

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

A Public Hearing will be held at Good Earth State Park, 26924 480th Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57108, on July 11th at 2:00 Central Time to consider adoption, amendment and repeal of Rules pertaining to:

1. 41:03:03:05. Limitations on half-price annual park entrance license.

Effect: Eliminates the option to purchase a discounted second annual park entrance license through the stub/coupon method and also eliminates the ability to buy multiple discounted annuals through common vehicle registration.

Reason: The popularity of using the coupon method has been declining for years. Eighty-five percent of the stubs go unused.

2. 41:03:03:06. Park entrance license fees.

Effect: Provides the availability of a double license option (one full price license and one-half price license when purchased together).

Reason: The popularity of purchasing the second discounted license through the “combo” or “double” license has increased significantly. Double license sales have increased by more than 23% over the last five years.

3. 41:06:01:07.03. Landowner own land license types.

Effect: Modifies landowner own land license types from one “any antelope” or one two-tag “any antelope” and “any doe-fawn antelope” to one “buck antelope” only. This recommended change will effectively eliminate legal harvest of doe and kid antelope with the intent to promote population growth across the antelope range.

Reason: Recent aerial survey data suggests no growth in the antelope population since the last aerial survey in 2022, despite reductions in harvest of female antelope.

4. 41:06:01:12. Mentored youth big game license -- Restrictions.

Effect: Closes the mentored antelope season.

Reason: This recommended change will effectively eliminate legal harvest of doe and kid antelope with the intent to promote population growth across the antelope range.

5. 41:06:04:17. Minimum air gun specifications.

Effect: Reduces the minimum factory rated muzzle velocity of 1,000 feet per second to 600 feet per second for an air gun with hunting pellets to hunt cottontail rabbit, red squirrel, fox squirrel, grey squirrel, coyote, wolf*, gray fox, red fox, skunk, gopher, ground squirrel, chipmunk, jackrabbit, marmot, opossum, porcupine, crow, and prairie dog.

Reason: Many air rifles do not meet the 1,000 feet per second muzzle velocity requirement, and lower muzzle velocity is more common in larger caliber air rifles. This is because less muzzle velocity is required for a larger caliber to achieve the same foot pounds of energy.

6. 41:06:14:02.01. Prairie units.

Effect: Adjustments to unit boundary descriptions and creation of new units.

Reason: To correct and add unit boundary descriptions within administrative rule to reflect how units are implemented for management purposes.

7. 41:06:23:01. Antelope hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses.

Effect: Allow an individual that applies for a "special antelope" license to apply for another antelope license in the second lottery drawing instead of the third lottery drawing.

Reason: Current license allocation for the firearm antelope hunting season does not allow for leftover licenses into the third lottery drawing.

8. 41:06:23:02. Open units -- Exceptions.

Effect: Adjustments to unit boundary descriptions.

Reason: To correct unit boundary descriptions within administrative rule to reflect how units are implemented for management purposes.

9. 41:06:24:01. Archery antelope hunting season established -- Open area --
Number and type of licenses available.

Effect: Removes the availability of access permits within the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

Reason: Limited public hunting access to the low number of antelope in the Black Hills, mostly on Reynolds Prairie, provides very little harvest opportunity.

Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) at the hearing. Persons unable to attend the hearing may mail amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views to the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, or by going to the GFP website at <http://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions>. All persons who desire to submit written amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views by mail or email are encouraged to mail or transmit the same in sufficient time so that it is received by and in the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks 72 hours prior to the date of the hearing. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) to the Commission for their consideration. All written and email comments must include the name, home town/city, and state of the person submitting the comments.

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

submit a request to the undersigned at 605.773.3718 or 605.223.7684 (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf).

Dated this 14th day of June, 2024.

(SEAL)



Kevin Robling, Secretary

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