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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com



(S.D.)-State Panel Cuts Number Of Antelope Hunting Licenses



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 07/09/2013 07:42 AM

PIERRE, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - A South Dakota commission has substantially cut the number of antelope hunting licenses that will be issued this year as part of an effort to help the population rebound.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission has decided to allow only 3,630 antelope to be shot in a season that will run from Sept. 28 through Oct. 13. That's down from 4,585 tags that were issued last fall.

Wildlife biologists say the western South Dakota population of antelope was decimated by harsh winters, but they expect the population will reach about 37,000 this fall. That's far short of the goal of having 55,000 antelope in the state.

This year's season will be open only to residents, but non-residents can eventually apply for leftover licenses if any are available.