Hunting, Fishing, Furbearer Licenses

There are essentially two classes of hunting, fishing and furbearer licenses: general and limited.

GENERAL LICENSES

General licenses are available in unlimited quantities and are sold through over four-hundred agent locations across the state, or they can be purchased online. Here's a list of all general hunting, fishing and furbearer licenses available, the privileges they impart, and what they cost.

LIMITED ISSUE LICENSES (BIG GAME, NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL, PADDLEFISH)

Limited issue licenses, including archery and firearms big game, turkey, nonresident waterfowl, and paddlefish licenses, are usually issued through a lottery application process. You can submit a paper application by mail, or apply online. Learn more about the process...

- Residency Requirements for all license types
 - Request information by mail

DISABLED HUNTER LICENSES

• Reduced Fee Hunting and Fishing card for persons with total disability and certain veterans - South Dakota residents who qualify and are approved will be issued a Disabled/Veteran Hunting and Fishing Card for a \$10 fee.

• Disabled Hunter Permit - allows a qualified hunter to lawfully shoot game animals from a stationary motor vehicle (normally illegal).

* Designated Shooter - The applicant may designate one shooter to legally hunt or take game on their behalf.

NURSING FACILITY GROUP FISHING LICENSE

Application Requirements:

- Nursing homes applying for this license must be licensed by the state as a nursing facility.
- The license only applies to permanent residents of the nursing home. It does not apply to staff or employees of the nursing home.
- Daily limits for individuals participating in the group fishing license shall be the same as for resident fishing licenses.
 - Cost of the license is \$35.
- Nursing homes wishing to apply for this license should send a request on their company letterhead to the Licensing Office, 20641 SD Hwy 1806, Ft. Pierre, SD 57532. The letter must contain the Nursing Home license number for the facility.

High Waterfowl Numbers In S.D.

PIERRE — Waterfowl hunting seasons in many parts of South Dakota is now in full swing, and hunters are experiencing some of the largest populations of ducks and geese in North America.

With large numbers of wetland and grassland habitat, South Dakota has some of the most significant waterfowl breeding areas in the United States. According to survey data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), hunting opportunities this fall may be the best in decades.

The USFWS Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey shows that South Dakota's duck population increased from 4.8 million in 2009 to 5.8 million this year. The estimate includes more than one million mallards and more than two million blue-winged teal.

"It has been a thrill driving by different bodies of water in the state this summer and observing the waterfowl activity," said Spencer Vaa, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks waterfowl biologist." I'm excited about the potential for an excellent hunting season. South Dakota has a great waterfowl resource this year, and hunting opportunities will be good in most areas."

Duck hunters are reminded of a change in the daily bag limit for pintails from one formerly to two this season. The daily bag limit will include six ducks and may be comprised of no more than five mallards (of which, no more than two may be mallard hens), three wood ducks, two scaup, two redheads, two pintail, and one canvasback.

Hunters also should find exceptional goose numbers in certain areas of the state. A South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks worked closely with USFWS to increase harvest opportunities in an attempt to reduce the resident Canada geese population. A Goose hunters are reminded that the daily bag limit for the Early Fall Canada Goose season has been increased from five birds formerly to eight birds this year.

Waterfowl hunting in many parts of South Dakota opens on Saturday, Sept. 25. Hunters are reminded that in addition to their general hunting licenses, waterfowl hunters also need a State Migratory Bird Certification and a Federal Duck Stamp. Information on season dates can be found in the 2010 Hunting and Trapping Handbook, or online at http://www.gfp.sd.gov/hunting/waterfowl/

Game Production Areas To Be Surveyed

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department will once again survey hunters to determine their success on the state's public hunting areas.

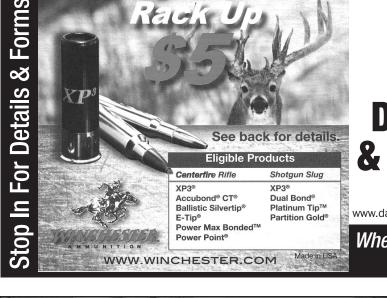
GFP polled hunters last year at Walk-In Areas. This

year's focus will be on state-owned Game Production Areas (GPA).

The department will pay particular attention to GPAs in Brule, Campbell, Codington, Day and Minnehaha counties.

GFP staff will record

the use of select GPAs by counting vehicles and leaving survey cards on windshields. Hunters will be asked to complete the forms and promptly mail them to GFP.





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From the Hunt

Photos Courtesy of Dakota Archery



