

**April 18, 2025**

## Game, Fish, and Parks Commission Approves Prairie Elk Proposals

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission finalized two rules related to hunting prairie elk. Both rules allow more licenses to be accessed by landowners. Specifically, the Commission expanded the West River Prairie Elk unit (PRE-WRA) to include all counties west of the Missouri River not currently in an existing Prairie Elk or Black Hills Elk hunting unit and to expand the season dates for Prairie Elk Unit 9A, to expand season dates for Prairie Elk Unit 27A to Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, and to allow the use of landowner-own-land, resident-only antlerless elk license for this unit. The Commission also approved a tag allocation of 136 "any elk" and 280 "antlerless elk" licenses for the Prairie Elk Hunting Season. Below is a map highlighting the changes.

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

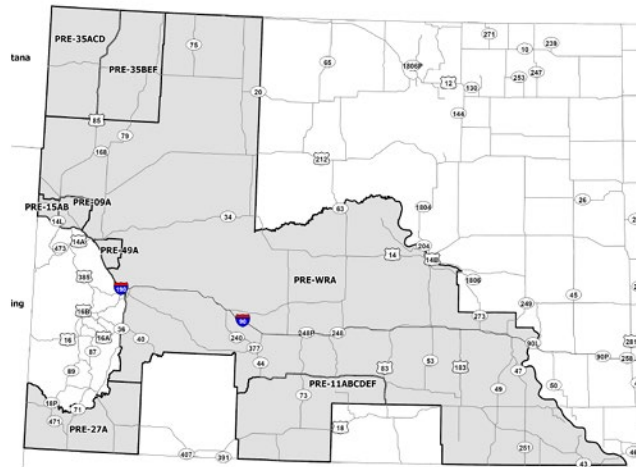
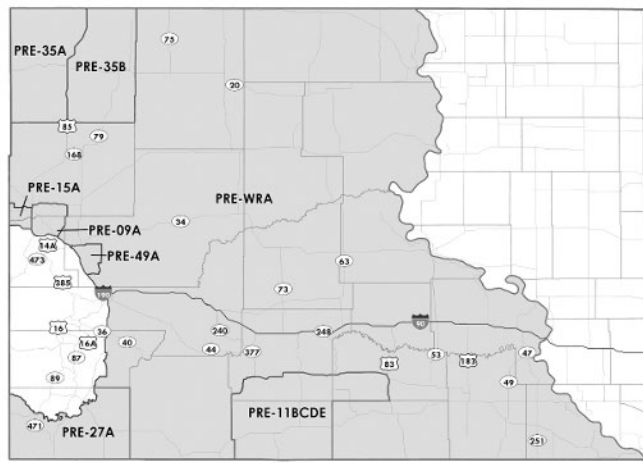


Figure 2. Map of proposed 2025 Prairie elk season hunting units.



**South Dakota PUC Postpones Decision on Denial of Summit Carbon's Application.**

With the South Dakota Legislature passing HB 1052, carbon oxide pipelines are no longer able to exercise eminent domain. Upon the Governor's signing of HB 1052, Summit Carbon Solutions filed a motion to suspend the current scheduling order and extend the current deadline indefinitely (motion to suspend). This would give Summit Carbon Solutions more time to evaluate the company's options on how to proceed. However, later in March, a motion was filed on behalf of certain intervenors to deny the application. At the recent Public Utilities Commission meeting, the PUC moved to deny Summit Carbon Solution's motion to suspend and deferred action on the landowner's motion to deny. The motion to deny was deferred until the next PUC meeting on April 22, 2025.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the PUC.

**Gov. Rhoden and Colleagues Urge EPA to Increase Renewable Fuel Levels**

Governor Larry Rhoden and three fellow governors wrote to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin, urging him to set higher Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) levels.

The Governors specifically requested that the EPA establish a 2026 RVO of no less than 15 billion gallons for conventional ethanol and 5.25 billion gallons for biomass-based diesel. These higher volumes would be reflective of the growth within the U.S. biofuels industry and would create greater long-term stability throughout our rural economy.

Governor Rhoden was joined in signing the letter by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe, and Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen.

Click [here](#) to read the letter.

**Contact for Questions**

**Krystil Smit**

SDFB Executive Director

Email: [k.smit@sdfbf.org](mailto:k.smit@sdfbf.org)

Cell: (605) 261-2960

**Matthew Bogue**

SDFB State Public Policy Director

Email: [Matthew@sdfbf.org](mailto:Matthew@sdfbf.org)

Cell: (605) 377-8833