

## Rules and Regulations

### Licensing

- Licenses can be obtained online (preferred), by mail from the Tribal Wildlife Department or in person at the Wildlife Department Headquarters, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, Oct. 7 - Nov. 18. The Wildlife Department is located two miles north of Lower Brule on Highway 3. Licenses may also be purchased by calling the office at 605.473.5666.
- All Licenses must be paid in full at the time of purchase.
- A tribal general license must be purchased before ANY other license can be purchased.
- Licenses CANNOT be altered, changed or modified in any way. Any modified license is automatically voided.
- Lost licenses will be replaced for free and may be re-printed from [www.lowerbrulewildlife.com](http://www.lowerbrulewildlife.com).
- No refunds, transfers or exchanges of licenses without the wildlife director's approval.
- A Federal Waterfowl Stamp is required for Non-members to hunt waterfowl on the Reservation.
- State of South Dakota licenses are not required to hunt or fish on the Reservation (See notice below)
- Children, age 12 through 15, do not need to purchase an upland, waterfowl, fishing, prairie dog, furbearer, trapping license, or federal migratory bird hunting stamp (Youth need general license and free youth permit). All other licenses are required (LB-82-C-Sec. 21). No license can be issued to any person under 12 years of age (LB-82-C Sec. 24). All hunters under 18 years of age must possess a hunter safety card prior to obtaining any Lower Brule Tribal hunting permits. No person under 12 years of age may hunt or trap while possessing a firearm or bow and arrow. No person between the ages 12 and 15 may hunt or trap while possessing a firearm or bow and arrow unless he or she is accompanied by a licensed or permitted parent, guardian or other adult designated by a parent or guardian. There are no age restrictions for the purpose of fishing. However, any person under the age of 10 years must be accompanied by an adult, guardian, or other adult designated by a parent or guardian.
- It shall be unlawful for any big game permittee to be accompanied in the field by a non-licensee carrying a firearm or bow. A non-licensee is a person not having a valid Tribal Big Game License. It shall be unlawful for any upland game or upland game bird hunter/permittee to be accompanied in the field by a non-licensee carrying a firearm or bow. A non-licensee is a person not having a valid tribal upland game or upland game bird license.

### Notice

The Lower Brule Sioux Tribal License is valid on Tribal Trust, Allotted, and Indian-owned deeded land. Non-Members wishing to hunt non-Indian owned deeded land (see map) must obtain permission from the landowner and possess a State of South Dakota License before hunting.

### General Rules and Regulations

- All animals shot, caught or trapped must be retrieved. Wanton waste of wildlife is a tribal offense (LB-82-C-Sec. 29).
- There will be restricted vehicle travel during wet weather or extremely dry conditions. Vehicles are allowed only on established roads and trails.
- The Tribe reserves the right to close seasons in case of fire hazard, low wildlife populations, etc. Refunds will be offered for special hunts if they had not taken place.
- No person shall hunt or trap on roadways or within 660 feet of any occupied dwelling, church, schoolhouse or livestock. No person shall hunt or trap within one mile of the community of Lower Brule (LB-82-C Sec. 35). No person shall drive off any established roadway or trail while hunting, fishing, trapping or recreating.
- Trespass: You may not hunt or trap on private deeded or allotted land within the boundaries of the lower Brule Sioux Reservation without permission from the landowner.
- License Revocation: Any person violating any rule or regulation may have their hunting license revoked on site.
- Unarmed Retrieval: Any person may retrieve lawfully taken small and big game from private deeded or allotted land if you are unarmed and if you do not use a vehicle to make your retrieval. Remember, to be lawfully taken, game must have been shot within open areas or areas where permission has been granted.
- Harassment: No person may intentionally interfere with persons lawfully engaged in taking or attempting to take game or fish. No person may scare or disturb game with specific intent to prevent its lawful taking.
- Hunter Harvest Report Card: Any person hunting big game within the boundaries of the Lower Brule Indian Reservation is required to complete a hunter harvest report card and return it within seven days of the end of the season. The completed report card can either be given to a Tribal Conservation Officer or mailed to the Tribal Wildlife Department. Failure to submit a timely hunter harvest report card and tooth envelope will result in loss of future hunting privileges. Harvest report forms are also required for upland game and waterfowl hunters.
- Road Hunting Prohibited: No hunting or shooting from a roadway or right-of-way of an improved road or highway maintained by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, State, or County. No person shall at any time transport a firearm with a round in the chamber, or revolvers with cartridges in the cylinder, or a shotgun with more than two (2) shells in the magazine. No person shall transport any bow unless it is encased or string is locked and unable to be drawn. No person with a special crossbow permit shall transport a cross bow unless it is encased or unstrung. No person shall hunt, load, or discharge a firearm, bow or crossbow from or across a roadway. No person shall load or discharge a firearm or bow of any type in or from a motor vehicle. No person shall lean or place any loaded firearm or bow of any type against any vehicle. No person shall allow a firearm or bow to protrude from a vehicle.
- Restrictions on Use of Bait: No person shall place or hunt over bait unless such material is present from normal agricultural practices. No trapper or person shall set any trap within 30 feet of any exposed bait visible to airborne raptors. Exposed bait means meat or viscera of any animal, bird or fish with or without skin, hide or feathers. No person shall place, use or hunt over bait containing, or contained within, metal, plastic, glass, wood or non-biodegradable materials.
- Unpermissible Conduct: No person shall leave any gate, bars, or other devices used to enclose land or livestock open upon entering or exiting the premises for the purposes of hunting or pursuing wildlife unless he/she is in lawful possession of the premises. No person shall in any manner deface, destroy, or remove any signs posted in a legal manner. No person shall drive a vehicle of any type in an area that has been designated as a Walk-in-Hunting Area.
- Harvesting with Another's Permit: No person shall hunt, fish, trap, recreate, gather or cut wood while in possession of any permit or tag issued to another except when authorized under permit issued by the Department Director.
- Guiding: Only Tribal Members may guide on the Reservation.
- ATV's: All-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles are prohibited for use in big game hunting.
- Shining Animals: It shall be unlawful for any person to shine a spotlight, headlight or any other artificial light for the purpose of locating, hunting, pursuing, taking or attempting to take or kill any fish or wildlife. This subsection shall not apply to: any person authorized to enforce the provisions of this code while on official business conducting an active investigation; any person authorized to conduct fish or wildlife censuses or surveys.
- Firearm Restrictions: No person shall hunt big game animals: with a .22 caliber rimfire rifle, 5mm rimfire rifle, or a .17 caliber centerfire rifle to include any equivalent caliber or smaller; with a shot shell containing shot of any size less than a slug; with a gun having the capacity to hold more than eight (8) shells in the clip or magazine; with a gun capable of being fired as an automatic. No person shall hunt upland game birds with; a shotgun larger than 10 gauge; a shotgun with a barrel length less than 18 inches; shot shells of Double BB or larger; a rifle or handgun of any type. No lead-based ammunition allowed for shotguns.
- Shed antler collecting: Removal of antlers from tribal or allotted lands by nonmembers of the Lower Brule Indian Tribe is prohibited. All shed antler collecting in the Big Game Unit is prohibited.
- Narrows Culturally Sensitive Area: No motorized vehicles allowed from BIA 3 (Little Bend Road) west to the river's edge from the Wildlife Department driveway extending north approximately 2 miles to the Peterson Ranch.
- All hunting accidents must be reported immediately to the Wildlife Department.
- Special provisions may apply to disabled persons – please contact the Wildlife Department for more information.

## Tagging and Transportation

- Game birds, being transported, must have one leg, or head, or sufficient plumage attached (waterfowl - feathered wing attached) to allow identification of the species (LB-82-C-Sec. 42).
- Big game must be immediately tagged upon retrieval.
- No person may refuse inspection and count of wildlife. Any motor vehicle, camper or trailer may be stopped for such inspection and count (LB-82-C-Sec. 10).
- It shall be unlawful for any big game permittee to transport any big game without being present with the carcass until such time as the carcass is processed. It shall be unlawful for anyone to knowingly accept for and transport another's big game without the valid license holder present or written permission from the person providing the game or parts thereof. This subsection shall not apply to any authorized enforcement persons who in the course of their duties transport any such seized big game, or Senior/Disabled Citizens under Section 8.07.
- It shall be unlawful for any upland game and/or bird permittee to transport any upland game or upland game bird without being present with the carcass until such time as the carcass is processed. Nor shall any person knowingly accept for transport another's upland game or upland game bird without the valid license holder present or written permission from the person providing the game. This section shall not apply to any authorized enforcement persons who in the course of their duties transport any seized upland game or upland game bird.
- No person who kills big game pursuant to this ordinance shall remove a carcass or registration tag from that big game animal until such time as the carcass is butchered or processed for consumption.
- No person shall transport any upland game or upland game bird in or on any motor vehicle without possessing the appropriate permit or required license.
- All mule deer bucks must have at least one antler with three or more points. A legal point is at least 1" in length.
- Only one elk tag and/or one buffalo tag allowed per household.

## Waterfowl Regulations

### Tribal Regulations

The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe sets its regulations, season dates and bag limits for mourning doves and waterfowl within federal guidelines. Check [www.lowerbrulewildlife.com](http://www.lowerbrulewildlife.com) for details.

General: A Tribal General License, Tribal Waterfowl License and Federal Waterfowl Stamp are required of all hunters of waterfowl within the exterior boundaries of the reservation, except that non-members may hunt waterfowl on the waters of the Missouri River with either the Tribal or State license (during an open season allowed by that license) and the appropriate federal stamp (see notice). No person hunting waterfowl may use or possess shotshells except those loaded with non-toxic shot. The head or feathered wing must remain attached during transportation. All migratory game birds must be retrieved and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

It is unlawful to: take migratory game birds during a closed season; without requisite Tribal licenses, or before or after shooting hours; take more than one daily bag limit on any one day; possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field, or while returning from the field to one's car, camp, home, etc.; transport another's migratory game birds without proper tagging; possess live birds; transport migratory game birds without leaving attached the proper head/foot/wing for transportation.

No person shall: hunt Migratory Birds with a shotgun using a plug of two (2) or more pieces or a shotgun with a barrel length less than 18 inches.

### Federal Regulations

In addition to Tribal regulations, these federal rules apply to taking, possessing, transporting and storing migratory game birds:

Restrictions: No person may take migratory game birds:

- With trap, snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, handgun, machine gun, fish hook, poison drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells.
- From a sink box (a low-floating device that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance or aircraftraft.
- From a motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been shut off or the sail and its progress has been ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys.
- By using records or tapes of migratory birdcalls or sounds or electrically amplified imitations of birdcalls.
- By driving, rallying, or chasing birds with a motorized conveyance or a sailboat to put them in range of hunters.
- By placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to attract migratory game birds. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait. It is not necessary for hunters to know an area is baited to be in violation.

Wanton Waste: All migratory game birds must be retrieved, if possible and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

**Live Birds:** Crippled birds must be immediately killed.

## Trapping/Furbearer Regulations

General: All persons trapping within the boundaries of the reservation must possess a tribal trapping license. The general trapping dates are from October 1 through April 30 of each year. Below are specific trapping dates and limits per species. Trapping is allowed 24 hours per day. Spotlighting is prohibited, however flashlights are allowed for the purpose of checking traps. Traps must be checked every 48 hours.

It is unlawful to: flag muskrat houses before opening day, set traps within 30 feet of exposed bait, possess raw furs after the tenth day of the closure of the season, physically alter, possess or barter live furbearers, set or operate more than 75 traps, disturb mink, beaver or muskrat houses or dens, use poison, gas, smoke, or explosives.

**No person shall:** trap with any leghold trap larger than a Number Four (4) and/or any trap containing a tooth style jaw; trap within 30 feet of any exposed bait visible to airborne raptors; trap with traps or snares without having attached to the traps or snares a metal tag displaying the trappers full name, address and phone number.

Any landowner, allottee or operator may destroy any furbearer, which has been identified as depreciating any livestock, poultry, trees or crops. He/she shall not commercialize in, sell, trade, or ship any pelt or parts thereof without possessing a valid Tribal furbearer license or permit.

Species	Dates	Limits
Mink and Weasel	Nov. 1- Jan. 31	None
Muskrat	Year-round	None
Beaver	Year-round	None
Bobcat	Dec. 26 - Feb. 15	1
Raccoon	Year-round	None
Badger	Oct. 1 - Apr. 30	None
Fox	Oct. 1 - Apr. 30	None
Skunk	Year-round	None
Coyote	Year-round	None

None (Tribal Members may use night vision or thermal optics for coyote hunting February 1 – May 31)

Bobcat Restrictions:

Any person taking a bobcat must present it to a Tribal Conservation Officer for registration and tagging of the pelt within 48 hours of harvest.

The pelt must be removed from carcass, and the carcass must be surrendered to a Tribal Conservation Officer. No person may buy or sell bobcat pelts that are not legally tagged. Youth need general license and free youth permit. An annual harvest quota is set at 5 bobcats for Non-members and 15 bobcats for Tribal Members.

## What Lower Brule Has To Offer

The Lower Brule Indian Reservation is located in central South Dakota along the west bank of the Missouri River. The topography of the Reservation is characterized by rugged breaks adjacent to the Missouri River that gradually give way to gently undulating prairie. Grasslands dominate the landscape, but cropland farming is prevalent in areas that are conducive. This diversity of habitat is ideal for many species of wildlife.

The hunting opportunities that exist on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation are second to none. Prairie-chickens and sharp-tailed grouse are abundant. Exceptional mule deer and white-tailed deer are harvested annually. Pheasant hunting is world class. The Reservation is located within the Central Flyway and at times holds over one hundred thousand ducks and geese are staging in the area. Wild turkeys, which were extinct for decades, have been successfully re-introduced and are flourishing. Buffalo and elk have also been successfully re-introduced and provide a unique hunting experience.

The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Department of Wildlife, Fish and Recreation has been actively managing the wildlife resources and improving habitat on the Reservation for over 30 years. Population surveys are conducted annually on all game species. At the end of the hunting seasons, all hunters are sent questionnaires and asked to provide information that helps biologists determine harvest rates of game species. This information is used to develop recommendations for the following hunting season. Thousands of trees and hundreds of acres of food plots are planted annually. In addition, thousands of acres of marginal cropland have been restored to prairie in the last decade. Few agencies are managing wildlife at the level of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. Ask us about our two rustic fully accommodated cabins overlooking the Missouri River. Included are a full kitchen, two bedrooms, deck, dog kennel, fish and bird cleaning table – this is a great way to maximize your experience at Lower Brule while fishing or hunting.

Lower Brule is hunting at its best. For more information, please contact the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Department of Wildlife, Fish and Recreation at (605) 473-5666 or visit our website, [www.lowerbrulewildlife.com](http://www.lowerbrulewildlife.com).



### Cabins

Two cabins are available to rent (\$150/night for 1 bedroom and \$250/night for two bedrooms) - check them out on our website [www.lowerbrulewildlife.com](http://www.lowerbrulewildlife.com)

### Package Hunts

Package hunts are available for elk and buffalo.

**Big Game Unit/Huston Unit/Cherry Ranch**

Three thousand acres of rolling river breaks in the Big Game Unit are the home for the Tribe's buffalo and elk herds. In addition the 1,600-acre Huston Unit and 1,300-acre Cherry Ranch also have buffalo herds. Special hunts consist of your choice of hunting dates, stalking by foot and a guaranteed shot at a buffalo or elk you can be proud of. All hunts are conducted in a sportsman-like manner.

**Our Package Hunts Include:**

- Guide service, field dressing of your trophy, licenses and transportation tags.
- Your choice of hunting dates.
- The buffalo and elk hunts are one each one-day hunts.
- Accommodations are your responsibility; the Wildlife Cabins and the Golden Buffalo Resort are recommended.

### Grassrope Special Hunting Unit

This unique 7,000-acre river bend area is intensively managed for crop and wildlife production. Approximately 5,000 acres of irrigated corn and bean fields provide ample surplus food for wildlife. The rest of the area is managed as wildlife habitat including shelterbelts, upland bird nesting cover and food plots. The area abounds with mule deer, white-tailed deer, prairie-chickens, sharp-tailed grouse, geese, ducks, and of course, pheasants. The Tribal Wildlife Department takes great pride in this area and manages it as a special game bird and waterfowl unit. Special seasons, bag limits, and hunting fees apply. A special daily permit is required to hunt pheasants and to hunt waterfowl in the flooded corn pit blinds on the two Little Bend Ponds. Deer hunting in the Grassrope Unit is allowed only with archery or muzzleloader tags.

### Mni Sho Sho Goose Camp & Little Bend Ponds

The Mni Sho Sho Goose Camp is no longer operated as a goose camp. This area will be open as a walk-in area for all types of hunting. Medicine Creek Pond flooded corn is available as first-come, first-served at no additional cost.

The Little Bend Ponds feature two deluxe steel pit blinds over flooded corn. Blinds must be reserved and the cost for each person, per day, is \$100 unguided or \$50 if guided by Tribal Member. Decoys and heaters are provided - up to 8 hunters per blind.

### Licensed Guides

The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Department of Wildlife, Fish and Recreation offers a workshop for tribal member guides and outfitters. The guiding license fee is waived for those individuals that complete the workshop and are recommended to hunters who request guiding services. Tribal member guides and outfitters offer services for sharp-tailed grouse, prairie-chicken, pheasant, ducks, geese, mule deer, white-tailed deer, prairie dog, and turkey. Please contact the Wildlife Department for a list of licensed guides or check our website at [www.lowerbrulewildlife.com](http://www.lowerbrulewildlife.com). Guides are not required. Only Tribal Members may guide on the Reservation.

### Missouri River Recreation Areas

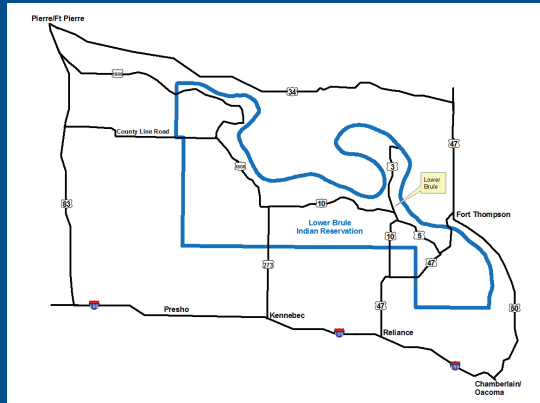
We manage three recreation areas on the Missouri River including the new for 2023 Wata Onazin Recreation Area just east of Lower Brule. Iron Nation Recreation Area is 7 miles west and Little Bend Recreation Area is 9 miles north. Each area has a boat ramp, dock, fish cleaning table, and playground facilities; Wata Onazin Recreation Area also has a swimming area with a beach, walking trails and riparian restoration plantings. In addition, Cedar Creek has a primitive boat ramp and The Narrows has a scenic hiking trail and interpretive earth lodge. A Recreation Permit is required at all recreation areas and for shore fishing on the Missouri River.

### Paddlefish Season

Tribal Members only: May 1-31  
Please call or check the website for more information.



# 2023 Season Guide Regulations and Map



### South Dakota



For information contact:

Ben Janis, Director

Lower Brule Wildlife, Fish and Recreation P.O. Box 246

Lower Brule, South Dakota 57548 Phone 605-473-5666

Fax 605-473-1120

Web Site: [www.lowerbrulewildlife.com](http://www.lowerbrulewildlife.com)

E-Mail: [lowerbrulewildlife@lowerbrule.net](mailto:lowerbrulewildlife@lowerbrule.net)

Please email us your hunting and fishing photos for our website!