

NOTE: *At the time of purchase of a State Migratory Bird Certificate, hunters must select one of two options (see below) for their daily duck limit. The hunter's selection must be used for the duration of the 2026-27 duck season. For more information, please visit* ***gfp.sd.gov/three-duck-limit.***

TRADITIONAL DAILY LIMIT

Ducks: 6 - The daily duck (including mergansers) limit may be comprised of no more than:

» 5 mallards, which may include no more than 2 hens
» 3 wood ducks
» 1 scaup
» 2 redheads
» 2 canvasback
» 3 pintail

Coots: 15

» 2 - bonus blue-winged teal (first 9 days of the zone-specific season only)

THREE-DUCK DAILY LIMIT

3 ducks of any species or sex (includes mergansers)
NOTE: *No bonus blue-winged teal.*

CANADA GOOSE

Includes brant and cackling geese.
SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
NON-TOXIC SHOT: Same Duck Regulations, see page 74 for more information.
Antelope Island Restrictions: See Duck Regulations above

AUGUST MANAGEMENT TAKE (RESIDENT ONLY): Aug. 15 - 31
DAILY LIMIT: 8 geese
POSSESSION LIMIT: Unlimited
OPEN AREA: The counties of Meade County south of South Dakota Highway 34, Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River, and the counties of Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Grant, Marshall, and Roberts.
(For more information and maps, visit ***gfp.sd.gov/goose***)

WATERFOWL HUNTING **INFORMATION**

UNIT 1: Sept. 1 - Dec. 16
DAILY LIMIT: 8 geese
POSSESSION LIMIT: Three times the daily limit, taken according to daily limit.
OPEN AREA:

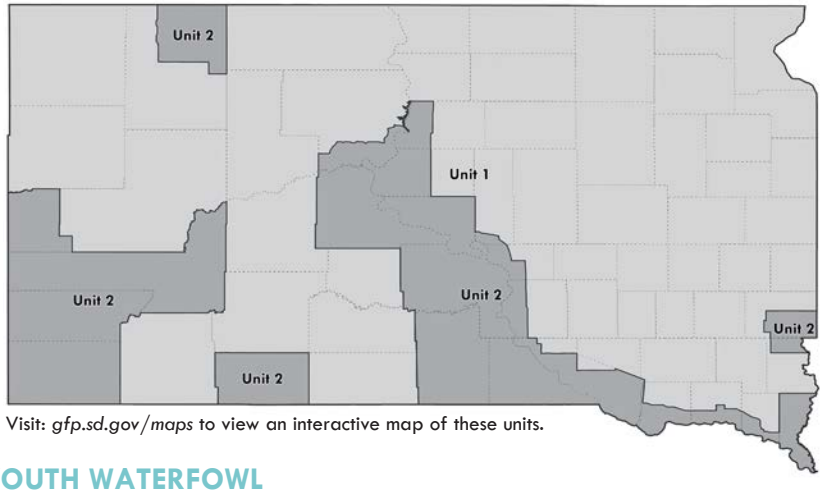
» The entire counties of Aurora, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Butte, Campbell, Clark, Codington, Corson, Davison, Day, Deuel, Douglas, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Haakon, Hamlin, Hand, Hanson, Harding, Hutchinson, Jackson, Jerauld, Jones, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, McPherson, Marshall, Meade, Mellette, Moody, 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. Hwy 212 east of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 8 junction.
» That portion of Potter County east of U.S. Hwy 83.
» That portion of Sully County east of U.S. Hwy 83.
» Those 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 SD Hwy 34, east to Lees Boulevard, southeast to the SD Hwy 34, east 7 miles to 350th Avenue, south to Interstate 90 on 350th Avenue, south and east on SD Hwy 50 to Geddes, east on 285th Street to U.S. Hwy 281, north on U.S. Hwy 281 to the Charles Mix- Douglas county boundary.
» That portion of Bon Homme County north of SD Hwy 50.
» Those portions of Yankton and Clay counties north of County Hwy 585 (306th Street) to U.S. Hwy 81, then north on U.S. Hwy 81 to 303rd Street, then east on 303rd Street to 444th Avenue, then south on 444th Avenue to 305th Street, then east on Bluff Road (305th Street) to County Hwy 19, south to SD Hwy 50 and east to the Clay/Union County line.
» That portion of Perkins County west of SD Hwy 75 and south of SD Hwy 20.
» That portion of Lincoln County west of SD Hwy 17 and south of County Hwy 116 (Klondike Road).
» That portion of Minnehaha County north of a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Minnesota state line and County Hwy 122 (254th Street) west to its junction with County Hwy 149 (464th Avenue), that portion west of County Hwy 149 (464th Avenue) to Hartford, that portion west of County Hwy 151 (463rd Avenue) to State Hwy 42, that portion south of State Hwy 42 to SD Hwy 17, and the portion west of SD Hwy 17 to the Minnehaha- Lincoln county boundary.

UNIT 2: Nov. 2 - Feb. 14. Those areas not included in Unit 1.

DAILY LIMIT: 4
POSSESSION LIMIT: Three times the daily limit, taken according to daily limit.

WATERFOWL HUNTING **INFORMATION**

CANADA GOOSE UNIT BOUNDARY MAP



Visit: *gfp.sd.gov/maps* to view an interactive map of these units.

YOUTH WATERFOWL

SEASON DATES: Sept. 12 - 13
HUNTING UNIT: Statewide
SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
DAILY LIMIT:
DUCKS (Daily limit is determined by State Migratory Bird Certificate option selection.)
» TRADITIONAL OPTION: Same as regular duck season, see page 32. (Bonus blue-winged teal is not allowed during youth season).
» THREE-DUCK OPTION: 3 ducks of any species or sex (includes mergansers) (Bonus blue-winged teal is not allowed during youth season).
CANADA GOOSE - The daily limit is 8 in Unit 1, and the daily limit is 4 in Unit 2.

POSSESSION LIMIT: Twice the daily limit, taken according to daily limit.

NON-TOXIC SHOT: Approved non-toxic shot is required to hunt waterfowl. See "Non-Toxic Shot Regulations" on page 74 for more information.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:
» See Mentored and Youth Waterfowl section on page 96.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

SEASON DATES: Sept. 26 - Dec. 8, statewide
UNIT: Statewide.
DAILY LIMIT: 3
POSSESSION LIMIT: Three times the daily limit, taken according to daily limit.

LIGHT GOOSE

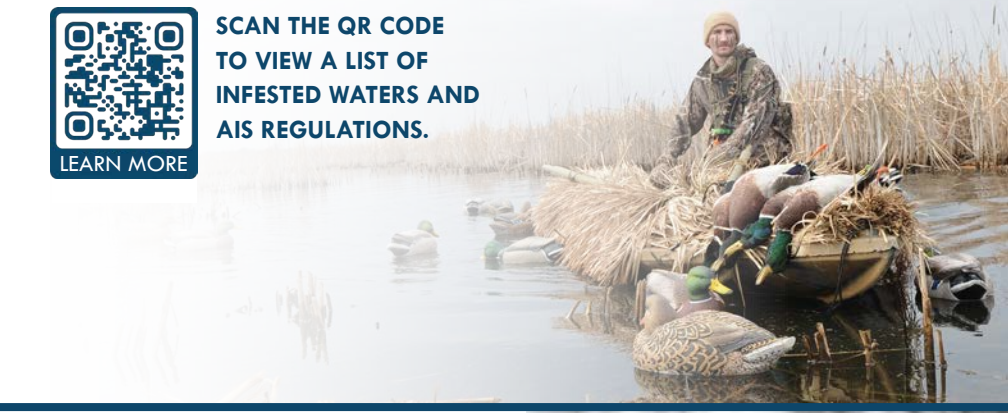
SEASON DATES: Sept. 26 - Jan. 8, statewide
UNIT: Statewide
DAILY LIMIT: 50
POSSESSION LIMIT: Unlimited

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RULES APPLY TO WATERFOWLERS

Aquatic Invasive Species rules apply to waterfowl hunters and their boats as well. All boat plugs must be removed or open except when on the water, launching or loading, or while the boat is in the parking area. Small watercraft without plugs must be tipped and drained as thoroughly as possible. In addition, all plants, mud, animals, or other organic material must be removed from boats and trailers.

LEARN MORE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW A LIST OF INFESTED WATERS AND AIS REGULATIONS.



STAGES OF COLD WATER IMMERSION

1. COLD SHOCK
   - » Gasp reflex
   - » Panic
   - » Hyperventilation
   - » Increased heart rate
2. MUSCLE FAILURE
   - » Loss of muscle coordination
   - » Difficulty swimming, if you're able to swim at all
3. HYPOTHERMIA
   - » Body temperature drops to dangerous levels
   - » 75% of victims don't survive to this point
4. RESCUE DANGERS
   - » Being removed from cold water can have short and long term effects on your body

LEARN MORE

FEDERAL LAWS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

FEDERAL LAWS FOR **MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS**

AGGREGATE DAILY BAG LIMIT
The maximum number of migratory game birds permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season when such person hunts in more than one specified geographic area and/or for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species or for any one specified geographic area in which taking occurs.

AGGREGATE POSSESSION LIMIT
The maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination of species taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which take and possession occurs.

BAITED AREA
Any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.

BAITING
The direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

CUSTODY OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER
No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as required.

DAILY BAG LIMIT
The maximum number of migratory game birds of single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

GIFT OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS
No person may receive, possess, or give to another, any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or recipient, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were taken.

ILLEGAL HUNTING METHODS
Migratory birds on which open seasons are prescribed in this part may be taken by any method except those prohibited in this section. No persons shall take migratory game birds:

» With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance;
» With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-

piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells;

» From or by means, aid, or use of a sink-box or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;

» From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind;

» From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled and its progress has ceased;

» By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;

» By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sound;

» By means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird;

» While possessing loose shot for muzzle loading or shot shells containing other than approved non-toxic shot;

» By the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

However, nothing in this paragraph prohibits:

» The taking of any migratory game bird, including waterfowl, coots, and Sandhill cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas;

» Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice;

» From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;

» From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, if such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of grain or other feed; or

» Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

» The taking of any migratory game bird, except waterfowl, coots and Sandhill cranes, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited

areas and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

MANIPULATION

The alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, disking, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. The term manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

NORMAL AGRICULTURAL PLANTING, HARVESTING, OR POST-HARVEST MANIPULATION

A planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain, that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

MARKING PACKAGE OR CONTAINER

No person shall transport by the U.S. Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

MIGRATORY BIRD PRESERVATION FACILITY

Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration; or

Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility, or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or

Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations; receives, possesses or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage, or shipment.

NATURAL VEGETATION

Any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules.

The term "natural vegetation" does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

NO MIGRATORY BIRD PRESERVATION FACILITY SHALL:

» Receive or have in custody any migratory game bird unless accurate records are maintained which can identify each bird received by or in the custody of, the facility by the name of the person from whom the bird was obtained and show:
- The number of each species;
- The location where taken;
- The date such birds were received;
- The name and address of the person from whom such birds were received;
- The date such birds were disposed of; and
- The name and address of the person to whom such birds were delivered.

» Destroy any records required to be maintained under this section for a period of one year following the last entry on the record.
» Record keeping as required by this section will not be necessary at hunting clubs which do not fully process migratory birds by removal of both the head and wings.

Please note these examples do not represent an all-inclusive list of waterfowl regulations. For a detailed explanation, visit ***fws.gov/le*** or contact a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Agent at Bismarck, ND 701.255.0593.

NORMAL AGRICULTURAL OPERATION
A normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

NORMAL SOIL STABILIZATION PRACTICE
A planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural soil erosion control.

POSSESSION LIMIT
The maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed

POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS
Every migratory game bird wounded by hunting and reduced to possession by the hunter shall be immediately killed and become a part of the daily bag limit. No person shall at any time or by any means, possess or transport live migratory game birds taken under authority of this part.

TAKE
Pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect; and includes attempting to do the same.

TAGGING REQUIREMENT
No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at their personal abode) or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage) or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

TRANSPORTATION
Ship, convey, carry, or transport by any means, including delivery or receipt for such shipment, conveyance, carriage, or transportation.

FEDERAL LAWS FOR **MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS**

TRANSPORTATION OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER

No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as required.

WANTON WASTE OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and retain it in actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either:

» That person's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or
» That person's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or
» A migratory bird preservation facility; or
» A post office; or
» A common carrier facility.

TERMINATION OF POSSESSION

Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by the hunter to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the U.S. Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

BANDED WATERFOWL AND MOURNING DOVES

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service encourage hunters who bag banded waterfowl and mourning doves to visit ***reportband.gov*** to report the band number.

TRANSPORTING, SHIPPING, AND STORAGE OF SMALL GAME AND WATERFOWL

TRANSPORTING, SHIPPING AND STORAGE OF
SMALL GAME AND WATERFOWL

DOMICILE

A person's established, fixed, and permanent home to which the person, whenever absent, has the present intention of returning. A person can only have one domicile.

WILDLIFE PROCESSING FACILITY

A wildlife processing facility is any person or entity that has a South Dakota sales tax license to operate a business that receives, possesses, or has in custody any wild animal belonging to another person for purposes of picking, skinning, cleaning, freezing, processing, or storage.

GAME BIRD TRANSPORTATION AND PACKAGING

No game bird, including a wild turkey, may be possessed, placed in public storage, transported or accepted for shipment unless the following minimum requirements are met for each listed species:

» Waterfowl shall include an attached fully feathered wing or an attached head; and conform to other federal requirements (see federal laws for migratory game birds on page 36).

» Pheasants and grouse, unless processed at a wildlife processing facility and accompanied by the receipt or at the domicile of the possessor, shall include at least one of the following attached: the head, a fully feathered wing, or a foot. The term grouse includes sharp-tailed grouse, ruffed grouse, and prairie chicken.

» Wild turkeys are considered a big game species in South Dakota. Tagging and transportation regulations for wild turkeys can be found in the Big Game Regulations section;

» All other game birds, unless processed at a wildlife processing facility and accompanied by the receipt, or at the domicile of the possessor, shall include the attached head or an attached fully feathered wing. If the head or wing is used for identification, it shall have sufficient plumage attached to allow for prompt identification of the game bird. Game birds, if frozen, shall be packaged no more than two per package to facilitate identification and count of species.

No game bird may be transported by unlicensed individuals, unless accompanied by a valid transportation permit issued by GFP.

However, at the conclusion of hunting, a licensed hunter may transport a game bird legally taken by another person to a wildlife processing facility if the bird is tagged with the name of the hunter, the hunter's address, the total number, and species of birds taken, the date such bird was killed, and signature of the hunter.

POSSESSION LIMIT

The maximum number of a particular species of game (excluding migratory game birds) that a person may lawfully have under their control (including those in their immediate possession, a portable cooler in the vehicle, a home freezer, or registered in their name at a wildlife processing facility/locker; or any combination thereof). Game harvested during a previous season or year in South Dakota and still in possession counts toward the possession limit of the current license year. However, game (excluding migratory game birds) lawfully harvested under another state's

license does not count towards the South Dakota limit.

See Federal Laws for Migratory Game Bird on page 36.

PUBLIC STORAGE

No person may place into public storage any game bird, game fish, or game animal unless the game bird, game fish, or game animal has attached to it a tag showing the owner's name and address, the number and kind of bird, fish, or animal, the date the bird, fish, or animal is placed in storage, the date killed (for migratory game birds) and hunter signature (for migratory game birds). Public storage is any business storing game birds, game fish, or game animals for a fee or a convenience and has a South Dakota sales tax license.

RECORDS REQUIRED FOR WILDLIFE PROCESSING FACILITIES

No wildlife processing facility shall:

» Receive or have in custody any wild animal unless accurate records are maintained that can identify each wild animal received by, or in the custody of, the facility by the name of the person from whom the wild animal was obtained and show the number of each species; the date each wild animal was received; the name and address of the owner of each wild animal; the date each wild animal was disposed of; and the name of the person or business to whom each wild animal was delivered; or

» Destroy records required to be maintained under this section for a period of one year following receipt of each wild animal; or

» Allow any wild animal or parts thereof, to leave the facility without a receipt bearing the name of the facility, number and species of wild animals and name of the owner of each wild animal.

However, the provisions of this section do not apply to any permitted bird harvested on a licensed shooting preserve and processed by the preserve permittee.

INSPECTION OF WILDLIFE PROCESSING FACILITIES

No wildlife processing facility may prevent any GFP representative from entering the facility during normal business hours and inspecting any wild animal, records, and the premises of the facility.

SHIPPING/COMMON CARRIER

A licensed hunter may carry as personal baggage any small game or waterfowl lawfully taken or possessed by that hunter. No person may knowingly ship or receive for shipment by common carrier any small game or waterfowl unless the container containing the small game or waterfowl has affixed to the outside of the container a clearly visible statement containing the following information:

» The name, address, and license number of the person shipping the small game or waterfowl; and

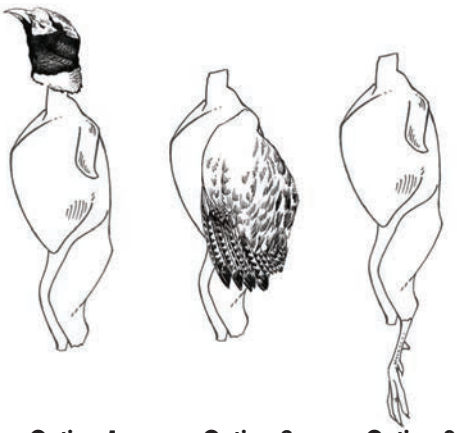
» The number and species of all small game and waterfowl in the container; and

» The date of shipment; and

» The name and address of the person to whom the small game or waterfowl has been shipped.

TRANSPORTING, SHIPPING AND STORAGE OF
SMALL GAME AND WATERFOWL

Pheasant and Grouse



Option 1
Fully feathered head attached

Option 2
Fully feathered wing attached

Option 3
One leg and foot attached

Duck
(or other migratory waterfowl)

Option 1
Fully feathered head attached

Option 2
Fully feathered wing attached

TRANSPORTATION PERMITS

A person other than the licensee may transport small game with a transportation and shipping permit. A permit may be obtained from a Conservation Officer or a designee without a charge. Follow these steps to obtain a permit:

» Contact a Conservation Officer or GFP Wildlife Division office to arrange a meeting place and time.
» All persons involved must meet with the officer and bring their hunting licenses and game to be transported.
» Permits will not be issued before they are needed.
» Permits will not be issued as a means of exceeding the daily/possession limit or circumventing plumage, transportation, or shipping requirements.
» See "Federal Laws for Migratory Game Birds" on page 36 for specific requirements for waterfowl and other migratory game birds.

OTHER SEASONS

Species	Dates	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Open Area
* Mourning Dove ❶	Sept. 1-Nov. 9	15	45	Statewide
* Snipe ❷	Sept. 1-Oct. 31	5	15	Statewide
* Sandhill Crane ❸	Sept. 26-Nov. 22	3	9	Open Unit
Crow ❹	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 Mar. 1-Apr. 30	Unlimited		Statewide
Tundra Swan ❺	Oct. 3-Jan. 8	One per license		Open Unit
Prairie Dog ❻	Year-round	Unlimited		Statewide
Cottontail Rabbit ❼	Sept. 1-Mar. 31	10	30	Statewide
Tree Squirrel	Sept. 1-Mar. 31	5	15	Statewide
Ground Squirrel, Gopher, Porcupine, Marmot	Year-round	Unlimited		Statewide
SHOOTING HOURS: *Sunrise to sunset for all species listed except mourning dove, Sandhill crane and tundra swan which is 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset and crow, prairie dog, ground squirrel, gopher, porcupine and marmot, which are not restricted.*				

** Although federal laws apply, a Federal Waterfowl Stamp is not required to hunt mourning dove, Sandhill crane, or snipe. The State Migratory Bird Certificate is still mandatory.*

OTHER **SEASONS**

1. **Mourning Dove Restrictions.** A person:
   - » May not shoot a mourning dove unless the bird is flying.
   - » May not hunt mourning doves with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells.
   - » May not hunt mourning doves in a state park or recreation area, except that portion of Angostura State Recreation Area lying west of the dam, Shadehill State Recreation Area, and the portions of Oahe Downstream Recreation Area located west of SD Highway 1806, or any portion of a state park or recreation area posted as open.
   - » May not hunt mourning doves within road rights-of-way.

   NOTE: *The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service encourage hunters who bag banded doves to visit* ***reportband.gov*** *to report the band number and other important information.*
2. **Snipe.** Hunters must use non-toxic shot to hunt snipe.
3. **Sandhill Crane.** Open area is that portion of South Dakota lying west of a line beginning at the South Dakota-North Dakota border and SD Hwy 25, south on SD Hwy 25 to its junction with SD Hwy 34, east on SD Hwy 34 to its junction with U.S Hwy 81, then south on U.S Hwy 81 to the South Dakota-Nebraska border. Hunters must use non-toxic shot.
4. **Crow.** Electronic calls and rifles are legal to hunt crows.
5. **Tundra Swan.** Only hunters who applied for and received a license through the GFP License Office are eligible to hunt. Hunters must use non-toxic shot when hunting tundra swans. The open unit includes the counties of Aurora, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Clark, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Hand, Hanson, Hughes, Hyde, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Marshall, McCook, McPherson, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Potter, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Sully, and Walworth. Federal laws apply.
6. **Prairie Dog.** Prairie dog shooting is prohibited year-round in the Conata Basin and several other areas within the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands. Please contact the U.S. Forest Service for additional information regarding specific closure locations at 605.279.2125.
7. **Cottontail Rabbit.** Landowners and their guests may hunt cottontail rabbit on the landowner's property year-round without a limit.

FURBEARER SEASONS

FURBEARER **SEASONS**

FURBEARER SEASONS ❶			
Species		**Dates ❷**	**Open Areas and Other Information**
Mink, Weasel		Nov. 1-Jan. 31	Statewide
Muskrat	West River	Year-round	All counties west of the Missouri River, except portions of the Black Hills Fire Protection District
	Black Hills and East River	Nov. 1-Apr. 30	In the Black Hills Fire Protection District and all counties east of the Missouri River
	Statewide	Apr. 1-Aug. 31	**SHOOTING**- Only landowners and lessees, including SD School and Public land surface lease holders, on land they own or operate and state, county or township highway officials within road rights-of-way are allowed to shoot muskrats, statewide. Only rimfire cartridges of .22 caliber or smaller, muzzleloaders of .45 caliber or smaller, legal archery equipment, or shotguns with non-toxic shot are allowed.
Beaver		Year-round	Statewide, except areas within the Black Hills Fire Protection District, which is closed to beaver hunting and trapping
River Otter	East River	Nov. 1-Dec. 31 ❸	Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Charles Mix, Clark, Clay, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Douglas, Grant, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Marshall, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Turner, Union, and Yankton counties
Bobcat	Statewide ❹	Dec. 26-Feb. 15	Black Hills, East River, West River
Red and Grey Fox, Badger, Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum, Jackrabbit, Coyote ❺		Year-round	Statewide
Wolf		Closed	

1. **Nonresidents** may take only raccoon, beaver, and muskrat from Dec. 1, 2026 - Mar. 15, 2027, and bobcats from Jan. 9 - Feb. 15, 2027. Mink and weasel may be trapped from Dec. 1, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027.
2. **Seasons** begin at sunrise of opening day and end at sunset of closing day.
3. **River Otter.** Limit of one river otter per resident hunter/trapper. Season will end prior to December 31, 2026 if the harvest limit of 30 is reached. Resident only.
4. **Bobcat.** Season bag limit is one bobcat East River and in the Black Hills and unlimited bobcats West River, excluding the Black Hills.
5. **Coyote.** The coyote season in Custer State Park is from Nov. 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027. No shooting is allowed within 200 yards of any public building or road within Custer State Park.

FURBEARER REGULATIONS

BARBED HOOKS

Barbed hooks or other similarly sharpened instruments may not be used to take furbearing animals.

BOBCAT CARCASSES

Any person harvesting a bobcat must submit the entire carcass, along with the detached pelt, to GFP personnel within five days of capture. Once the season has closed, an individual has 24 hours to notify a Department representative of any untagged bobcats harvested during the season. The pelt will be inspected, tagged, and registered. The lower jaw will be removed from the carcass. The tagged pelt will be returned. The carcass may be returned upon request.

No person may possess, purchase, or sell raw bobcat pelts that are not legally tagged.

RIVER OTTER CARCASSES

Any person harvesting a river otter must report it to GFP within 24 hours of harvest. The entire carcass, along with the detached pelt, must be submitted to GFP personnel within five days of capture. Once the season has closed (last day of season or harvest limit reached), an individual has 24 hours to notify a Department representative of any untagged river otter harvested during the season. The pelt will be inspected, tagged, and registered. The tagged pelt will be returned. The carcass will be surrendered to GFP and may be returned upon request after collection of biological data.

No person may possess, purchase, or sell raw river otter pelts that are not legally tagged. Any river otter harvested after the 24-hour period following the close of the season will be considered incidental take and will be surrendered to GFP.

BODY GRIP TRAPS (COMMONLY KNOWN AS CONIBEARS)

Body grip traps with a jaw spread greater than eight inches are permitted only as water sets. The entire bottom surface of these traps must remain completely below the water's edge for trapping.

On all public lands and road rights-of-way statewide, no person may set or operate a body grip trap with a jaw spread greater than 6 3/4 inches (i.e. larger than a 160 conibear) when used in conjunction with any bait, lure, or scent unless:

» The trap is recessed in a plastic, wood, or metal cubby a minimum of seven inches from the front edge of the cubby to the trigger of the trap; or
» The trap is set below the water's edge of a stream, river, or other body of water.

NOTE: *A single overhang on the top of the cubby does not meet this recess requirement.*

CATCHES OUT OF SEASON

A trapper must immediately release any live wild animal found in a trap or snare at a time when the established season is closed. Any trapper who finds a dead wild animal in a trap or snare out of season must leave the animal undisturbed in the trap or snare and contact a Department representative within 12 hours. Contact information at end of booklet.

COLONY TRAPS

The size of colony traps for muskrats may not exceed 36 inches in overall length. If using a round colony trap, the diameter

cannot exceed 12 inches. If using a box colony trap, the height may not exceed 12 inches, nor may the width exceed 12 inches.

FLAGGING

No person may flag, mark, or attempt to claim a muskrat house on public lands or waters before sunrise on opening day of the trapping season (i.e., November 1). After the season is open, marking of muskrat houses is legal if the house contains an operational trap set.

FURBEARER POSSESSION, LIVE

Possession of live furbearers is prohibited except that no more than one live furbearer (either a raccoon, jackrabbit, skunk, red or grey fox, or coyote) per household may be kept as a pet. In addition, the Animal Industry Board requires a permit to keep mammals including certain furbearers. For details, contact the Animal Industry Board at 605.773.3321. No pet furbearer may be physically altered except skunks may be descented. Sale or purchase of a pet wild furbearer is prohibited.

FURBEARERS, RELEASE OR KILLING

Except when kept as a pet as provided above, a furbearer taken from the wild must either be released or immediately and humanely killed.

LANDOWNERS

A resident of South Dakota may catch, trap, or kill furbearing animals upon land owned or leased without obtaining a license to do so, during any period when hunting, catching, taking, trapping, or killing such animals is permitted.

LIVE MAMMALS OR BIRDS

The use of any live mammal or live bird to aid in the taking of a furbearing animal, predator, or varmint by a trap or snare is prohibited.

PERMISSION REQUIRED

No person may attach a trap, including snares, to any part of a fence along road rights-of-way adjacent to private land without permission from the adjoining landowner.

No person, except the adjoining landowner or a person receiving written permission from the adjoining landowner, may trap on public road rights-of-way within 660 feet of a home, church, or schoolhouse.

Snares may not be set within fenced pastures, cropland, feedlots, or fenced areas containing domestic livestock without permission of the landowner or the operator.

A person must have a permit issued by the park manager to trap in a state park or recreation area. The free permits are valid Nov. 1 - Mar. 31.

Permission is required from the landowner for trapping on private land leased for public hunting in the Walk-In Area program, Controlled Hunting and Access Program, and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

POLE TRAPS

No person may set or place any trap, snare or similar device on a pole or post in a manner that a raptor may be captured, injured, or killed.

PROTECTED ANIMALS

No person may take pine (Pacific) marten, black-footed ferret, swift fox, fisher, or wolves. If any of these protected species are accidentally caught the animal must be released alive. If the animal is found dead, it must

WOLF IDENTIFICATION

On February 10, 2022, a District Court decision ruled that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) must re-instate wolves under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections, with the exception of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains. Therefore, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) no longer has management authority over gray wolves, and they can no longer be hunted or trapped in South Dakota.

WOLF

- 2.5 feet tall and 5-6 feet long
- 70-120 pounds
- Broad snout
- Round ears
- Color light gray to black
- Track 4.5 inches wide and 5.5 inches long

COYOTE

- 1.5 feet tall and 4 feet long
- 30-40 pounds
- Narrow snout
- Pointed ears
- Color light gray to brown
- Track 2.5 inches wide and 2-2.5 inches long

be left undisturbed in the snare or trap and a GFP representative contacted within 12 hours.

RAW FURS

Raw furs may be kept after the close of each respective season if the furs are checked with a GFP representative within 10 days.

RESTRICTIONS

Except in Haakon, Jackson, Jones, Lyman, and Stanley counties where these laws do not apply for muskrats, no person may:

- Hunt mink or muskrats with dogs.
- Dig or disturb a mink den or beaver house to capture mink or beaver, or use poison, gas, or smoke to kill or capture these animals.
- Spear muskrat.
- Destroy a muskrat house, except that in open season a house may be opened in a manner that will not destroy or damage it as a place of habitation.

SNARES

Snares must have a mechanical lock, swivel device on the anchor end and stop device to prohibit the restraint loop from closing to a diameter less than 2-1/2 inches. Snares must be attached by the swivel directly to the anchoring device or by chain or cable between the swivel and the anchoring device. The swivel may not be more than four inches long and must operate freely when set. Attaching snares to a drag is prohibited. Exempt from the above restriction that requires the use of a permanent stop are snares that have a lock or device with

a breaking strength of 350 pounds of pressure or less. Trappers who use these types of snares must submit the snare for breaking strength testing if requested by a Department representative.

It is unlawful to possess or transport snares not properly equipped, except manufacturers may obtain a free Shipping and Transportation Permit from a GFP representative to ship or transport snares to another area that does not require the same equipment as South Dakota.

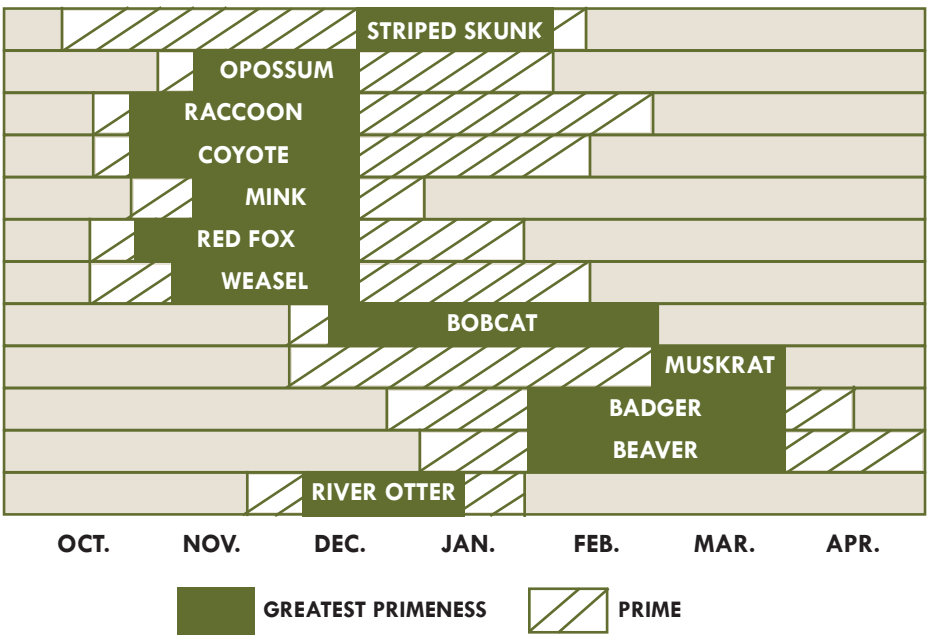
Snares are prohibited May 1 - Nov. 13 on improved road rights-of-way and on all public lands statewide. No snare with a spring or other device that applies pressure to the locking mechanism (commonly referred to as kill springs, choke springs, compression springs, dispatch springs, ram snares, or similar devices) may be placed on a Game Production Area or Waterfowl Production Area unless the snare is placed below the surface of the water or ice.

TRAP CHECKING

Traps, including snares, must be checked, in-person prior to midnight of the second full calendar day (from the time the trap was initially set or last checked) east of the Missouri River and prior to midnight of the third full calendar day west of the Missouri River. Any animal caught must be removed.

Traps or snares entirely submerged in the water and remain set beneath ice must be checked in-person and any caught animals removed prior to midnight of the fifth full calendar day statewide.

TIME OF PRIMENESS FOR S.D. FURBEARERS



TRAP REMOVALS

If traps including snares are not being checked within the required trap check period, traps shall be rendered inoperable, and snares shall be closed to their permanent stop or closed to less than 2-1/2 inches if not equipped with a permanent stop. All traps and snares (set or unset), stakes, cables, chains, wires, or other devices used for the purpose of attaching a trap or snare must be removed from public lands and improved road rights-of-way prior to May 1 of each year, except live traps may be used until August 31.

TRAPPING IN STATE PARKS

A person must have a permit issued by the park manager to trap in a State Park or Recreation Area (Custer State Park, Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve in Union County, and Beaver Creek Nature Area in Minnehaha County are closed to trapping). The free permits are valid Nov. 1 - Mar. 31. Applications can be found online or contact any park office. A valid Furbearer license is required. Trappers must also be familiar with and adhere to all park, firearm, and vehicle restrictions.

TRAP VANDALISM

No person may steal, damage, or destroy someone else's trap, snare, or animal in a trap.

VISIBLE BAIT

Traps, including snares, may not be set within 30 feet of exposed bait visible to airborne raptors. Exposed bait is meat or viscera of any animal, bird, or fish with or without skin, hide, or feathers.

WATER SETS

Traps (except any live cage trap or live box trap, snares, and traps designed specifically to catch raccoons such as coon cuffs and egg traps) cannot be placed or set in water or within 30 feet of water from Oct. 1 to Oct. 31.

However, body-grip traps may be set below the water's edge for beaver, statewide (excluding the Black Hills Fire Protection District). The entire bottom surface of these traps must remain completely below the water's edge at all times.

No person may place any trap (set or unset), stake, cable, chain, wire, or other device used for the purpose of attaching a trap or otherwise attempt to claim or mark a trap site on any public road rights-of-way or public lands or waters open to trapping within 30 feet of water from Oct. 1 through sunrise on Nov. 1, inclusive.

BIG GAME REGULATIONS

BIG GAME **REGULATIONS**

The following is a synopsis of big game regulations. Other rules applicable to big game hunting may be found in other sections of this handbook. Big game regulations are also available at ***gfp.sd.gov***.

Big game licenses are issued by application. All elk, bighorn sheep, mountain lion, mountain goat and Custer State Park seasons are resident only. See ***gfp.sd.gov/hunt***.

Big game season dates can be found on page 102.

TAG DEFINITIONS

- **Any Deer**: Whitetail or mule deer buck, doe, or fawn.
- **Any Buck**: Whitetail or mule deer with visible antler.
- **Any Whitetail Deer**: Whitetail only buck, doe, or fawn.
- **Any Whitetail Buck**: Whitetail with visible antler.
- **Any Elk**: Elk bull, cow, or calf.
- **Antlerless Deer/Elk**: Deer/elk of either sex without visible antler.
- **Antlerless Whitetail**: Whitetail only of either sex without visible antler.
- **Buck Antelope**: Antelope with visible horns three inches or more in length.
- **Doe/Kid Antelope**: Antelope of either sex without horns or with horns less than three inches in length.
- **Any Mountain Lion:** Solitary mountain lion of either sex without a spotted coat.
- **Any Turkey**: Wild turkey of either sex.
- **Male Turkey**: Wild turkey with a visible beard/spurs.
- **Hen Turkey**: Wild turkey without a visible beard/spurs.

APPRENTICE DEER

- See information under Apprentice, Mentored Big Game, and Youth Deer, page 88.

ARCHERY EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

A person hunting with bow and arrow MAY NOT use or possess any of the following:

- Explosive, poisonous, hydraulic, or pneumatic points;
- Crossbows and draw-lock devices that hold the bow at partial or full draw except for persons with qualifying disabilities;
- Electronic devices mounted to the bow that aid in the taking of game. However, cameras, video cameras and cell phones used exclusively for photographic purposes, lighted sight pins, and illuminated arrow nocks may be used;
- Electronic arrow or electronic string releases;
- Telescopic sights;
- An arrow without a broadhead (fixed or mechanical) that has at least two metal cutting edges when hunting big game animals. However, an arrow tipped with any point may be possessed when used for practice;
- A bow measuring less than 40 pounds pull when hunting an elk;
- A bow measuring less than 30 pounds pull when hunting big game animals other than elk.

CONCEALED PISTOL

No firearm restrictions in place for any hunting season prohibit a licensee from otherwise lawfully carrying a concealed pistol while hunting.

DECOYS

Decoys may be used for big game hunting.

DOG USE WHILE HUNTING BIG GAME

No one may use a dog for hunting big game, except for the following:

» A dog that is leashed and under the control of a handler may be used to track and retrieve any big game animal that is wounded or presumed dead.

» The use of dogs to hunt mountain lions is only allowed with a permit within the Black Hills Fire Protection District during specified hunting intervals and units. Outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District, the use of dogs to hunt mountain lions is allowed year round.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE OR PINK

Any person hunting any big game animal, except turkey or mountain lion, with a firearm shall wear in a visible manner one or more fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink exterior garments. The exterior garment shall be a hat, cap, shirt, jacket, vest, coverall, or poncho worn above the waist.

LEGAL FIREARMS/EQUIPMENT

No self-loading or auto-loading firearm that holds more than six cartridges may be used to hunt, pursue, shoot at, shoot, kill, or wound any big game animal. No firearm that is capable of being operated as a full automatic may be used to hunt, shoot, shoot at, wound, kill, or pursue any big game or small game animal. Shotguns must discharge a single ball or rifled slug weighing at least one-half ounce. Buckshot is prohibited.

Deer, Antelope, Mountain Lion: Shoulder-held firearms using ammunition rated to produce at least 1,000 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle and handguns using ammunition that is rated to produce at least 500 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle, may be used to hunt deer, antelope, and mountain lion.

Only soft-point or expanding bullets are permitted. Shotguns must discharge a single ball or rifled slug weighing at least one-half ounce. Buckshot is prohibited.

Elk: It is illegal to use firearms that produce less than 1,700 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle and that are smaller than .243 caliber to hunt elk. Only soft point or expanding bullets are permitted. Buckshot is prohibited.

Turkey: A person may not use a rimfire, centerfire, or muzzleloading rifle during the spring turkey season. In fall, shoulder-held firearms using ammunition that is factory-rated to produce at least 700 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle and handguns using ammunition which is factory-rated to produce at least 500 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle may be used in the hunting of wild turkeys. Buckshot is prohibited.

Muzzleloading Firearms: In seasons restricted to muzzleloading firearms, telescopic sights are not allowed.

Telescopic sights are those sights that utilize magnification. No person may hunt, shoot, shoot at, wound, kill, or pursue any big game animal with any muzzle loading rifle which is less than .44 caliber. Muzzleloading handguns must discharge a projectile of .50 caliber or larger.

NOTE: *Hunters filling big game tags that are not restricted to archery or muzzleloaders may use any of the*

weapons described under "Legal Firearms" or "Archery" or any combination of weapons. Additionally, a person who holds a big game license to take a big game animal during the firearm season may take the animal by using a crossbow instead of a firearm. The crossbow shall have at least 125 pounds pull and have a working mechanical safety. Scopes may be used on crossbows.

NONLICENSEES/ACCOMPANIMENT ALL BIG GAME LICENSEES

No person possessing a firearm, including a muzzleloading firearm or a bow and arrow may accompany a big game hunter in the field or cooperate as part of a big game hunting group unless the accompanying person possesses a big game license that is valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the licensee. The provisions of this section do not apply to a person who is legally licensed to hunt small game or exempt from license requirements and hunting only with a shotgun using shot shells.

No person hunting small game and accompanying a licensed firearm big game hunter in the field may use dogs while accompanying the big game hunter.

ARCHERY-ONLY BIG GAME LICENSEE

No person who is licensed in a season restricted to archery only may possess a firearm in the field while hunting big game with bow and arrow, except:

» A person who possesses a firearm big game license that is valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the archery license, OR

» A person who is lawfully carrying a pistol.

PERSONAL PROPERTY ON PUBLIC LAND

A person may not leave any property after 11 p.m. on public lands owned, leased, or controlled by GFP or in the water adjoining such an area, or within the right-of-way of the George S. Mickelson Trail unless that person is legally camped, lodged, or fishing or the property is located in a leased space designated for the specified use of that property. Unless otherwise posted as such, these restrictions do not apply to legally placed tree stands, elevated platforms, portable blinds, trail cameras, or trapping equipment on GFP lands (see additional requirements below).

Except for legal tree stands, portable blinds, trail cameras, and trapping equipment all personal property must be removed from lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the end of each day.

PROHIBITED FELONS

An individual who has a felony conviction might be prohibited from possessing a firearm by state or federal law. According to state law the term "firearm" includes any antique firearm and any muzzleloading rifle, muzzleloading shotgun, or muzzleloading pistol, including muzzleloading weapons that are designed to use black powder or a black powder substitute and cannot use fixed ammunition.

RESTRICTIONS

No one may discharge a firearm, muzzleloader, crossbow, or bow and arrow at any big game animal, except turkey may be taken with a shotgun using shot shells or with a bow and arrow, from within the rights-of-way of an improved highway including gravel township roads.

BIG GAME **REGULATIONS**

No one may discharge a firearm or other weapon across or from a National Forest Service road.

No person may place any salt or salt lick or construct, occupy, or use any screen, blind, scaffold, or other device at or near any salt or salt lick for the purpose of enticing or baiting big game animals to the same for the purpose of hunting, watching for, or killing big game.

No one may establish, utilize, or maintain a bait station from Aug.1 - Feb. 1, inclusive and from March 15 - May 31, inclusive, to attract any big game animal (including turkey). A bait station is a location where grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay, minerals (including salt), or any other natural food materials, commercial products containing natural food materials or by-products of such materials are placed or maintained as an attractant to big game animals for the purpose of hunting. The use of scents alone does not constitute a bait station.

The bait station restriction does not apply to foods that have not been placed or gathered by an individual and result from normal environmental conditions or accepted farming, forest management, wildlife food plantings, orchard management, or similar land management activities. Individuals are exempt from the bait station requirements while participating in any research or depredation management activities directed by GFP.

No person may establish, utilize, or maintain a bait station on lands leased for public hunting by the GFP or owned by the GFP.

Additionally, the distribution of bait and hunting over bait is prohibited on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA).

No one may use an electronic call when hunting big game (including turkey). Electronic calls are allowed for mountain lion hunting.

No one may kill a big game animal not in season or kill a big game animal in season and not tag and claim the animal.

SHOOTING HOURS

All firearms and archery big game shooting hours (except turkey) are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Shooting hours for turkey season are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

TAGGING AND TRANSPORTATION

The tag you receive with your license must be signed, dated, and securely attached to the big game animal at the time it is brought to a road or into any hunting camp, farmyard, or residence or before it is placed in or on a vehicle.

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

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

Tagging allows a big game animal to be transported and stored by the hunter or another person for the hunter.

No one may lend a license or tag to another or knowingly issue or aid in securing a license or preference point for any person not legally entitled to it.

No person may possess in the field or transport a big game animal (including boned out meat), except turkey, unless it is accompanied by the animal's lawfully tagged leg or antler along with either the animal's head or a hind quarter with the visible external sex organs left naturally attached to it. Any person licensed to take any deer, any elk, or any antelope is exempt from transporting the animal's head or hind quarter with attached sex organs if the lawfully tagged leg accompanies the animal for such license. However, the provisions of this section do not apply to a big game licensee who transports big game parts (including boned out meat) from the licensee's domicile to another location if the licensee possesses the big game tag or big game license entitling the licensee to the animal or to big game that has been cooked or cured, by means other than freezing, for personal consumption. If a person other than licensee transports big game animal parts (including boned meat) from the licensee's domicile to another location, the tagged leg or a transportation permit must accompany the items being transported.

Any person who lawfully takes a wild turkey may remove edible portions from the turkey while in the field and transport providing the person also has in their possession the beard, leg and foot with the attached tag until the bird has arrived at the domicile of the processor. Any person licensed to take "any turkey" is exempt from transporting the beard.

Big game taken in another state or with a tribal license must be properly tagged when transported within South Dakota. If no tag was issued, the person in possession of the animal must provide proof the animal was lawfully taken.

DISPOSAL OF DEER AND ELK CARCASSES

If any portion of the deer or elk carcass is transported from the county of harvest, hunters must dispose all carcass remains with a waste management provider, if an allowable trash item, or with a permitted landfill. Game processors and taxidermists, regardless of the location of harvest, are required to dispose of all carcass remains with a waste management provider, if an allowable trash item, or with a permitted landfill.

If you are not moving a deer or elk carcass from the county of harvest, the regulations do not apply unless the carcass is delivered to a game processor or a taxidermist. Returning carcass remains to public lands and using road ditches to dispose of carcass remains is illegal. Make sure permission is granted if disposing on private land.

Deer or elk carcasses from another state brought back into South Dakota must be disposed of with a waste management provider or landfill that accepts carcass parts.

Deer or elk carcasses passing through South Dakota are exempt from any carcass disposal regulations.

See Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) regulations on page 87.

TRAIL CAMERAS ON GFP LANDS

Any trail camera placed on public lands owned, leased, or controlled by

GFP may be attached to a tree, post, or other structure by utilizing no more than one nail, bolt, or screw. The use of trail cameras on private lands leased for public hunting by GFP is prohibited without the permission of the landowner. The name and address of the owner or user OR Customer Identification Number of the owner or user must be on the exterior of an unattended trail camera. 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.

TREE STANDS/PORTABLE BLINDS ON PUBLIC LAND

Construction or use of permanent tree stands, permanent blinds, and climbing devices are prohibited on lands owned, leased, or controlled by GFP and on all private lands leased for public hunting by GFP. Portable tree stands, portable blinds, and climbing devices that do not utilize nails, wire, or bolts for attachment are allowed from August 1 - March 31, inclusive. Portable blinds may also be used during the spring turkey seasons by licensed spring turkey hunters. One screw-in "T" bolt 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 Customer Identification Number of the owner or user must be on the exterior of an unoccupied portable blind 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. A properly labeled tree stand or portable blind on GFP land is privately owned property.

The use of nails, wires, screws, bolts, or screw-in steps is prohibited on National Wildlife Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas, both managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Contact Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge for specifics on placement of deer stands within the Refuge. Call 605.546.8157 or visit ***fws.gov/sandlake***.

TURKEY HUNTING RESTRICTION

No turkey may be shot while roosting in a tree. Lead shot is legal for turkey hunting on all public lands.

TAGGING AND TRANSPORTING ANTELOPE, DEER, AND ELK

WHEN DO I TAG MY ANTELOPE, DEER, OR ELK?

The locking seal issued with each big game license is an adhesive tag. The licensee shall sign the tag and date it by cutting out completely the month and date of kill only. The tag shall be securely attached to the animal at the time it is brought to a road or into any hunting camp, dwelling, farmyard, or other place of abode of any kind, or before it is placed in or on a vehicle of any kind (including ATVs and UTVs).

WHERE DO I TAG MY ANTELOPE, DEER, OR ELK?

The licensee shall attach the tag securely to all hoofed big game animals:

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

HOW DO I TRANSPORT MY ANTELOPE, DEER, OR ELK FROM THE FIELD?

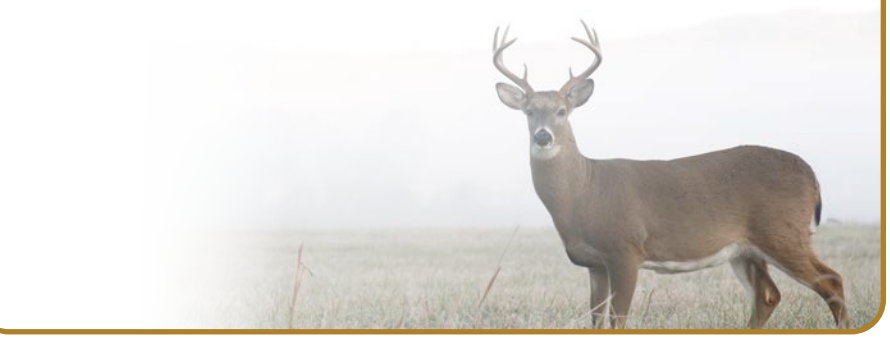
The antelope, deer, or elk (including boned out meat) must be accompanied by the animal's lawfully tagged leg or antler along with either the animal's head or a hind quarter with the visible external sex organs left naturally attached to it. However, a person with an Any Deer or Any Elk license must only provide the lawfully tagged leg or antler that accompanies the animal for such license.

CAN I TRANSPORT AN ANTELOPE, DEER, OR ELK FOR ANOTHER PERSON?

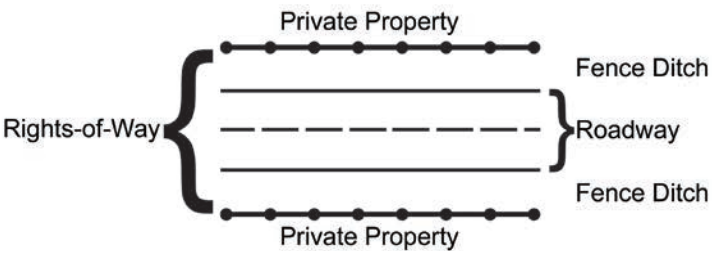
Tagging allows an antelope, deer, or elk to be transported and stored by the hunter or for the hunter. If a person other than the licensee transports antelope/deer/elk parts (including boned meat) from the licensee's domicile to another location, the tagged leg OR a transportation permit must accompany the items being transported.

WHAT DO I NEED TO TRANSPORT MY ANTELOPE, DEER, ELK FROM MY DOMICILE TO THE TAXIDERMIST OR PROCESSOR?

You must carry the big game tag or big game license entitling you to the animal.



HUNTING ON ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY



HUNTING ON **ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

Laws and rules governing trespass and motor vehicles are complex. The laws may be simplified if the hunter remembers to hunt only on foot during established seasons, to ask permission to enter private land and not to drive on state and federal lands. It is also advisable to restrict vehicular travel in wet weather when roads, trails, rangeland, and cropland could be damaged and in dry conditions when fire danger is high.

Road rights-of-way, excluding the Interstate highway system, are open for the hunting of small game and waterfowl (see Mourning Dove, Youth Pheasant, and Resident-only Pheasant seasons for special road-hunting restrictions). Only the owner of the occupied dwelling, church, or schoolhouse; the owner of livestock; or a person who has written permission from the owner of the occupied dwelling, church, or schoolhouse, or the owner of the livestock may use such highways or rights-of-way for the purposes of discharging any firearm or for the purposes of hunting within a 660-foot safety zone surrounding an occupied dwelling, a church, schoolhouse, or livestock. No other person may discharge a firearm at small game within the safety zone.

The rights-of-way along a section line or other highway are open for hunting if:

» The rights-of-way have been commonly used by the public for vehicular travel, as demonstrated by the existence of a well-worn vehicle trail.

» An intentional alteration or adaptation has been made to the rights-of-way to enhance the natural terrain's utility for vehicular travel or to permit vehicular travel where it was not possible before.
NOTE: *Fences are sometimes not on a rights-of-way boundary and sometimes there is no fence. Most section line rights-of-way are 66 feet wide. Some acquired rights-of-way are wider.*

» Hunters can take only small game (except mourning doves) and waterfowl within the rights-of-way on foot. The hunter must be within the rights-of-way and the game must originate from the road rights-of-way or be flying over the rights-of-way.

» The person must park or stop their vehicle as far to the right-hand side of the road as possible.

» If the person who discharges a firearm is more than 50 yards from the vehicle, the doors on the side of the vehicle nearest the roadway must be closed, but the engine may remain running.

» If the person who discharges a firearm is less than 50 yards from the vehicle, all doors of the vehicle must be closed, and the engine shall be turned off.

» It is NOT legal to shoot small game and waterfowl that takes flight from rights-of-way over a Federal Refuge or Tribal lands. If a state-licensed hunter shoots at a bird across the fence on either of these lands, the hunter may be subject to federal arrest.

» Small game and waterfowl taken from the rights-of-way but falling onto private property can be retrieved by unarmed hunters on foot.

» No person may discharge a firearm, muzzleloader, crossbow, or bow and arrow at any big game animal, except turkey, may be taken with a shotgun using shot shells or with a bow and arrow, from within rights-of-ways open to hunting.

» A person may not discharge a firearm or other weapon across or from any Black Hills National Forest Service road.

» Any person who, while hunting road rights-of-way, negligently endangers another person or puts that person in fear of imminent serious bodily harm, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

GENERAL LAWS

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

Between sunset and sunrise, no person may use or possess night-vision equipment or throw or cast the rays of a spotlight, motor vehicle headlight, or other artificial light onto a highway or into any field, pasture, woodland, forest, or prairie for the purpose of spotting, locating, taking, attempting to take, or hunting any animal, if the person is in possession or control of a firearm, bow, or other implement by which an animal could be killed. However:

» A person may use a handheld light, while the person is on foot, to take raccoons after the raccoons have been treed by dogs, or to engage in trapping activity and to take trapped fur-bearing animals.

» From January 1 - August 31 a person may use night vision equipment, but not artificial light, to take jackrabbits, coyotes, beaver during its hunting season, foxes, raccoons, opossums, badgers, skunks, and rodents, provided the person is on public land, and they use a shotgun and shot shells or a firearm and a cartridge having a bullet diameter of less than .312 inches.

» From January 1- August 31, a person may use night vision equipment, but not artificial light, to take jackrabbits, coyotes, beaver during its hunting season, foxes, raccoons, opossums, badgers, skunks, and rodents, provided the person is on private land that is under lease to the Department of Game, Fish and Parks for the purpose of providing public access, has the permission of the landowner, and they use a shotgun and shot shells or a firearm and a cartridge having a bullet diameter of less than .312 inches.

» A person may use night vision equipment and artificial light to take jackrabbits, coyotes, beaver during its hunting season, foxes, raccoons, opossums, badgers, skunks, and rodents, provided the person is on private land, and they use a shotgun and shot shells or a firearm and a cartridge having a bullet diameter of less than .312 inches.

» "Artificial light" means a man-made light or lighting device that projects lumination for an unaided eye.

» "Night-vision equipment" means an electronic or battery-powered device that enhances a person's ability to see in the dark.

RECREATIONAL ARTIFICIAL LIGHT LAW

Except as otherwise provided in "Artificial Light" above, between 10 p.m. and sunrise, from September 1 to January 31, inclusive, no person may cast the rays of a spotlight, or any artificial light other than a motor vehicle headlight, into any field, pasture, woodland, forest, or prairie, for the purpose of spotting or locating any wild animal. However, a person owning or occupying land and up to two guests may use night-vision equipment, a spotlight, or other artificial light, on the person's land.

BOATING RESTRICTIONS

Hunters and trappers must follow all state and federal boating regulations when operating boats on public waters in South Dakota. Those using a boat for hunting or trapping purposes should verify they have all required boating equipment on board and their vessel is currently and properly licensed.

GENERAL **LAWS**

The latest South Dakota Boating Handbook is available from any GFP Wildlife Division office and from County Treasurer offices or online at ***gfp.sd.gov/pages/regulations***.

The following list includes water bodies in South Dakota with boating or boat motor restrictions that may impact hunters and trappers. A complete listing of public water safety zones by county may be found online at ***sdlegislature.gov***.

» **Brown County:** Willow Dam Wildlife Management Area, no motorboats or motor vehicles; Putney Slough Game Production Area, no boating Oct. 20 - Dec. 31 in Secs. 7, 8, 17, and 18 in T124N, R61W.

» **Clark County:** Reid Lake, no boating Oct. 20 - Dec. 31; Indian Springs and Antelope Lake, no discharging a firearm or fishing from a boat east of the 424th Ave. line to 0.5 miles east of 427th Ave. line from Oct. 20-Dec. 31.

» **Codington County:** McKilligan Lake, no boating during waterfowl seasons; Horseshoe Lake, no motors during waterfowl seasons; Blythe Slough in portions of Secs. 27 and 28 of T117N, R55W, no boating from March 1 - Aug. 31.

» **Day County:** Blue Dog Lake on waters fronting the Lakeside Use Area starting at east property boundary and extending 300 feet west along shore is a no wake zone.

» **Hand County:** Wall Lake, no motors during waterfowl seasons.

» **Hutchinson County:** Silver Lake, no boating during fall and spring waterfowl seasons; Dimock, Tripp, and Menno lakes, no wake zone.

» **McCook County:** The waters of Lehrman Game Production Area, in Sec. 32, T103N, R56W, no boating during the Light Goose Conservation Order as well as any open season for migratory waterfowl.

» **Minnehaha County:** Clear Lake, no boating Oct. 20 - Dec. 31.

» **Roberts County:** Secs. 20, 28, 29, 32, and 33 of T128N, R49W of Cottonwood Lake Waterfowl Refuge, no boating zone during waterfowl seasons; and Secs. 11, 12, and 14 of T127N, R48W of Mud Lake, only boats using electric motors during waterfowl seasons.

» **Turner County:** Swan Lake, no motors on waters south and west of Christian Camp; and the waters at the eastern end of Swan Lake within an area starting at a point along the shoreline approximately 60 feet south of the concrete retaining wall that is located on the north side of the beach on a line to a point 100 feet westerly, then on a line to a point 100 feet southerly, then on a line in an easterly direction back to a point on shore are a no boating zone.

CIVIL DAMAGE LIABILITY

Violations of most big game regulations are Class 1 misdemeanors, punishable by fine and/or imprisonment and mandatory loss of hunting privileges for one year. In addition to criminal penalties, a person taking or killing big game illegally may be assessed civil damages in the amount of $100 for each game bird, $200 for each turkey, $1,000 for each non-trophy deer, non-trophy antelope, or bobcat, $5,000 for each non-trophy elk, mountain lion, or buffalo, and $10,000 for each mountain goat or bighorn sheep.

Cases involving "trophy" antelope or deer, civil damages will be at least $2,000 and not more than $5,000 for

each animal; cases involving "trophy" elk, civil damages will be at least $6,000 and not more than $10,000 for each elk. If a person has taken or is in possession of more than two times the lawful daily or possession limit of a regulated wild animal, such person may be liable for twice the civil damages. In addition, individuals charged with the illegal taking of a trophy big game animal are subject to loss of all preference points for the lottery license drawing.

CLOSED AREAS

The following are illegal:

» Hunting without permission of landowner on legally vacated section lines.

» No person (except the landowner or anyone with landowner permission) may hunt on that portion of public waters that inundate private land within 660 feet of livestock, occupied dwelling, churches, or schoolhouses.

» Discharging firearms or hunting road rights-of-way within 660 feet of an occupied dwelling, church, schoolhouse, or livestock without written permission from the owner of such property. ***NOTE:*** *Hunters often violate this state law when trees obscure feedlots, livestock, buildings, and dwellings. A violation of the 660-foot law carries a one-year suspension of hunting privileges when the distance is clearly and accurately posted.*

» Hunting waterfowl within state waterfowl refuges or game birds (including waterfowl) within state game bird refuges except as provided in season regulations.

» Hunting during the waterfowl seasons along Brown County Road 16 adjacent to the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

» Hunting within any federal refuge, National Park, or monument, except as otherwise provided for in season regulations.

DOG TRAINING STATEWIDE

No person may kill or capture any wild game birds while training or running a dog except during open seasons.

No person may train dogs on wild game birds statewide from April 15 - July 31.

Using pen-raised birds to train dogs is permitted with certain restrictions:

» Ducks, ring-necked pheasants, partridges, and quail, which are obtained from the holder of a South Dakota captive game bird license, marked accordingly, and used for any event or activity related to sporting dog training or field trials may be pursued or taken on private lands at any time and on public areas with prior approval of the director of the division with management authority over the public area.

» A bill of sale that shows the licensee's name, address, and captive game bird license number; the number, species, and sex of the birds; the date of the transaction; and the name and address of the possessor of the birds must accompany the birds at all times, until the birds reach the domicile of the possessor.

» Dog trainers may use throwing dummies, lures, or pigeons in the training of dogs at any time and in any place that such activity is not otherwise prohibited.

» Ringneck pheasants to be killed or captured for any event or activity related to a sporting dog training or field trial shall be confined in a release trap, release box, or similar device

until they are released immediately before they are killed or captured. A streamer of fluorescent surveyor tape conspicuously attached to the bird at all times during the event or activity is acceptable in lieu of confinement and release from a trap.

DOG TRAINING PUBLIC LAND

No person may train a dog for the purpose of locating, pursuing, pointing, or retrieving wild game birds on any publicly owned land or on any public road right-of-way using any form of motor vehicle, horse, or any type of conveyance from August 1 to the Friday preceding the third Saturday of September, inclusive.

Training dogs on wild birds from August 1 to the Friday preceding the third Saturday of September is allowed with the following restrictions:

» The dog(s) must be owned by the person conducting the training and not offered for sale.
» The owner of the dog may be assisted in the training, provided the owner is also present during the training.
» No person training a dog on wild game birds on public lands may possess a shotgun or rifle during the training during this time frame.
» No person may train more than four dogs in any one day for the purpose of locating, pursuing, pointing, or retrieving wild game birds.
» A person who otherwise qualifies to train dogs on public lands may use a horse for dog training on public lands until noon central time on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from the first Friday of August to the first Sunday of September, inclusive, with authorization of the government agency that manages the public land.
» Sporting dog trials may be authorized and conducted on lands administered by the Department. An application for a sporting dog trial must be made in writing on forms provided by the department.

DOG REQUIREMENTS

Dogs being brought into South Dakota are required to have a certificate from their local veterinarian indicating that they are vaccinated against rabies. A health certificate is not necessary for dogs traveling to this state unless:

» The animal originates from an area quarantined for rabies;
» The animal originates from a foreign county;
» The animal is to remain in the state for 30 days or more;
» A resident travels with an animal to another state or province and does not return within 30 days; or
» The state veterinarian determines that it is necessary based on disease information for a time period not to exceed the term of the threat.

Dog owners with questions concerning requirements may call the South Dakota Animal Industry Board at 605.773.3321.

ELECTRONIC CALLS

The use of electronic calls is prohibited when hunting migratory birds (except for crows and during the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order) and when hunting big game except for mountain lion. Turkeys are considered big game.

FALCONRY - GENERAL

A person may not hunt by falconry and be in possession of a firearm, except a pistol or be accompanied by a person carrying a firearm, except for a pistol. Non-migratory game birds and game

animals may be hunted Sept. 1 - March 31. Migratory game birds may be hunted only in accordance with state and federal migratory game bird season regulations for 107 days beginning no earlier than Sept. 1 and ending by Jan. 15. The daily bag limit is three and the possession limit is six of game species in the aggregate.

Protected nongame birds and animals taken incidentally by a raptor may not be retained or possessed.

FALCONRY-TAKING OR ACQUISITION OF RAPTORS

No person may take or attempt to take any raptor without first acquiring a raptor collecting permit issued by GFP. Permittees must be in immediate possession of the raptor collecting permit while taking or attempting to take raptors. The fee for a raptor collecting permit is $50 for residents, $200 for nonresidents.

The trapping of passage raptors (immature raptors in their first-year plumage) is permitted only between Aug. 1 - March 31. Only resident general or master falconry permittees may take eyas (young, flightless birds) from a nest or aerie. At least one eyas must be left in the nest or aerie. Eyas may be taken only between May 1 - July 31. For additional information, visit ***gfp.sd.gov/falconry-permit.***

FEDERAL LACEY ACT

No person may transport or ship to another state fish and wildlife unlawfully taken, possessed, or sold in South Dakota.

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

No one may:

» Wantonly waste game or destroy any birds or animals protected by the laws of South Dakota.
» Possess a loaded firearm while intoxicated.
» Recklessly discharge a firearm or bow and arrow.
» Use a firearm in the Fort Meade Recreation Area South Unit and the signed portion of the North Unit.
» Take game, except by shooting it with a legal weapon or by birds trained in falconry.
» Hunt game birds with a shotgun capable of being operated as a fully automatic.
» Use rifles and handguns, including .22 caliber rimfire firearms, to hunt upland game birds. They may be used for hunting other small game animals such as squirrels and rabbits.
» Hunt with air guns, EXCEPT air guns may be used by licensed hunters to take cottontail rabbit, tree squirrel, coyote, fox, skunk, gopher, ground squirrel, chipmunk, jackrabbit, marmot, porcupine, crow, and prairie dog; air guns must be factory-rated to produce a muzzle velocity of at least 600 feet per second; only hunting pellets are permitted.
» Steal, damage, or destroy someone else's trap, snare, or animal in a trap.
» Use a drone to aid in the taking or recovery game.

GIFTING WILDLIFE AND FISH

For this rule, gift means the voluntary transfer of game/fish from any person to another without fee or consideration. A licensee may gift game and fish or any part of game and fish, to another person if each of the following conditions is met:

» The game/fish was lawfully taken, caught, or killed; and
» The number of game/fish gifted does

not place the recipient in violation of any season, daily, or possession limit established for the species of game/fish being gifted.

» If gifting to an unlicensed person the licensee shall gift the game/fish at the domicile of the recipient.

» A wildlife processing facility and a person who deposits lawfully taken game with the facility for processing may agree upon a period of time following which the facility may consider the game, except a migratory bird, to be abandoned by the person. Except for a migratory bird, the facility may distribute abandoned game to any non-profit organization or any charitable organization that distributes food or other services to individuals in need. At no time may any abandoned game be considered the property of the wildlife processing facility.

» Gifting of waterfowl must comply with federal regulations. See "Federal Laws for Migratory Game Birds" for more information.

HARASSMENT

No person may intentionally interfere with other persons lawfully engaged in taking or attempting to take game or fish, engage in activity specifically intended to harass or prevent the lawful taking of game or fish, or scare or disturb game with specific intent to prevent its lawful taking.

HUNTING GUIDES ON PUBLIC LANDS

No person, acting as a hunting guide, may guide any hunting activity on state-owned or managed Game Production Areas, state parks, recreation areas and lakeside use areas, federal land leased or under agreement to GFP and posted as a Game Production Area and managed for wildlife purposes or private land leased or under agreement to GFP for the purpose of providing public access, or on highways or other rights-of-way within this state that otherwise meet the requirements except that a hunting guide or employees of a hunting guide may guide a hunting activity on the road rights-of-way immediately adjacent to property owned or leased by the hunting guide.

A "hunting guide" is defined as a person who holds himself or herself out to the public as a hunting guide and, for compensation or remuneration, directs or provides services to any person for the purpose of hunting any wild animals.

Federal agencies have regulations pertaining to guiding and outfitting in addition to those listed here. Contact the respective agency for more information.

INSPECTION

Any person who possesses any game bird, animal, or fish shall, upon the request of any person authorized to enforce the game and fish laws of the state, permit the inspection and count of the birds, animals, or fish. Any motor vehicle, pickup camper, camper, or any conveyance attached thereto, may be stopped for such an inspection and count by any uniformed law enforcement officer.

MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

No person may operate motor-propelled vehicles (including e-bikes) on:

» Lands owned, leased, or controlled by GFP except on designated roads and parking areas; and waters that are open to motorized boats (see boating restrictions).

- Federal Waterfowl Production Areas, except on designated parking areas.
- National Grasslands except on designated roads and trails.
- U.S. Forest Service roads except on designated roads and trails.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land except on established roads.
- On all waters of the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge and Waubay State Game Refuge in Day County, except for designated trails.
- Private land without permission from the owner or lessee.

No person who is in or on a motor vehicle, except those hunters with Disabled Hunter Permits, may discharge a firearm, crossbow, or a bow and arrow at any wild animal except, coyotes, jackrabbits, rodents, skunks, badgers, raccoons, red fox, and grey fox.

No person may allow a firearm to protrude from a motor vehicle or a conveyance attached to it while the vehicle is on a public road during a hunting season. However, a firearm may protrude from a motor vehicle when shooting at, coyotes, jackrabbits, rodents, skunks, badgers, raccoons, red fox, and grey fox.

NOTE: *Trespass laws apply and landowner permission is necessary to shoot from a road at these species that are on private land.*

No person may use a motor vehicle to chase, harass, intercept, pursue, or disturb big game, small game, or migratory birds.

No person may kill or attempt to kill any wild bird or animal from an aircraft, except for persons with a valid aerial hunting permit issued by GFP. No person may use an aircraft for the purpose of hunting, taking, concentrating, driving, rallying, stirring up, locating, or spotting any wild bird or animal, except a person who uses a drone for the purpose of locating or spotting a predator or varmint, provided (1) The activity occurs only on or over land that is privately owned; (2) The person operating the drone is the landowner or has permission from the landowner or a lessee; (3) The activity does not occur during the months of September, October, or November; and (4) The operation of the drone is in full compliance with all applicable Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

No person may use an amphibious vehicle to hunt or shoot at waterfowl unless the vehicle is at rest or being used as part of a fixed hunting blind.

No person may use a motor vehicle on SD School and Public Lands (SPL) for the purpose of hunting, fishing, or trapping. This restriction does not apply to roads, trails, or parking areas designated and signed by GFP. However, a person who holds a valid Disabled Hunter permit from GFP and who uses a device for mobility may lawfully access SPL property by means of a Power Mobility Device for the purpose of hunting, fishing, or trapping.

No person may use a snowmobile to chase, harass or disturb any wild animal.

No person may use a snowmobile to chase, drive, harass, kill, or attempt to kill any game animal. An individual may use a snowmobile in the taking of a coyote if the individual is on property that the individual owns, leases or is an invitee of the owner or lessee; the individual is 18 or older; the individual is not engaged

in harassing coyotes; the individual is using a firearm to take the coyote; the snowmobile is stationary at the time the individual shoots or attempts to shoot the coyote; and no other individual is aboard the snowmobile.

No person may send or receive a message by radio, cellular telephone, or other electronic form of communications while in or on a motor vehicle for the purpose of hunting big game, small game, or migratory waterfowl.

Hunters planning to use U.S. Forest Service or National Grassland public lands should contact the Forest Service or Grasslands office for details on travel restrictions.

PARTY HUNTING DAILY LIMITS

Two or more legally licensed hunters who mutually agree to hunt small game as a party and who maintain visual and unaided vocal contact may take more than one daily limit of small game. However, the total number of small game taken by the party may not exceed the aggregate daily limit for all members of the party who are licensed to take and possess small game.

This does not apply to anyone who hunts small game in more than one party in one day.

This does not apply to any big game license, or any tag issued as a part of a hunting license nor does this section apply to hunting of migratory birds.

PROTECTED ANIMALS

The following mammals are on the state and/or federal threatened or endangered species lists and are protected: wolf, swift fox, and black-footed ferret. No person may kill nongame birds except English (house) sparrows, rock pigeons, Eurasian collared-doves, and European starlings. Blackbirds (red-winged and yellow-headed), common grackles, American crows, and Black-billed magpies may be killed when doing or about to do depredation.

NON-TOXIC SHOT

The use of non-toxic shot is required for all small game/waterfowl hunting on all State Game Production Areas, lake and fishing access areas, state park system areas, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Wildlife Production Areas managed by GFP, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA). Lead shot may not be possessed while hunting waterfowl/small game on these areas.

GFP encourages hunters to use non-toxic shot for all hunting, but it is not required on U.S. Forest Service National Grasslands, SD School and Public Lands, or on most GFP-managed and leased property designated as Walk-In Areas, CHAP, and CREP areas when hunting small game such as pheasants, grouse, or doves.

Those hunting ducks, geese, coots, tundra swan, Sandhill cranes or snipe may not possess lead shot and must use a federally approved non-toxic shot.

Approved non-toxic shot includes steel (iron) shot, bismuth-tin, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-iron-fluoropolymer, and any combination of tungsten-iron-nickel-tin-copper-bismuth. See also 50 Code of Federal Regulations 20.21(j)(1) for the complete listing of federally approved non-toxic shot types.

South Dakota Parks & Wildlife Foundation

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Coated lead shot does NOT qualify as non-toxic shot.

Turkeys are classified as big game and can be hunted with lead shot.

In addition, target shooting with shotguns using lead shot is prohibited on the following state public lands: State Game Production Areas, lake and fishing access areas, public water access areas, state park system areas, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wildlife Production Areas, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lands managed by GFP.

NATIONAL PARKS, MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS

The taking of wildlife is prohibited in Badlands National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and Wind Cave National Park. No person may hunt, trap or discharge a firearm within the boundaries of these units.

If an animal is wounded outside the boundaries of one of these units and enters within the boundaries, the hunter should immediately notify a Park Ranger before tracking or retrieving the animal.

PUBLIC LAND AND PARK RESTRICTIONS

For more information on hunting in South Dakota State Parks, visit page 80 of the handbook.

No person may enter, use, or occupy lands owned or leased by GFP if it interferes with the management of the area, the posted purpose for which the land was acquired, or if the lands are posted against such entry or use. Camping is only permitted in established campgrounds. Camping is also prohibited on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA). Campfires are allowed only at designated campsites and in approved fireplaces, stoves, or grills on GFP lands. Campfires are not allowed on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA).

Hunting is not permitted in standing crops on School and Public Lands or where posted accordingly.

Only persons using a state park, state recreation area, state nature area, or state lakeside use area for lawful hunting, trapping, fishing, snowmobiling, boating, or camping may enter, use, or occupy any of the above areas from 11p.m. to 6 a.m.

Only persons engaged in lawful hunting, trapping, fishing, or boating may enter, use, or occupy any of the following areas from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. year-round: Public Shooting Areas, Game Production Areas, Wildlife Refuges, Lake and Fishing Access Areas, Public Water Access Areas, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA).

A person hunting in a leased controlled waterfowl hunting area may hunt only in designated hunting areas. Hunting in leased shooting zones where blinds have been constructed by GFP must only occur from the constructed blinds. Hunting outside of or between adjacent blinds is prohibited.

No person may target shoot on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA).

The Fort Pierre National Grasslands prohibits trap shooting.

Uncased firearms, crossbows, and bows are prohibited in all state parks, state recreation areas, state nature areas,

and state lakeside use areas with the following exceptions:

Uncased firearms, crossbows, and bows are permitted on designated rifle and archery ranges year round and may be transported or carried uncased to and from ranges and boat ramps from designated parking areas; and a firearm, air gun, crossbow, or bow legally transported in a motor vehicle, trailer camper, or boat pursuant to state law, is considered cased for purposes of this section;

Other exceptions for State Park and Recreation Areas are described on the table on page 80.

The discharge of firearms or bows on or across the George S. Mickelson Trail rights-of-way is prohibited.

Uncased firearms are prohibited on:

» The East Pelican Lake Access Area in Codington Co.
» That portion of the Beilage Game Production Area north of Christensen Drive located in Sec. 24 and 25, T6N, R2E, in Lawrence Co.
» Hazel's Haven Fishing Access Area in Moody Co.
» That portion of the Marcotte Game Production Area in Sec. 16, T5N, R5E, in Meade Co.
» Kelley's Cove Fishing Access Area in Yankton Co.
» The Hwy 38/James River Fishing Access Area in Davison Co.
» The New Underwood Lake Access Area in Pennington Co. except any licensed hunter while lawfully engaged in hunting.
» The Rollings Game Production Area in Lincoln Co. except any licensed hunter, using a shotgun with shot shells only, while hunting small game or wild turkey and persons using the shooting range when open.
» The Lake Henry Fishing Access Area in Bon Homme Co. except any licensed hunter, using a shotgun with shot shells only, while hunting small game or turkey.
» Only shotguns using shot shells, crossbows, and bow and arrow are permitted on lands owned and operated by the Otter Tail Power Company and leased as a Game Production Area in Grant Co. and the Lake Andes units Game Production Areas in Charles Mix Co.
» Centerfire rifles are prohibited on the Lechtenberg Game Production Area in Hand Co. and on the Cottonwood Lake Hatchery Game Bird Refuge in Spink Co.

No person may use any firearm on the Fort Meade Recreation Area South Unit and the signed portion of the North Unit.

No person may discharge a weapon across or from a National Forest Service road, Grassland road, or into a cave or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, or recreation area (Pactola, Sheridan, Deerfield, etc.).

NOTE: *A person who is allowed to legally carry a concealed pistol pursuant to state law may carry a concealed pistol at any time.*

No person may ride or allow horses on land owned, leased, or controlled by GFP except on designated bridle trails or equestrian areas. During established seasons, licensed deer hunters may use horses on state Game Production Areas along the Missouri River, and licensed deer and elk hunters or anyone assisting in the removal of legally tagged deer and elk may use horses on the Battle

Mountain/Friendshuh GPA in Fall River and Custer counties. Horses are prohibited on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) and National Wildlife Refuges.

A person may not destroy, damage, or remove a living or dead tree, shrub, or vegetation; disturb any earth, rocks, minerals, natural formations, or cultural resources; or destroy, damage, or remove skulls or other parts of animal carcass located on lands owned or leased by GFP without written permission from the secretary or a designated agent.

Shed antler hunting is allowed on GFP owned lands, including state parks, recreation areas, and Game Production Areas. However, permission from the landowner is required for shed hunting on Walk-In Areas, CREP, CHAP, or other privately-owned lands leased by GFP for public hunting. Regulations differ for lands owned by other state or federal agencies. Contact the respective agency for more information.

If you are planning a trip for hunting or other recreation on National Forest and Grasslands in South Dakota please contact a U.S. Forest Service Office for information on use of these public areas, road closures, and recreation fees that might apply in certain areas.

RAILROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Railroad rights-of-way are not considered to be the same as road rights-of-way for purposes of hunting. Some rail lines expressly prohibit hunting on their owned or leased railroad rights-of-way.

ROAD-KILLED BIG GAME

If an accident occurs between a motor vehicle and a deer or other big game, the accident must be reported to law enforcement if there is significant damage to the vehicle. In accordance with state law, before any individual can possess a big game animal killed by a motor vehicle, that individual must obtain authorization from a GFP Conservation Officer prior to taking possession. Taking carcasses or any part of a big game animal, including the antlers, without authorization is illegal.

SALE/USE OF WILDLIFE

No person may sell or barter game birds or animals except for skin, head, or bone-hard antlers of big game; skin or plumage of pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, prairie chickens, or grey partridge; turkey feathers; skins of cottontail rabbit, fox squirrel, grey squirrel, and red squirrel that have been lawfully taken by a licensed hunter; and legal furbearers.

No person may wantonly waste game.

TRESPASS

No person may hunt or trap any species of game, including unprotected species, on private land without permission from the owner or lessee except in that part of the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west of SD Hwy 79. In that area, no person may enter private land to hunt if the land is posted or if told by the owner or lessee not to do so. The Black Hills Fire Protection District is as follows: Commencing at a point on the WY-SD state line at the junction of I-90 at the state line; then east and southeast along I-90 via Rapid City to the intersection of U.S. Hwy 16B; then south and southwest along U.S. Hwy 16B to the intersection of SD Hwy 79; then south along SD Hwy 79

to the intersection of U.S. Hwy 18; then south along U.S. Hwy 18 to the Cheyenne River; then west and northwest along the Cheyenne River to the WY-SD state line; then north along said state line to the place of beginning. The Black Hills Fire Protection District does not include any area within the limits of any municipality.

If a person is convicted of knowingly trespassing, the person's applicable hunting or trapping privilege shall be revoked for one year. A person's applicable hunting or trapping privilege shall be revoked for two years following a second or subsequent trespassing conviction within ten years.

UNARMED RETRIEVAL

Hunters may retrieve lawfully taken small game without permission from private or public land (except National Wildlife Refuges closed to such entry) if they are unarmed and retrieve on foot.

Permission is needed to retrieve big game, including turkeys.

To be lawfully taken from road rights-of-way, the hunter must be within the rights-of-way boundaries when shooting and the small game must originate from or be flying over the road rights-of-way.

See the "Hunting on Public Road Rights-of-Way" section.

WALK-IN AREA/CREP/CHAP RESTRICTIONS

No one may enter, use, or occupy lands leased by GFP through state access programs for any purpose other than hunting unless they have permission from the landowner or any lessee of the land other than GFP.

A person may enter, use, or occupy lands leased by GFP under the state for purposes of hunting under the following conditions:

» The person moves or travels only on foot.
» The conditions under which a person may enter, use, or occupy lands leased by GFP apply whether or not the state has jurisdiction to impose its hunting regulations on the person seeking to enter, use, or occupy the land.
» Landowner permission is required to night hunt these areas. Landowner permission is required to trap on these areas.
» The same restrictions apply to land in CREP, except hunting and fishing are allowed on CREP without landowner permission.

YOUTH ACCOMPANIMENT

A parent, guardian, or responsible adult (at least 18 years old) must accompany youth under age 16 while hunting.

BE RESPECTFUL OF ROAD CONDITIONS

Driving roads during wet weather and leaving the traveled road in bad condition may hinder relationships between hunters and landowners.

Landowners have expressed their concern about road conditions during the hunting seasons. When roads are traveled during wet periods ruts are developed and once frozen, can be extremely difficult to drive farm equipment down to access crop fields. Please respect these important roads. If you notice your vehicle leaving ruts, make the right decision; back out of the soft area, park, and walk to your desired location.

HUNTING IN SOUTH DAKOTA STATE PARKS

	Open Oct 1 - April 30	Open Sept 1 - May 31	Prohibited Year-round	Archery Only	Open except rifles or muzzleloader	Other*
Adams Homestead	■					■
Angostura	■				■	
Bear Butte						■
Beaver Creek			■			
Big Sioux	■			■		
Big Stone Island	■					
Buryanek	■					
Chief White Crane	■			■		
Cow Creek	■				■	
Custer						■
Farm Island	■				■	
Fisher Grove	■					
Fort Sisseton	■					
Good Earth	■					■
Hartford Beach	■					
Indian Creek		■				
LaFramboise Island	■			■		
Lake Alvin	■					
Lake Cochrane	■					
Lake Herman			■			
Lake Hiddenwood		■				
Lake Louise	■					
Lake Poinsett	■				■	
Lake Thompson	■					
Lake Vermillion	■					
Lewis and Clark	■					
Little Moreau	■					
Llewellyn Johns	■					
Mickelson Trail						■
Mina Lake	■				■	
Newton Hills	■				■	
North Point					■	
North Wheeler	■					
Oahe Downstream						■
Oakwood Lakes	■				■	
Okobojo Point	■					
Palisades	■			■		
Pease Creek	■					
Pelican Lake	■					
East Pickerel Lake	■					
West Pickerel Lake	■				■	
Platte Creek	■					
Randall Creek	■					
Revheim Bay		■		■		
Richmond Lake						■
Rocky Point	■				■	
Roy Lake	■					
Sandy Shore			■			
Shadehill		■				
Sheps Canyon		■				
Sica Hollow						■
Snake Creek	■					
Spearfish Canyon				■		
Spirit Mound			■			
Spring Creek			■			
Springfield	■					
Swan Creek	■					
Union Grove	■					
Walker's Point	■					
West Bend	■					
West Whitlock	■				■	

* Access Permit, season or special regulations, etc.

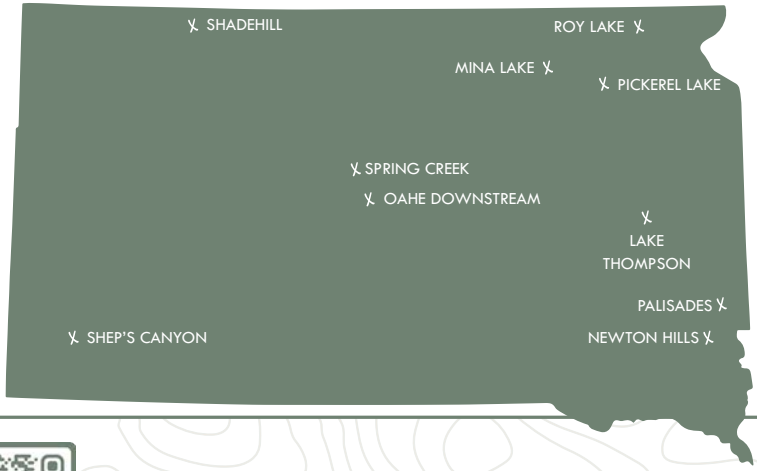
CUSTER STATE PARK
Hunters licensed for Custer State Park hunting seasons may have uncased firearms, crossbows, and bows in Custer State Park during the season which they are licensed.

MICKELSON TRAIL
There is no hunting allowed on the Mickelson Trail.

For detailed information about each State Park, please contact the respective State Park office.

ENJOY THE COMFORTS OF HOME WHILE EXPERIENCING THE HUNT OF A LIFETIME.

PARKS WITH MODERN LODGING OPTIONS



BOOK NOW

FIND YOUR LODGE

gfp.sd.gov/modern-lodging

OTHER INFORMATION AND MAPS

S.D. SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER

The South Dakota Sportsmen Against Hunger (SAH) program was established in 1993 to provide hunters with an easier way to share their success with those who are not as fortunate. South Dakota sportsmen and women can continue to make a difference by sharing the meat from big game and game birds. SAH processing certificates will again be available from participating processors for hunters to use in paying for most or all the cost of processing donated wild game. Hunters may help offset costs of this program by making tax-deductible cash donations to SAH through use of a check-off provision on the online applications for hunting licenses. Individuals may also use the "Donate" link on the SAH website at feedtheneedsd.com or make out checks or money orders to "South Dakota Sportsmen Against Hunger" and send them to South Dakota Sportsmen Against Hunger, P.O. Box 1172, Pierre, SD 57501.

Call 1.800.456.2758 or visit the ***feedtheneedsd.com*** to learn more about the program.

WILDLIFE DISEASES

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT

AVIAN INFLUENZA

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT

EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE (EHD)

PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

Please remember some of these lands are privately owned and your actions while hunting them can determine if they are open to public hunting in the future.

Game Production Areas (GPA)
GPAs are public lands owned by the State of South Dakota and managed by Game, Fish and Parks for wildlife habitat and public hunting opportunities.

GPAs are open to public hunting, fishing, trapping, and related outdoor activities. South Dakota has approximately 725 GPAs, totaling more than 286,000 acres. GPAs are assessed as agricultural lands, with full property taxes paid annually by GFP.

Non-toxic shot is required for waterfowl and small game.

Walk-In Areas (WIA)
WIAs are lands owned by private individuals as working farms and ranches leased for public hunting access by GFP. Landowner permission is required for fishing, night hunting, and trapping on WIAs. Funds from the sale of hunting licenses and the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration program are used by GFP to pay for these leases. No permission is needed to hunt WIAs and driving is prohibited on WIAs except on designated trails marked with signs.

There are over 1.4 million acres enrolled in the Walk-In Area program.

Non-toxic shot is required for waterfowl.

Controlled Hunting Access Program (CHAP)
CHAP areas are lands owned by private individuals as working farms and ranches that are leased for public hunting access by GFP. Specific allowances such as huntable species, number of hunters per day, and open season dates vary by property, so it is critical to verify this information prior to hunting. Funds from the sale of hunting licenses and the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration program are used to pay these leases. Permission is needed to hunt these areas and can be received via self-serve check-in boxes, on-line reservations, or by directly contacting the landowner.

Landowner permission is required for fishing, trapping, and night hunting. See the Public Hunting Atlas for more details. Driving is prohibited on CHAPs except on designated trails marked with signs.

Non-toxic shot is required for waterfowl.

Elk Hunting Access Program (EHAP)
EHAP was developed to help address depredation on private land and to increase hunter success. EHAP areas are lands owned by private individuals and leased by GFP for public elk hunting access. Funds from the sale of hunting licenses are used to pay these leases. Driving is prohibited on EHAP areas. Permission is needed to hunt these areas and can be received by directly contacting the landowner. Contact your local GFP office to learn how to access these areas.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
Lands in CREP are open year-round to public hunting and fishing access. Landowner permission is required for trapping and night hunting. CREP lands are owned by private individuals who have enrolled them in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and signed a lease agreement with GFP to provide public hunting and fishing access, and

target wildlife habitat conservation in the James River or Big Sioux River Watersheds.

Non-toxic shot required for waterfowl.

Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA)
WPAs are owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These areas are open to public hunting and trapping. There are 1,000 WPAs in South Dakota, totaling nearly 150,000 acres.

Non-toxic shot required for waterfowl and small game.

Other Public Areas
GFP also manages Water Access Areas, State Game Refuges, State Game Bird Refuges, State Waterfowl Refuges, Lakeside Use Areas, State Recreation Areas, and State Parks. Many of these areas have special use restrictions or regulations limiting their use and availability for public hunting. Other agencies with public hunting lands in South Dakota include the SD Office of School and Public Lands, U.S. Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

STATE GAME REFUGES

GAME REFUGE - No hunting or trapping of any species.

GAME BIRD REFUGE - No hunting of game birds, including waterfowl. See exceptions on page 27. Big game hunting and trapping are allowed.

WATERFOWL REFUGE - No waterfowl hunting. Big game and small game hunting and trapping are allowed.

Brown County
Renziehausen Slough - Game Bird Refuge

Brule County
Jorgenson - Game Refuge

Clark County
Reid Lake - Waterfowl Refuge
Antelope Lake - Waterfowl Refuge

Day County
Waubay - Game Bird Refuge

Edmunds County
Scatterwood Lake - Waterfowl Refuge

Faulk County
Gerken - Game Bird Refuge
Scatterwood Lake - Waterfowl Refuge

Grant County
Eye - Game Refuge
Big Stone Power Plant - Waterfowl Refuge

Hand County
Wall Lake - Game Bird Refuge

Hughes County
LaFramboise Island - Game Bird Refuge (No Firearms)

Hutchinson County
Silver Lake - Waterfowl Refuge

Marshall County
White Lake - Game Bird Refuge

Perkins County
Shadehill - Waterfowl Refuge

Roberts County
Cottonwood Lake - Waterfowl Refuge
Bullhead Lake - Waterfowl Refuge

Spink County
Cottonwood Lake - Waterfowl Refuge
Cottonwood Hatchery - Game Bird Refuge

Yankton County
Kelly's Cove - Game Refuge

MISSOURI RIVER STATE WATERFOWL REFUGES

Refuge boundaries are posted with signs. Missouri River state waterfowl refuges are shown in the Hunting Atlas.

LAKE OAHE

Blue Blanket Waterfowl Refuge
Swan Creek Waterfowl Refuge
Latin Draw Waterfowl Refuge
Whitlock Bay Waterfowl Refuge
Sutton Waterfowl Refuge
Sutton Bottom Waterfowl Refuge
Baker's Gulch Waterfowl Refuge
Mail Shack Waterfowl Refuge
Okobojo Creek Waterfowl Refuge
Spring Creek Waterfowl Refuge
Peoria Flats Waterfowl Refuge
Oahe Dam Waterfowl Refuge

LAKE SHARPE

Oahe Dam Waterfowl Refuge
DeGrey Waterfowl Refuge
Joe Creek Waterfowl Refuge
Big Bend Dam Waterfowl Refuge

LAKE FRANCIS CASE

Big Bend Dam Waterfowl Refuge
Chamberlain North Waterfowl Refuge
Chamberlain Waterfowl Refuge
Whetstone Waterfowl Refuge
White Swan Waterfowl Refuge
Fort Randall Dam Waterfowl Refuge

LAKE LEWIS AND CLARK

Fort Randall Dam Tailwater Waterfowl Refuge

Refuges on Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe, except those including Oahe Dam and Big Bend Dam, are closed to waterfowl hunting from the opening day of the earliest waterfowl season through the last day of the Canada goose season and are open to duck hunting after that date if that season is still open.

All state waterfowl refuges are open during the Light Goose Conservation Order in the spring, except for Silver Lake and refuges that encompass Oahe Dam, Big Bend Dam and Fort Randall Dam. Waterfowl hunters should also read the section on "Boating Restrictions" in this handbook.

MAPS FOR HUNTERS

Maps are available to assist hunters when hunting and navigating public lands across South Dakota.

SCAN TO VIEW

ACCESS, UNITS, AND HARVEST MAPS

CWD REGULATIONS

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal disease that impacts deer and elk populations. Hunters can do their part to slow the spread of CWD by ensuring they are following all transportation and disposal regulations.

TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL REGULATIONS

All deer or elk carcass remains must be disposed of with a waste management provider, if an allowable trash item, or with a permitted landfill.

» Exceptions include deer or elk carcasses:
- Not transported from the county of harvest.
- Passing through South Dakota.

» This includes deer or elk carcasses:
- Transported to any game processor or taxidermist, regardless of where the harvest occurred.
- Transported into South Dakota.

» Game processors and taxidermist must dispose of all remaining deer and elk carcasses, regardless of where the harvest occurred, with a waste management provider, if an allowable trash item, or with a permitted landfill.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Hunters are recommended to leave as much of the unusable carcass as possible at the location of the harvest in a discrete location on both public and private lands.

» It is illegal to dispose of carcass remains on:
- Road ditches.
- Private property without permission.
- Public land different from location of the harvest.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CWD IN SOUTH DAKOTA, PLEASE VISIT: *GFP.SD.GOV/CHRONIC-WASTING-DISEASE.*

APPRENTICE, MENTORED BIG GAME, AND YOUTH DEER

APPRENTICE, MENTORED BIG GAME, AND YOUTH DEER

RESIDENT			
Age	**Eligible for Youth Deer License?**	**Eligible for Mentored Big Game License?**	**Eligible for Apprentice Deer License?**
Under 12 (11 or younger on December 31)	No	Yes	No
12-17 (12 by December 31)	Yes, HuntSafe required if 15 or younger	Yes, if 15 or younger	No
18+ by June 30	No	No	Yes, if they have not held a deer license during the previous 10 years

NONRESIDENT			
Age	**Eligible for Youth Deer License?**	**Eligible for Mentored Big Game License?**	**Eligible for Apprentice Deer License?**
Under 12 (11 or younger on December 31)	No	Yes	No
12-17 (12 by December 31)	Yes, HuntSafe required if 15 or younger	Yes, if 15 or younger	No
18+ by June 30	No	No	No

Youth Deer license holders 15 or younger, are required to possess hunter education certification, or a copy of a current or previous year's hunting license issued by another state in the field. Mentee is required to purchase their respective mentor license.

*To learn more about mentored big game hunting, youth, and apprentice deer hunting, visit **gfp.sd.gov** and search "mentor hunt."*

APPRENTICE, MENTORED BIG GAME, AND YOUTH DEER

MENTORED BIG GAME HUNTING LICENSE

Definitions

Mentee: The youth 15 years of age or younger that will be hunting.

Mentor: The mentee's parent, guardian, or other adult 18 years of age or older.

» **Mentored licenses are issued to the mentee.**

» **Mentees are limited to one license per species per year.**

» Available for both resident and nonresident mentees 15 years of age or younger.

» Mentees must be accompanied by an unarmed parent, guardian, or designated mentor within immediate control (arm's length) and supervision of the adult.

» Mentors must have successfully completed a hunter safety or hunter education course that meets the requirements of SDCL 41-7.

» Mentors who are not the parent or guardian of the mentee must also obtain permission from the parent or guardian of the mentee.

» Mentor can only accompany one mentee at a time.

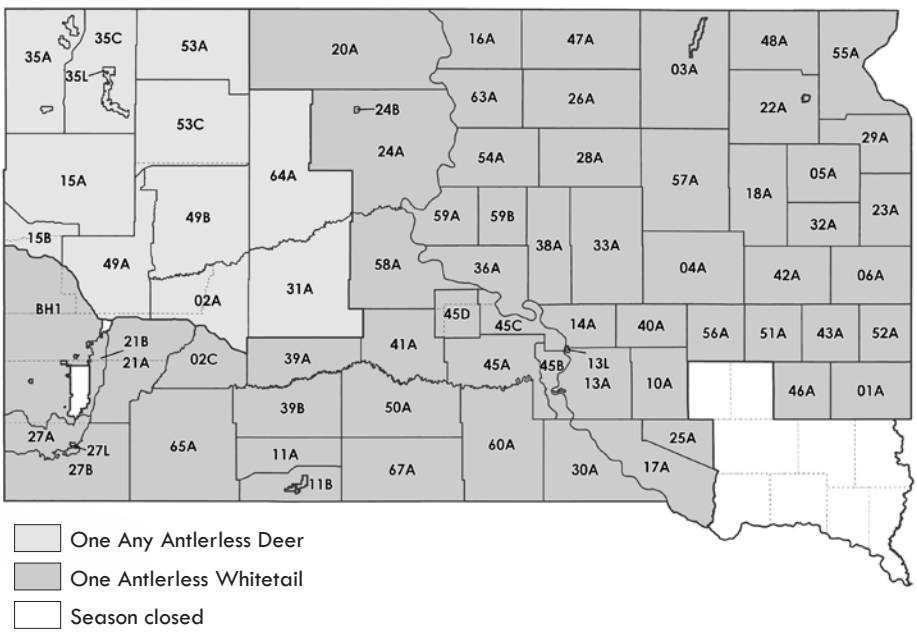
» The mentee is limited to one "any antlerless deer" tag that is valid for Unit MHD-03 or an "antlerless whitetail" tag that is valid for Unit MHD-13.

YOUTH DEER LICENSEES (AGES 12-17)

» Available to both resident and nonresidents.

» The Youth Deer license (limited to one) is for an "any antlerless deer" tag that is valid for Unit YOD-03 or an "antlerless whitetail" tag that is valid for Unit YOD-13.

» All Youth Deer licensees 15 years of



age or younger must be accompanied (unaided visual and vocal contact) by a parent, guardian, or responsible adult (at least 18 years old).
» Adult accompanying the youth deer licensee is not required to possess hunter education certification.
» Adult (at least 18 years old) must be unarmed unless the adult has a big game license valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the youth deer licensee.
» Youth Deer licensees are eligible for other deer licenses, except the Mentored Deer license.
» Adult can accompany multiple youth deer hunters.

APPRENTICE DEER

» Residents who are 18 years of age or older by June 30 can receive an apprentice license if they have not held a deer license during the previous 10 years.
» The Apprentice Deer license (limited to one) is for an "any antlerless deer" tag that is valid for Unit APD-03 or an "antlerless whitetail deer" tag that is valid for Unit APD-13.
» Apprentice deer hunters are not required to be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
» Apprentice deer hunters are eligible for other deer licenses.

MENTORED AND YOUTH SMALL GAME

MENTORED AND YOUTH **SMALL GAME**

RESIDENT		
Age	**Eligible for Youth Small Game License?**	**Eligible for Mentored Small Game License?**
Under 12 (11 or younger on Dec. 31)	No	Yes
12-17 (12 by Dec. 31) *	Yes	Yes, if 15 or younger
18+	No	No

NONRESIDENT			
Age	**Eligible for Nonresident Youth Small Game License?**	**Eligible for Mentored Small Game License?**	**Eligible for Nonresident Adult Small Game License?**
Under 12 (11 or younger on Dec. 31)	No	Yes	No
12-17 (12 by Dec. 31)*	Yes	Yes, if 15 or younger	No
18+	No	No	Yes

Youth small game license holders 15 or younger, are required to possess Hunter Education Certification, or a copy of a current or previous year's hunting license issued by another state in the field. Mentee is required to purchase their respective mentor license.

If the youth acquires a youth small game license before turning 18, the license is valid through January 31, the following year.

Mentored small game license holders are not required to have completed hunter safety certification or previously held a hunting license, however, they must be accompanied by a mentor.

YOUTH SMALL GAME

» Available for both residents and nonresidents.
» Adult (at least 18) accompanying the youth hunter is not required to have hunter education certification.
» Youth 15 or younger must be accompanied (unaided visual and vocal contact) by a parent, guardian or responsible adult (at least 18 years old).
» Youth hunters 15 or younger, are required to possess Hunter Education Certification, or a copy of a current or previous year's hunting license issued by another state in the field.
» An adult can accompany multiple youth small game.
» A person who has not reached age 18 is eligible to hunt in the youth pheasant season.

MENTORED SMALL GAME LICENSE

Definitions

Mentee: The youth 15 years of age or younger that will be hunting.

Mentor: The mentee's parent, guardian, or other adult 18 years of age or older.

» Available for both resident and nonresident mentees who, at the time of going hunting, is 15 or younger.
» Mentees are not required to possess hunter education certification.
» Mentors must have successfully completed a hunter safety or hunter education course that meets the requirements of SDCL 41-7.
» The mentee can hunt during the youth small game or other small game seasons but the mentored hunting rules for accompaniment must be followed anytime a mentee is hunting.
» A mentee must be accompanied by an unarmed parent, guardian, or designated mentor within immediate control (arm's length) and supervision of the adult.
» Adult mentor can only accompany one mentee at a time.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BECOME A HUNTSAFE INSTRUCTOR

CONTACT BRANDON MAAHS
HUNTSAFE COORDINATOR
605.280.3782
BRANDON.MAAHS@STATE.SD.US

MENTORED AND YOUTH WATERFOWL

RESIDENT		
Age	**Eligible for Youth Waterfowl License?**	**Eligible for Mentored / Youth Waterfowl License?**
Under 12 (11 or younger on Dec. 31)	No	Yes
12-17 (12 by Dec. 31)	Yes	Yes, if 15 or younger
18+	No	No

NONRESIDENT			
Age	**Eligible for Nonresident Youth Waterfowl License?**	**Eligible for Mentored/Youth License?**	**Eligible for Nonresident Adult Waterfowl License?**
Under 12 (11 or younger on Dec. 31)	No	Yes	No
12-17 (12 by Dec. 31)	Yes, valid for the two-day Youth Waterfowl Season	Yes, if 15 or younger. Only valid for the two-day Youth Waterfowl Season	Yes
18+	No	No	Yes

MENTORED AND YOUTH **WATERFOWL**

Those 16 and older are also required to possess the Federal Waterfowl Stamp. License holders are required to purchase a State Migratory Bird Certificate. Additionally, youth season license-holders 15 or younger are required to possess Hunter Education Certification or a copy of a current or previous year's hunting license issued by another state in the field.

1. Youth who have not reached age 18 by the first day of the Youth Waterfowl season may hunt waterfowl during the Youth Waterfowl season.
2. Mentors must have successfully completed Hunter Safety or Education certification as described in SDCL 41-7. Mentors who are not the parent or guardian of the mentee must be at least 18 years old and have obtained permission from the parent or guardian of the hunter.
3. If the resident youth acquires a Small Game License before turning 18, the license is valid through Jan. 31 of the following year.
4. License holders are required to purchase a State Migratory Bird Certificate.

YOUTH WATERFOWL (AGES 12-17)

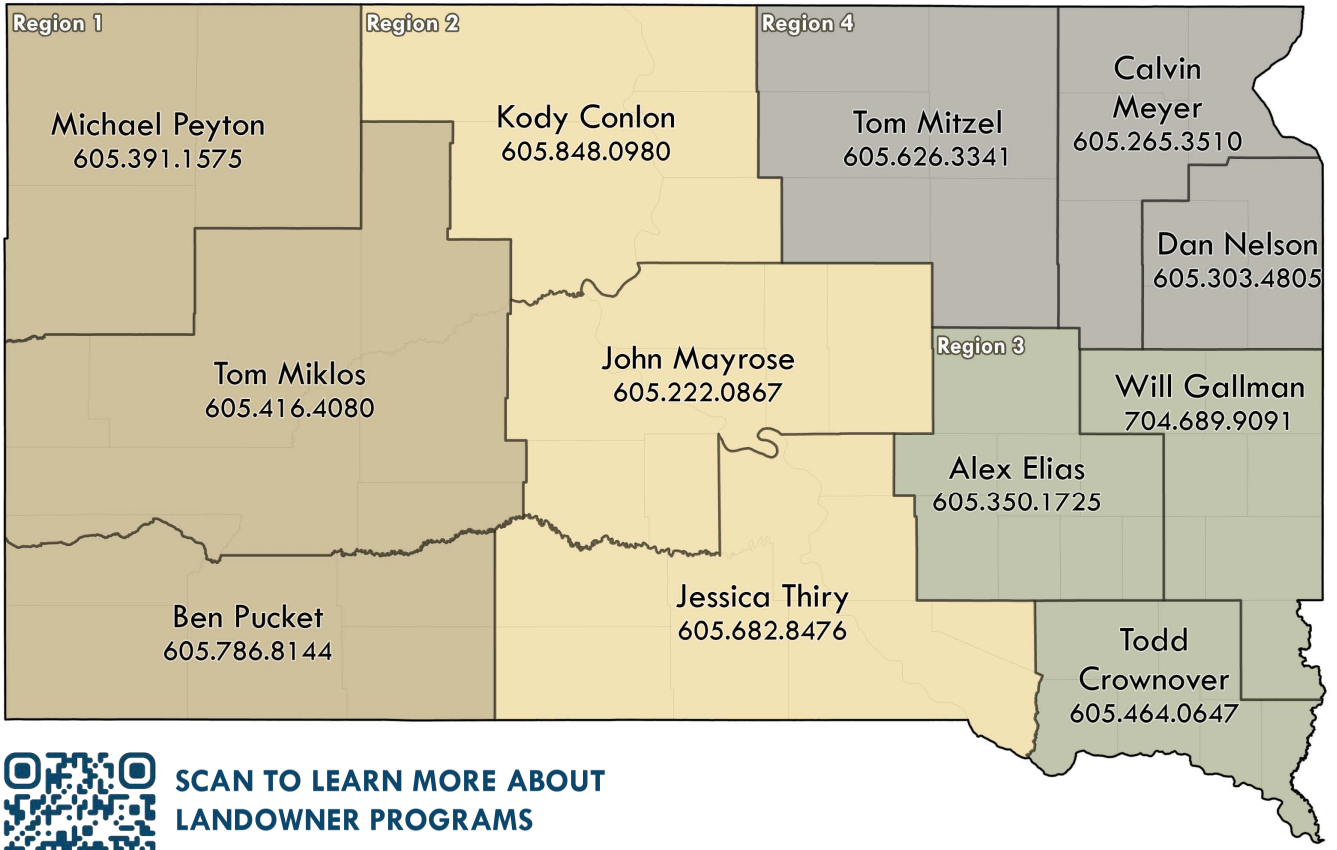
» Available for both residents and nonresidents.
» Youth hunters 15 or younger, are required to possess Hunter Education Certification, or a copy of a current or previous year's hunting license issued by another state in the field.
» Federal Waterfowl Stamp is required for any hunters 16 and older.
» Youth 15 or younger, must be accompanied (unaided visual and vocal contact) by a parent, guardian, or responsible adult (at least 18 years old).
» Nonresident Youth and Mentored Hunting Licenses are by application only.
» Adult can accompany multiple youth waterfowl hunters.

WATERFOWL MENTORED HUNTING LICENSE

Definitions

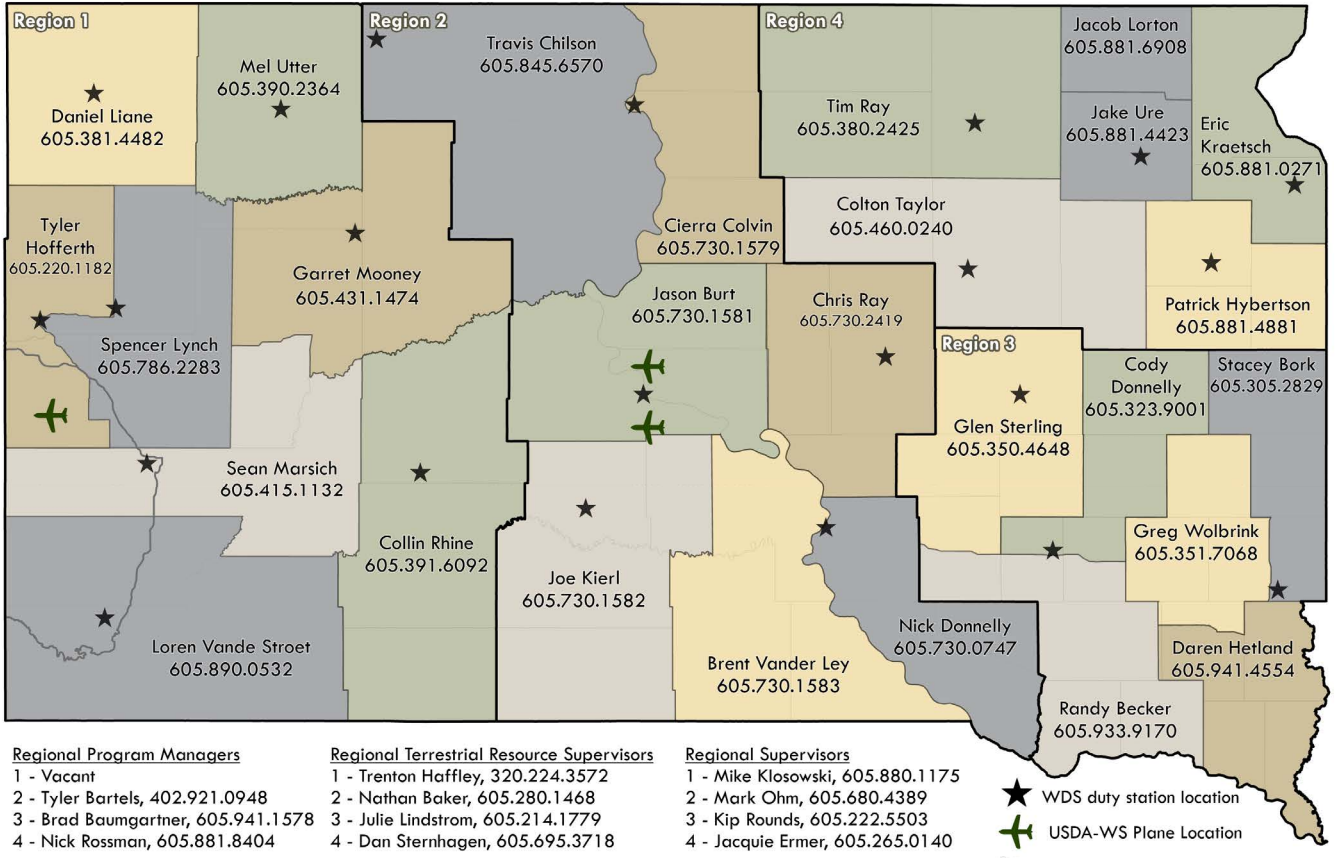
Mentee: The youth 15 years of age or younger that will be hunting.
Mentor: The mentee's parent, guardian, or other adult 18 years of age or older.

» Available for both resident and nonresident mentees 15 or younger.
» The mentee can hunt during the Youth Waterfowl seasons
  - The mentee shall be properly licensed to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota.
  - A mentee must be accompanied by an unarmed parent, guardian, or designated mentor within immediate control (arm's length) and supervision of the adult.
  - Adult mentor can only accompany one mentee at a time.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LANDOWNER PROGRAMS

WILDLIFE DAMAGE **SPECIALISTS**

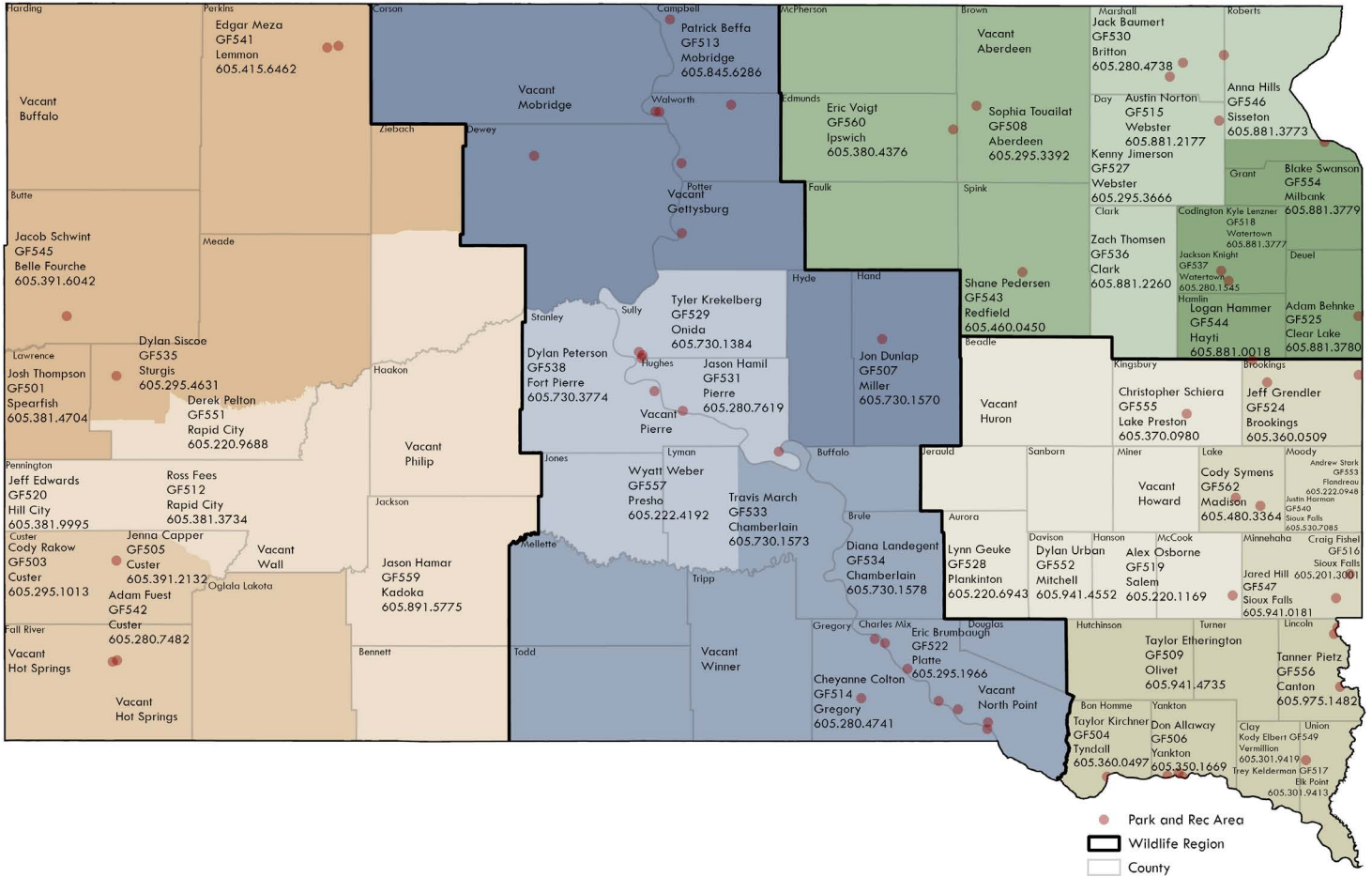


Regional Program Managers
1 - Vacant
2 - Tyler Bartels, 402.921.0948
3 - Brad Baumgartner, 605.941.1578
4 - Nick Rossman, 605.881.8404

Regional Terrestrial Resource Supervisors
1 - Trenton Haffley, 320.224.3572
2 - Nathan Baker, 605.280.1468
3 - Julie Lindstrom, 605.214.1779
4 - Dan Sternhagen, 605.695.3718

Regional Supervisors
1 - Mike Klosowski, 605.880.1175
2 - Mark Ohm, 605.680.4389
3 - Kip Rounds, 605.222.5503
4 - Jacquie Ermer, 605.265.0140

CONSERVATION OFFICERS



CONSERVATION **OFFICERS**

REGION 1

Regional CO Supervisor Jim McCormick, Rapid City 605.381.9500
District CO Supervisor Chris Dekker, Hermosa 605.390.0923
District CO Supervisor Adam Geigle, Rapid City 605.390.1230
District CO Supervisor Ryan Pearson, Sturgis 605.391.0836

REGION 2

Regional CO Supervisor Josh Carr, Fort Pierre 605.730.1574
District CO Supervisor Jeff Martin, Chamberlain 605.730.1575
District CO Supervisor John Murphy, Pierre 605.730.1571
District CO Supervisor Cory Flor, Miller 605.680.0003

REGION 3

Regional CO Supervisor Jeremy Roe, Sioux Falls 605.940.3519
District CO Supervisor Jeremy Rakowicz, Sioux Falls 605.941.0074
District CO Supervisor Matt Talbert, Salem 605.360.0491
District CO Supervisor Josh Vanden Bosch, Canton 605.940.0222

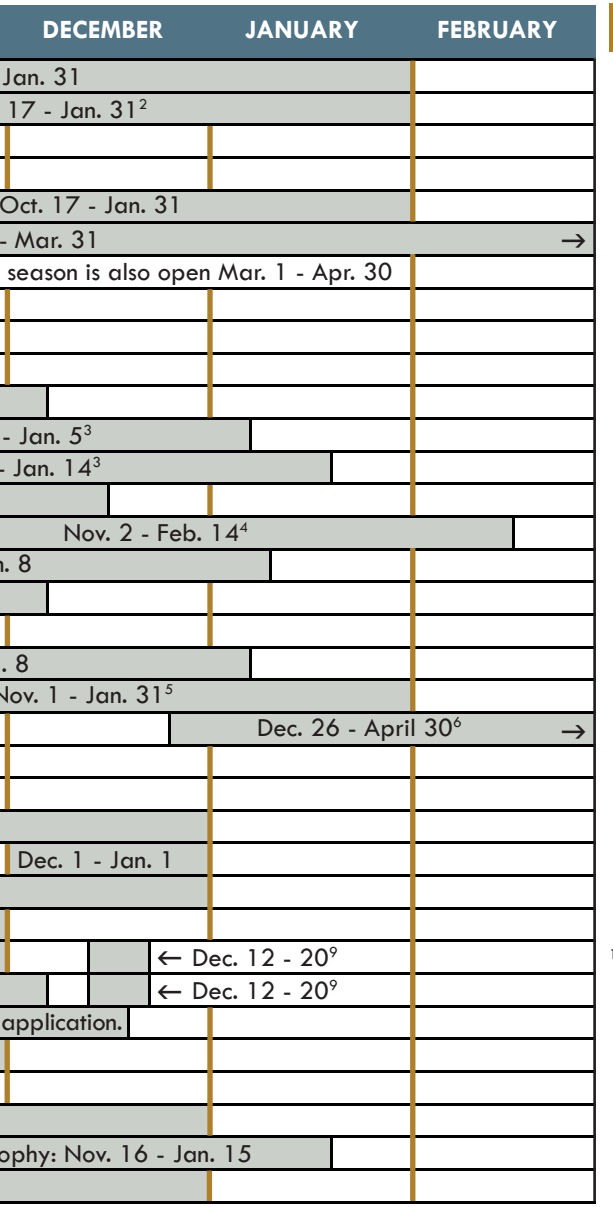
REGION 4

Regional CO Supervisor Kraig Haase, Watertown 605.881.3774
District CO Supervisor Joe Galbraith, Ipswich 605.380.4563
District CO Supervisor Tim McCurdy, Aberdeen 605.380.4572
District CO Supervisor Jamie Pekelder, Milbank 605.881.3778

SCAN FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CONTACTS

2026-2027 HUNTING SEASONS

HUNTING SEASON	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Grouse[1] and Partridge			Sept. 19 -
Pheasant			Oct.
Youth only		← Sept. 26 - Oct. 4	
Residents only		← Oct. 10-12	
Quail			
Cottontail Rabbit and Tree Squirrel	Sep. 1		
Crow	Sept. 1 - Oct. 31		The crow hunting
Snipe	Sept. 1 - Oct. 31		
Mourning Dove	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9		
Ducks – Youth only	← Sept. 12-13		
Ducks – Low Plains North and Middle	Sept. 26 - Dec. 8[3]		
Ducks – Low Plains South			Oct. 24
Ducks – High Plains			Oct. 10
Canada Goose - Unit 1	Sept. 1 - Dec. 16[4]		
Canada Goose - Unit 2			
Light Geese			Sept. 26 - Jan
White-fronted Geese		Sept. 26 - Dec. 8	
Sandhill Crane		Sept. 26 - Nov. 22	
Tundra Swan			Oct. 3 - Jan
Turkey			N
Black Hills Mountain Lion			
Antelope - Archery	← Aug. 15 - Oct. 2		← Oct. 19-31
Antelope - Rifle		← Oct. 3-18	
Deer - Archery	Sept. 1 - Jan. 1[7]		
Deer - Muzzleloader			
Deer - Mentored/Youth/Apprentice	Sept. 12 - Jan. 1		
Deer - Black Hills			Nov. 1-30
Deer - West River		Nov. 14-29[8] →	
Deer - East River		Nov. 21 - Dec. 6 →	
Deer - Refuge			Varies by Refuge. See deer
Deer - Custer State Park			Nov. 1-30
Elk - Black Hills and CSP	Archery: Sept. 1-30	Rifle: Oct. 1-31[10]	
Elk - Prairie	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31		
Bison		Non-trophy: Oct. 5-Nov. 13	Tr
Bighorn Sheep	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31		



NOTES

[1]Includes prairie chicken, sharp-tailed grouse, and ruffed grouse.

[2]See small game hunting section for exceptions.

[3]Bonus blue-winged teal first 9 days of season.

[4]August Management Take (Aug. 15 - 31)

[5]See spring turkey application for season dates.

[6]Black Hills season will end if harvest limit is met. Open year-round outside Black Hills Fire Protection Area.

[7]Nonresident archery season on public lands starts Oct. 1.

[8]Gregory County has different season dates. See deer application.

[9]Only antlerless deer tags are valid during this period

[10]Archery and rifle season dates are for Any Elk licenses. Antlerless season dates vary by unit. See elk application.

MULTI-STATE POACHING INVESTIGATION

Five suspects from South Carolina, Michigan, New Hampshire, and South Dakota illegally killed white-tailed deer at night, out of season, removed heads, and dumped carcasses in Hamlin County.

- **Five** poachers
- **44** violations
- **$5,106** in fines
- **$10,000** in civil damages
- **8 years** of hunting revocation
- Forfeited **weapons**

South Dakota TURN IN POACHERS

1.888.OVERBAG | TIPS.SD.GOV

THIS NUMBER IS FOR REPORTING WILDLIFE LAW VIOLATIONS ONLY. OPERATORS ARE NOT EQUIPPED TO HANDLE INFORMATION OR TO TRANSFER CALLS.