

**GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL**

Mountain Lion Hunting Season
Chapter 41:06:61; 41:06:02

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	September 5-6, 2019	Spearfish
	Public Hearing	October 3, 2019	Chamberlain
	Finalization	October 3-4, 2019	Chamberlain

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 seasons

Open Area: Statewide

Season Dates: Black Hills: December 26, 2019 – April 30, 2020
December 26, 2020 – April 30, 2021

Prairie: Year-round

Licenses: Residents: Unlimited licenses
Nonresidents: 250 lottery licenses

Harvest Limit: Black Hills Fire Protection District: 60 mountain lions or 40 female mountain lions (includes Custer State Park)

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. 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 April 30.
8. The use of dogs to hunt mountain lions is only allowed during those specified hunting intervals in Custer State Park that allow for the use of dogs and outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District on private land with permission of the landowner or lessee. However, a pursuit of a mountain lion by dogs that originates on private land may cross over or culminate on any public lands where unleashed dogs are permitted.
9. In Custer State Park, a person using dogs shall attempt to harvest the first legal mountain lion they have a reasonable opportunity to harvest, except under the condition where the lion pursued shows obvious signs of lactation.
10. Licensed hunters must accompany the dog handler when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt thereafter until the hunt is completed.
11. Custer State Park is closed to mountain lion hunting except for 57 mountain lion licensees who possess a valid mountain lion license and a temporary access permit structured to include:

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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- (a) Three hunting intervals each having 15 access permits in which hunting with dogs is not allowed; and
 - (b) Four hunting intervals each having three access permits in which hunting with dogs is allowed.
 - (c) Hunting in Custer State Park shall begin with an interval that allows the use of dogs and rotate every 14 days with an interval that does not allow the use of dogs until the lion season closes in the Black Hills Fire Protection District. The temporary access permits are issued free-of-cost and may be issued by a random drawing.
12. 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 department representative within 24 hours of harvest.

Proposed changes from last year:

- 1. Change the season dates from December 26 – March 31 to December 26 – April 30.
- 2. Increase the number of access permits in Custer State Park from 57 to 65.
- 3. Allow nonresident hunting opportunity and provide 250 nonresident lottery licenses.
- 4. Establish a nonresident license fee of \$280.
- 5. Outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District, expand the allowance for the use of dogs that originates on private land to cross over or culminate on any public lands where unleashed dogs are permitted. The current restriction for the Fort Meade Recreation Area would remain.
- 6. Authorize the Commission to extend the hunting season beyond April 30.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Year	Licenses Sold *	BLACK HILLS HARVEST			PRAIRIE HARVEST		
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
2005/06	2,588	6	7	13	0	1	1
2006/07	3,295	7	8	15	1	0	1
2007/08	4,070	2	15	17	1	1	2
2008/09	2,335	11	15	26	2	0	2
2009/10	2,274	16	24	40	1	2	3
2010/11	2,591	21	28	49	3	0	3
2011/12	3,720	27	46	73	1	1	2
2012/13	4,637	26	35	61	5	1	6
2013/14	3,856	22	31	53	4	0	4
2014/15	3,767	21	22	43	4	1	5
2015/16	3,681	16	25	41	5	3	8
2016/17	3,067	14	16	30	5	0	5
2017/18	3,384	12	19	31	9	2	11
2018/19	3,373	13	8	21	8	2	10

* Licenses sold from April 1 to March 31 - Adjusted year

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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2019-20 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
			1 14 Days	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 14 Days	30	31	

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

- Five (5) hunting intervals with 3 access permits (dog hunting allowed).
- Four (4) hunting intervals with 15 access permits (no dog hunting allowed).

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2020-21 Custer State Park Mountain Lion Hunting Season Interval Schedule

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						26
27	28	29	30	14 Days 31		

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

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