

# 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>January 16-17, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>March 5, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>March 5-6, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2020 hunting season

**Season Dates:** September 1 – December 31, 2020

**Open Area:** Units 2, 3, 4, and Custer State Park. See unit map for boundaries.

**Licenses:** No more than 8 “ram bighorn sheep” licenses.

One of the 8 licenses shall be an auction “ram bighorn sheep” license if a minimum of three total bighorn sheep licenses are allocated.

#### **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. An applicant can apply for up to two licenses if one choice includes Custer State Park.
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 license is 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.

#### **Proposed changes from last year:**

1. No more than 8 bighorn sheep licenses may be issued.
2. Modify Unit 2 to include that portion of Custer and Fall River counties within a line beginning at the junction of SD Hwy 16 and the WY state line, east on SD Hwy 16 to the intersection of SD Hwy 16 and Mann Rd (USFS Rd 270) then south along the Mann Rd to Pass Creek Rd (USFS Rd 272) then south on Pass Creek to Richardson Cutoff (USFS Rd 276) then east on Richardson Cutoff to Pleasant Valley Rd (USFS Rd 715) then south on Pleasant Valley Rd to Pilger Mountain Rd (USFS 317) then south on Pilger Mountain Rd to County Rd 15 then south on County Rd 15 to SD Hwy 18 then west on SD Hwy 18 to County Rd 16 then north on County Rd 16 to Dewey Rd (USFS Rd 769) then north and west on Dewey Rd to the Custer County line then west on the Custer county line to the WY state line then north on the WY state line to the point of origin.
3. Establish Unit 4 which includes those portions of Custer and Pennington counties beginning at the junction of the WY state line and Summit Ridge Rd (USFS Rd 265) then north on Summit Ridge Rd to Boles Canyon Rd (USFS 117) then north on Boles Canyon Rd to Six-Mile Rd (USFS 301) the east on Six-Mile Rd to Ditch Creek Rd (USFS Rd 291) then south on Ditch Creek Rd to the Custer/Pennington county line then east on the Custer/Pennington county line to SD Hwy 79 then south on SD Hwy 79 to the Custer/Fall River county line then west on the Custer/Fall River county line to Pilger Mountain Rd (USFS Rd 317) then north on Pilger Mountain Rd to Pleasant Valley Rd (USFS Rd 715) then north and east on Pleasant Valley Rd to Richardson Cutoff (USFS Rd 276) then north on Richardson Cutoff to Pass Creek Rd (USFS Rd 272) then west and north on Pass Creek Rd to Mann Rd (USFS Rd 270) then north on Mann Rd to SD Hwy 16 then west on SD Hwy 16 to the WY state line then north on the WY state line to the point of origin, excluding Jewel Cave National Monument (SEE UNIT MAP).
4. Establish Custer State Park unit which includes the fenced portion of Custer State Park (SEE UNIT MAP).

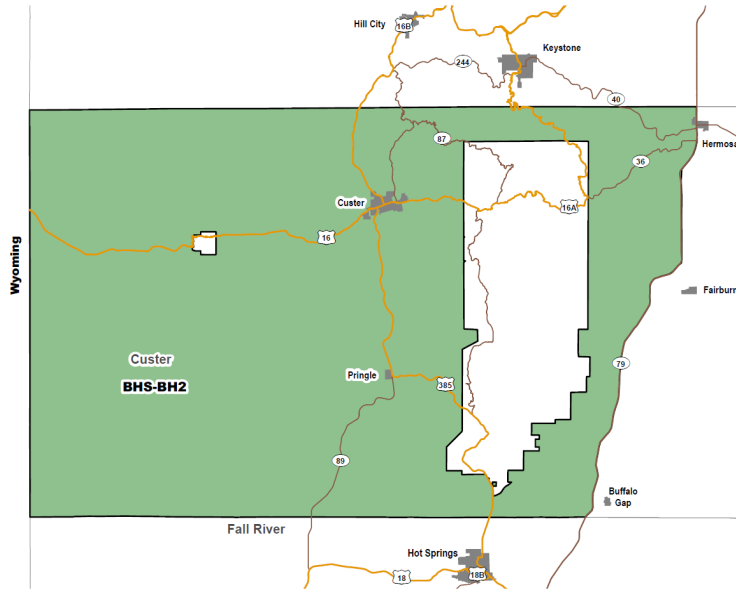
#### **Allocation of Licenses by Unit**

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

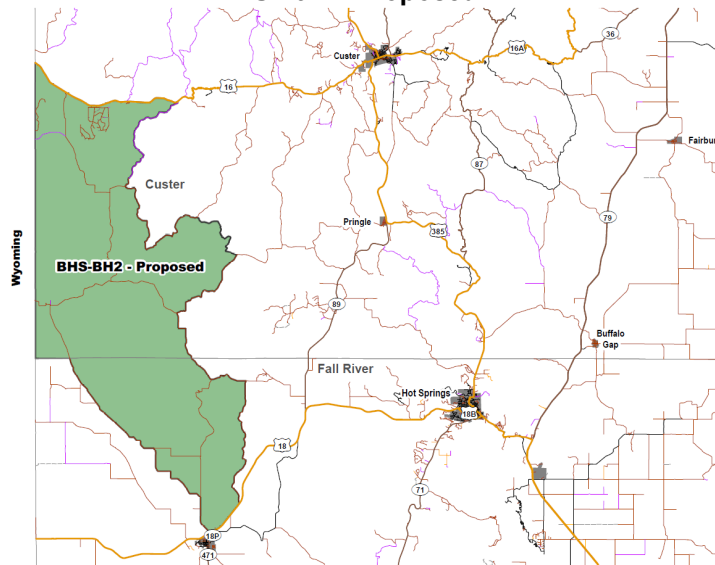
Unit	2019 Licenses	2020 Licenses
1	0	0
2	2	3
3	1	1
4	0	2
CSP	0	1

In addition to the licenses allocated by units above, the Department recommends the auction license to valid in all units except for Unit 4 and Custer State Park.

### Unit 2 – Current

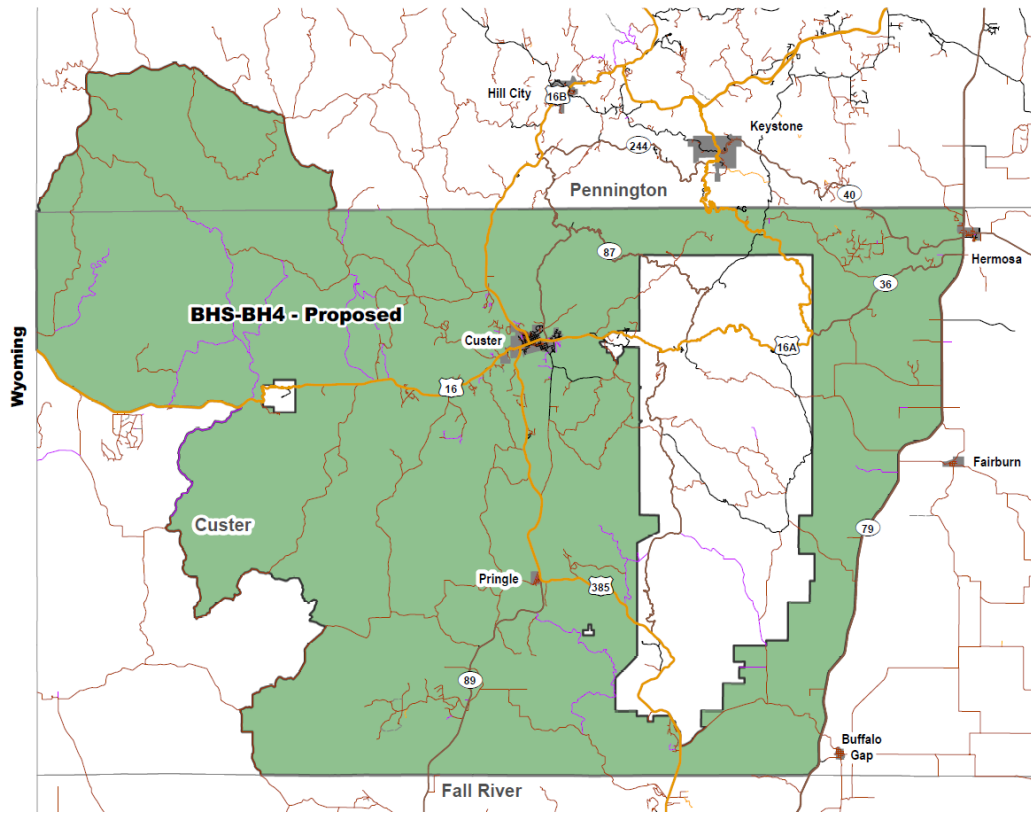


### Unit 2 – Proposed

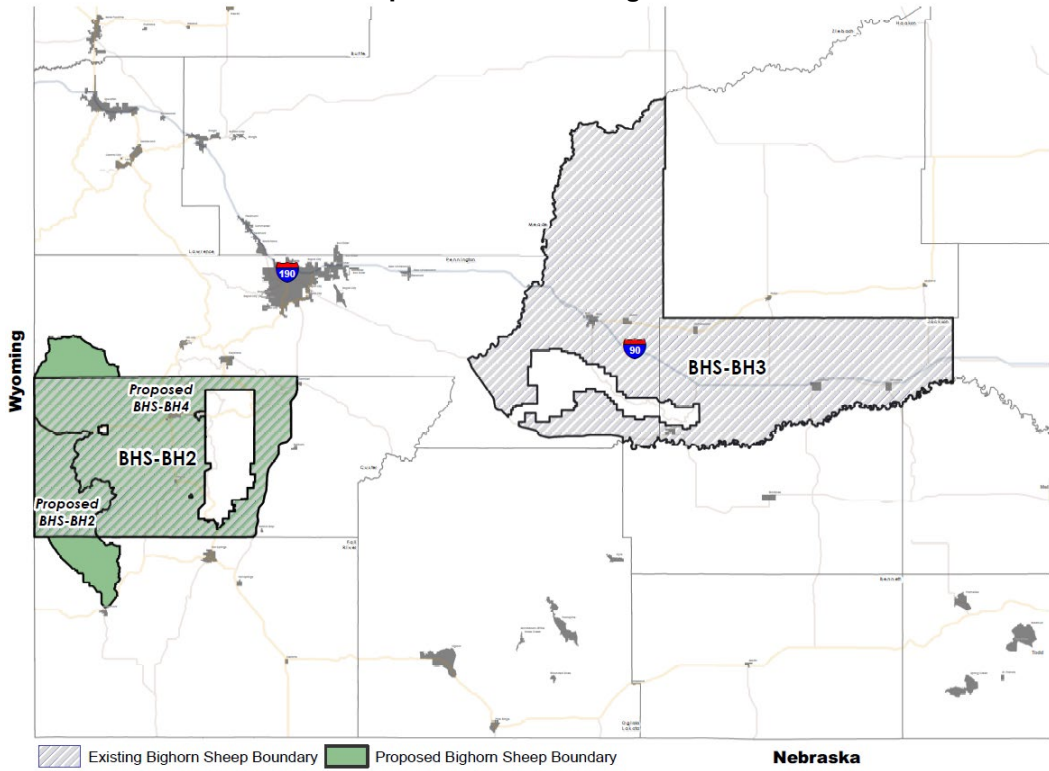


### Unit 4 -- Proposed

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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**Proposed 2020 Hunting Units**



**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

**APPROVE**
 **MODIFY**
 **REJECT**
 **NO ACTION**

Due to the presence of pneumonia, low recruitment and low ram numbers, the Department recommends retaining the hunting closure for Unit 1. The establishment and availability of licenses for Unit 4 (Hell Canyon) is a result of a successful transplant and availability of quality rams. The establishment and availability of a license for Custer State Park is the result of management implemented from research findings and will not negatively affect the viewability of bighorn sheep for park visitors.

#### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not applicable.

#### RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? Not applicable.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? The proposed changes to units and license allocation would enhance bighorn sheep hunting opportunities.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? The proposed changes to units and license allocation would enhance bighorn sheep hunting opportunities.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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