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Report to Survey Participants 2010 Mountain Lion Season Evaluation



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Dear 2010 Mountain Lion Hunter,

This is a summary report of the 2010 Mountain Lion Season. All hunters licensed to hunt mountain lions were sent a short questionnaire designed to measure hunters' evaluation of the mountain lion season. We sincerely thank all of you who participated by completing and returning your questionnaire. A total of 1,795 usable questionnaires were returned for an 86.5% return rate (53% of the returned surveys were by the Internet, saving considerable postage and encoding expenses). Your information was very valuable in helping us evaluate South Dakota's fifth mountain lion season. The information will also help with future management decisions regarding mountain lion season designs.

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Evaluation of the 2010 Mountain Lion Season HUNTER SURVEY

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South Dakota's fifth mountain lion season ended February 10, 2009, just 41 days after opening on January 1st after the 40th mountain lion was harvested, meeting the 2010 harvest limit (40 total or 25 females). A total of 24 female and 16 male mountain lions were harvested during the 2010 season (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Landowners who have purchased a mountain lion license can harvest a mountain lion year-round on private land they own or private land they lease outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District. All harvested mountain lions must be presented to a conservation officer, state trapper or department representative within 24 hours. This survey only covered mountain lion hunting during the period that the regular season was open (January 1 – February 10, 2010).

Table 1. Harvest information for the South Dakota 2010 mountain lion season.

#	Harvest Date	Sex	Location	#	Harvest Date	Sex	Location
1	1 / 1	F	2 miles NW of Piedmont	21	1 / 25	F	1 mile N of Stratobowl
2	1 / 1	F	4 miles SE of Cheyenne Crossing	22	1 / 29	M	4 miles NE of Jewel Cave
3	1 / 1	F	3 miles SW of Hayward	23	1 / 29	M	4 miles S of Deerfield Lake
4	1 / 1	F	3 miles N of Johnson Siding	24	1 / 30	M	4 miles SW of Mystic
5	1 / 2	M	3 miles SW of Mystic	25	1 / 31	F	1 mile W of Galena
6	1 / 2	M	3 miles SE of Cheyenne Crossing	26	2 / 2	F	1 mile S of Pringle
7	1 / 2	F	3 miles SW of Deerfield Lake	27	2 / 3	M	9 miles SW of Spearfish
8	1 / 3	M	3 miles S of Rochford	28	2 / 5	M	6 miles NE of Jewell Cave
9	1 / 3	F	3 miles S of Brownsville	29	2 / 5	F	2 miles E of Harney
10	1 / 6	F	1 mile NW of Hayward	30	2 / 6	F	3 miles SE of Spearfish
11	1 / 8	F	3 miles NE of Pringle	31	2 / 7	M	1 mile S of Johnson Siding
12	1 / 8	M	6 miles SW of Hill City	32	2 / 8	M	3 miles N of Elk Mountain
13	1 / 9	F	1 mile W of Stratobowl	33	2 / 8	F	1 mile SW of Sheridan Lake
14	1 / 10	M	3 miles NE of Deadwood	34	2 / 9	F	4 miles S of Harney
15	1 / 11	F	5 miles S of Silver City	35	2 / 9	M	4 miles W of Hermosa
16	1 / 15	F	4 miles NW of Rochford	36	2 / 10	F	1 mile E of Wonderland Cave
17	1 / 17	F	1 miles W of Stratobowl	37	2 / 10	M	1 mile W of Johnson Siding
18	1 / 18	F	2 miles N of Sheridan Lake	38	2 / 10	F	1 mile E of Harney
19	1 / 22	F	1 mile N of Mystic	39	2 / 10	M	4 miles N of Rochford
20	1 / 24	M	2 miles NW of Hermosa	40	2 / 10	F	2 miles S of Sturgis

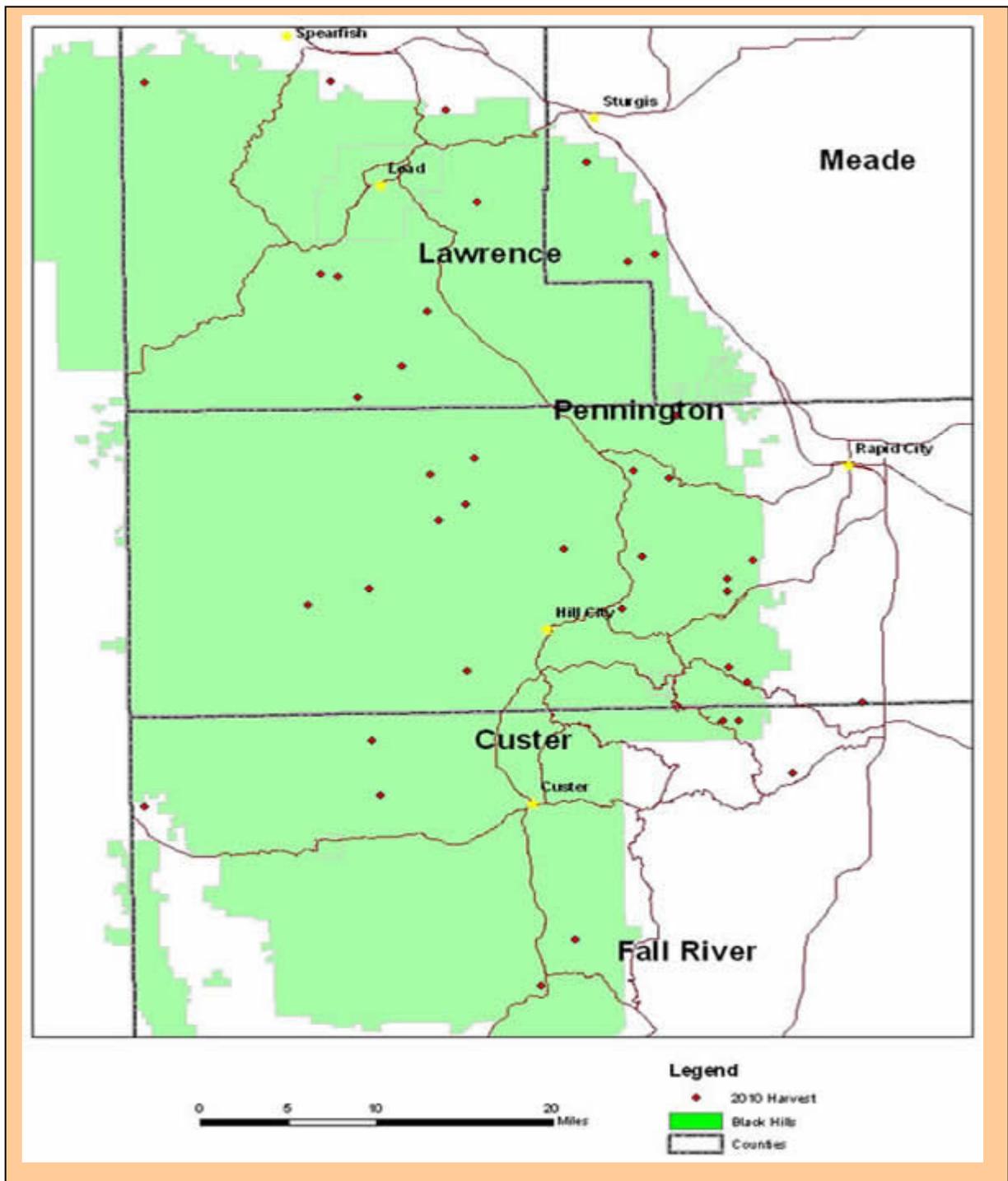


Figure 1. 2010 Mountain lion season harvest locations – Black Hills, S.D.

About 70.5% of the licensed mountain lion hunters actually spent any time hunting for mountain lions for an average of 6.2 days. Hunting methods used most often were calling (81%), tracking in snow (70%), walking in the woods looking for lions (66%) and driving the roads looking for lions or lion sign (53%). Twenty-three of the 40 successful hunters used a predator call, 7 stalked the lion, 6 tracked the lion, 3 waited at a kill site and 1 used a lion call. About 79% of the active mountain lion hunters reported seeing lion tracks or other signs of mountain lions while hunting and 14% of the active lion hunters observed a mountain lion.

Success per licensed hunter (includes all licensed hunters) in 2010 was 1.92% and success per actual lion hunter (hunters that actually spent some time hunting for lions) was 2.72%. A total of 1,468 hunters were estimated to have actually spent time hunting for mountain lions during the 2010 mountain lion season. Table 2 compares these statistics for all five of the mountain lion seasons.

Evaluation of the Season – Satisfaction. About 55% of the mountain lion license holders were satisfied with the mountain lion season as conducted in 2010, 33% were neutral and 12% were dissatisfied. License holders who actually hunted mountain lions during the 2010 season were more satisfied (63%) than those who did not hunt (38%), but the difference was mainly the result of non-hunters being ‘neutral’ or having ‘no opinion’.

Table 2. Success statistics for the 2005–2010 mountain lion seasons.

YEAR	PARAMETER		
	Success per Licensed hunter	Estimated number of lion hunters	Success per Lion hunter
2005	13 / 2,294 = 0.57%	56.9% X 2,294 = 1,305	13 / 1,305 = 1.00%
2006	15 / 3,016 = 0.50%	59.8% X 3,016 = 1,804	15 / 1,804 = 0.83%
2007	19 / 4,070 = 0.47%	59.0% X 4,070 = 2,401	19 / 2,401 = 0.79%
2009	26 / 2,428 = 1.07%	67.8% X 2,428 = 1,646	26 / 1,646 = 1.58%
2010	40 / 2,082 = 1.92%	70.5% X 2,082 = 1,468	40 / 1,468 = 2.72%

A copy of the complete report: **Evaluation of the 2010 Mountain Lion Season: Hunter Survey** can be found on the Game, Fish and Parks web page along with other mountain lion information.

