

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:56

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>December 5, 2013</b>	<b>Huron</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>January 9, 2014</b>	<b>Ft. Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>January 9-10, 2014</b>	<b>Ft. Pierre</b>

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

**Season Dates:** September 1 – December 31, 2014

**Open Area:** Unit 1: That portion of Pennington County within an area beginning at Hwy. 385 and the Pennington County line, then south on Hwy. 385 to Sheridan Lake Rd., then east on Sheridan Lake Rd. to Hwy. 79 in Rapid City, then north on Hwy. 79 to the Pennington County line.  
 Unit 2: Custer County west of Highway 79, except Custer State Park, Wind Cave National Park, and Jewel Cave National Park

**Licenses:** Unit 1: 1 “ram bighorn sheep” license  
 Unit 2: 2 “ram bighorn sheep” licenses

One of the 3 licenses shall be an auction “ram bighorn sheep” license valid in Unit 2.

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. All licensees are required to attend an orientation meeting prior to the opening day of the season at the regional office in Rapid City.
2. Except for the auction license, application for a license may be made by any resident hunter who has not been previously issued a bighorn sheep license in South Dakota.
3. Hunters can only apply for one of the two Black Hills Bighorn Sheep units.
4. Land operator preference is not applicable to these licenses.
5. One bighorn sheep license shall be allocated as an auction license if a minimum of three bighorn licenses are approved by the Commission. The Commission shall determine in which unit or units the auction licenses if valid.
6. All successful hunters must submit their bighorn sheep to a conservation officer or Department representative for inspection and permanent marking within 24 hours after the kill.

**Recommended changes from last year:**

1. Auction license is valid only in Unit 2.
2. Modify the current boundary description for Unit 1 to include the geographic area of the Rapid Creek bighorn sheep sub-herd population.

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

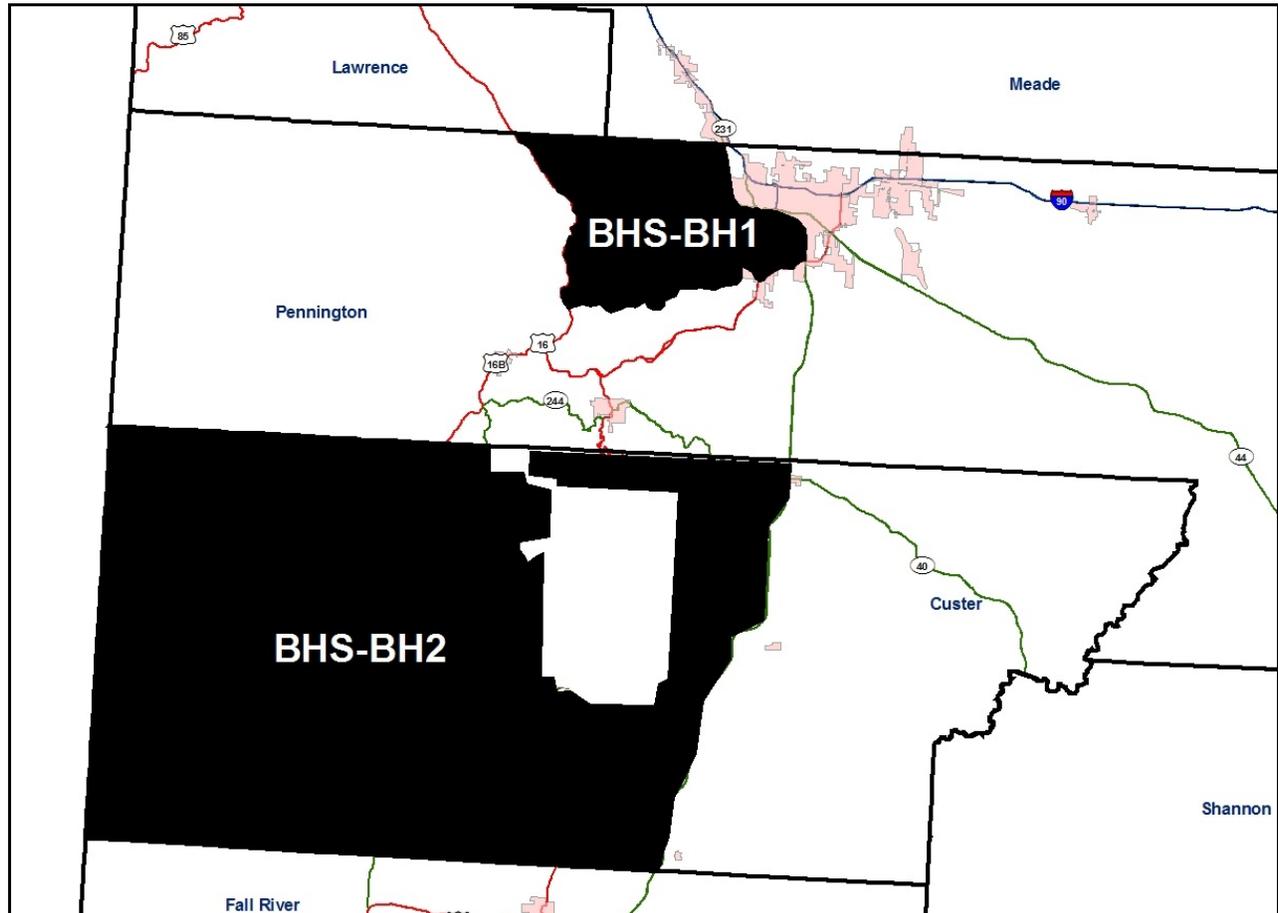
Surveys are conducted annually to determine population status and trend of bighorn sheep in the Black Hills. One survey is conducted during May and June on lambing grounds and another survey is conducted during the rut or on the winter range during November and December. Since the winter range survey is still in progress, the Department recommendation is based upon survey data collected thus far related to total number of lambs, ewes, and rams by age class. A complete dataset from the survey will be available at the January Commission Meeting.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Rams Harvested	Ewes Harvested
2009	5	5	0
2010	5	5	0
2011	3	3	0
2012	2	2	0
2013	Season Still in Progress		

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_

# BIGHORN SHEEP UNITS

2014



**BHS-BH1:** That portion of Pennington County within an area beginning at Hwy. 385 and the Pennington County line, then south on Hwy. 385 to Sheridan Lake Rd., then east on Sheridan Lake Rd. to Hwy. 79 in Rapid City, then north on Hwy. 79 to the Pennington County line.

**BHS-BH2:** Custer County west of Highway 79, except Custer State Park, Wind Cave National Park, and Jewel Cave National Park.