

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Mountain Lion Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:61

Commission Meeting Dates: Public Hearing October 3, 2013 Spearfish
Finalization October 3-4, 2013 Spearfish

COMMISSION PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS

Season Dates: December 26, 2013 – March 31, 2014

Open Area: Statewide

Licenses: Unlimited resident only

Black Hills Harvest Limit: 75 mountain lions or 50 female mountain lions (includes Custer State Park)

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Residents may harvest no more than one (1) mountain lion in a season.
2. No person may hunt mountain lions with the aid of traps or bait. The use of dogs is allowed in Custer State Park during specified hunting intervals.
3. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
4. No mountain lion with a spotted coat (kitten) and no mountain lion accompanying another mountain lion may be harvested.
5. A person may use an electronic call to hunt mountain lions.
6. All firearms, muzzleloaders, and archery equipment must meet the same minimum requirements as established in rules for deer hunting.
7. The Game, Fish, and Parks Commission, by resolution, may authorize the mountain lion season to extend beyond March 31.
8. All mountain lions harvested within the Black Hills must be presented to a department representative at the Rapid City Regional Office or Custer State Park Headquarters within 24 hours of harvest for inspection and pelt tagging. Any person who harvests a mountain lion outside of the Black Hills region must present the mountain lion to a conservation officer, wildlife damage specialist, or other department representative within 24 hours of harvest.
9. Any properly licensed hunter can harvest one mountain lion year round outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

Recommended changes from last year:

1. Decrease the total mountain lion harvest limit for the Black Hills Fire Protection District from 100 to 75 and the female harvest limit from 70 to 50.
2. Increase the number of hunting intervals when dog hunting is allowed from 3 to 4 and decrease the number of hunting intervals when no dog hunting is allowed from 5 to 4 for Custer State Park. This structure would include four (4) hunting intervals (17 days in length) with each having 30 access permits (no dog hunting allowed) for a total of 120 access permits and four (4) intervals (7 days in length) with each having 4 access permits (dog hunting allowed) for a total of 16 access permits.

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Mountain Lion Harvest Statistics

Year	Licensed Hunters		Mountain Lions Harvested		
	Black Hills	Prairie	Males	Females	Total
2005	2,294	303	6	7	13
2006	3,016	290	8	8	16
	Statewide				
2007	4,070		3	16	19
2008	No Season				
2009	2,428		11	15	26
2010	2,082		16	24	40
2011	2,335		22	27	49
2012	3,482		27	46	73
2013	4,351*		26	35	61

*Number of licensed hunters at the close of the 2013 BHFPD season.

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2014 Custer State Park Mountain Lion Hunting Season Interval Schedule

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				26	27	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			17 Days 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	7 Days 15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	17 Days 29	30	31	

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	7 Days 5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	17 Days 19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	7 Days 5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	17 Days 19	20	21	22
23	24	25	7 Days 26	27	28	29
30	31					

Four (4) hunting intervals with 30 access permits (no dog hunting allowed).

Four (4) hunting intervals with 4 access permits (dog hunting allowed).