



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

JULY 11-12, 2024 | GOOD EARTH STATE PARK

MEETING INFO

This agenda is subject to change without prior notice.

Date and Time: July 11, 2024, from 1-5 pm CST | July 12, 2024, from 8-11 am CST

Meeting Location: Good Earth State Park, 26924 480th Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Webinar Info: We will be using Zoom Webinar® for this meeting. As a participant, you will not have audio or video capabilities by default. During the open forum and public hearing, if you'd like to testify, please 'Raise Your Hand' using the button at the bottom of the screen, or by pressing *9 on your phone. To lower your hand via phone, press *9 again. When it's your turn to speak, the meeting host will unmute you, allowing you to have audio but no video. If your phone is muted when called upon, press *6 to unmute.

- *9 to 'Raise Your Hand' or 'Lower Your Hand.'
- *6 to Unmute or Mute

Please inform Liz Kierl at liz.kierl@state.sd.us by 1 pm CST if you plan to speak during the meeting. This helps us to accurately identify and call on speakers during the session. Thank you for your cooperation!

Zoom Webinar: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 912 6417 6710

Passcode: 4970458

Call In: +16699009128,,91264176710# US

Video Conference ID: [91264176710@zoomcrc.com](https://zoom.us/j/91264176710)

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order (1 pm CST / 12 pm MT)

Division of Administration

Action Items

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Informational Items

4. Staff Introductions & Recognition
5. Department Fiscal Update

Public Hearing (2 pm CST / 1 pm MT)

The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment finalizations.

Open Forum – following the conclusion of the Public Hearing

The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment on petitions, proposals, and other items of interest not on the agenda.

Petition

6. #221 – Spring Turkey Hunting Season

Proposals

7. Fishing Regulations
8. Bobcat Status Update and Hunting Season
9. Spring Turkey Hunting Season (*Second Reading*)
 - a. Spring Turkey Hunting Season
 - b. Spring Turkey License Allocation



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

JULY 11-12, 2024 | GOOD EARTH STATE PARK

Finalizations

10. Annual Park Entrance License Options
11. Air Gun Hunting
12. Antelope Hunting Seasons
 - a. Archery Antelope Hunting Season
 - b. Antelope Firearm Hunting Season
 - c. Antelope License Allocation
 - d. Landowner Own Land Antelope and Mentored Youth Antelope Licenses
13. Fall Turkey Hunting Seasons
 - a. Fall Turkey Hunting Season
 - b. Fall Turkey License Allocation

Division of Parks and Recreation

Informational Items

14. Flood Event Update
15. Education Events and Reel in Memories
16. Fort Sisseton Festival Update
17. Palisades Development Update
18. Mickelson Trail Survey
19. Revenue and Camping Reports

Division of Wildlife

Action Items

20. Elk Raffle Selection

Informational Items

21. Mountain Lion Action Plan & Public Survey Results
22. Nest Predator Bounty Program
23. Outdoor Campus East Expansion
24. License Sales Reports

Solicitation of Agenda Items

Now is the time to submit agenda items for the Commission to consider at a following commission meeting.

Adjourn

The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on September 5-6, 2024, starting at 1 pm MT at Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City, SD.



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

June 6-7, 2024 | NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center | Yankton, SD

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 1 pm CST at the NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center in Yankton, SD on June 6, 2024. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Julie Bartling, Jim White, Robert Whitmyre, Jon Locken, Travis Bies, Travis Theel, and Bruce Cull were present. With eight commission members present, a quorum was established. The public and staff could listen via SDPB Livestream and participate via conference or in person, with approximately 93 total participants attending via Zoom or in person.

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure [Action Item]

Chair Rissler requested the disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest, but none were brought forward.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes [Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for any additions or corrections to the regular minutes of May 2024 meeting. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY THEEL TO APPROVE THE MAY 2024 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Additional Salary Days [Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for additional salary days from the Commissioners. The following additional days were submitted: Theel (2), Bies (1), White (1), and Locken (1).

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Budget Discussion [Action Item]

Deputy Secretary Scott Simpson brought the Fiscal Year 2025 Department recommended budget before the commission for approval.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADOPT THE FY25 BUDGETS AS PROPOSED. The motion carried unanimously.

5. New Staff Introduction [Info Item]

Director Kirschenmann and Director VanMeeteren introduced department employees.

Public Hearing

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor at 2:04 pm CST for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda as a finalization.

Agenda Item #14: Furbearer Seasons and Methods: Hunting Raccoons with Dogs

2:07 pm: Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD representing the Prairie Hills Audubon Society testified in opposition to hunting raccoons with dogs.

2:13 pm: Julie Anderson of Rapid City, SD testified in opposition to hunting raccoons with dogs.

2:17 pm: Patrick Weimer of Spearfish, SD testified in favor of the finalization.

2:27 pm: David Williams of Rapid City, SD testified in favor of raccoon hunting with dogs. He expressed he'd like the Commissioners to consider year-round hunting for AKC/UKC



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

June 6-7, 2024 | NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center | Yankton, SD

competitions which takes place in the spring and fall. *[His testimony was provided during the public hearing as he was having technical difficulties with Zoom.]*

Agenda Item #15: Elk Raffle License

No testimony provided by the public.

Agenda Item #15: Landowner Own Land Elk

No testimony provided by the public.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the Public Hearing at 2:19 pm CST.

Open Forum

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor following the conclusion of the public hearing at 2:20 pm CST for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda not as a finalization or may not be on the agenda.

2:20 pm: Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD representing the Prairie Hills Audubon Society testified in opposition to raccoon hunting.

2:23 pm: Dana Rogers of Hill City, SD representing the South Dakota Wildlife Federation provided positive feedback on the South Dakota Wildlife Federation Conservation Camp.

2:28 pm: Jim Lane of Yankton, SD provided testimony concerning public access on the James River.

2:32 pm: Ron Kolbeck of Salem, SD representing the South Dakota Bowhunters Association provide testimony in opposition to the Spring Turkey Bowhunting Season recommendations. He also testified in favor of the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP).

2:38 pm: Jonathan Magyar of Sioux Falls, SD thanked the Commission for placing signs at Cedar Shore. He testified in support of Petition #219 asking for limits on blue gill take.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the Open Forum at 2:42 pm CST.

6. Petition #217: Lake Francis Case Paddlefish Season [Action Item: Petition]

Aaron Leingang of Pierre, SD submitted petition #217 in which requested the Commission establish catch and release licenses for paddlefish.

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann explained that paddlefish tags for anglers increased from 350 to 500 in 2024 for Lake Francis Case to provide additional opportunity. He also expressed concern for overcrowding should more tags be issued.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY BIES TO DENY PETITION #217. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY THEEL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-11 TO DENYING PETITION #217. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Petition #218: Motor Use on Lakes [Action Item: Petition]

Timothy Staples of Sioux Falls, SD submitted petition #218 in which requested the Commission amend Minnehaha County public water safety zones by allowing use of electric motors only on the waters of Family Park.

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann informed the Commission that when developing Family Park, City park staff, GFP Staff, and City and County Law Enforcement met and drafted a set of rules for the park to ensure that the users would have high-quality experience and items and activities such as swimming, motorized



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

June 6-7, 2024 | NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center | Yankton, SD

watercraft, snowmobiles, ATVs, scuba diving, fireworks, firearms, open fires and feeding of waterfowl were prohibited. The primary objective for creating and managing a fishery at Family Park Lake and similar urban fishing lakes is to provide close-to-home fishing opportunities for family, youth and novice anglers, and provide shore fishing opportunities. He expressed a potential for conflict between boat anglers and shore anglers at Family Park Lake as it is small, relatively narrow, and has the highest fishing pressure per surface acres in the state. The City of Sioux Falls expressed their support for retaining the “no motors rule” on watercraft using Family Park Lake.

MOTIONED BY BARLTING, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO DENY PETITION #218. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY THEEL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-12 TO DENY PETITION #218. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Petition 219: Special Management of Panfish [Action Item: Petition]

Jonathan Magyar of Sioux Falls, SD submitted petition #219 requesting the Commission to establish reduced statewide harvest limits for sunfish, yellow perch, and crappie, and for sunfish on select water. He requested the limit of Panfish from 15 to 10 per day statewide and special management of lakes including Pactola and Sheridan in the Black Hills and Enemy Swim to a 5 fish limit per day on Bluegills.

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann informed the commission that there is a current evaluation on bluegill harvest in select northwestern South Dakota waters. The current estimates on panfish species does not indicate overharvest. And indicated that panfish species often exhibit short-life spans, which result in short periods for anglers to utilize the resource.

MOTIONED BY LOCKEN, SECONDED BY CULL TO DENY PETITION #219. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-13 DENYING PETITION 218. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Petition 220: Harvest Limits on Panfish [Action Item: Petition]

Scott Olson of Rapid City, SD submitted petition #220 requesting the Commission establish reduced harvest limits for sunfish on Sheridan Reservoir and other select waters.

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann informed the commission that there is a current evaluation on bluegill harvest in select northwestern South Dakota waters. The current estimates on panfish species does not indicate overharvest. He also stated that the bluegill population in Sheridan Reservoir is relatively new, and growth, recruitment, and mortality rates have no stabilized, newly introduced populations often exhibit fish growth and high recruitment before stabilizing.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BIES TO DENY PETITION #220. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY BARLTING, SECONDED BY THEEL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-14 DENYING PETITION #220. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Air Gun Hunting [Action Item: Proposal]

Law Enforcement Section Chief Sam Schelhaas presented a rule proposal that would edit § 41:06:04:17 to reduce air gun muzzle velocity minimum from 1,000 feet per second to 600 feet per second to hunt cottontail rabbit, red squirrel, fox squirrel, grey squirrel, and any other species defined as a predator/varmint in § 41-1-1(21). § 41-1-1 (21) includes coyote, wolf, gray fox, red fox, skunk, gopher, ground squirrel, chipmunk, jackrabbit, marmot, opossum, porcupine, crow, and prairie dog.



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

June 6-7, 2024 | NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center | Yankton, SD

41:06:04:17. Minimum air gun specifications. No person may hunt species listed in SDCL 41-8-31(1A) with an air gun that is factory-rated to produce a muzzle velocity of less than 1,000 600 feet per second. Only hunting pellets are permitted.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL.

11. Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons

[Action Item: Proposal]

Andrew Norton, Wildlife Program Administrator, brought forth the Wild Turkey Hunting Season proposals.

11a. Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Andrew Norton presented the Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season proposal which would (1) Edit § 41:06:13:02 to change Unit PST-18A to PST-10A to have the unit label represent one of the counties (Aurora) contained in the unit that includes Aurora and Douglas counties. Clark County is county number 18. (2) Edit § 41:06:13:02 to expand the archery statewide turkey hunting unit to include the portion of Lake County south of State Highway 34 and specify archery hunting is valid in any unit that has limited issue spring turkey licenses available.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR JULY 2024 FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

11b. Custer State Park Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Andrew Norton presented the Custer State Park Wild Turkey Hunting Season in which the department had no recommended changes.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL.

11c. Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Andrew Norton presented the Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season proposal in which the department recommended the following edits: (1) Edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to exclude Douglas County from Unit PFT-17A (Charles Mix County). (2) Edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to change Unit PFT-18A to PFT-10A to have the unit label represent one of the counties (Aurora) contained in the unit that includes Aurora and Douglas counties. Clark County is county number 18. (3) Edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to add Unit PFT-58A Stanley County.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR JULY 2024 FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

11d. Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season License Allocation

Andrew Norton presented the Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season License Allocations. Recommended license number changes for the Fall Wild Turkey hunting season units. Detailed license number recommendations by type are included in supportive information tables. License number recommendations will continue to be evaluated during June and final license number recommendations will be provided at the July Commission meeting.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL.

12. Annual Park Entrance License Options

[Action Item: Proposal]

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff VanMeeteren presented a second reading on a rule proposal would remove ARSD 41:03:03:05 which authorizes the provision of a discounted half price second annual license, and the provisions for securing multiple discounted additional licenses through common vehicle registration. The proposal also amends 41:03:03:06 to formalize the availability of a double license option (one full price license and one half price license when purchased together). There are no limits on how many double licenses may be purchased.



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

June 6-7, 2024 | NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center | Yankton, SD

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL.

13. Antelope Hunting Seasons

[Action Item: Proposal]

Andrew Norton, Wildlife Program Administrator, brought forth the Antelope Hunting Season proposals for a second reading.

13a. Archery Antelope Hunting Season

Andrew Norton presented the Archery Antelope Hunting Seasons proposal to the Commission in which would edit § 41:06:24:01 to remove five access permits for Custer and Pennington Counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL.

13b. Antelope Firearm Hunting Season

Andrew Norton presented the Antelope Firearm Hunting Season proposal to the Commission which would edit § 41:06:23:01 to allow an individual that applies for a “special antelope” license to apply for another antelope license in the second lottery drawing instead of the third lottery drawing. It would also edit § 41:06:23:02 with a minor unit boundary adjustment to use Interstate 90 instead of the Black Hills National Forest as the boundary for unit PRA-15B in Butte County. And provide a rule clean-up for unit boundary descriptions to exclude unit PRA-45B (Ft. Pierre National Grasslands) from PRA-41A (Jones County) and PRA-58A (Stanley County).

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL.

13c. Antelope Firearm Hunting Season License Allocation

Andrew Norton presented the recommended license allocations to the Commission but advised that the aerial survey data and final recommendations are still being evaluated. The final license allocation recommendation will be presented at the July 2024 meeting.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL.

13d. Landowner Own Land Antelope and Mentored Youth Antelope Licenses

Andrew Norton presented the Landowner Own Land Antelope and Mentored Youth Antelope Licenses proposal for the Commission’s consideration. Edits would provide a rule clean-up to § 41:06:01:12 to specify mentored youth antelope licenses are only valid on private land that is not leased by the Department for public hunting access. Recommended changes from the initial proposal would be to restrict landowner own land license types from one “any antelope” or one two-tag “any antelope” and “any doe-fawn antelope” to one “buck antelope” only (§ 41:06:01:07.03). The final edit would be to close mentored youth antelope season (§ 41:06:01:12).

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY BIES TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL WITH THE CHANGES FOR JULY 2024 FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Furbearer Seasons and Methods: Hunting Raccoons with Dogs [Action Item: Finalization]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, presented the Furbearer Seasons and Methods: Hunting Raccoons with Dogs finalization to the Commission. The proposed changes to rule § 41:08:01 would allow nonresidents to use a dog as an aid in taking a raccoon.

Administrative Rule Changes: § 41:08:01:12. Nonresident restrictions. Notwithstanding the season dates established in this chapter, no nonresident may take any mink or weasel from February 1 first through November 30 thirtieth, or take any muskrat, beaver, or raccoon from March 16 sixteenth through November 30 thirtieth or take any bobcat from February 16 sixteenth through the Friday preceding the second Saturday of January. No nonresident may use a dog as an aid in the taking of a raccoon.



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

June 6-7, 2024 | NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center | Yankton, SD

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADOPT THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Elk Raffle License

[Action Item: Finalization]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, presented the Custer State Park Elk Hunting Season finalization in which would repeal § 41:06:27:02.07 to allow an individual to obtain more than one elk raffle licenses in a lifetime. All applicants will remain limited to only one elk license in a single year.

~~Administrative Rule Changes: § 41:06:27:02.07. Eligibility of successful entrant for other elk licenses. A successful entrant is not eligible again for any Custer State Park rifle elk license obtained through a raffle similar to the raffle contained in this chapter. The license received from this raffle, however, does not bar eligibility for a Custer State Park rifle elk license issued through the lottery selection process by the licensing division of the department. The restrictions of chapter 41:06:07 do not disqualify the successful entrant from obtaining a license through this raffle, but the recipient of the license from the raffle may not apply for or obtain a Custer State Park rifle elk license through the state lottery for the same year. Repealed.~~

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO APPROVE THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

16. Landowner Own Land Elk Application for License

[Action Item: Finalization]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, presented the Landowner Own Land Elk Application for License finalization. Changes from last year would be to describe a new prairie elk hunting season resident antlerless elk landowner own land license type in § 41:06:01:07.03. The landowner own land elk license is valid in Prairie Elk hunting season units in Bennett and Jackson County (PRE-11D and PRE-11E) and West River Area (PRE-WRA) as described in § 41:06:59. It would also describe a landowner own land landowner or landowner-operator in § 41:06:01:15(4) by the following criteria: (a) A minimum of 240 acres of land within an elk unit. (b) Members of the qualifying landowner-operator's family including grandparents, parents, spouse, children, children's spouse, or grandchildren who live on the ranch or in the closest community and have an active role in the ranch operation also qualify. (c) Only one qualifying applicant per ranch unit per year may purchase a landowner own land elk license. (d) A qualifying applicant for a ranch unit may not purchase a landowner own land elk license if any qualifying member of the ranch unit holds an elk license valid in the prairie elk hunting season. (e) A ranch unit is described as all private property owned and leased for agricultural purposes by written agreement by an individual qualifying landowner in the state. (f) A ranch unit may not be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one landowner own land elk license. The final edit would be to establish a fee for landowner on own land antlerless elk license of one-half the fee of the antlerless elk license in § 41:06:02:03(15).

The department submitted the following change from the original proposal: Add both Harding County units, PRE-25A and PRE-35B, to the prairie elk units in which a landowner on own land antlerless elk license would be valid.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENT TO THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY THEEL TO APPROVE THE AMENDED FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

17. Pickerel Lake Cabin Staff Construction Project

[Parks & Rec Info Item]

Willy Collignon, Parks Regional Supervisor, presented a slide show of the staff lead construction process used to build the new Pickerel Lake Recreation Area Modern Cabin between October of 2023 through completion in May of 2024. Regional staff assisted Building Maintenance Specialist Mark Crawford with over



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

June 6-7, 2024 | NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center | Yankton, SD

700 hours of outside Pickerel assistance, gaining knowledge, experience and skills to continue in-house maintenance and construction tasks that equate to savings on license dollars such as the estimated \$100,000 plus for this project.

18. Lake Alvin Spillway Project Update

[Parks & Rec Info Item]

Adam Kulesa, Planning & Development Coordinator, and Derek Dorr, Parks Regional Supervisor, provided a short power point presentation with the commission explaining the details of the upcoming Lake Alvin Spillway Replacement Project. Information was shared on recreation area impacts, construction schedule, and closure dates to some of the amenities at Lake Alvin Recreation Area. Contractor will start mobilizing on July 1st and lake draw down will begin as early as July 15th with the beach area and boat ramps being closed upon the first day of the lake draw down starting. The lake will be drawn down between 10-15 feet until the new spillway is in place. The project is expected to be completed prior to spring runoff in 2025.

19. Renaming of South Scalp Creek LUA & GPA

[Parks & Rec Info Item]

Parks & Recreation Director VanMeeteren updated the Commission on the renaming of South Scalp Creek Lakeside Use Area and Game Production Area. During the 2024 Legislative Session, SB160 was introduced to rename South Scalp Creek Lakeside Use Area as the name is offensive to local tribal people. The bill was killed in committee, but GFP agreed to work with the sponsor to look at a name change. After much research, the name "Star Valley LUA" was selected as it is the local township name and is consistent with several other park areas in the immediate vicinity (i.e., Whetstone and White Swan) that utilize the local township names as well. The adjacent GPA will also utilize the name Star Valley.

20. Reel in Memories Campaign Update

[Parks & Rec Info Item]

April Larson, Marketing Coordinator, and Chris Hull, Communications Specialist, shared an update on South Dakota State Parks' ongoing efforts to promote fishing opportunities as part of the 2024 Reel in Memories campaign. A new promotional video has been launched on the GFP YouTube Channel, showcasing the annual park activity, which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaJCSdDrTaw/>. This summer, a new First Catch Kids T-Shirt promotion will coincide with the First Catch Center events in the parks. Park Managers and Conservation Officers will distribute youth-sized t-shirts to kids who make their first catch in a South Dakota State Park, creating memorable experiences for young anglers. Additionally, a new Tagged Fish Pilot Program will launch at Farm Island Recreation Area, where fish will be tagged and released. This initiative encourages participants to fish in the park with an opportunity to win a prize.

21. Camper Survey

[Parks & Rec Info Item]

Al Nedved, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director, reported a camper survey has been developed by the Division of Parks and Recreation to better understand state park campers and what their preferences are. It will help identify and prioritize facilities, amenities, and services that campers expect. It will allow the Department to understand the camper market in South Dakota in comparison to other markets such as the growing private campground industry and help clarify GFP's role. The survey will be an online survey through email and advertised through media outlets. A random sample of approximately 3500 participants will be pulled from the list of approximately 147,000. Participation in the survey will be completely voluntary and all responses will be anonymous. Survey will be delivered in June and July with a final report issued this fall.

22. Revenue and Camping Reports

[Parks & Rec Info Item]

Parks & Recreation Director VanMeeteren presented the camping and revenue reports for the month of May and YTD. Camping unit numbers remain strong for May and YTD with increases of 10% and 13% respectfully. Camping revenue follows suite and is up 5% for May and 3% YTD. Park entrance permit revenues remain strong and are up 3% in May and 11% YTD.



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

June 6-7, 2024 | NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center | Yankton, SD

23. Antelope Action Plan

[Wildlife Info Item]

Andy Lindbloom, Senior Big Game Biologist, presented the South Dakota Pronghorn Action Plan outlines priorities, objectives, and management strategies to focus GFP's efforts over the next 4 years. The current objectives of the draft action plan focus on managing pronghorn for biologically and socially acceptable levels, managing populations for maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, working with private landowners to alleviate depredation, and increasing pronghorn habitat and hunter access. In June, the draft of the action plan was presented to the GFP Commission and made available for public comment.

24. Habitat Projects and CREP Update

[Wildlife Info Item]

Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, provided an update on public and private lands habitat program activities for this spring. For private lands, these updates included the private lands food plot program, a big game mix that was added, woody habitat planting accomplishments, and a new grant GFP and others partnered with Ducks Unlimited on through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). On public lands information was shared about the prescribed fire and tree planting taking place on GPAs along with a new funding source through the USFWS to fund wetland and grassland improvement projects on GPAs in eastern South Dakota. Mark Norton shared information on the James River and Big Sioux River CREP programs. Information included the enrollment process, program goals, positive impacts it has on the environment and the habitat it provides. Additional information on acres enrolled, the cost of the program along with how the habitat stamp has helped fund the program was shared.

25. Blue Sucker Survey

[Wildlife Info Item]

BJ Schall, Fisheries Biologist, presented to the Commission that the Department has been conducting research on Blue Suckers in eastern South Dakota's rivers in collaboration with the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State University to assess movements, age, growth, and mortality. It has been found that Blue Suckers can live to over 60 years and can make very large migrations into and out of the James River annually.

26. Spring Fish Stocking Summary

[Wildlife Info Item]

Brian Blackwell, Fisheries Research and Surveys Coordinator, presented to the Commission an overview of spring stockings by staff. As of June 6, 2024, staff had stocked 17 different fish species across the state at 187 unique waterbodies. Over 50 million walleye and saugeye fry have been stocked into state waters, with additional fingerling stockings planned. Staff have also stocked over 270,000 adult fish from both hatcheries and other state waters to provide catchable products to users.

27. License Sales Report

[Wildlife Info Item]

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann provided the Commission an update on hunting and fishing licenses sales. In general, license sales remain good. Habitat stamp sales are up in comparison to last year by 5,800. Small game license sales remain ahead of last but with little change over the past month. Kirschenmann stated that changes will begin in the month of September when small game hunting begins for the fall. Fishing license sales are stable yet above the 3-year average. Kirschenmann also pointed out that the general trend observed in big game applications is an across the board increasing trend in interest.



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

June 6-7, 2024 | NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center | Yankton, SD

28. Adjourn

[Action Item]

A Regular Commission Meeting will be held on July 11-12, 2024, starting at 1 pm CST at the Good Earth State Park in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 11:09 AM CST ON JUNE 7, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Robling".

Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

From: info@gfp.sd.us
To: dana.rogers.1@hotmail.com
Cc: [Kierl, Liz](#); [Harrington, Nick](#)
Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form
Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 4:24:05 PM

South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

Petition for Rule Change

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:

ID: 221

Petitioner Name: DANA R ROGERS

Address: 24021 Twin Rocks Rd
Hill City, SD 57745

Email: dana.rogers.1@hotmail.com

Phone: 605-415-8443

Rule Identification: 41:06:13:01 Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Describe Change: SDWF Black Hills Spring Turkey non-resident draw petition The South Dakota Wildlife Federation submits this petition to request the SD GF&P Commission approve a change to the Black Hills Spring Turkey non-resident licensing process. South Dakota already limits Prairie Spring Turkey non-resident permits via a drawing system that historically allocates an average of 22% of each units Spring Turkey permits to non-resident sportsmen. With Black Hills turkey numbers down and a continually larger number of unlimited non-resident permits being sold, this is a huge concern to many South Dakota Resident Black Hills turkey hunters. Note that in 2023 more non-resident permits were sold than resident permits. In 2024 that trend continued with 53% of permits sold going to non-residents in the current unlimited allocation. Our petition requests that the unlimited allocation be changed to a drawing for non-residents in the same average they are allocated in the prairie units at 22%. According to GFP permit sales stats, the 3-yr running average on resident permits is 3,007. 22% of which is 661. Our petition is to create a NR BH Spring Turkey draw limited to 661 permits. (GF&P Supporting information attached) Applicable Administrative Rule 41:06:13:01. Spring wild turkey hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available. The spring prairie wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the second Saturday of April through May 31. The spring Black Hills wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the fourth Saturday of April through May 31. The spring archery wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day during the open dates of the prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively. The number of one-tag male turkey licenses issued is unlimited for residents and nonresidents in both the Black Hills and archery spring turkey hunting seasons. Non-Residents would be limited to one turkey license in the Black Hills Spring season with a drawing limited to 22% of the 3-yr resident permit average. No more than 10,000 one-tag male turkey and 2,500 two-tag male turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the prairie spring turkey hunting season.

Reason for Change: South Dakota already limits Prairie Spring Turkey non-resident permits via a drawing system that historically allocates an average of 22% of each units Spring Turkey permits to non-resident sportsmen. With Black Hills turkey numbers down and a continually larger number of unlimited non-resident permits being sold, this is a huge concern to many South Dakota Resident Black Hills turkey hunters. Note that in 2023 more non-resident permits were sold than resident permits. In 2024 that trend continued with 53% of permits sold going to non-residents in the current unlimited allocation. The continual increase of non-residents is having a significant impact on the quality of experience for our resident South Dakota Turkey hunters. Transitioning from unlimited to the already in place 22% allocation used in the prairie spring turkey permit draws reduces pressure on the resource, crowding in the field and increases the quality of experience for Residents as well as those non-residents that are successful in the draw.

SDWF Black Hills Spring Turkey non-resident draw petition

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation submits this petition to request the SD GF&P Commission approve a change to the Black Hills Spring Turkey non-resident licensing process. South Dakota already limits Prairie Spring Turkey non-resident permits via a drawing system that historically allocates an average of 22% of each units Spring Turkey permits to non-resident sportsmen. With Black Hills turkey numbers down and a continually larger number of unlimited non-resident permits being sold, this is a huge concern to many South Dakota Resident Black Hills turkey hunters. Note that in 2023 more non-resident permits were sold than resident permits. In 2024 that trend continued with 53% of permits sold going to non-residents in the current unlimited allocation. Our petition requests that the unlimited allocation be changed to a drawing for non-residents in the same average they are allocated in the prairie units at 22%. According to GFP permit sales stats, the 3-yr running average on resident permits is 3,007. 22% of which is 661. Our petition is to create a NR BH Spring Turkey draw limited to 661 permits. (GF&P Supporting information attached)

Applicable Administrative Rule

41:06:13:01. Spring wild turkey hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available. The spring prairie wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the second Saturday of April through May 31. The spring Black Hills wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the fourth Saturday of April through May 31. The spring archery wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day during the open dates of the prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively. The number of one-tag male turkey licenses issued is unlimited for residents ~~and nonresidents~~ in both the Black Hills and archery spring turkey hunting seasons. Non-Residents would be limited to one turkey license in the Black Hills Spring season with a drawing limited to 22% of the 3-yr resident permit average. No more than 10,000 one-tag male turkey and 2,500 two-tag male turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the prairie spring turkey hunting season.

2023 Spring Black Hills Turkey Harvest Projections

Unit/Type	Licenses				Response Hunters	Tag Rate	Tag Success	LCI	UCI	Harvest Estimate			Ave. Days Hunted	Avg Satsfctn
	Resident		Nonresident							Toms	Jakes	Total		
	Avail.	Sold	Avail.	Sold										
BH1-32	Unlim	2,654	Unlim	2,674	5,328	51.7%	39%	37%	40%	1,749	324	2,073	3.37	5.20

Response rate for the season was **51.7%**

Satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied. **22% allocation would have been OVER 50% of Black Hills Spring Turkey permits 584 NR permits in 2023**

2024 BIG GAME LICENSES

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
Resident Mentored Spring Turkey Licenses	1,422	1,570	1,631	1,541	1,739	\$8,695	108	198	\$540	\$990	13%
NR Mentored Spring Turkey Licenses	n/a	66	66	n/a	106	\$1,060	40	n/a	\$400	n/a	n/a
Resident Archery Spring Turkey Licenses	4,306	4,179	4,277	4,254	4,399	\$109,975	122	145	\$3,050	\$3,625	3%
NR Archery Spring Turkey Licenses	592	672	675	613	700	\$70,000	25	87	\$2,500	\$8,667	14%
Resident Black Hills Spring Turkey Licenses	3,583	2,785	2,652	3,007	2,824	\$70,600	172	(183)	\$4,300	(\$4,567)	-6%
NR Black Hills Spring Turkey Licenses	2,718	2,350	2,676	2,581	3,170	\$317,000	494	589	\$49,400	\$58,867	23%
Black Hills Elk	32	32	32	32	300	\$136,016	46	49	\$7,293	\$31,223	5%

Table 1. Spring prairie turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

Year	Resident Licenses	Nonres Licenses	Tags	Harvest		Success	Avg Days	Satisf
				Males	Hens		Hunted	
2014	5,888	1,301	8,962	3,491	106	40%	2.40	5.26
2015	5,604	1,357	8,470	3,555	10	42%	2.64	5.34
2016	5,648	1,202	7,907	2,482	4	31%	2.72	5.49
2017	5,364	1,213	7,371	3,323	5	45%	2.50	5.55
2018	5,364	1,146	7,287	2,724	9	38%	2.18	5.49
2019	5,250	1,125	6,977	2,722	5	39%	2.14	5.39
2020	5,500	955	7,103	3,107	6	44%	2.70	5.48
2021	5,444	1,255	7,348	3,748	0	51%	2.57	5.75
2022	4,834	1,824	7,305	3,725	2	51%	2.69	5.61
2023	5,878	1,432	8,048	3,647	0	45%	2.65	5.40

- 2014 NR Prairie Turkey allocation 22%
- 2015 NR Prairie Turkey allocation 24%
- 2016 NR Prairie Turkey allocation 21%
- 2017 NR Prairie Turkey allocation 23%
- 2018 NR Prairie Turkey allocation 21%
- 2019 NR Prairie Turkey allocation 21%
- 2020 NR Prairie Turkey allocation 17% (Low Outlier, Covid?)
- 2021 NR Prairie Turkey allocation 23%
- 2022 NR Prairie Turkey allocation 38% (High Outlier, Typo?)
- 2023 NR Prairie Turkey allocation 24%

22% avg allocation with outliers removed from 2014-2023

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

BAIT Chapter 41:09:04

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11,2024	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	Sept. 5,2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept. 5-6,2024	Rapid City

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes:

1. Correct scientific names for certain species of crayfish to reflect updates in taxonomic classification.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. Updated classification of freshwater crayfishes resulted in multiple scientific name changes for genus of crayfish listed in South Dakota Administrative Rule.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:09:04:02.02. Species that may be taken as bait for commercial use. Species that may be taken and sold by any licensed resident bait dealer or sold by any licensed nonresident bait dealer are: fathead minnow, white sucker, creek chub, golden shiner, emerald shiner, spottail shiner, flathead chub, Western silvery minnow, plains minnow, tiger salamander (all subspecies), leopard frog (all subspecies), crayfish (~~Cambarus~~ Lacunicambarus diogenes, ~~Orconectes~~ Faxonius immunis, ~~Orconectes~~ Faxonius virilis, and ~~Orconectes~~ Faxonius causeyi), freshwater shrimp, and leeches.

41:09:04:02.04 Species that may be taken as bait for noncommercial use. Species that may be taken as bait by legal anglers for noncommercial use, by methods described in § 41:09:04:04, are: flathead chub, western silvery minnow, plains minnow, fathead minnow, white sucker, creek chub, golden shiner, emerald shiner, spottail shiner, gizzard shad, all subspecies of tiger salamander, all subspecies of leopard frog, freshwater shrimp, leeches, and the following types of crayfish:

- (1) ~~Cambarus~~ Lacunicambarus diogenes;
- (2) ~~Orconectes~~ Faxonius immunis;
- (3) ~~Orconectes~~ Faxonius virilis; and
- (4) ~~Orconectes~~ Faxonius causeyi.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable

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

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

FISH LIMITS

Chapter 41:07:03

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11,2024	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	Sept. 5,2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept. 5-6,2024	Rapid City

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes:

1. Modify the existing harvest regulation on Belle Fourche Reservoir where currently only those walleye less than 15 inches in length or 18 inches or greater in length may be taken, and of the walleye taken daily, no more than one may be 18 inches or greater in length, to a two fish daily limit with a 15-inch minimum.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. Current harvest regulation is a 15–18-inch protected slot, with only one fish 18 inches or greater in length being allowed in the daily limit and has been in place at Belle Fourche Reservoir since 2005.
2. Annual lake surveys have documented a lack of younger age classes, resulting in few fish available to anglers under 15 inches.
3. The majority of the adult walleye population is currently within the protected slot, making few fish available for harvest.
4. Presence of large fish is likely suppressing recruitment of younger year classes into the population through cannibalism. A reduction in abundance of walleye in older year classes could result in increased survival of younger fish.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:07:03:03. Daily, possession, and length limit restrictions on special management waters - Additional restrictions described. Daily limit, possession limit, length limit, and additional restrictions on special management waters are as follows:

~~(10) In Belle Fourche Reservoir and all waters contiguous thereto, including the terminal drop inlet canal, only those walleye less than 15 inches in length or 18 inches or greater in length may be taken, and of the walleye taken daily no more than one may be 18 inches or greater in length;~~

~~(11)~~(10) In Twin Lakes in Minnehaha County and Horseshoe Lake in Day County, the daily limit for walleye of any species is one, ~~28~~ twenty-eight inches or greater in length;

~~(12)~~(11) In Lynn and Middle Lynn Lakes in Day County, Opitz Lake in Day and Marshall Counties, Newell Lake and Belle Fourche Reservoir, including the terminal drop canal, in Butte County, and Curlew Lake in Meade County, the daily limit for walleye of any species combined is two and the minimum length limit is ~~15~~ fifteen inches;

~~(13)~~(12) From the Ft. Randall Dam downstream to the South Dakota-Nebraska state line on the Missouri River, the daily limit for white bass is ~~15~~ fifteen, possession limit ~~30~~ thirty; and

~~(14)~~(13) In Reetz Lake in Day County, the daily limit is: one walleye ~~28~~ twenty-eight inches or greater in length; one yellow perch ~~14~~ fourteen inches or greater in length; one black crappie ~~15~~ fifteen inches or greater in length; and one bluegill ~~10~~ ten inches or greater in length, from May 1 through September 30.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

PRIVATE FISH HATCHERIES

Chapter 41:09:07

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11,2024	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	Sept. 5,2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept. 5-6,2024	Rapid City

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes:

1. Modify annual reporting requirements for private hatcheries by requiring an annual summary to be submitted rather than individual records.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. By requiring an annual summary rather than individual records it makes the reporting process easier.
2. An annual summary rather than individual records is more compatible with online submission platforms utilized by the Department.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:09:07:05. Records required. The licensee shall keep a permanent record of all transactions. If the transaction involves the purchase or receipt of fish or any fish reproductive product, the record shall contain the number, size, and species of fish; the date of the transaction; the importation permit number, if applicable; and the name and address of the source. If the transaction involves the sale or gift of fish or any fish reproductive product, the record shall contain the number, size, and species of fish; and the date of the transaction. ~~Each record shall be made available for inspection by a department representative during normal business hours at the physical location for the business where the record is kept as indicated on the license application. Each record, or a legible copy thereof, shall be submitted~~ As indicated on the license application, each record must be kept current and available for inspection by personnel of the department during normal business hours, at the physical location of the business where the record is kept. Each record must be kept for a period of three years after the end of the license year. Each licensee shall submit a summary of yearly records to the department by January 31 of the following calendar year, inclusive.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA

- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
---------------	--------------	--------------	-----------------

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

SNAGGING OF SALMON

Chapter 41:07:04

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11,2024	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	Sept. 5,2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept. 5-6,2024	Rapid City

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes:

1. Allow snagging of all salmon species during the months of October and November on Lake Oahe

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. Only Chinook salmon may currently be snagged on Lake Oahe from October 1 through November 30.
2. Additional species of salmon have or could potentially be stocked into Lake Oahe and could be encountered by users.
3. Some of these species may exhibit similar life history strategies as Chinook salmon where they die after spawning and allowing take by snagging may increase utilization of these fish.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:07:04:01. Snagging season in special management waters. The snagging season for Chinook all species of salmon is open on Lake Oahe from October 1 through November 30.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, by allowing users to target additional salmon species during the specified period.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
----------------------	---------------------	---------------------	------------------------

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Bobcat Trapping and Hunting Season Chapter 41:08:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	Sept 5, 2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept 5-6, 2024	Rapid City

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

Residents: December 26, 2024 – February 15, 2025
 Nonresidents: January 11 – February 15, 2025

Residents: December 26, 2025 – February 15, 2026
 Nonresidents: January 10 – February 15, 2026

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: Unlimited. A furbearer license is required for all nonresidents and residents over 18 years of age. Residents under age 18 are not required to have a license.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Hunters or trappers who participate in the East River management zone are limited to one bobcat per season and there is no limit per hunter or trapper in the West River and Black Hills management zones.
2. A bobcat taken must be presented to a department representative for registration and tagging of the pelt, within five days of harvest. Once the season has closed, a person has 24 hours to notify a department representative of any untagged bobcats harvested during the season.
3. The pelt must be removed from the carcass and the carcass must be surrendered to the department representative. After the pelt has been tagged, it must be returned to the hunter or trapper. Upon request, the carcass may be returned to the hunter or trapper after the carcass has been inspected and the lower jaw has been removed.
4. A person may only possess, purchase, or sell raw bobcat pelts that are tagged through the eyeholes with a tag provided by the department or if taken from another jurisdiction, properly and securely tagged with a tag supplied by the governmental entity issuing the license. If the governmental entity issuing the license does not issue a tag, other proof that the animal has been lawfully taken is necessary.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Edit § 41:08:01:08.01 to limit the number of bobcats harvested to one per hunter or trapper in the Black Hills management zone.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Age structure data from harvested bobcats has suggested low juvenile recruitment rates in the Black Hills. The South Dakota Bobcat Action Plan 2024-2028 states if the juvenile-to-adult female harvest ratio falls below 10% for two or more consecutive years the Black Hills management zone will enter into a “Low Harvest” strategy. The “Low Harvest Strategy” allows for the harvest of only one bobcat per trapper or hunter during the 52-day season. In three of the last four years in the Black Hills, the juvenile-to-adult female harvest ratio has been below 10%. If harvest age ratios during the 2024-2025 or 2025-2026 hunting and trapping season are above 10% juveniles-to-adult females in the Black Hills management zone, the “Moderate Harvest” strategy may be recommended which allows an unlimited number of bobcats per hunter or trapper per season.

During the 2022-2023 season, five of 15 individuals harvested more than one bobcat and during the 2023-2024 season, five of 26 individuals harvested more than one bobcat in the Black Hills management zone. Limiting hunters and trappers to 1 bobcat in the Black Hills will reduce harvest and improve population growth.

Figure 1. Map of bobcat management zones from the South Dakota Bobcat Action Plan 2024-2028.

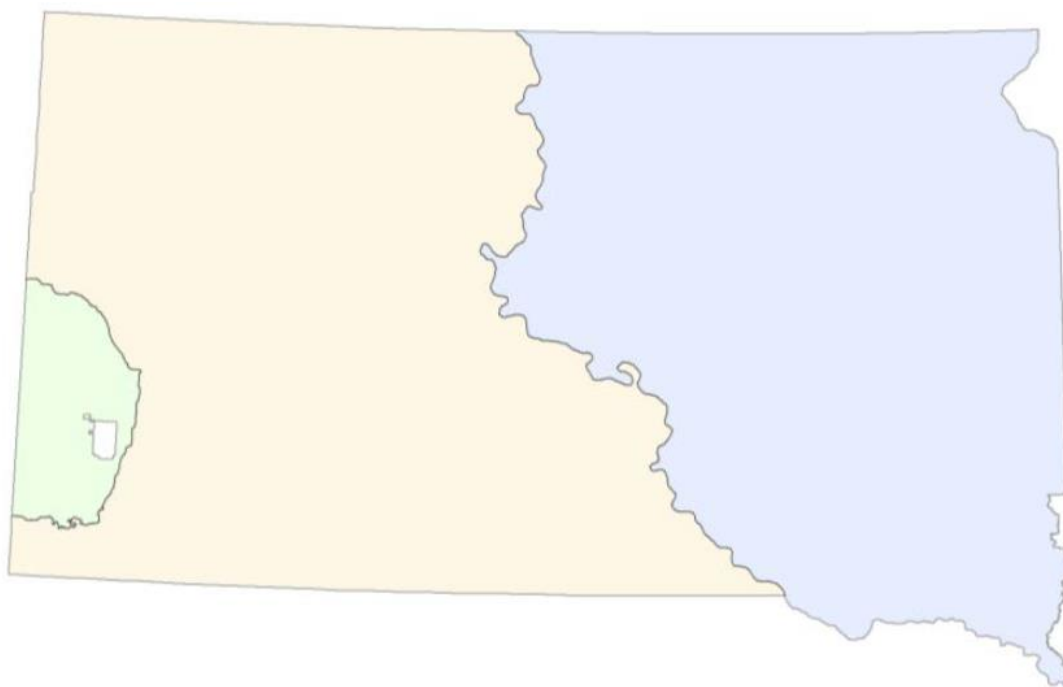


Table 1. Bobcat harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

Year	Furbearer Licenses		Active Hunters/Trappers		Harvest		Satisfaction	
	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident	Trapping	Hunting	Resident	Nonres
2013	4,745	19	2,641	14	347		4.63	4.44
2014	4,227	12	2,304	10	214		4.89	5.00
2015	3,940	14	2,065	14	254		4.93	4.40
2016	3,620	11	1,804	5	218		4.95	5.00
2017	3,915	17	2,120	15	367	95	5.05	5.63
2018	4,154	14	2,168	12	264	71	4.97	5.44
2019	4,334	17	2,237	13	209	58	5.09	4.43
2020	4,689	15	2,295	15	243	61	5.22	5.50
2021	4,726	13	2,200	0	212	49	5.21	NA
2022	4,024	4	1,826	0	122	47	5.16	NA

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:08:01:08.01. Bobcat trapping and hunting season established -- Hunting restrictions -- Tagging requirements. The bobcat trapping and hunting season is open statewide from sunrise on December 26 through sunset on February 15. Any trapper or hunter participating in the bobcat season east of the Missouri River and in the area described by: that portion of Lawrence County south of Interstate 90; that portion of Meade County west and south of Interstate 90; those portions of Pennington and Custer Counties west of State Highway 79; that portion of Fall River County north and west of a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 18, then east along U.S. Highway 18 to its junction with the Cheyenne River. then east along the Cheyenne River to its junction with State Highway 79; then north along State Highway 79 to its junction with the Custer County line; is limited to one bobcat per trapper or hunter.

A bobcat taken must be presented to a department representative for registration and tagging of the pelt, within five days of harvest. Once the season has closed, a person has 24 hours to notify a department representative of any untagged bobcats harvested during the season. The pelt must be removed from the carcass and the carcass must be surrendered to the department representative. After the pelt has been tagged, it must be returned to the hunter or trapper. Upon request, the carcass may be returned to the hunter or trapper after the carcass has been inspected and the lower jaw has been removed.

A person may only possess, purchase, or sell raw bobcat pelts that are tagged through the eyeholes with a tag provided by the department or if taken from another jurisdiction, properly and securely tagged with a tag supplied by the governmental entity issuing the license. If the governmental entity issuing the license does not issue a tag, other proof that the animal has been lawfully taken is necessary.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

- 1. The Issue – NA
- 2. Historical Considerations – NA
- 3. Biological Considerations – NA
- 4. Social Considerations – NA
- 5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

- 1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate? Yes, some hunters or trappers will have less opportunity because they can only harvest one bobcat in the Black Hills.
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE	_____	MODIFY	_____	REJECT	_____	NO ACTION	_____
---------	-------	--------	-------	--------	-------	-----------	-------

Table 6. Statewide abundance estimate for bobcats in South Dakota, 2013-2023.

Year	Abundance	SE	95% CI
2013-14	1968	274	1432-2505
2014-15	1830	278	1285-2374
2015-16	2195	321	1567-2824
2016-17	2063	351	1376-2750
2017-18	2708	370	1983-3433
2018-19	2132	304	1536-2729
2019-20	1910	279	1363-2456
2020-21	1972	269	1444-2499
2021-22	1568	230	1119-2018
2022-23	1322	226	879-1765

	season	unique trappers	total harvest	Number of bobcats harvested per trapper/hunter					Juveniles	J:A ratio	M:F
				1	2	3	4	5+			
ER	20-21		49						6	13%	1.88
	21-22		43						4	10%	1.16
	22-23		21						2	12%	1.28
	23-24		30						5	16%	
WR	20-21	118	218	79	19	10	10	0	45	21%	1.37
	21-22	103	188	50	10	4	1	0	7	4%	1.82
	22-23	66	106	44	14	5	1	2	24	23%	1.21
	23-24	85	167	57	15	4	2	2	24	15%	
BH	20-21	15	29	12	0	1	2	0	1	4%	1.54
	21-22	15	30	11	1	1	0	2	0	0%	0.73
	22-23	14	42	9	2	0	2	1	6	14%	1.41
	23-24	14	41	8	2	1	0	3	3	8%	

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:13

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 6-7, 2024	Yankton
	Public Hearing	Sept 5, 2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept 5-6, 2024	Rapid City

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2025 and 2026 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

- April 12 – May 31, 2025 Single-season prairie units
- April 26 – May 31, 2025 Black Hills and Black Hills archery
- April 12 – 30, 2025 Split-season early prairie units (08A and 44A) and unit 58B
- May 1 – 31, 2025 Split-season late prairie units (08B and 44B)
- April 12 –30, 2025 Access Permit Areas

- April 11 – May 31, 2026 Single-season prairie units
- April 25 – May 31, 2026 Black Hills and Black Hills archery
- April 11 – 30, 2026 Split-season early prairie units (08A and 44A) and unit 58B
- May 1 – 31, 2026 Split-season late prairie units (08B and 44B)
- April 11 –30, 2026 Access Permit Areas

* Depending on the geographic area being hunted, the Mentored and Archery spring turkey seasons align with the Prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively.

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: During Spring 2024 there were:
 Black Hills: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
 Prairie: 6,357 resident and 262 nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
 700 resident and 56 nonresident two-tag “male turkey” licenses
 Archery: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
 Mentored: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses

* Specific license numbers by unit will be recommended during the July and September Commission meetings.

Access permits:
 Good Earth State Park: 5 archery
 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve: 30 archery; 20 mentored youth

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. No more than 10,000 one-tag male turkey and 2,500 two-tag male turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the prairie spring turkey hunting season. Specific license numbers will be recommended during the July and September Commission meetings.
2. A person may apply for and receive one license in the prairie season in the first and second lottery drawings.
3. A person may apply for one license in the third drawing and apply for an unlimited number of licenses on a first-come first-served basis in the fourth, leftover license drawing. In the third and fourth drawings, resident and nonresident licenses are pooled.
4. A person may purchase only one Black Hills and one Archery male turkey license and the license number for these seasons is unlimited.
5. One-half of the limited licenses in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference.
6. No person may shoot a turkey in a tree or roost.
7. A person may use only bow and arrow, a shotgun using shot shells or a muzzleloading shotgun to hunt turkeys during the spring turkey season.
8. The season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day of an open season.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Edit § 41:06:13:02 to change Unit PST-18A to PST-10A to have the unit label represent one of the counties (Aurora) contained in the unit that includes Aurora and Douglas counties. Clark County is county number 18.
2. Edit § 41:06:13:02 to expand the statewide Archery Spring turkey hunting unit to include the portion of Lake County south of State Highway 34.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The minor rule change would make the unit label for Aurora and Douglas counties more logical because it will now include the county number for one of the counties (Aurora; 10) contained within the unit.

The proposal to include the portion of Lake County south of State Highway 34 will open archery hunting in all of Lake County. Archery hunting for male only turkeys during this season is not expected to have a negative effect on potential turkey population growth rates in Lake County and this would increase hunter opportunity.

Specific license numbers will be recommended during the July and September Commission meetings.

Figure 1. Map of recommended 2025 and 2026 spring wild turkey hunting season units. Archery hunting is proposed to be open statewide, except Custer State Park. Licenses in prairie units bordering the Cheyenne or White Rivers, excluding that portion of Fall River County within Unit PST-27A, may hunt within one mile of either side of the river boundary, as well as in the remainder of the unit for which the license is issued. The department recommendation is to open all of Lake County to archery hunting.

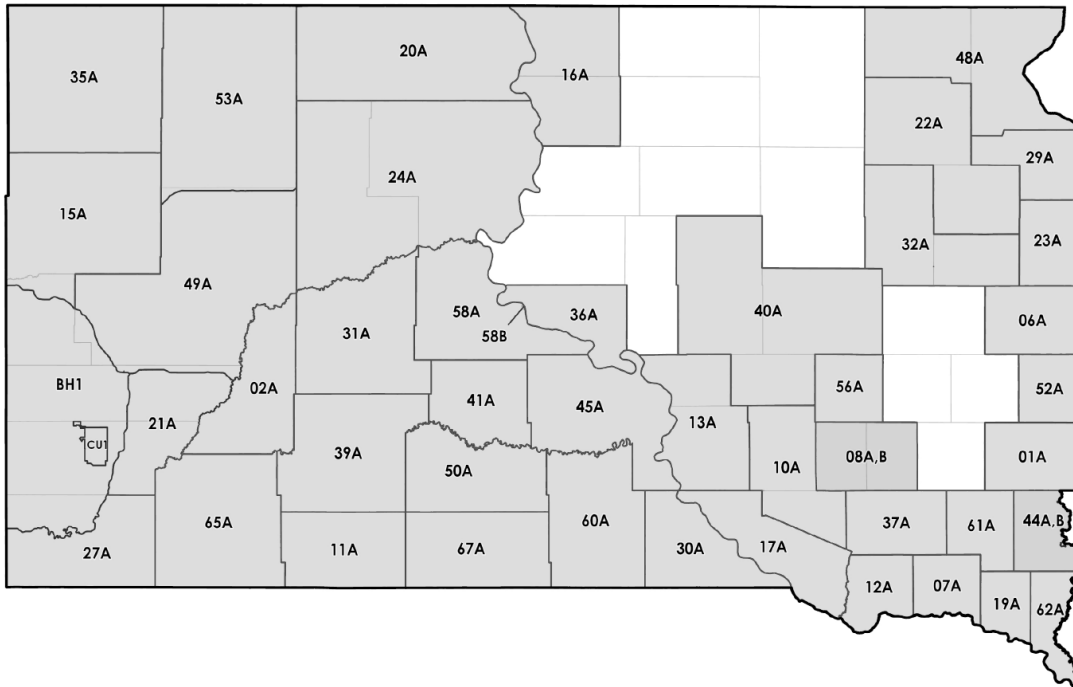


Table 1. Spring prairie turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

Year	Resident Licenses	Nonres Licenses	Tags	Harvest		Success	Avg Days Hunted	Satisf
				Males	Hens			
2014	5,888	1,301	8,962	3,491	106	40%	2.40	5.26
2015	5,604	1,357	8,470	3,555	10	42%	2.64	5.34
2016	5,648	1,202	7,907	2,482	4	31%	2.72	5.49
2017	5,364	1,213	7,371	3,323	5	45%	2.50	5.55
2018	5,364	1,146	7,287	2,724	9	38%	2.18	5.49
2019	5,250	1,125	6,977	2,722	5	39%	2.14	5.39
2020	5,500	955	7,103	3,107	6	44%	2.70	5.48
2021	5,444	1,255	7,348	3,748	0	51%	2.57	5.75
2022	4,834	1,824	7,305	3,725	2	51%	2.69	5.61
2023	5,878	1,432	8,048	3,647	0	45%	2.65	5.40

Table 2. Spring Black Hills turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Licenses Issued</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Tag Success</i>	<i>Avg Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Satisfaction</i>
2014	3,944	1,258	32%	3.19	4.99
2015	3,877	1,258	32%	3.44	4.89
2016	4,056	1,575	39%	3.38	5.21
2017	4,401	1,701	39%	3.48	5.30
2018	4,567	1,441	32%	3.38	5.15
2019	4,545	1,365	30%	3.61	4.93
2020	4,733	1,287	27%	3.64	4.90
2021	6,303	1,776	28%	3.44	4.87
2022	5,133	1,563	30%	3.46	4.92
2023	5,328	2,073	39%	3.37	5.20

Table 3. Spring archery turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Licenses Sold</i>		<i>Male Harvest</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Avg Days Hunted</i>	<i>Satisfaction</i>
	<i>Resident</i>	<i>Nonresident</i>				
2014	2,335	387	695	26%	3.41	5.17
2015	2,604	315	790	27%	3.59	5.36
2016	2,844	358	885	28%	3.90	5.39
2017	2,925	373	912	28%	3.87	5.47
2018	2,914	350	719	22%	3.43	5.33
2019	3,129	338	915	26%	3.47	5.51
2020	4,063	396	1,340	30%	4.10	5.47
2021	4,306	593	1,607	33%	4.23	5.42
2022	4,181	570	1,310	28%	3.60	5.37
2023	4,276	676	1,247	25%	3.26	5.19

Table 4. Spring mentor turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>Licenses Sold</i>	<i>HARVEST</i>				<i>Avg Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Satisfaction</i>
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Hens</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%Success</i>		
2014	679	211	0	211	31%	2.30	5.54
2015	654	205	0	205	31%	2.41	5.70
2016	734	277	0	277	38%	2.68	5.78
2017	799	310	0	310	39%	2.70	5.85
2018	735	261	0	261	35%	2.32	5.82
2019	1,024	295	0	295	29%	2.03	5.63
2020	1,356	507	2	508	37%	3.04	5.76
2021	1,422	523	0	523	37%	2.54	5.71
2022	1,632	558	0	558	34%	2.47	5.55
2023	1,702	489	2	491	29%	2.52	5.53

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:13:02. Open units -- Exceptions. The following is a description of the open spring turkey hunting units:

- (1) Unit BST-BH1: excluding Custer State Park, Wind Cave National Park, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and Jewel Cave National Monument, that portion of Lawrence County south of Interstate 90; that portion of Meade County west and south of Interstate 90; those portions of Pennington and Custer Counties west of State Highway 79; that portion of Fall River County north and west of a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 18, then east along U.S. Highway 18 to its junction with the Cheyenne River. then east along the Cheyenne River to its junction with State Highway 79; then north along State Highway 79 to its junction with the Custer County line;
- (2) Unit PST-01A: Minnehaha County;
- (3) Unit PST-02A: that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River;
- (4) Unit PST-06A: Brookings County;
- (5) Unit PST-07A: Yankton County;
- (6) Unit PST-08A: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April 30;
- (7) Unit PST-08B: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08B is open beginning on May 1 through May 31;
- (8) Unit PST-10A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;
- ~~(8)-(9) Unit PST-11A: Bennett County;~~
- ~~(9)-(10) Unit PST-12A: Bon Homme County;~~
- ~~(10)-(11) Unit PST-13A: Brule and Buffalo Counties;~~
- ~~(11)-(12) Unit PST-15A: Butte County and that portion of Lawrence County north of Interstate 90;~~
- ~~(12)-(13) Unit PST-16A: Campbell and Walworth Counties;~~
- ~~(13)-(14) Unit PST-17A: Charles Mix County;~~
- ~~(14) Unit PST-18A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;~~
- (15) Unit PST-19A: Clay County;
- (16) Unit PST-20A: Corson County;
- (17) Unit PST-21A: that portion of Custer County east of State Highway 79 and that portion of Pennington County south of Interstate 90 between State Highway 79 and the Cheyenne River;
- (18) Unit PST-22A: Day and Codington Counties;
- (19) Unit PST-23A: Deuel County;
- (20) Unit PST-24A: Dewey and Ziebach Counties;
- (21) Unit PST-27A: that portion of Fall River County not included in Unit BST-BH1;
- (22) Unit PST-29A: Grant County;
- (23) Unit PST-30A: Gregory County;
- (24) Unit PST-31A: Haakon County;
- (25) Unit PST-32A: Hamlin and Clark Counties;
- (26) Unit PST-35A: Harding County;
- (27) Unit PST-36A: Hughes County;
- (28) Unit PST-37A: Hutchinson County;
- (29) Unit PST-39A: Jackson County;
- (30) Unit PST-40A: Beadle, Hand, and Jerauld Counties;
- (31) Unit PST-41A: Jones County;
- (32) Unit PST-44A: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April 30;
- (33) Unit PST-44B: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44B is open beginning on May 1 through May 31;
- (34) Unit PST-45A: Lyman County;
- (35) Unit PST-48A: Marshall County and Roberts County;

(36) Unit PST-49A: those portions of Meade County not included in Units BST-BH1 and PST-53A, and that portion of Pennington County north of Interstate 90, west of the Cheyenne River;

(37) Unit PST-50A: Mellette County;

(38) Unit PST-52A: Moody County;

(39) Unit PST-53A: Perkins County and that portion of Meade County north of U.S. Highway 212;

(40) Unit PST-56A: Sanborn County;

(41) Unit PST-58A: Stanley County;

(42) Unit PST-58B: that portion of Stanley County located at the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area to include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Land which is east and southeast of Powerhouse Road. This unit is bordered by the Missouri River to the east and the emergency spillway canal to the south. Unit PST-58B-is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April 30, but only to licensed persons who use a wheelchair;

(43) Unit PST-60A: Tripp County;

(44) Unit PST-61A: Turner County;

(45) Unit PST-62A: Union County;

(46) Unit PST-65A: Oglala Lakota County;

(47) Unit PST-67A: Todd County; and

(48) Unit AST-ST1: statewide for archery turkey, except in Custer State Park and south of state Highway 34 in Lake County.

Excluding that portion of Fall River County within Unit PST-27A, licensees in prairie units that utilize the Cheyenne or White Rivers as unit boundaries may hunt within one mile of either side of the river boundary, as well as in the remainder of the unit for which the license is issued.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? The change will open a new area to archery turkey hunting.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Custer State Park and Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:13 and 41:06:15

Commission Meeting Dates: **Public Hearing** **Sept 5, 2024** **Rapid City**
 Finalization **Sept 5-6, 2024** **Rapid City**

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Recommended license numbers for the prairie spring wild turkey hunting season units. License number changes are included in supportive information. Final recommendations will be provided in September.

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident		Nonresident		Resident		Nonresident	
		TomT 32	2 TomT 35	TomT 32	2 TomT 35	Licenses	Tags	Licenses	Tags
01A	Minnehaha	100				100	100		
02A	Pennington	250		20		250	250	20	20
06A	Brookings	60				60	60		
07A	Yankton	300				300	300		
08A	Davison/Hanson	100				100	100		
08B	Davison/Hanson	100				100	100		
10A	Aurora/Douglas	50				50	50		
11A	Bennett	10		1		10	10	1	1
12A	Bon Homme	300				300	300		
13A	Brule/Buffalo	175				175	175		
15A	Butte/Lawrence	400		32		400	400	32	32
16A	Campbell/Walworth	20				20	20		
17A	Charles Mix	350				350	350		
19A	Clay	120				120	120		
20A	Corson	100		8		100	100	8	8
21A	Custer	125		10		125	125	10	10
22A	Day/Codington	175				175	175		
23A	Deuel	200				200	200		
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	150		12		150	150	12	12
27A	Fall River	100		8		100	100	8	8
29A	Grant	375				375	375		
30A	Gregory	650		52		650	650	52	52
31A	Haakon		250		20	250	500	20	40
32A	Hamlin/Clark	30				30	30		
35A	Harding	150		12		150	150	12	12
36A	Hughes	30				30	30		
37A	Hutchinson	70				70	70		
39A	Jackson	200		16		200	200	16	16
40A	Jerauld/Beadle/Hand	20				20	20		
41A	Jones	75		6		75	75	6	6
44A	Lincoln	50				50	50		
44B	Lincoln	50				50	50		
45A	Lyman	150		12		150	150	12	12
48A	Marshall/Roberts	450				450	450		
49A	Meade		400		32	400	800	32	64
50A	Mellette	300		24		300	300	24	24
52A	Moody	60				60	60		
53A	Perkins		100		8	100	200	8	16
56A	Sanborn	10				10	10		
58A	Stanley	40		4		40	40	4	4
58B	Stanley	2		1		2	2	1	1
60A	Tripp	400		32		400	400	32	32
61A	Turner	30				30	30		
62A	Union	120				120	120		
65A	Oglala Lakota	40		4		40	40	4	4
67A	Todd	50		4		50	50	4	4
	TOTAL	6,537	750	258	60	7,287	8,037	318	378
	Unit	TomT 32	2 TomT 35	TomT 32	2 TomT 35	RES Licenses	RES Tags	NR Lic	NR Tags
						7,605	8,415		

Note: An additional 8% of licenses are available to nonresidents for the West River prairie units.

2025-2026 license numbers for other seasons.

- Black Hills: Unlimited resident and nonresident “male turkey” licenses.
- Archery and mentor youth “male turkey” access permits.
 - Good Earth State Park: 5 archery.
 - Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve: 30 archery and 20 mentored youth.
- Custer State Park: One-hundred “male turkey” licenses.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

License number changes from 2023-2024 to 2025-2026.

Unit #	Unit Name	2023-2024 Resident Licenses	2025-2026 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2023-2024 Resident Tags	2025-2026 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
01A	Minnehaha	80	100	20	25%	80	100	20	25%
02A	Pennington	250	250	0	0%	250	250	0	0%
06A	Brookings	40	60	20	50%	40	60	20	50%
07A	Yankton	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
08A	Davison/Hanson	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
08B	Davison/Hanson	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
10A	Aurora/Douglas	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
11A	Bennett	30	10	-20	-67%	30	10	-20	-67%
12A	Bon Homme	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
13A	Brule/Buffalo	175	175	0	0%	175	175	0	0%
15A	Butte/Lawrence	350	400	50	14%	350	400	50	14%
16A	Campbell/Walworth	20	20	0	0%	20	20	0	0%
17A	Charles Mix	350	350	0	0%	350	350	0	0%
19A	Clay	120	120	0	0%	120	120	0	0%
20A	Corson	75	100	25	33%	75	100	25	33%
21A	Custer	150	125	-25	-17%	150	125	-25	-17%
22A	Day/Codington	125	175	50	40%	125	175	50	40%
23A	Deuel	150	200	50	33%	150	200	50	33%
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
27A	Fall River	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
29A	Grant	300	375	75	25%	300	375	75	25%
30A	Gregory	700	650	-50	-7%	700	650	-50	-7%
31A	Haakon	250	250	0	0%	500	500	0	0%
32A	Hamlin/Clark	20	30	10	50%	20	30	10	50%
35A	Harding	100	150	50	50%	100	150	50	50%
36A	Hughes	30	30	0	0%	30	30	0	0%
37A	Hutchinson	70	70	0	0%	70	70	0	0%
39A	Jackson	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
40A	Jerauld/Beadle/Hand	20	20	0	0%	20	20	0	0%
41A	Jones	75	75	0	0%	75	75	0	0%
44A	Lincoln	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
44B	Lincoln	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
45A	Lyman	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
48A	Marshall/Roberts	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
49A	Meade	350	400	50	14%	700	800	100	14%
50A	Mellette	350	300	-50	-14%	350	300	-50	-14%
52A	Moody	60	60	0	0%	60	60	0	0%
53A	Perkins	100	100	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
56A	Sanborn	10	10	0	0%	10	10	0	0%
58A	Stanley	40	40	0	0%	40	40	0	0%
58B	Stanley	2	2	0	0%	2	2	0	0%
60A	Tripp	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
61A	Turner	30	30	0	0%	30	30	0	0%
62A	Union	120	120	0	0%	120	120	0	0%
65A	Oglala Lakota	40	40	0	0%	40	40	0	0%
67A	Todd	75	50	-25	-33%	75	50	-25	-33%
TOTAL		7,057	7,287	230	3.3%	7,757	8,037	280	3.6%

No license changes are recommended for the Black Hills season, archery and mentor youth access permits, and the Custer State Park season.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

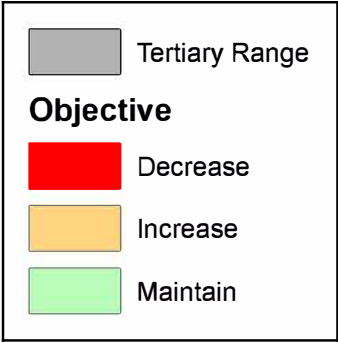
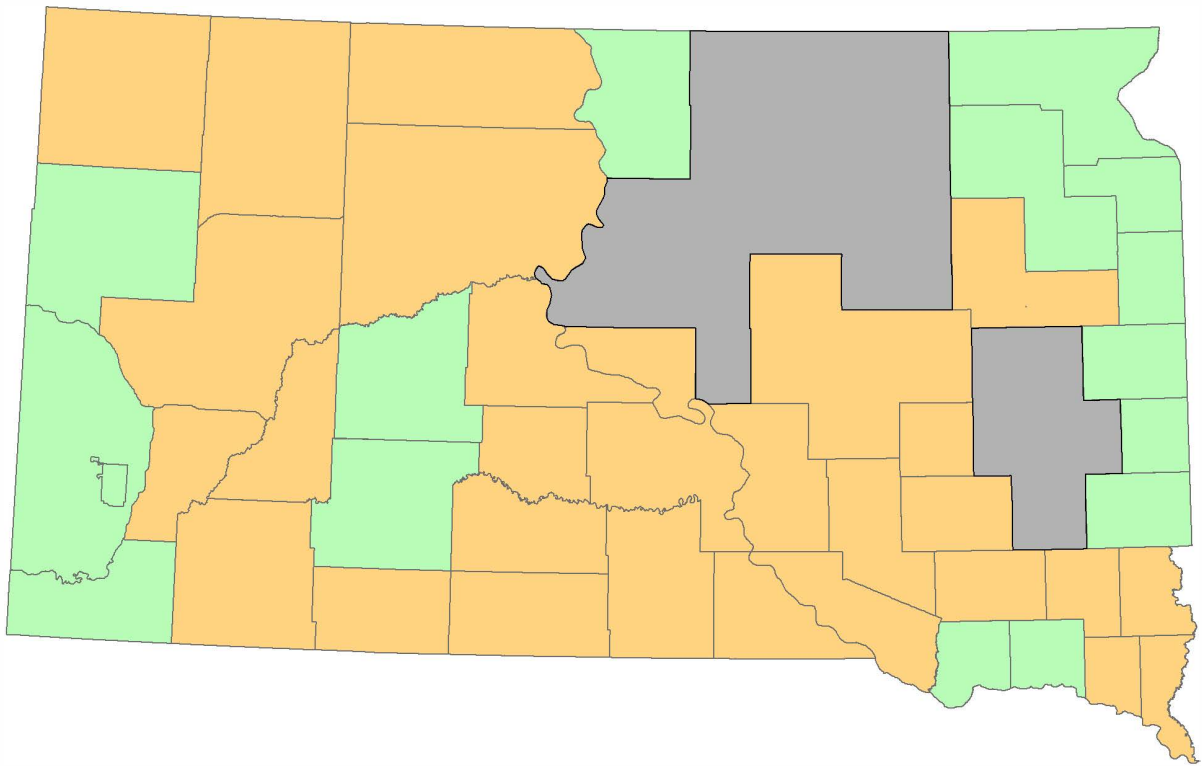
We are pleased to report that work has continued on “Vital Rates and Population Growth of Merriam’s Turkeys in South-Central South Dakota”. We have several accomplishments to report from the field in 2023 and 2024.

- Luke McCray, M.S. Graduate Student with West Virginia University, with the help of South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), radio-collared a total of 44 adult wild turkey hens and 39 yearling hens in 2022-23.
- SDGFP and the NWTF radio-collared a total of 55 adult wild turkey hens and 20 yearling hens in 2023-24.
- Analyses are preliminary and results will be provided in the near future.
- Winter survival in 2022-2023 was lower than winter survival in 2023-2024.
- Nest survival in 2022-2023 appears to be similar to 2023-2024 and nesting rates and nest success appear to be low for both years.
- Recent flooding in Gregory County (roughly 10 inches over a period of 5 days) from June 16-21, 2024, had a negative influence on incubating females. Two of the four females that were nesting lost their nests during those days, with both hens being predated as well. Fortunately, several radio-marked females had already hatched poults before the flooding events occurred (Figure 1).

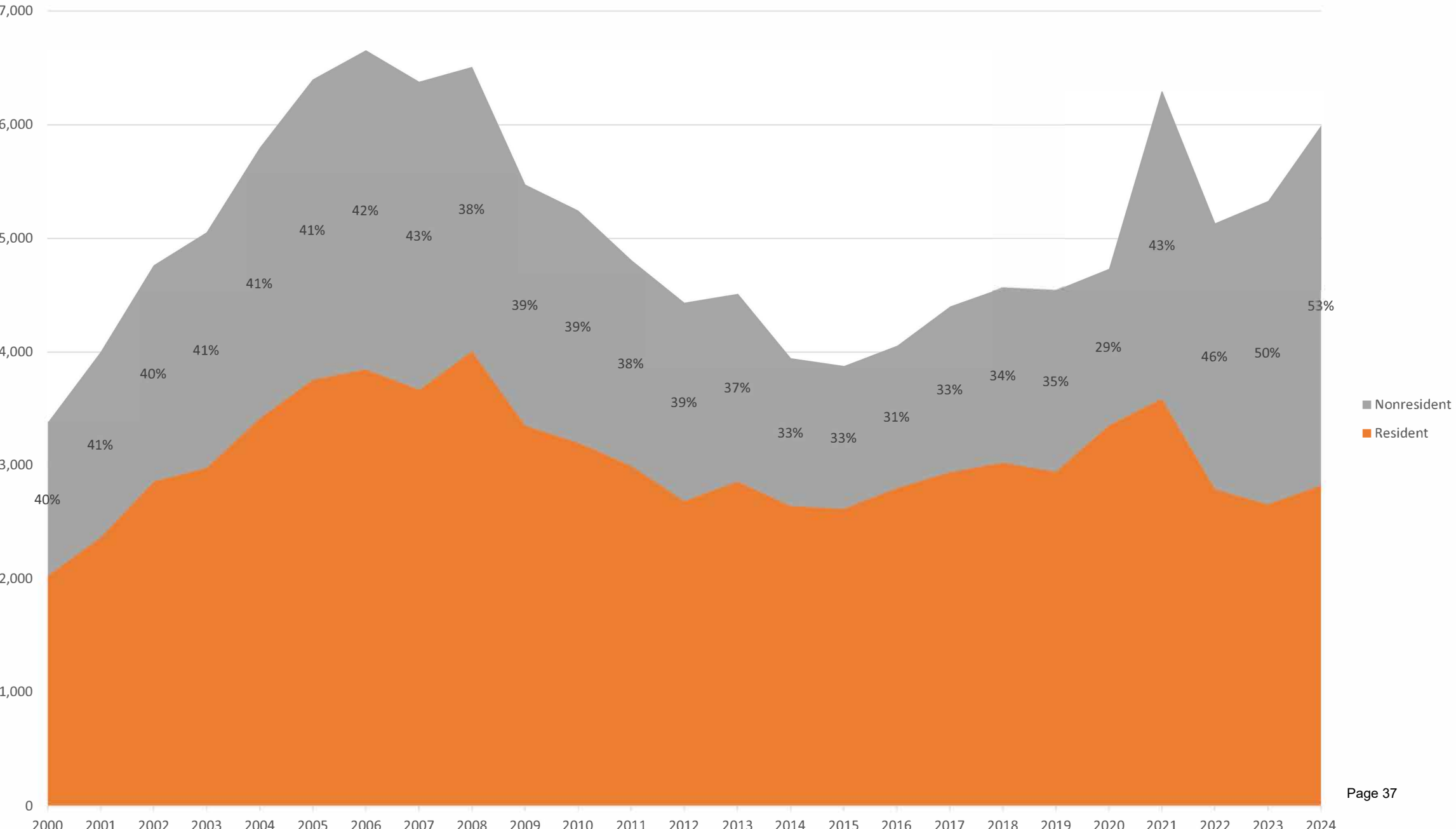
Investigators: Luke McCray, Christopher Rota, and Chad Lehman

Figure 1. Radio-collared female turkey with 8 poults at roost site in Gregory County, South Dakota, USA, 2024.





Black Hills Spring Harvest



GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

PARK ENTRANCE LICENSE FEES

Chapter 41:03:03:05 and 41:03:03:06

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 2, 2024	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls

INFORMATION

Senate Bill 55 was introduced by the Department during the 2024 Legislative Session and was passed and signed by the Governor. The new law amended SDCL 41-17-13 to eliminate the option to purchase a discounted second annual park entrance license through the stub/coupon method and eliminated the ability to buy multiple discounted annuals through common vehicle registration.

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

This rule proposal would remove ARSD 41:03:03:05 which authorizes the provision of a discounted half price second annual license, and the provisions for securing multiple discounted additional licenses through common vehicle registration. The proposal also amends 41:03:03:06 to formalize the availability of a double license option (one full price license and one half price license when purchased together). There are no limits on how many double licenses may be purchased.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. The popularity of using the coupon method has been declining for years. People often lose their stubs, throw them away, or give them away to other people. Eighty-five percent of these stubs go unused. Second annual sales have dropped by nearly 36% over the past 5 years.
2. The popularity of purchasing the second discounted license through the “combo” or “double” license has increased significantly. Double license sales have increased by more than 23% over the last five years.
3. Both options require the physical transfer of the coupon or the presentation of specific documentation that frequently causes customer frustration and dissatisfaction. Furthermore, neither of these options can be sold through the electronic kiosks, fee collection tubes, or online purchases.
4. There are still discount options for multiple car households such as buying the double licenses or the transferable license, both of which can be purchased at the kiosks or online.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

~~41:03:03:05. Limitations on half-price annual park entrance license. Purchases of the annual park entrance license at full price and the first half price license may be made at any designated license vendor without submitting vehicle registration certificates. All half-price~~

~~annual park entrance licenses purchased must be affixed to vehicles owned by and registered in the name of the same person as the purchaser of the full price annual park entrance license.~~

~~An owner of two or more vehicles may buy the first half price park entrance license by submitting the receipt from the purchase of the full price park entrance license to a designated license vendor.~~

~~An owner of more than two vehicles may buy the second half price park entrance license and any subsequent half price licenses at department offices by submitting copies of valid vehicle registration certificates for the owner's first two vehicles, whether or not park entrance licenses have already been purchased for them, and for the additional vehicles for which the owner wishes to buy half price park entrance licenses. If park entrance licenses have already been purchased for the first two vehicles, the serial numbers of the park entrance licenses must accompany the applicable vehicle registrations. Repealed~~

Source: 10 SDR 120, effective May 16, 1984; 17 SDR 188, effective July 1, 1991; 46 SDR 74, effective December 2, 2019.

General Authority: SDCL [41-17-13](#).

Law Implemented: SDCL [41-17-13](#).

41:03:03:06. Park entrance license fees. Park entrance license fees are as follows:

- 1) The fee for an annual park entrance license is ~~\$36 for the first vehicle~~ thirty-six dollars and ~~48 fifty-four dollars for two annual park entrance licenses when purchased together each additional vehicle registered to the same owner;~~
- 2) The fee for a transferable annual park entrance license is ~~\$80~~ eighty dollars;
- 3) The temporary park entrance license fee at Custer State Park is ~~\$20~~ twenty dollars for a vehicle or a motorcycle and is valid for seven consecutive days from the date of purchase in any state park or recreation area;
- 4) Except at Custer State Park, the daily park entrance license fee is ~~\$8~~ eight dollars per vehicle;
- 5) For a vehicle that does not have a valid park entrance license displayed as required in § 41:03:03:02, the operator or the registered owner of the vehicle shall pay ~~\$15~~ fifteen dollars for a daily park entrance license for each day the vehicle is in the park, except at Custer State Park where the fee is ~~\$20~~ twenty dollars. The operator or registered owner may apply the entire amount of the cost of the daily park entrance license towards the purchase of an annual park entrance license;
- 6) In lieu of the annual, daily, or temporary park entrance license fee, each person, except the driver and step-on guide, occupying a commercial motorcoach with a seating capacity of eight people or more in any state park or recreation area shall pay a park entrance license fee of ~~\$3~~ three dollars per person per day; and
- 7) Any group or organization that hosts a private one-day event at any state park or recreation area may pay, in lieu of any other park entrance license fee, a special one-day events park entrance license fee of ~~\$50~~ fifty dollars for each increment of ~~50~~ fifty attendees, or any portion of attendees. The total fee is payable in advance and no partial refunds may be given. The fee does not extend overnight. One-day events must have written consent of the park manager at least ~~15~~ fifteen days prior to the event. Organized or hosted special one-day events include weddings, wedding receptions, meetings, class or family reunions, corporate or organizational picnics, and banquets. Competitive events are not eligible for a one-day events permit.

Source: 10 SDR 120, effective May 16, 1984; 11 SDR 69, effective November 21, 1984; 12 SDR 151, effective March 16, 1986; 13 SDR 128, effective March 22, 1987; 15 SDR 139, effective March 20, 1989; 16 SDR 114, effective January 18, 1990; 16 SDR 135, effective February 18, 1990; 17 SDR 78, effective December 10, 1990; 17 SDR 170, effective May 14, 1991; 18 SDR 223, effective July 13, 1992; 19 SDR 82, effective December 7, 1992; 20 SDR 87, effective December 13, 1993; 20 SDR 150, effective March 23, 1994; 21 SDR 86, effective November 10, 1994, and May 1, 1995; 22 SDR 89, effective December 26, 1995; 25 SDR 108, effective February 28, 1999; 26 SDR 85, effective December 26, 1999; subdivision (5), adopted December 26, 1999, effective May 1, 2000; 26 SDR 162, effective June 14, 2000; 27 SDR 85, effective February 26, 2001; 28 SDR 103, effective January 30, 2002; 29 SDR 147, effective May 6, 2003; 30 SDR 99, effective December 22, 2003; 32 SDR 31, effective August 29, 2005; 33 SDR 225, effective June 25, 2007; 34 SDR 179, effective December 24, 2007; 35 SDR 184, effective February 2, 2009; 36 SDR 112, effective January 11, 2010; 37 SDR 112, effective December 8, 2010; 38 SDR 213, effective June 19, 2012; 39 SDR 100, effective December 3, 2012; 42 SDR 97, effective January 5, 2016; 44 SDR 93, effective December 4, 2017; 46 SDR 74, effective December 2, 2019.

General Authority: SDCL [41-17-13](#).

Law Implemented: SDCL [41-17-13](#).

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

2023 Annual License Sales

License Type	Number Sold	Revenue
Annual	60,628	\$2,182,602
Second Annual	9,485	\$170,734
Double License	39,106	\$2,111,718

Projected Fiscal Impact

	2023 Actual	2023 Revenue	Total # Stickers	Projected Adjustments	Total Adjusted Permits	Adjusted Revenue	Net Revenue	Total # Stickers	Percent Change
Single	60,628	\$2,182,608	60,628	-6,485	54,143	\$1,949,148	\$ (233,460)	54,143	
Stub Option	9,485	\$170,730	9,485	-9,485	-	-	\$ (170,730)	-	
Double	39,106	\$2,111,724	78,212	10,500	49,606	\$2,678,724	\$ 567,000	99,212	
Total		\$4,465,062	148,325			\$4,627,872	\$ 162,810	153,355	3.4%

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Hunting Requirements and Prohibited Methods Chapter 41:06:04:17

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 2-3, 2024	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Recommendation: Beginning in 2024

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. A person may use an air gun with hunting pellets and a minimum factory rated muzzle velocity of 1,000 feet per second to hunt cottontail rabbit, red squirrel, fox squirrel, grey squirrel, coyote, wolf*, gray fox, red fox, skunk, gopher, ground squirrel, chipmunk, jackrabbit, marmot, opossum, porcupine, crow, and prairie dog.

* wolves are currently federally protected and not legal for harvest in South Dakota.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Edit § 41:06:04:17 to reduce the air gun muzzle velocity minimum from 1,000 feet per second to 600 feet per second to hunt cottontail rabbit, red squirrel, fox squirrel, grey squirrel, and any species defined as a predator/varmint in § 41-1-1 (21).
 - a. § 41-1-1 (21) includes coyote, wolf, gray fox, red fox, skunk, gopher, ground squirrel, chipmunk, jackrabbit, marmot, opossum, porcupine, crow, and prairie dog.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Many air rifles do not meet the 1,000 feet per second muzzle velocity requirement, and lower muzzle velocity is more common in larger caliber air rifles. This is because less muzzle velocity is required for a larger caliber to achieve the same foot pounds of energy.

From a safety benefit, pellet trajectories are more stable at lower muzzle velocities and pellets can be a safer alternative than firearms for small game because less chance for ricochet compared to .22 long rifle.

Air rifles have less recoil and produce less sound when fired, which could present a preferable alternative to firearms for youth and when hunting near homesteads where small game hunting is common.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:04:17. Minimum air gun specifications. No person may hunt species listed in SDCL 41-8-31(1A) with an air gun that is factory-rated to produce a muzzle velocity of less than 4,000 600 feet per second. Only hunting pellets are permitted.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, people may hunt small game with lesser weapon restrictions.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? People may be more likely to hunt based on the lesser weapon restriction.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

More people may hunt small game with lesser weapon restrictions on air guns.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Archery Antelope Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:24

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 2-3, 2024	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates: 2024 1st interval: August 17 – September 27
 2024 2nd interval: October 14 – 31

 2025 1st interval: August 16 – October 3
 2025 2nd interval: October 20 – 31

Open Area: See Figure 1.

- Licenses:** Last year there were:
1. Unlimited number of resident one-tag archery antelope licenses valid on public and private land;
 2. Unlimited number nonresident one-tag archery antelope licenses valid on private land not leased by the Department for public hunting;
 3. No more than four hundred and fifty nonresident one-tag archery antelope licenses valid on public and private land;
 4. Five resident access permits by lottery drawing.

The Department will recommend specific number of licenses by tag types for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons at the July Commission meetings.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. A person may apply for and receive no more than one archery antelope license.
2. The archery antelope hunting season is open in those areas of the state with a firearm antelope season and in the portions of Custer and Pennington counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District with access permits from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day.
3. Archery antelope hunting is closed in Custer State Park.

Changes from last year:

1. Edit § 41:06:24:01 to remove five access permits for Custer and Pennington Counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

1. Edit § 41:06:24:01 to require access permits, available only to residents, to hunt during the archery antelope season in Fort Pierre National Grasslands (PRA-45B).

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Limited public hunting access to the low number of antelope in the Black Hills, mostly on Reynolds Prairie, provides very little harvest opportunity and the proposal is to discontinue hunting this small antelope population.

Antelope numbers have increased in the past two years and the pre-fawn spring estimate was 258 in the Fort Pierre National Grasslands (PRA-45B). Because this unit is exclusively public access, the Department recommendation is to limit the number of resident only archery permits to regulate buck harvest.

License numbers and tag type recommendations for the next two years based on population surveys and harvest data are provided on the associated administrative action sheet.

Figure 1. Map of Archery Antelope hunting season units recommended for the 2024 and 2025 hunting season. The recommendation would require an access permit to hunt unit PRA-45B.

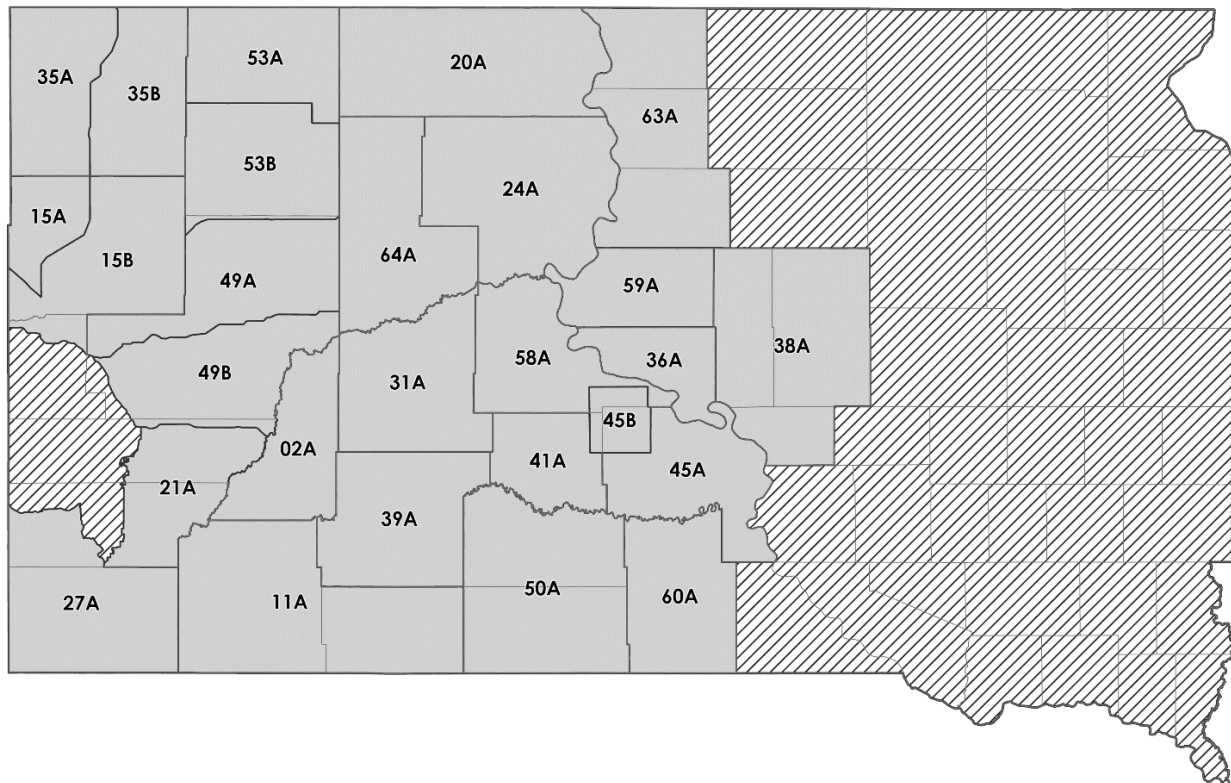


Table 1. Number of antelope licenses sold, tags issued, harvest and harvest success by year during the Archery Antelope hunting season.

Year	Resident Licenses	Nonresident Licenses	Bucks Harvested	Doe/Fawn Harvested	Total Harvest	Success
2019	1,781	663	533	72	605	25%
2020	2,141	720	719	92	810	28%
2021	2,142	877	642	94	736	24%
2022	1,830	1,021	671	16	687	24%
2023	2,127	832	590	16	606	20%

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:24:01. Archery antelope hunting season established -- Open area -- Number and type of licenses available. The archery antelope hunting season is open in those areas of the state with a firearm antelope season and in the portions of Custer and Pennington counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District with access permits from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day beginning on the third Saturday of August through October thirty-first, except during the firearm antelope season. Archery antelope hunting is closed in Custer State Park. Hunting is open in PRA-45B as described in § 41:06:23:02 during the archery antelope hunting season for residents with an access permit.

The department may issue:

- (1) An unlimited number of resident one-tag antelope licenses valid on public and private land;
- (2) An unlimited number of nonresident one-tag archery antelope licenses valid on private land not leased by the department for public hunting;
- (3) No more than four hundred and fifty nonresident one-tag archery antelope licenses valid on public and private land; and
- (4) Access permits by lottery drawing.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

- 1. The Issue – NA
- 2. Historical Considerations – NA
- 3. Biological Considerations – NA
- 4. Social Considerations – NA
- 5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

- 1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate? There will no longer be hunting opportunity for antelope in the Black Hills.
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? There will be no antelope hunting in the Black Hills.
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? No hunting in the Black Hills for antelope could result in better potential for this herd to grow and provide viewing opportunity or potential future hunting opportunity.
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? If this allows the population in the Black Hills to grow, individuals may be more likely to go outdoors and view these antelope.

FISCAL IMPACT

Fewer licenses may be sold because hunting will no longer occur in the Black Hills. However, additional access permits will allow archery hunting in Fort Pierre National Grasslands in unit PRA-45B.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
---------------	--------------	--------------	-----------------

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Antelope (Firearm) Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:23

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 2-3, 2024	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 28 – October 13, 2024
October 4 – 19, 2025

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: Last year there were 2,335 “buck antelope” licenses and 100 “special antelope” licenses.

License numbers and tag type recommendations for the next two years are provided on the associated administrative action sheet.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference.
2. No more than 50 “special antelope” licenses may be issued to residents and no more than 50 “special antelope” licenses may be issued to nonresidents for the antelope hunting season.
 - a. If a person applies for a “special antelope” license, the person may not apply for another antelope license until the third lottery drawing. A successful “special antelope” applicant may not apply for a leftover “special antelope” license.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Edit § 41:06:23:01 to allow an individual that applies for a “special antelope” license to apply for another antelope license in the second lottery drawing instead of the third lottery drawing.
2. Edit § 41:06:23:02
 - a. Minor unit boundary adjustment to use Interstate 90 instead of the Black Hills National Forest as the boundary for unit PRA-15B in Butte County.
 - b. Rule clean-up for unit boundary descriptions to exclude unit PRA-45B (Ft. Pierre National Grasslands) from PRA-41A (Jones County) and PRA-58A (Stanley County).

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

License numbers and tag type recommendations for the next two years based on population surveys and harvest data are provided on the associated administrative action sheet.

Figure 1. Map of Firearm Antelope hunting season units recommended for the 2024 and 2025 hunting season.

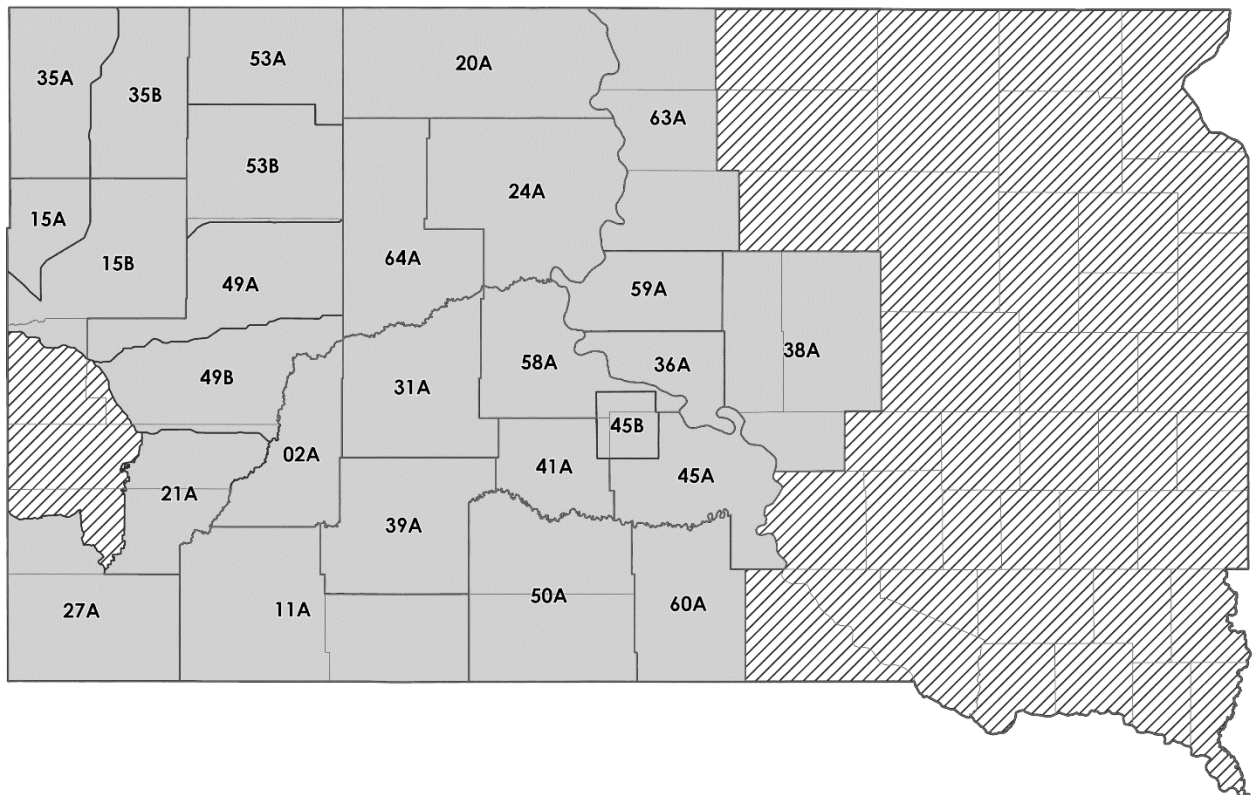


Table 1. Number of antelope licenses sold, tags issued, harvest and harvest success by year during the Antelope (Firearm) hunting season.

Year	Resident Licenses	Nonresident Licenses	Tags Issued	Bucks Harvested	Doe/Fawn Harvested	Total Harvest	Success
2019	5,096	139	6,054	2,629	1,249	3,784	64%
2020	5,139	140	6,101	2,415	1,272	3,845	64%
2021	5,047	160	6,029	2,401	1,152	3,878	59%
2022	2,684	61	2,881	1,690	117	1,807	63%
2023	2,672	58	2,873	1,687	101	1,788	62%

*Includes Landowner-Own-Land licenses.

Figure 2. Firearm antelope draw structure and proposed change.

Draw	Current	Proposed
Special Antelope	1 application	No Change
1 & 2	1 application per draw 1 license limit through 1 st two draws Cannot apply for antelope in 1 st or 2 nd draw if applied for special antelope	1 application per draw 1 license limit through 1 st two draws Cannot apply for antelope in 1 st draw if applied for special antelope
3	Resident and nonresident licenses pooled 1 application limit	No Change
4	Unlimited applications	No Change

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:23:01. Antelope hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses. The antelope hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day for ~~46~~ sixteen consecutive days beginning on the Saturday closest to October ~~4~~ first, unless prohibited in the unit descriptions in §§ 41:06:23:02. No more than ~~8,000~~ eight thousand one-tag antelope licenses, no more than ~~3,000~~ three thousand two-tag antelope licenses, and no more than ~~50~~ fifty "special antelope" licenses may be issued to residents for the antelope hunting season. No more than ~~50~~ fifty "special antelope" licenses may be issued to nonresidents for the antelope hunting season. If a person applies for a "special antelope" license, the person may not apply for another antelope license until the ~~third~~ second lottery drawing. A successful "special antelope" applicant may not apply for a leftover "special antelope" license.

41:06:23:02. Open units -- Exceptions. The following is a description of the open units for the antelope hunting season:

- (1) Unit PRA-02A: that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River;
- (2) Unit PRA-11A: Bennett and Oglala Lakota Counties;
- (3) Unit PRA-15A: that portion of Butte County enclosed by a line beginning at the junction of the Harding-Butte County line and the South Dakota-Montana state line; then east on the county line to U.S. Highway 85; then south on U.S. Highway 85 to the junction of U.S. Highway 212; then west on U.S. Highway 212 to the South Dakota-Wyoming line; then north on the state line to the Harding-Butte county line, the point of beginning;
- (4) Unit PRA-15B: that portion of Butte County not included in Unit PRA-15A and Lawrence County north of the ~~Black Hills National Forest boundary~~ Interstate 90;
- (5) Unit PRA-20A: Corson County;

- (6) Unit PRA-21A: that portion of Custer County east of Highway 385 and the eastern boundaries of Wind Cave National Park and Custer State Park and that portion of Pennington County south of Interstate 90, east of the eastern boundary of the Black Hills National Forest boundary, and east of U.S. Highway 16;
- (7) Unit PRA-22A: those portions of Brown, Clark, Day, and Spink Counties east of State Highway 37, south of U.S. Highway 12, west of State Highway 25, and north of U.S. Highway 212;
- (8) Unit PRA-24A: Dewey County;
- (9) Unit PRA-27A: Fall River County and that portion of Custer County south of U.S. Highway 16 and west of U.S. Highway 385;
- (10) Unit PRA-31A: Haakon County;
- (11) Unit PRA-35A: that portion of Harding County west of U.S. Highway 85;
- (12) Unit PRA-35B: that portion of Harding County east of U.S. Highway 85;
- (13) Unit PRA-36A: Hughes County;
- (14) Unit PRA-38A: Buffalo, Hand, and Hyde Counties;
- (15) Unit PRA-39A: Jackson County;
- (16) Unit PRA-41A: Jones County excluding that portion described in PRA-45B;
- (17) Unit PRA-45A: Lyman County except for United States Corps of Engineers land and excluding that area described in Unit PRA-45B;
- (18) Unit PRA-45B: those portions of Lyman, Stanley, and Jones Counties enclosed by a line beginning at the northwest corner of the Lower Brule Indian Reservation, then west ~~18~~ eighteen miles, then south ~~20~~ twenty miles, then east ~~19~~ nineteen miles, then north ~~4 1/2~~ one and one-half miles to the southwest corner of the Lower Brule Indian Reservation, then northerly along the reservation boundary to the northwest corner of the reservation, the point of beginning;
- (19) Unit PRA-48A: that portion of Marshall County north of State Highway 10;
- (20) Unit PRA-49A: that portion of Meade County north of State Highway 34 and south of U.S. Highway 212;
- (21) Unit PRA-49B: that portion of Meade County east of Interstate 90 and south of State Highway 34 and that portion of Pennington County east and north of Interstate 90 and west of the Cheyenne River;
- (22) Unit PRA-50A: Mellette and Todd Counties;
- (23) Unit PRA-53A: that portion of Perkins County north of State Highway 20;
- (24) Unit PRA-53B: that portion of Perkins County south of State Highway 20 and that portion of Meade County north of U.S. Highway 212;

(25) Unit PRA-58A: Stanley County excluding that portion described in PRA-45B;

(26) Unit PRA-59A: Sully County;

(27) Unit PRA-60A: Tripp County;

(28) Unit PRA-63A: Campbell, Potter, and Walworth Counties;

(29) Unit PRA-64A: Ziebach County; and

(30) Unit PRA-PR: Private property not leased by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks for public hunting in any open unit identified in this section for the use of a special antelope license.

If no license is allocated for a specific hunting unit, that unit is dissolved for the purposes of designating areas open to hunting, as they pertain to the archery antelope season, and areas open to hunting under SDCL 41-6-19.3.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Firearm and Archery Antelope Hunting Seasons

Chapter 41:06:01, 41:06:23, 41:06:24, and 41:06:25

Commission Meeting Dates:	Public Hearing Finalization	July 11, 2024 July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls Sioux Falls
----------------------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Recommended license numbers for the prairie firearm antelope hunting season units. License number changes are included in supportive information.

Unit	Unit Name	% NR	Residents		Nonresidents		Totals	
			AnyA	Buck	AnyA	Buck	RES	NR
			41	42	41	42	Tags	Tags
02A	Pennington East	2%	0	50	0	1	50	1
11A	Bennett/Oglala Lakota	2%	0	20	0	1	20	1
15A	Butte NW	2%	0	50	0	1	50	1
15B	Butte/Lawrence	2%	0	200	0	4	200	4
20A	Corson	2%	0	70	0	2	70	2
21A	Custer/Pennington Central	2%	0	100	0	2	100	2
24A	Dewey	2%	0	50	0	1	50	1
27A	Fall River/Custer Southwest	2%	0	350	0	7	350	7
31A	Haakon	2%	0	25	0	1	25	1
35A	Harding West	2%	0	150	0	3	150	3
35B	Harding East	2%	0	150	0	3	150	3
36A	Hughes	2%	0	5	0	1	5	1
38A	Hyde/Hand/Buffalo	2%	0	5	0	1	5	1
39A	Jackson	2%	0	50	0	1	50	1
41A	Jones	2%	0	30	0	1	30	1
45A	Lyman	2%	0	5	0	1	5	1
45B	Ft. Pierre National Grasslands	2%	0	10	0	1	10	1
49A	Meade North	2%	0	200	0	4	200	4
49B	Meade South	2%	0	50	0	1	50	1
50A	Mellette/Todd	4%	0	20	0	1	20	1
53A	Perkins North	2%	0	75	0	2	75	2
53B	Perkins South	2%	0	100	0	2	100	2
58A	Stanley	2%	0	40	0	1	40	1
59A	Sully	2%	0	5	0	1	5	1
60A	Tripp	2%	0	5	0	1	5	1
63A	Campbell/Potter/Walworth	2%	0	5	0	1	5	1
64A	Ziebach	2%	0	150	0	3	150	3
PR	Special Antelope	N/A	50	0	50	0	50	50
TOTAL			50	1,970	50	49	2,020	99

An additional percentage of the number of resident licenses is available to nonresidents based upon the following harvest strategies by management unit: Restrictive (2%), Moderate (4%), Liberal (8%)

2024-2025 license numbers for other seasons.

- Archery Residents
 - Unlimited, buck only licenses valid in any open firearm hunting unit.
 - Ten access permits required for PRA-45B.

- Archery Nonresidents
 - Unlimited, buck only licenses valid on private land not leased by the department for public hunting in any open firearm hunting unit, excluding PRA-45B.
 - 450 buck only licenses valid on public and private land in any open firearm hunting unit, excluding PRA-45B.
- Special: 50 resident and 50 nonresident any antelope licenses.
- Landowner own land: Unlimited, single-tag buck only license valid on the landowner or landowner-operator's land in any open firearm hunting unit (resident and nonresident)
- Mentor youth: Closed.
- Custer State Park: Closed

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

License number changes from 2022-2023 to 2024-2025.

Unit #	Unit Name	2022-2023 Resident Licenses	2024-2025 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2022-2023 Resident Tags	2024-2025 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
02A	Pennington East	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
11A	Bennett/Shannon	50	20	-30	-60%	50	20	-30	-60%
15A	Butte NW	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
15B	Butte/Lawrence	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
20A	Corson	70	70	0	0%	70	70	0	0%
21A	Custer/Pennington Central	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
24A	Dewey	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
27A	Fall River/Custer Southwest	400	350	-50	-13%	400	350	-50	-13%
31A	Haakon	50	25	-25	-50%	50	25	-25	-50%
35A	Harding West	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
35B	Harding East	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
36A	Hughes	15	5	-10	-67%	15	5	-10	-67%
38A	Hyde/Hand/Buffalo	10	5	-5	-50%	10	5	-5	-50%
39A	Jackson	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
41A	Jones	40	30	-10	-25%	40	30	-10	-25%
45A	Lyman	0	5	5	NA	0	5	5	NA
45B	Ft. Pierre National Grasslands	0	10	10	NA	0	10	10	NA
49A	Meade North	300	200	-100	-33%	300	200	-100	-33%
49B	Meade South	200	50	-150	-75%	200	50	-150	-75%
50A	Mellette/Todd	30	20	-10	-33%	30	20	-10	-33%
53A	Perkins North	50	75	25	50%	50	75	25	50%
53B	Perkins South	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
58A	Stanley	40	40	0	0%	40	40	0	0%
59A	Sully	20	5	-15	-75%	20	5	-15	-75%
60A	Tripp	0	5	5	NA	0	5	5	NA
63A	Campbell/Potter/Walworth	10	5	-5	-50%	10	5	-5	-50%
64A	Ziebach	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
PR	Special Antelope	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
TOTAL		2,385	2,020	-365	-15%	2,385	2,020	-365	-15%

- No changes were made to the special antelope licenses and archery licenses available to residents and nonresidents.
- Custer State Park season remained closed.
- Five archery access permits were removed from portions of Custer and Pennington counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District and ten archery access permits were added to Fort Pierre National Grasslands (PRA-45B).
- No changes were made to the number of landowner own land licenses available. However, they were restricted to single-tag buck only licenses.
- The mentor youth season was closed

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Application for License 41:06:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 2-3, 2024	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2024 and 2025 antelope hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 28 – October 13, 2024
October 4 – 19, 2025

Open Area: Mentored youth antelope licenses are valid in any open firearm hunting unit west of the Missouri River and for private land only (resident and nonresident).

Landowner own land licenses are valid in any open firearm hunting unit.

Licenses: Unlimited, single-tag doe/kid mentored antelope license. No youth participating in a mentored big game hunt may apply for a regular season license for that corresponding species and season.

Unlimited, “any antelope” or a two-tag “any antelope” + “doe/fawn antelope” license that is valid on landowner or landowner-operator’s land during the antelope firearm hunting season provided the individual does not possess a license that allows the harvest of a buck antelope.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Mentored youth antelope and landowner own land antelope licenses are available to residents and nonresidents.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Restrict landowner own land license types from one “any antelope” or one two-tag “any antelope” and “any doe-fawn antelope” to one “buck antelope” only (§ 41:06:01:07.03).
2. Close mentored youth antelope season (§ 41:06:01:12).

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Aerial survey data in 2024 suggest no growth since the last aerial survey in 2022, despite reductions in harvest of female antelope. These recommended changes will effectively eliminate harvest of doe and kid antelope with the intent to promote population growth across the range.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:01:07.03. Landowner own land license types. For the West River, East River, and Black Hills firearm deer hunting seasons, a qualifying landowner or owner-operator may purchase one "any deer" license or one two-tag "any deer" and "any antlerless deer" license. For the antelope firearm hunting season, a qualifying landowner or owner-operator may purchase one "buck antelope" "any antelope" license or one two-tag "any antelope" and "any doe fawn antelope" license.

41:06:01:12. Mentored ~~youth~~ child big game license -- Restrictions. A resident parent or guardian may purchase no more than one mentored "any antlerless deer" license or "antlerless whitetail deer" license, ~~one "doe fawn antelope" license,~~ one fall "any turkey" license, and one spring "male turkey" license for a designated mentored ~~youth~~ child as provided in SDCL 41-6-81. The hunting of antelope by a mentored child, in accordance with SDCL 41-6-81, is not currently permitted. Mentored antelope licenses are valid in any open firearm hunting unit west of the Missouri River on private land not leased by the Department for public hunting access only. No ~~youth~~ child participating in a mentored big game hunt may apply for a regular season license for that corresponding species and season.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

- 1. The Issue – NA
- 2. Historical Considerations – NA
- 3. Biological Considerations – NA
- 4. Social Considerations – NA
- 5. Financial considerations – NA

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

- 1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? Yes, landowners and mentored youth will have less opportunity to harvest an antelope.
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? No.
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Mentored youth will no longer be able to harvest a doe or kid antelope. However, this recommendation is designed to increase the antelope population for the next generation.
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? This will provide more hunting opportunity in the future by increasing antelope populations.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE	_____	MODIFY	_____	REJECT	_____	NO ACTION	_____
---------	-------	--------	-------	--------	-------	-----------	-------

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:14

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 6-7, 2024	Yankton
	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

November 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025
November 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: During Fall 2023 there were:

Black Hills: 200 resident and 16 nonresident one-tag “any turkey” licenses
Prairie: 1,700 resident and 56 nonresident one-tag “any turkey” licenses
50 resident and 4 nonresident two-tag “any turkey” licenses
Mentored: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “any turkey” licenses

* Specific license numbers by unit are included in the following administrative action item.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. No more than 500 one-tag turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the Black Hills fall turkey hunting season and no more than 2,500 one-tag turkey licenses and no more than 2,000 double-tag licenses may be issued to residents for the prairie fall turkey hunting season. Specific license numbers by unit are included in the following administrative action item.
2. A person may apply for and receive one license in each of the Black Hills and prairie seasons in the first and second lottery drawings.
3. A person may apply for one license in the third drawing and apply for an unlimited number of licenses on a first-come first-served basis in the fourth, leftover license drawing. In the third and fourth drawings, resident and nonresident licenses are pooled.
4. One-half of the limited licenses in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference in the first drawing.
5. No person may shoot a turkey in a tree or roost.
6. A person may use a shoulder-held firearm using ammunition which is factory-rated to produce at least 700 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle and handguns using ammunition which is factory-rated to produce at least 500 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle in the hunting of wild turkeys. Muzzleloading firearms and muzzleloading shotguns may also be used in the hunting of wild turkeys.

7. A person is limited to the use of only a bow and arrow, a shotgun using shot shells or a muzzleloading shotgun to hunt turkeys during the fall turkey season in Units PFT-01A, PFT-06A, PFT-08A, PFT-23A, PFT-37A, PFT-48A, and PFT-52A.
8. The season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day of an open season.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to exclude Douglas County from Unit PFT-17A (Charles Mix County).
2. Edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to change Unit PFT-18A to PFT-10A to have the unit label represent one of the counties (Aurora) contained in the unit that includes Aurora and Douglas counties. Clark County is county number 18.
3. Edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to add Unit PFT-58A Stanley County.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

1. Edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to expand the PFT-06A (Brookings County) turkey hunting unit to include the portion of Brookings County west of Interstate 29.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The minor rule changes remove an error that included Douglas County in Unit PFT-17A (Charles Mix County) and would make the unit label that includes Aurora and Douglas counties more logical because it will now include the county number for one of the counties (Aurora; 10) contained within the unit.

The proposal to add Stanley County (PFT-58A) as an open unit would be necessary based on the Department’s recommendation for 25 fall prairie turkey licenses in Stanley County.

The recommendation to include the portion of Brookings County west of Interstate 29 will open fall turkey hunting in all of Brookings County to increase hunter opportunity.

Figure 1. Map of recommended 2024 fall wild turkey hunting season units.

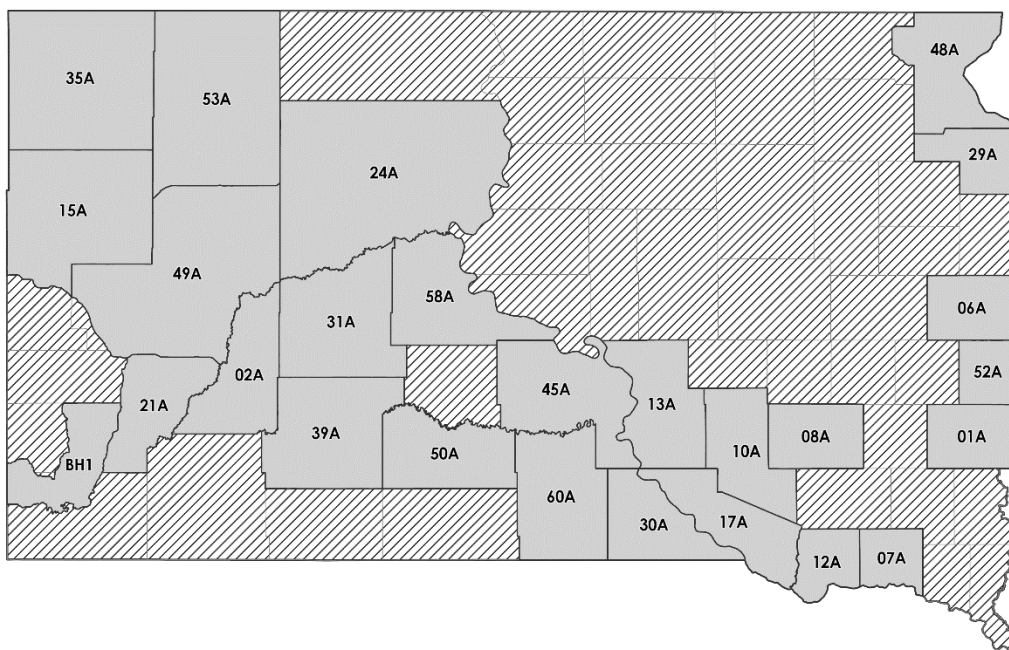


Table 1. Fall prairie turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

Year	Licenses	Tags	HARVEST				Avg Days	Average
	Sold	Sold	Males	Hens	Total	% Success	Hunted	Satisfactn
2014	1,910	1,960	422	224	645	33%	2.26	4.91
2015	1,936	1,986	422	227	649	33%	2.56	4.80
2016	908	958	173	72	246	26%	2.19	4.87
2017	898	948	194	56	250	26%	2.46	4.86
2018	548	548	142	52	194	35%	2.18	5.09
2019	548	548	130	52	182	33%	2.11	5.12
2020	438	476	117	62	180	38%	3.43	5.32
2021	438	476	113	54	166	35%	3.17	4.98
2022	1,721	1,774	350	144	494	28%	2.52	5.23
2023	1,800	1,852	338	199	536	29%	2.51	4.98

Table 2. Fall Black Hills turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

YEAR	LICENSES SOLD		HARVEST				Avg Days	Average
	Resident	Nonresid	Males	Hens	Total	%Success	Hunted	Satisfaction
2014	764	46	100	114	215	27%	3.24	4.54
2015	406	27	66	62	127	29%	3.44	4.58
2016	408	26	91	55	147	34%	2.79	4.85
2017	415	18	87	52	139	32%	3.82	4.88
2018	204	16	27	26	54	25%	2.74	4.85
2019	204	12	34	18	53	25%	2.20	4.76
2020	102	7	11	15	25	23%	3.71	4.87
2021	101	8	18	9	27	25%	2.89	5.10
2022	201	14	30	32	62	29%	2.61	4.71
2023	209	7	36	45	82	38%	2.72	5.08

Table 3. Fall mentor turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2023.

YEAR	Licenses	HARVEST				Avg Days	Average
	Sold	Males	Hens	Total	%Success	Hunted	Satisfaction
2014	390	46	29	75	19%	1.72	5.19
2015	370	58	39	98	21%	1.87	5.17
2016	429	62	21	84	20%	1.55	5.48
2017	453	60	22	83	18%	1.87	5.34
2018	521	68	27	96	18%	1.67	5.35
2019	412	40	22	60	15%	1.18	5.28
2020	501	48	14	62	12%	1.75	5.18
2021	300	42	13	56	19%	1.80	5.34
2022	444	89	36	125	28%	1.62	5.75
2023	558	84	44	127	23%	1.82	5.17

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:14:02.01. Prairie units. The following is a description of the open prairie units for the fall wild turkey hunting season:

- (1) Unit PFT-01A: Minnehaha County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (2) Unit PFT-02A: that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River;
- (3) Unit PFT-06A: ~~that portion of~~ Brookings County east of Interstate 29. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (4) Unit PFT-07A: Yankton County;
- (5) Unit PFT-08A: Davison and Hanson Counties. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (6) Unit PFT-10A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;
- ~~(6)~~ (7) Unit PFT-12A: Bon Homme County;
- ~~(7)~~ (8) Unit PFT-13A: Brule and Buffalo Counties;
- ~~(8)~~ (9) Unit PFT-15A: Butte County and that portion of Lawrence County north of Interstate 90;
- ~~(9)~~ (10) Unit PFT-17A: Charles Mix County, excluding Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge, ~~and Douglas County;~~
- ~~(10) Unit PFT-18A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;~~
- (11) Unit PFT-19A: Clay County;
- (12) Unit PFT-21A: that portion of Custer County east of State Highway 79 and that portion of Pennington County south of Interstate 90 between State Highway 79 and the Cheyenne River;
- (13) Unit PFT-23A: Deuel County: A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (14) Unit PFT-24A: Dewey and Ziebach Counties;
- (15) Unit PFT-27A: that portion of Fall River County not included in Unit BFT-BH1;
- (16) Unit PFT-29A: Grant County;
- (17) Unit PFT-30A: Gregory County;
- (18) Unit PFT-31A: Haakon County;
- (19) Unit PFT-35A: Harding County;
- (20) Unit PFT-36A: Hughes County, excluding Farm Island Recreation Area, LaFramboise Island Nature Area, and department land from the Pierre city limits to Farm Island Recreation Area;
- (21) Unit PFT-37A: Hutchinson County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (22) Unit PFT-39A: Jackson County;
- (23) Unit PFT-40A: Jerauld County;
- (24) Unit PFT-41A: Jones County;
- (25) Unit PFT-44A: Lincoln County;
- (26) Unit PFT-45A: Lyman County;
- (27) Unit PFT-48A: those portions of Marshall County south and east of State Highway 25 and north of State Highway 10 and Roberts County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (28) Unit PFT-49A: those portions of Meade County not included in Units BFT-BH1 and PFT-53A, and that portion of Pennington County north of Interstate 90, west of the Cheyenne River;
- (29) Unit PFT-50A: Mellette County;
- (30) Unit PFT-52A: Moody County. A person may use only a shotgun with shotshells, a muzzleloading shotgun, or a bow and arrow;
- (31) Unit PFT-53A: Perkins County and that portion of Meade County north of U.S. Highway 212;
- (32) Unit PFT-58A: Stanley County;
- ~~(32)~~ (33) Unit PFT-60A: Tripp County;
- ~~(33)~~ (34) Unit PFT-61A: Turner County;

~~(34)~~ (35) Unit PFT-62A: Union County; and
~~(35)~~ (36) Unit PFT-67A: Todd County.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? The change will open a new area to turkey hunting.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? The larger unit will increase opportunity to hunt.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

AME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons

Chapter 41:06:14

Commission Meeting Dates:	Public Hearing	July 11, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Finalization	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Recommended license numbers for the fall wild turkey hunting season units. License number changes are included in supportive information.

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident		Nonresident		License Totals			
		AnyT	2 AnyT	AnyT	2 AnyT	Resident		Nonresident	
		31	37	31	37	Licenses	Tags	Licenses	Tags
01A	Minnehaha	25				25	25		
02A	Pennington	50		4		50	50	4	4
06A	Brookings	20				20	20		
07A	Yankton	175				175	175		
08A	Davison/Hanson	50				50	50		
10A*	Aurora/Douglas	25				25	25		
12A	Bon Homme	175				175	175		
13A	Brule/Buffalo	50				50	50		
15A	Butte/Lawrence		75		6	75	150	6	12
17A	Charles Mix	50				50	50		
21A	Custer/Pennington	50		4		50	50	4	4
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	50		4		50	50	4	4
29A	Grant	125				125	125		
30A	Gregory	50		4		50	50	4	4
31A	Haakon	50		4		50	50	4	4
35A	Harding	50		4		50	50	4	4
39A	Jackson		75		6	75	150	6	12
45A	Lyman	50		4		50	50	4	4
48A	Marshall/Roberts	100				100	100		
49A	Meade	50		4		50	50	4	4
50A	Mellette	25		2		25	25	2	2
52A	Moody	25				25	25		
53A	Perkins	50		4		50	50	4	4
58A	Stanley	25		2		25	25	2	2
60A	Tripp	50		4		50	50	4	4
BH1	Black Hills	200		16		200	200	16	16
TOTAL		1,570	150	60	12	1,720	1,870	72	84
						RES & NR:	1,792	1,954	

* Proposed change Aurora/Douglas Unit from 18A to 10A to better represent county number.

An additional 8% of the licenses will be available to nonresidents for the Black Hills and West River prairie units.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

License number changes from 2022-2023 to 2024-2025.

Unit #	Unit Name	2022-23 Resident Licenses	2024-25 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2022-23 Resident Tags	2024-25 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
01A	Minnehaha	25	25	0	0%	25	25	0	0%
02A	Pennington	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
06A	Brookings	0	20	20	NA	0	20	20	NA
07A	Yankton	175	175	0	0%	175	175	0	0%
08A	Davison/Hanson	75	50	-25	-33%	75	50	-25	-33%
10A*	Aurora/Douglas	50	25	-25	-50%	50	25	-25	-50%
12A	Bon Homme	175	175	0	0%	175	175	0	0%
13A	Brule/Buffalo	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
15A	Butte/Lawrence	50	75	25	50%	50	150	100	200%
17A	Charles Mix	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
19A	Clay	50	0	-50	-100%	50	0	-50	-100%
21A	Custer/Pennington	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
27A	Fall River	25	0	-25	-100%	25	0	-25	-100%
29A	Grant	100	125	25	25%	100	125	25	25%
30A	Gregory	100	50	-50	-50%	100	50	-50	-50%
31A	Haakon	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
35A	Harding	25	50	25	100%	25	50	25	100%
37A	Hutchinson	25	0	-25	-100%	25	0	-25	-100%
39A	Jackson	50	75	25	50%	100	150	50	50%
41A	Jones	25	0	-25	-100%	25	0	-25	-100%
44A	Lincoln	50	0	-50	-100%	50	0	-50	-100%
45A	Lyman	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
48A	Marshall/Roberts	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
49A	Meade	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
50A	Mellette	50	25	-25	-50%	50	25	-25	-50%
52A	Moody	25	25	0	0%	25	25	0	0%
53A	Perkins	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
58A	Stanley	0	25	25	NA	0	25	25	NA
60A	Tripp	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
62A	Union	50	0	-50	-100%	50	0	-50	-100%
67A	Todd	25	0	-25	-100%	25	0	-25	-100%
BH1	Black Hills	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
TOTAL		1,950	1,720	-230	-12%	2,000	1,870	-130	-7%

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

Speed Check and Trail User Interviews are within the same Survey.

SPEED CHECKS

The image shows a mobile application interface for a survey titled "Mickelson Trail EBike Survey". The form is organized into sections:

- Survey and Attendant Info:** Contains three input fields: "Location *", "Date/Time *", and "Attendant Name *". The "Date/Time" field is pre-filled with "Wednesd..." and "8:36 AM".
- Survey:** A section header for the main survey data.
- Trail Use Info:** A sub-section containing three groups of radio button options:
 - What type of survey is this? ***: "Speed Check" (selected) and "Interview".
 - Direction of Travel**: "Uphill", "Downhill", and "Straight aways (flats)".
 - Type of trail use?**: "Traditional Bike" and "E-Bike".
- Bike Speed *:** A numeric input field with a keypad icon.
- Group Size:** A numeric input field with minus and plus buttons.

At the bottom of the form, there is a trash icon, a page indicator "1 of 1", and a plus sign. A green checkmark is visible in the bottom right corner of the screen.

TRAIL USER SURVEY – highlight marks indicate if a question will appear based on how a previous question is answered

Below questions show up if they are riding an e-bike or if they have ever ridden one

E-Bike Use Questions

Hello. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks is conducting a survey to gain more information about trail use including e-bikes. Would you be willing to take the survey? It takes about three minutes and your responses are completely anonymous.

Are they riding on an e-bike?

Yes
 No

What class of e-bike?

Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 Combo Unknown N/A

Do you own or rent your e-bike?

Own
 Rent
 Borrowed

Why did you purchase/rent an e-bike?
 Check all that apply.

Recreation purposes
 New experience
 Assistance with hills
 Increase fitness
 To be able to keep up with family members
 Longer rides
 Health problems makes biking more accessible with an e-bike
 Other

If e-bikes are restricted on the GSMT, what are your intentions?

There are other places I can ride my e-bike, it should not affect how much I ride
 I will use my e-bike less
 I will transition to a traditional bike
 I will sell my e-bike
 No opinion

E-Bike Use Questions

Hello. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks is conducting a survey to gain more information about trail use including e-bikes. Would you be willing to take the survey? It takes about three minutes and your responses are completely anonymous.

Are they riding on an e-bike?

Yes
 No

Have you ever ridden an e-bike?

Yes
 No

What class of e-bike?

Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 Combo Unknown N/A

Do you own or rent your e-bike?

Own
 Rent
 Borrowed

Why did you purchase/rent an e-bike?
 Check all that apply.

Recreation purposes
 New experience
 Assistance with hills
 Increase fitness
 To be able to keep up with family members
 Longer rides
 Health problems makes biking more accessible with an e-bike
 Other

If e-bikes are restricted on the GSMT, what are your intentions?

There are other places I can ride my e-bike, it should not affect how much I ride
 I will use my e-bike less
 I will transition to a traditional bike
 I will sell my e-bike
 No opinion

All interviewees will be asked to answer the below questions

E-Bike Incidents

What have your experiences been with e-bikes on the Mickelson Trail?

Very Positive
 Positive
 Neutral
 Negative
 Very Negative

Do you know the difference between the classes of e-bikes? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	What is your greatest concern about e-bikes? Check all that apply. <input type="checkbox"/> No concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Speed <input type="checkbox"/> Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Coming up from behind with little warning <input type="checkbox"/> Using proper etiquette <input type="checkbox"/> Other
---	---

Use for any additional comments about e-bike concerns.

Have you ever been in any kind of accident on the Mickelson Trail involving an e-bike ?

Yes
 No

Accident comments

Overall E-Bike Experience

Do you support the use of e-bikes on the George S Mickelson Trail? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> No Opinion	Why do you feel that way? <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
--	---

Would you suggest any restrictions? <input type="radio"/> No Restrictions <input checked="" type="radio"/> Speed limit restrictions <input type="radio"/> Class type restriction: pedal-assist only <input type="radio"/> Speed and class type restriction <input type="radio"/> Other	Suggested speed limit? <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
---	--

Additional Questions

Zipcode For lead speaker <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	How many days per year do you use the Mickelson Trail? <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	Other comments? <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
---	--	---

Trail Attendant will use best judgement to answers these demographic questions

▼ **Age Estimates**

Best Guess of Attendant
Do not need to ask trail users these questions.

How many in 70s or older How many in 60s

How many in 50s How many in 40s

How many in 30s How many in 20s

How many youth (under 20)

▼ **Gender**

How many males in group? How many females in group? How many unknown gender in group?

1 of 1



June Camping

6/1/2023 - 6/30/2023	6/1/2024 - 6/30/2024
Nights	Nights
83699	77737

District	Park	Camping Units	Camping Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	668	418	-37%
	Pickereel Lake Recreation Area	1487	1528	3%
	Roy Lake State Park	2069	1925	-7%
	Sica Hollow State Park	35	30	-14%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	89	95	7%
	Fisher Grove State Park	296	232	-22%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	525	438	-17%
2	Mina Lake Recreation Area	738	673	-9%
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	392	352	-10%
	Hartford Beach State Park	1484	1466	-1%
3	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	503	423	-16%
	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	1444	1412	-2%
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	409	376	-8%
4	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	2161	1887	-13%
	Oakwood Lakes State Park	2198	1902	-13%
5	Lake Herman State Park	1317	1093	-17%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	1865	1741	-7%
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	705	577	-18%
6	Burke Lake Recreation Area	10	3	-70%
	Buryanek Recreation Area	716	641	-10%
	Dude Ranch Lakeside Use Area	72	3	-96%
	Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area	20	3	-85%
	Platte Creek Recreation Area	516	443	-14%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	2217	2146	-3%
7	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	1424	873	-39%
	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	2653	2059	-22%
	Palisades State Park	1144	1656	45%
8	Newton Hills State Park	2030	1643	-19%
	Union Grove State Park	291	249	-14%
9	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	2858	2573	-10%
	Clay County Park	420	312	-26%
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	10181	9040	-11%
	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	1081	1035	-4%
	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	22	5	-77%
	Springfield Recreation Area	288	306	6%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	20	3	-85%
	North Point Recreation Area	2437	2316	-5%
	North Wheeler Recreation Area	411	259	-37%
10	Pease Creek Recreation Area	513	540	5%
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	1930	1566	-19%
	South Scalp Lakeside Use Area	18	18	0%
	South Shore Lakeside Use Area	104	59	-43%
	Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	189	128	-32%
	White Swan Lakeside Use Area	72	47	-35%
	Farm Island Recreation Area	1834	1891	3%
	West Bend Recreation Area	2428	1995	-18%
	Cow Creek Recreation Area	803	814	1%
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	3405	3344	-2%
12	Okobojo Point Recreation Area	384	398	4%
	Spring Creek Recreation Area	242	258	7%
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	12	7	-42%
13	Indian Creek Recreation Area	2375	2415	2%
	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	35	40	14%
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	313	344	10%
	Walth Bay Lakeside Use Area	9	3	-67%
	West Pollock Recreation Area	353	346	-2%
	West Whitlock Recreation Area	1759	1697	-4%
	14	Bear Butte State Park	235	226
Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area		93	86	-8%
Rocky Point Recreation Area		1580	1549	-2%
15	Shadehill Recreation Area	1947	1955	0%
16	Custer State Park	10939	10982	0%
17	Angostura Recreation Area	4307	4288	0%
	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	624	605	-3%
Total:		83699	77737	-7%



June YTD Camping

1/1/2023 - 6/30/2023	1/1/2024 - 6/30/2024
Nights	Nights
137310	138608

District	Park	Camping Unit	Camping Unit	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	913	948	4%
	Pickereel Lake Recreation Area	2094	2383	14%
	Roy Lake State Park	3029	3224	6%
	Sica Hollow State Park	58	58	0%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	146	156	7%
	Fisher Grove State Park	467	386	-17%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	889	865	-3%
	Mina Lake Recreation Area	1234	1239	0%
2	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	669	614	-8%
	Hartford Beach State Park	2415	2630	9%
	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	699	702	0%
3	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	77	90	17%
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	2461	2583	5%
4	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	571	619	8%
	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	3234	3081	-5%
5	Oakwood Lakes State Park	3501	3346	-4%
	Lake Herman State Park	2213	2140	-3%
6	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	3114	3081	-1%
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	1124	1123	0%
7	Burke Lake Recreation Area	33	46	39%
	Buryanek Recreation Area	1424	1448	2%
	Dude Ranch Lakeside Use Area	176	62	-65%
	Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area	54	44	-19%
8	Platte Creek Recreation Area	906	903	0%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	3911	3987	2%
9	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	3108	2607	-16%
	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	4668	4311	-8%
10	Palisades State Park	2314	3227	39%
	Newton Hills State Park	3828	3641	-5%
11	Union Grove State Park	553	534	-3%
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	4777	4646	-3%
12	Clay County Park	734	756	3%
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	15622	15231	-3%
13	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	1795	1817	1%
	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	46	23	-50%
14	Springfield Recreation Area	483	544	13%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	50	39	-22%
15	North Point Recreation Area	3705	3906	5%
	North Wheeler Recreation Area	706	527	-25%
16	Pease Creek Recreation Area	886	954	8%
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	3010	2523	-16%
17	South Scalp Lakeside Use Area	66	25	-62%
	South Shore Lakeside Use Area	218	122	-44%
18	Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	275	238	-13%
	White Swan Lakeside Use Area	105	77	-27%
19	Farm Island Recreation Area	3043	3176	4%
	West Bend Recreation Area	4328	4054	-6%
20	Cow Creek Recreation Area	1208	1270	5%
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	5434	5629	4%
21	Okobojo Point Recreation Area	565	600	6%
	Spring Creek Recreation Area	363	457	26%
22	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	42	28	-33%
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	3446	3745	9%
23	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	55	71	29%
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	493	472	-4%
24	Walth Bay Lakeside Use Area	22	3	-86%
	West Pollock Recreation Area	580	651	12%
25	West Whitlock Recreation Area	2237	2292	2%
	Bear Butte State Park	542	407	-25%
26	Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area	147	146	-1%
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	2718	2875	6%
27	Shadehill Recreation Area	2836	3091	9%
	Custer State Park	18467	19542	6%
28	Angostura Recreation Area	7535	7490	-1%
	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	965	1100	14%
Total:		137310	138608	1%

Division of Parks and Recreation					
June 2024 Revenue by Item					
	2023		2024		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Annual	15,919	\$ 573,084	16,544	\$ 595,588	4%
2nd Annual	2,559	\$ 46,066	2,472	\$ 44,502	-3%
Double	8,905	\$ 480,883	8,330	\$ 449,802	-6%
Transferable	554	\$ 44,354	662	\$ 52,986	19%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	1,783	\$ 26,745	1,835	\$ 27,525	3%
Annual Licenses	29,721	\$ 1,171,132	29,843	\$ 1,170,403	0%
Daily License	21,925	\$ 175,397	25,085	\$ 200,679	14%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	134	\$ 2,670	125	\$ 2,505	-6%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	5,405	\$ 21,620	5,713	\$ 22,852	6%
Motorcoach Permit	-	\$ 8,661	2,607	\$ 7,821	-10%
CSP 7 Day Pass	36,499	\$ 729,980	40,911	\$ 818,224	12%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	2,817	\$ 56,340	3,099	\$ 61,980	10%
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	-
One-Day Special Event	-	\$ 1,250	-	\$ 1,600	28%
Daily Licenses	66,779	\$ 995,918	77,540	\$ 1,115,661	12%
Licenses	96,500	\$ 2,167,050	107,384	\$ 2,286,064	5%
Camping Services	-	\$ 1,243,502	-	\$ 1,035,849	-17%
Pet Fees	55	\$ 550	204	\$ 2,039	271%
LODGING		\$ 1,244,052		\$ 1,037,888	-17%
Picnic Shelters & Boat Rentals	-	\$ 3,279	-	\$ 5,886	79%
Firewood	9,416	\$ 56,496	9,495	\$ 56,973	1%
Gift Card	-	\$ 2,371	-	\$ 1,859	-22%
Spring Creek Boat Slips	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	-
Recreational Equipment Rentals	-	\$ 10,083	-	\$ 8,918	-12%
Retail	-	\$ 54,889	-	\$ 55,997	2%
Call Center Fee	\$ 3,213	\$ 6,426	2,934	\$ 5,868	-9%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	-
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 133,544		\$ 135,502	1%
TOTAL		\$ 3,544,646		\$ 3,459,454	-2%

Division of Parks and Recreation					
June YTD 2024 Revenue by Item					
	2023		2024		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Annual	35,186	\$ 1,266,691	37,996	\$ 1,367,868	8%
2nd Annual	5,496	\$ 98,932	5,293	\$ 95,274	-4%
Double	27,432	\$ 1,481,333	28,842	\$ 1,557,475	5%
Transferable	2,203	\$ 176,268	2,320	\$ 185,616	5%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	3,155	\$ 47,325	3,483	\$ 52,245	10%
Annual Licenses	73,473	\$ 3,070,549	77,935	\$ 3,258,478	6%
Daily License	35,432	\$ 283,458	40,402	\$ 323,213	14%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	218	\$ 4,350	255	\$ 5,100	17%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	6,148	\$ 24,592	6,389	\$ 25,556	4%
Motorcoach Permit	-	\$ 20,787	3,788	\$ 11,364	-45%
CSP 7 Day Pass	58,782	\$ 1,175,636	66,522	\$ 1,330,444	13%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	3,377	\$ 67,540	3,694	\$ 73,880	9%
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	-
One-Day Special Event	-	\$ 2,150	-	\$ 2,899	35%
Daily Licenses	103,957	\$ 1,578,513	121,050	\$ 1,772,456	12%
Licenses	177,429	\$ 4,649,062	198,985	\$ 5,030,935	8%
Camping Services	-	\$ 6,735,337	-	\$ 6,682,409	-1%
Pet Fees	0	\$ 1,080	903.8	\$ 9,038	737%
LODGING		\$ 6,736,417		\$ 6,691,447	-1%
Picnic Shelter & Boat Rentals	-	\$ 24,299	-	\$ 17,411	-28%
Firewood	14,960	\$ 89,760	16,284	\$ 97,701	9%
Gift Card	-	\$ 8,443	-	\$ 9,919	17%
Spring Creek Boat Slips	-	\$ 167,780	-	\$ 156,819	-7%
Recreational Equipment Rentals	-	\$ 14,026	-	\$ 11,809	-16%
Retail	-	\$ 85,363	-	\$ 82,277	-4%
Call Center Fee	11,088	\$ 22,176	10,194	\$ 20,388	-8%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits	-	\$ 12,725	-	\$ 143,788	1030%
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 424,573		\$ 540,111	27%
TOTAL		\$ 11,810,051		\$ 12,262,492	4%



June 26th, 2024
 South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
 Attn: John Kanta
 Re: Custer State Park Elk Raffle Tag, 2025
 4130 Adventure Trail
 Rapid City SD 57702

RE: **Proposal for (1) One Custer State Park Elk Tag, 2025 Season**

Dear Mr. Kanta,

Please accept this letter as our application for one (1) 2025 Custer State Park Elk Tag, which will be raffled to residents of the State of South Dakota in a nationally supported media campaign and events through the state during the 2024/2025 year.

The Mule Deer Foundation is a non-profit wildlife conservation organization whose mission is “To Ensure the Conservation of Mule Deer, Black-Tailed Deer and their Habitat”. Headquartered in Salt Lake City, UT, MDF has over 14,000 members throughout the U.S. MDF’s objectives center on restoring, improving and conserving mule deer habitat which in many cases directly impacts elk habitat as well. Resulting in self-sustaining, healthy, free-ranging and huntable mule deer populations. MDF achieves its goals through partnering with state and federal wildlife agencies, other conservation groups, businesses, private landowners and individuals, to fund and implement habitat enhancement, research and conservation education projects. In South Dakota we have active chapters in Spearfish, Rapid City, Pierre, Brandon, Winner and are actively pursuing chapters in Yankton, Watertown and Custer.

The Mule Deer Foundation’s habitat work has increased dramatically over the past five years with millions of dollars hitting the ground for habitat projects. By focusing on projects in areas that are important migration corridors or seasonal ranges, prioritizing pre- and post-fire restoration, and improving water availability, we are making a difference for mule deer, black-tailed deer, elk and hundreds of other species that share the western landscapes we love so much. We are grateful for the support of a variety of granting organizations, private donations, and of course the hard work of our volunteers to make these projects possible. information on MDF project work can be found at <https://muledeer.org/habitat-priorities-with-the-mule-deer-foundation/>.

In the last 3 years alone MDF has 375 + habitat projects, over 450,000+ acres impacted or improved and over 76 million dollars put directly to boots on the ground.

What does this mean to South Dakota? In the past week alone a group of MDF volunteers and staff removed over 1,800 pounds of non-wildlife friendly fencing in prime Elk habitat in the black hills in conjunction with the US Forest Service, many more projects are scheduled in the upcoming months.

Mule Deer Foundation has designed an aggressive media campaign, utilizing direct mail, out of state and local television, radio and newspaper advertising along with social media such as Instagram and Facebook, to advertise the raffle. We will promote the South Dakota license on our websites (www.muledeer.org and www.huntexpo.com) and many national publications including our MDF Magazine. We will also outline details about the auction license in our action guide and program.

Should it present itself, another opportunity would be to auction off (1) one Any Deer Tag in the unit of the department's choice at our National Convention, the Western Hunting Expo.

Our national convention serves as our annual members' meeting along with providing the opportunity to raise funds for our mission. Additionally, our exhibit hall will have over 600 vendors promoting everything from outfitted hunts and trips, outdoor gear and wildlife artwork. The WHCE had over 75,000 wildlife enthusiasts venture through our exhibit hall during our February 2024 Expo! Approximately 2600 attendees, including 600 online bidders, participated in our fundraising auctions that contributed significantly to the all-time record \$15 Million raised during the 2024 WHCE. Other special tags from Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Washington, Nevada, New Mexico, Alaska and California raised over \$2 million for their states' respective wildlife.

MDF would retain 10% of the license auction proceeds to offset administrative costs and allocate additional up to 10% as per the rules outlined in section 41:06:02:03, providing expense documentation

(11) Within seven days after the raffle drawing, the participant shall remit to the department payment for the Custer State Park license fee set in § 41:06:02:03 and all proceeds from the raffle after deduction of necessary printing, postage, media advertising costs, and other expenses approved for payment by the elk project advisory committee. To be approved by the committee, expenses must be incurred solely for the conduct of the raffle and may not exceed 20 percent of gross receipts. The proceeds must be deposited into a special bank account, approved by the department secretary, in the name of the elk raffle project advisory committee within 30 days after receipt;

We appreciate the opportunity to apply for the 2025 Custer State Park license and hope that SDGF&P will consider our request. We appreciate our ongoing partnership and hope that together, we can secure a strong future for South Dakotas elk, mule deer and other wildlife.

With Respect,

Eric Sharpe

Regional Director, South Dakota/Nebraska

Mule Deer Foundation

ESharpe@muledeer.org

PH: 605.484.0491

www.muledeer.org



Ensuring the Conservation of Mule Deer, Black-tailed Deer and their habitat.

*Enclosure



June 26th, 2024

South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Commission
Secretary Kevin Robling
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Commission members and Secretary Robling

With the new Administrative Rule to 41:06:27 of the drawing occurring on July 8th, we have not completed the drawing for the 2024 South Dakota Special Elk Tag. We hope that you will be as pleased with the funds generated from the 2024 South Dakota Special Elk Tag sales as we are. As of June 26, 2024, we have raised Net Revenue of \$57,000.00. With only one week to go before the drawing ends we only expect to sell a few more chances in our drawing.

As the overall health of the elk herd in The Black Hills has improved, residents have become even more willing to support the fund-raising effort. While conducting Big Game Banquets is our main effort for fundraising, many of our supporters turned to online sales which helped us raise funds for the South Dakota Special Elk Tag as well as our SD membership. We have seen a large increase in sales by allowing sales to occur after the South Dakota Elk Draw Results were posted.

RMEF committees have attempted at each banquet to educate attendees about the 100% investment they make in elk and elk habitat when they purchase an opportunity for the tag and other prizes. In addition to the annual fund-raising efforts, 40 of these volunteers gathered in the Southern Black Hills for our Annual Rendezvous to enhance elk habitat. These Volunteers worked on sixteen water Guzzlers across the southern hills to help establish the life sustaining water needed for wildlife.

The South Dakota RMEF volunteers would like to continue to be a part of this conservation effort and request consideration for the 2025 South Dakota Special Elk tag. We understand that if selected the raffle must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of 41:06:27 of the Administrative Rules.

Yours in Conservation,
Sam Silacci
RMEF W/ South Dakota & W/ Nebraska Regional Director
Cell (605) 210 - 2013
E-mail: ssilacci@rmef.org



National Headquarters
1783 Buerkle Circle
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55110
(651) 773-2000
(651) 773-5500 FAX
(877) 773-2070 TOLL-FREE
www.PheasantsForever.org

June 30, 2024

John Kanta
Terrestrial Section Chief
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
4130 Adventure Trail
Rapid City, SD 57702

Hello John,

Thank you for your consideration of Pheasants Forever's application for the Elk License Raffle. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to apply and look forward to hearing back from you.

Please see following application information.

Sincerely,

Matt Gottlob
SD State Coordinator

SD Pheasants Forever Elk License Raffle Application

(1) A statement that if selected as the participant, the organization will enter into the agreement referred to in § 41:06:27:02.06 (see below).

If Pheasants Forever is awarded this elk license to raffle to support projects in SD we agree to all contents of said agreement, included below.

(2) The organization's federal tax exempt identification number and verification of its effective status.

Pheasants Forever, Inc. is tax exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and our tax identification number is 41-1429149.

(3) Evidence of the organization's goals and objectives relating to big game management, including a statement of those goals and objective.

Pheasants and Quail Forever's mission is to conserve pheasants, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education, and conservation advocacy. Our vision is to create a North American landscape of quality habitat supporting wild, sustainable populations of upland game birds and other wildlife that are accessible to generations of hunters and conservationists.

Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Our strategic priorities, outlined in the organization's newly adopted strategic plan, include:

1. Increasing and improving wildlife habitat on public & private lands
2. Advancing conservation policies and program funding
3. Expanding public access to upland wildlife habitat
4. Expanding, educating, and engaging the upland conservation community.

While Pheasants Forever's origin story and roots were born out of a grassroots movement to make an impact on wild upland bird populations, the habitat accomplishments of the organization benefit populations of all wildlife, big game species included. Arguably, Pheasants Forever may be the leading organization in South Dakota in annual wildlife habitat impact through a variety of avenues including landowner technical assistance, habitat restoration on public and private lands, permanent habitat protection through fee-title acquisition, and public access to private land programs.

(4) Evidence of the organization's methods used in achieving its goals and objectives relating to big game management.

Habitat Restoration on Public and Private Lands

Pheasants Forever is improving wildlife habitat on private lands working through the organization's Farm Bill Biologist program, employing seventeen (17) biologists in South Dakota. These biologists work directly with landowners and agricultural producers to assist in the enrollment in local, state, and federal conservation programs. Farm Bill Biologists also help landowners develop conservation plans that include practices such as native grass seeding, prescribed burning, cover crop mixes, prescribed grazing, wildlife friendly fencing, and water development systems for livestock and wildlife. Those projects annually impact over 350,000 acres of wildlife habitat throughout South Dakota, benefitting big game species including elk, pronghorn antelope, turkey, and white-tailed and mule deer. This includes extensive efforts through the Working Lands For Wildlife (WLFW) framework which includes the Sage Grouse Initiative which has impacted more than 800,000 acres within the sagebrush steppe in South Dakota since 2011. The Farm Bill Biologist team provides landowner outreach annually through workshops, tours and articles on conservation programs and habitat advice reaching thousands of landowners.

Pheasants Forever employs eight (8) habitat specialists who work to improve wildlife habitat on public lands by restoring and enhancing upland habitat specifically on Game Production Areas throughout the state. These staff work with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks habitat resource biologists to manage over 20,000 acres annually, enhancing wildlife habitat for big and small game species through projects that include grass seeding, prescribed burning, tree planting, food plots, spraying noxious weeds, wildlife-friendly fencing, and woven wire fence removal.

Permanent Habitat Protection and Public Access through Build a Wildlife Area (BWA)

Pheasants Forever has a history of successful permanent habitat protection and public land access accomplishments through the organization's Build a Wildlife Area (BWA) program. This is the organization's fee-title, land acquisition program. Most often, through BWA, a property is secured and purchased by Pheasants Forever and is gifted to a state or federal wildlife agency for long-term ownership and management.

BWA has added several properties in recent years, both in and adjacent to South Dakota, that have impacted several big game populations of mule deer, antelope, elk, whitetail deer, bears, mountain lions, and more. Most recently, the Frozen Man Creek Game Production Area in Stanley County, SD, was a collaborative project that added more than 560 acres of habitat and access to the landscape, impacting big game species.

Public Access to Habitat (PATH) Program

Newly launched in 2023, PATH has made a tremendous impact on habitat and wildlife across South Dakota with a remarkable impact on properties that benefit both big game and small game species of wildlife. This is a voluntary, incentive-based program, that provides an additional payment to landowners for the enrollment in long-term conservation programs and public access programs as facilitated by state and federal wildlife agencies.

Within the first ten months since the program's launch, more than 12,000 quality habitat acres of private lands have been enrolled as new Walk-In Area (WIA) acres and the program has also opened/provided access to 320 acres of landlocked public lands. A vast majority of the enrolled acres within the program overlap with important big game habitat for elk, antelope, whitetail and mule deer, and wild turkey.

(5) Evidence of the organization's experience in fundraising and the methods it uses to raise funds for big game management, including the conduct of any raffles;

Pheasants Forever has extensive experience fundraising for wildlife management on local, state, and national levels. In addition to the grassroots chapter model, in which a local chapter complies with state and federal gambling laws to raise money through raffle and auction activities, the organization has an established development program. These development activities include annual giving, major gift fundraising, and event fundraising practices.

Most recently, the greatest impact the organization has made on big game management, has been through the facilitation of the Public Access to Habitat (PATH) program. Funds were raised to support the enrollment of the initial 10,000 acres through corporate philanthropy, major gift fundraising, chapter support, raffles and special events including pint nights and community fundraisers.

(6) Identification and explanation of the organization's specific projects and past accomplishments relating to big game management, preservation, propagation, habitat, and research;

The Frozen Man Creek GPA addition is a 560-acre permanent protection project that builds upon an already extensive corridor of habitat in Stanley County, South Dakota. The property is located west of Pierre and provides ample hunting opportunities for pheasants, sharp-tail grouse and deer.

Kessler GPA is a 439 acre property in Day County that currently consists of native prairie, wetlands, and marginal cropland that will be restored and managed to upland wildlife habitat.

Additional projects in SD include the Wisebecker WPA Addition of 25 acres in Minnehaha County in 2013, the Voelker WPA Addition of 27 acres in Minnehaha County in 2013, and the McKenzie WPA Addition of 123 acres in McCook County in 2012. All these projects will provide habitat for and subsequent hunting opportunities for many species of wildlife including big game.

Nation-wide since 1982 we've impacted over 24 million acres through over 575,300 habitat projects, showing why we're known as The Habitat Organization. We've completed 1,771 land acquisitions and acquired 225,382 acres and turned them into public access.

(7) Financial records showing evidence of the organization's financial stability and integrity.

Pheasants Forever has a strong history of financial stability, integrity, and transparency.

To reinforce this statement, third party organizations such as Charity Navigator have awarded the organization with the highest ratings, a charity score of 100% and a Four Star rating, based on financial health assessments.

Please see attached financial reports supporting these claims.

(8) Any other information necessary to substantiate the organization's compliance with the criteria to be considered by the commission.

From 2023 to 2024, Pheasants Forever partnered with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks to launch and establish the Public Access to Habitat (PATH) program. Arguably, this program has the potential to be a cornerstone partnership program between the two entities.

The swift impact of the program across South Dakota, including initial enrollment of more than 12,000 acres to date and another 20,000 acres in negotiation, has helped bolster enrollment and popularity of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' Walk-In Area (WIA) program. In the first year, the funding to help establish the program was received from private, corporate, and chapter contributions.

This unique opportunity through the elk license raffle, if selected, would enable Pheasants Forever to continue to bolster WIA enrollment across the state through PATH, ultimately, creating and restoring more big game wildlife habitat across the state while also providing public access opportunities for these lands.

Supporting Application Info from SDGFP

41:06:27:02.06. Execution of agreement on participation in elk license raffle -- Contents of agreement.

The participant selected and the commission shall enter into an agreement on the elk license raffle and the expenditure of funds raised by the raffle. The agreement must contain the following terms and conditions:

1) The department shall make available for raffle and shall issue one Custer State Park rifle elk license to the successful entrant;

(2) Only legal residents of this state are eligible to win the raffled Custer State Park rifle elk license. The participant must be of legal hunting age, possess a valid prerequisite license, and not otherwise be prohibited from possessing a valid hunting license because of any other legal prohibitions and restrictions;

(3) The participant must conduct the elk license raffle and the sale of raffle tickets and is accountable to the department for the total raffle tickets made available for sale, raffle tickets sold, and total proceeds from the sale of the raffle tickets;

(4) Determination of the successful entrant and one alternate to be used in case of an emergency shall be made by an equitable drawing. Conduct of the drawing is the joint responsibility of the department and the participant. The successful entrant need not be present to win the raffle. The name, address, and valid prerequisite license number of the successful entrant and the alternate shall be provided by the participant to the department within seven days after the raffle drawing;

(5) The drawing for the successful entrant must be conducted by the department and the participant on or before July 15;

(6) The department shall issue the successful entrant one Custer State Park rifle elk license if all terms of the agreement, raffle, and rules have been complied with;

(7) Cancellation of the successful entrant's elk license and reissuance of the license to the alternate requires the approval of the department and is not allowed except in the case of the death of the successful entrant or a substantial disabling physical or mental condition of the successful entrant caused by accident or illness. If cancellation and reissuance is approved, no financial remuneration of any kind is allowed between any persons or entities;

(8) The elk license allows the successful entrant to hunt and harvest an elk in Custer State Park, by rifle, subject to all applicable hunting laws and rules in SDCL title 41 and ARSD article 41:06;

(9) The elk project advisory committee shall oversee the raffle and the expenditure of its proceeds. The committee shall determine the maximum charge for the raffle tickets, approve expenses for conducting the raffle, approve projects to be funded, and authorize expenditures from the proceeds. The committee shall have four members, two representatives of the participant, one representative of the Division of Wildlife, and one representative of the Division of Parks and Recreation;

(10) The amount charged for each raffle must be the same for all persons and must be printed on each raffle ticket. Raffle records must contain the name and address of the resident of this state purchasing the raffle ticket. Once sold, raffle tickets may not be assigned, resold, or transferred;

(11) Within seven days after the raffle drawing, the participant shall remit to the department payment for the Custer State Park license fee set in § 41:06:02:03 and all proceeds from the raffle after deduction of necessary printing, postage, media advertising costs, and other expenses approved for payment by the elk project advisory committee. To be approved by the committee, expenses must be incurred solely for the conduct of the raffle and may not exceed 20 percent of gross receipts. The proceeds must be deposited into a special bank account, approved by the department secretary, in the name of the elk raffle project advisory committee within 30 days after receipt;

(12) The participant, when requested by the department, shall provide to the secretary of the department a detailed summary and accounting of the conduct and results of the raffle sales as follows:

(a) The number of tickets obtained for the raffle;

(b) The number of tickets sold;

(c) The amount of money charged and received for each ticket sold and identified individually;

(d) The total amount of money charged and received for all tickets sold; and

(e) The dates and amounts of deposits into the special account;

(13) All of the proceeds of the raffle must be spent in this state within three years after the date of the raffle drawing for the benefit of elk, including elk habitat and funding of elk research. Proceeds may be spent only as authorized by a majority vote of the elk raffle project advisory committee. Any proceeds not spent must be deposited with the Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Game, Fish and Parks; and

(14) The selection of the participant and the alternate and the agreement required by this rule may not be assigned or transferred.

2024 Mountain Lion Public Opinion Survey

Stephanie Buckley, Ph.D.

Human Dimensions Specialist

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

Executive Summary

Sampling Results

BH Residents

- The sample frame for the resident survey consisted of 62,213 mailing addresses for Black Hills (BH) residents (i.e., Custer County, Fall River County, Lawrence County, Meade County, Pennington County). Residents within and around the Black Hills, as well as residents outside of municipalities and residing within 15 miles of the Black Hill Fire Protection District (BHFPD), were included in the sample. Approximately 6,050 BH residents were surveyed.
- The adjusted response rate was 32% (n = 1,644/5,131) with a margin of error of $\pm 2.4\%$ at a 95% confidence interval

Hunters

- The hunter sample frame was comprised of 27,227 unique resident hunting applicants for the most recent seasons (i.e., 2022-2023) of mountain lion (i.e., statewide and Black Hills) and Black Hills big game (i.e., white tail, mule deer, elk, pronghorn, big horn sheep, turkey, and mountain goat) hunting. A sample of 3,600 individuals was equally stratified across three types of hunters: 1) exclusive mountain lion hunters (i.e., “*Lion Only*”), 2) big game hunters who did not hunt mountain lions (i.e., “*Big Game Only*”), 3) mountain lion hunters who also hunted other big game species (i.e., “*Lion and Big Game*”).
- The adjusted survey response rate was 48% (n=1,698/3,534) with a margin of error of $\pm 2.3\%$ at a 95% confidence interval.

Hunting Participation

General hunting participation

- Most BH residents did not hunt within the past five years (56.9%).
- Most hunters hunted both big and small game within the past five years (79.4%).

Mountain lion hunting participation

- Respondents who selected “big game” or “small and big game” to the previous general hunting participation question were then asked if they hunted mountain lions in the past five years. Most BH residents who hunted big game in the past five years did not hunt mountain lions (77.0%).
- Hunters received the same prompts as described above. Over half of hunters who hunted big game within the past five years hunted mountain lions (53.6%).

Social Tolerance

Attitudes

- The existence of mountain lions in South Dakota tends to be valued by hunters and BH residents alike.
- BH residents and hunters were highly supportive of mountain lion hunting as an appropriate tool for managing populations.
- Survey participants were generally neutral that mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to people, livestock, and pets. Although BH residents were also neutral on whether mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to ungulates, this was a concern for the hunting sample.

Population Objective

- Mean values indicated BH residents would like to see the mountain lion population stay about the same in CSP (M = 2.91), the BHFPD (M = 2.84), and Statewide, outside the BHFPD (M = 2.89).
- The average hunter reported they would like to see the mountain lion population stay the same in CSP (M = 2.50), the BHFPD (M = 2.50), and Statewide, outside the BHFPD (M = 2.62).

Trust in GFP to Manage Lions

- Residents agreed that they trusted information provided by GFP about mountain lion populations and distributions in SD, and they agreed that they trusted GFP to manage lions for the health of the population within socially acceptable levels.
- Hunters were neutral on their agreements with the two trust survey items.

Perceptions of Hunting Experience and Satisfaction

Satisfaction

- BH residents were neutral on their level of satisfaction with CSP (M = 3.18), BHFPD (M = 3.18), and Statewide, outside the BHFPD (M = 3.28).
- Hunters were neutral for CSP (M = 3.31) and BHFPD (M = 3.25). However, hunters reported they were “somewhat satisfied” with the Statewide season (M = 3.68).
- *Big Game Only* hunters were neutral about the statewide season compared to *Lion and Big Game* hunters and *Lion Only* hunters, who were both somewhat satisfied.

Crowding

- Both BH residents (M = 3.03) and hunters (M = 2.73) reported that the level of crowding was “about right.”

Harvest Strategies

- When comparing expanding boot hunting, expanding hound opportunity, or trapping and snaring, BH residents most favored “Expand boot hunting opportunities” (M = 3.67). They were neutral on “expanding hunting opportunities using dogs” (M = 2.94), and they were somewhat opposed to “Allow trapping/snaring” (M = 2.13). Hunters most favored “Expand boot hunting opportunities” (M = 3.99), followed by “Expand hunting opportunities using dogs” (M = 3.67). They were neutral on “Allow trapping/snaring” (M = 2.87).
- Of the remaining items describing harvest strategy regulations, “Allow mountain lions harvest during deer season” with the highest rated among residents (M = 3.17) and hunters (M = 3.92). Of note, allowing mountain lion harvest during deer season was rated higher by both residents and hunters compared to their scores for expanding opportunities using dogs.

Respondent Characteristics

- On average, BH residents lived in South Dakota for 40 years, and hunters lived in South Dakota for 42 years.
- Most BH residents (66%) and hunters (70%) indicated they lived in a rural community.
- The majority of BH residents (80%) and hunters (69%) did not own livestock.

Contents

Executive Summary.....	1
Sampling Results	2
BH Residents	2
Hunters.....	2
Hunting Participation	2
General hunting participation.....	2
Mountain lion hunting participation.....	2
Social Tolerance.....	2
Attitudes.....	2
Population Objective.....	3
Trust in GFP to Manage Lions.....	3
Perceptions of Hunting Experience and Satisfaction	3
Satisfaction.....	3
Crowding.....	3
Harvest Strategies	3
Respondent Characteristics.....	3
Introduction	6
Methods.....	6
Sampling Design.....	6
Results.....	7
Sampling Results	7
Survey Descriptive Statistics.....	7
Hunting Participation	7
Social Tolerance.....	8
Perceptions of Hunting Experiences and Satisfaction.....	16
Harvest Strategies	18
Respondent Characteristics.....	21
References.....	23
Appendix A: Survey Instrument	24
Appendix B: Resident Open-Ended Comments	29
Appendix C: Hunter Open-Ended Comments	73

Table 1. Hunting participation in the past 5 years 7

Table 2. Mountain lion hunting participation in the past 5 years 8

Table 3. Attitudes toward mountain lions 9

Table 4. Mountain lion population objective over the next 5 years 13

Table 5. Trust in GFP 15

Table 6. Hunting season satisfaction 17

Table 7. Crowding in BHFPD during 2022-2023 18

Table 8. Harvest strategies 19

Table 9. Years lived in South Dakota..... 21

Table 10. Type of community participants reside in 21

Table 11. Livestock ownership 21

Introduction

The human dimensions of wildlife management is an integral component of effective wildlife agency decision-making. The field of human dimensions seeks to understand how people value wildlife, how they desire wildlife to be managed, and how they are affected by wildlife and wildlife management decision-making (Decker et al., 2012). Human dimensions can provide social science information to help state agencies understand the interests and needs of stakeholders (Manfredo, 2008). Along with biological data, public input is an important part of the development and implementation of the South Dakota Mountain Lion Action Plan, as the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) seeks to manage populations toward desired social and biological objectives (South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, 2024). GFP first began collecting public information related to mountain lion management in the early 2000s. GFP most recently conducted a public opinion survey in 2019 as part of the iterative effort to update and revise the mountain lion management plan (Longmire, 2019). The present study builds on previous mountain lion public opinion surveys and aims to inform the 2024-2028 Mountain Lion Action Plan. In 2024, (GFP) conducted a survey of Black Hills residents (BH) and hunters. The purpose of this survey was to collect social science data to help inform the mountain lion population objective in South Dakota. This survey was designed to obtain information regarding individuals' attitudes, perceptions, and opinions related to mountain lion hunting and management. Additional public involvement opportunities (e.g., stakeholder groups) were also implemented. Mixed-methods social science inquiries allow GFP to collect input and feedback through multiple avenues, providing transparency in public engagement and decision-making processes.

Methods

Sampling Design

The sample frame for the resident survey consisted of 62,213 mailing addresses for Black Hills (BH) residents (i.e., Custer County, Fall River County, Lawrence County, Meade County, Pennington County). Residents within and around the Black Hills, as well as residents outside of municipalities and residing within 15 miles of the Black Hill Fire Protection District (BHFPD), were included in the sample. Approximately 6,050 BH residents were surveyed regarding their perceptions of mountain lions in South Dakota (Appendix A: Survey Instrument). The sample frame did not include email addresses, so a single-mode mail study following the Tailored Design Method (Dillman et al., 2014) was used. Participants were mailed up to three survey invitations: 1) a cover letter with a paper copy of the survey, 2) a postcard with a QR code linked to the survey, and 3) a follow-up cover letter and paper copy of the survey.

The hunter sample frame was comprised of 27,227 unique resident hunting applicants for the most recent seasons (i.e., 2022-2023) of mountain lion (i.e., statewide and Black Hills) and Black Hills big game (i.e., white tail, mule deer, elk, pronghorn, big horn sheep, turkey, and mountain goat) hunting. A sample of 3,600 individuals was equally stratified across three types of hunters: 1) exclusive mountain lion hunters, 2) big game hunters who did not hunt mountain lions, 3) mountain lion hunters who also hunted other big game species. These potential survey respondents received the same survey instrument as the resident sample (Appendix A: Survey Instrument). The sample frame included both email addresses and mailing addresses, and so a mixed-mode study was conducted using the Tailored Design method (Dillman et al., 2014). Survey participants were contacted up to four times: 3 contacts were made via email, and a cover letter with a paper copy of the survey was mailed to email nonrespondents.

Analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 27 software package. Data cleaning commenced prior to analysis (i.e., removal of blank surveys that had been opened but not completed, correcting for undeliverable addresses, coding of missing data). Summary statistics were conducted to provide percentages, mean values, and standard deviations. One-way ANOVAs were used to evaluate the effect of hunter type (i.e., *Lion Only*, *Big Game Only*, or *Lion and Big Game* hunters) on survey responses. Bonferroni's post hoc tests were used to assess mean differences across groups. When conducting One-Way ANOVAs, partial eta squared can be used to determine how large of an effect the independent variable(s) (i.e., hunter type) had on the dependent variable (i.e., survey response) in the analyses ($\eta^2 = .01$ indicates a small effect, $\eta^2 = .06$ indicates a medium effect, $\eta^2 = .14$ indicates a large effect).

Results

Sampling Results

After correcting for undeliverable addresses in the resident survey, the adjusted sample size was 5,131. The adjusted response rate was 32% ($n = 1,644/5,131$) with a margin of error of $\pm 2.4\%$ at a 95% confidence interval following data cleaning.

In the hunter sample, after correcting for undeliverable addresses, the adjusted sample size was 3,534 hunters. Following data cleaning, the adjusted survey response rate was 48% ($n=1,698/3,534$) with a margin of error of $\pm 2.3\%$ at a 95% confidence interval.

Survey Descriptive Statistics

Hunting Participation

Survey participants were asked whether they had hunted in South Dakota within the past 5 years. Over half of residents (56.9%) had not hunted any type of game, while the majority of hunters (79.4%) indicated that they had hunted both big and small game (Table 1).

Table 1. Hunting participation in the past 5 years

	<u>BH Residents</u>		<u>Hunters</u>	
	N	%	N	%
No	883	56.9	69	4.1
Small game only	153	9.9	35	2.1
Big game only	168	10.8	242	14.4
Small & big game	348	22.4	1331	79.4
Total	1552	100.0	1677	100.0

Study participants who hunted big game in some capacity were asked whether they specifically hunted mountain lions in the past 5 years. Most residents who hunted big game did not hunt mountain lions (77.0%) (Table 2). Slightly over half of the hunter sample participants who participated in big game hunting indicated they specifically hunted for mountain lions (53.6%) (Table 2).

Table 2. Mountain lion hunting participation in the past 5 years

	<u>BH Residents</u>		<u>Hunters</u>	
	N	%	N	%
No	396	77.0	693	46.4
Yes	118	23.0	800	53.6
Total	514	100.0	1493	100.0

Social Tolerance

Attitudes towards mountain lions were assessed. Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement or disagreement with 10 attitudinal statements related to mountain lions on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly disagree, 5 = Strongly agree). Three items captured the existence value of mountain lions (Table 3). In general, BH residents and hunters indicated a high level of agreement with items related to the existence value of mountain lions. Mean values on the Likert scale responses showed BH residents ($M = 3.92$) agreed the presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment, while hunters were neutral ($M = 3.43$). BH residents ($M = 3.97$) and hunters ($M = 3.54$) agreed it is important to them that mountain lions persist in South Dakota for future generations. Finally, BH residents ($M = 4.09$) and hunters ($M = 3.69$) agreed it is important to them to know that mountain lions exist, whether they ever see one in the wild or not. One-way ANOVAs were used to assess differences across hunter types on attitudinal items (i.e., *Big Game Only*, *Lion Only*, and *Lion and Big Game* hunters) (Figure 1). There was no statistically significant difference between hunter ratings of the attitude item “The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment” ($F(2, 1586) = 1.119, p = 0.327$). There was a difference in hunter ratings of the item “It is important to me that mountain lions persist in South Dakota for future generations” ($F(2, 1589) = 3.448, p < 0.05$), although the effect size was small ($\eta^2 = 0.004$). Bonferroni’s post hoc test revealed *Big Game Only* hunters were statistically different from *Lion and Big Game* hunters. However, given the small partial eta-squared value, the differences in these attitudinal ratings have limited practical application. There were statistically significant differences in hunter ratings for the item “It is important to me to know that mountain lions exist, whether I ever see one in the wild or not” ($F(2, 1588) = 3.524, p < 0.030$), despite there being a small effect size ($\eta^2 = 0.004$). No Bonferroni’s post hoc tests were statistically significant, and with the small effect size in mind, mean differences across hunter types have limited practical application.

Three items were used to assess attitudes toward mountain lion hunting (Table 3). Both BH residents ($M = 4.09$) and hunters ($M = 4.57$) had the highest level of agreement with “hunting is an acceptable way of managing mountain lion populations”; residents agreed with this statement, and hunters strongly agreed. The average resident reported they were neutral that mountain lion hunting is an important tradition in South Dakota ($M = 3.36$), while the average hunter agreed with this item ($M = 3.70$). When asked whether mountain lion hunting is important for South Dakota’s economy, BH residents ($M = 3.36$) and hunters ($M = 3.13$) were neutral. One-way ANOVAs were used to assess differences in ratings across hunter groups (Figure 2). There was a statistically significant difference in hunter ratings of the item “Mountain lion hunting is an important tradition in South Dakota” ($F(2, 1591) = 10.136, p < 0.001$), although the effect size was small ($\eta^2 = 0.013$). Bonferroni’s post hoc test revealed *Big Game Only* hunters were statistically different from *Lion Only* and *Lion and Big Game* hunters. There was a difference in hunter ratings of the item “Hunting is an acceptable way of managing mountain lion populations” ($F(2, 1590) = 14.735, p < 0.05$), but with a small effect size ($\eta^2 = 0.018$). Again, Bonferroni’s post hoc test

indicated *Big Game Only* hunters were statistically different from *Lion Only* and *Lion and Big Game* hunters. Finally, groups of respondents differed on their ratings of “Mountain lion hunting is important for South Dakota’s economy” ($F(2, 1585) = 6.806, p < 0.01$), although the effect size was small ($\eta^2 = 0.009$). Bonferroni’s post hoc test showed *Big Game Only* hunters were different from *Lion Only* hunters on this item. Given the small effect sizes for each of the hunting-related attitudes, differences found between hunting groups have limited practical application when interpreting the results.

Finally, four items measured the risks and threats of living with mountain lions on the landscape (Table 3). BH residents and hunters were neutral on the majority of these items. For instance, BH residents ($M = 2.91$) and hunters ($M = 3.19$) were neutral on whether mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to livestock. Residents ($M = 2.94$) and hunters ($M = 3.17$) were also neutral on whether mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to pets. Additionally, BH residents ($M = 2.52$) and hunters ($M = 2.60$) felt neutral that mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to people. Of note, although BH residents ($M = 2.46$) were neutral that mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to ungulates, this was the one item that the average hunter agreed with ($M = 3.52$). One-way ANOVAs were conducted on hunter group responses to these items (Figure 3). There were statistically significant differences for ratings of the item “Mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to livestock”, ($F(2, 1584) = 5.463, p < 0.01$), but with a small effect size ($\eta^2 = 0.007$). Bonferroni’s post hoc test showed *Lion and Big Game* hunters were statistically different from *Lion Only* hunters. There was also a difference between hunter responses to the item “Mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to pets” ($F(2, 1584) = 4.137, p < 0.05$), although the effect size was small ($\eta^2 = 0.005$). Post hoc tests revealed *Lion Only* hunters were statistically difference from *Lion and Big Game* hunters. Next, groups were statistically different on the item “Mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to people” ($F(2, 1582) = 12.558, p < 0.001$), but the effect size was small ($\eta^2 = 0.016$). *Lion and Big Game* hunters were statistically different from *Big Game Only* and *Lion Only* hunters. Lastly, there was no difference in ratings of the item “Mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to ungulates” ($F(2, 1581) = 2.917, p = 0.054$). Given the small effect sizes and the non-significant test for the final item, no item differences appear to have much practical value for these attitudinal items.

These results indicate that, on average, the existence of mountain lions in South Dakota tend to be valued by hunters and BH residents alike. Respondents were highly supportive of mountain lion hunting as an appropriate tool for managing populations. Furthermore, survey participants were generally neutral that mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to people, livestock, and pets; of note, although BH residents were also neutral on whether mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to ungulates, this was a concern for the hunting sample.

Table 3. Attitudes toward mountain lions

				Strongly disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neither (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
<u>BH Residents</u>	N	Mean	SD	%	%	%	%	%
The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment	1594	3.92	1.085	4.6	7.2	14.0	40.0	34.2
It is important to me that mountain lions	1601	3.97	1.117	5.1	7.1	11.9	37.5	38.4

persist in South Dakota for future generations								
It is important to me to know that mountain lions exist, whether I ever see one in the wild or not	1605	4.09	1.059	4.0	5.7	10.3	36.6	43.3
Mountain lion hunting is an important tradition in South Dakota	1587	3.36	1.183	9.0	12.3	31.3	28.4	19.0
Hunting is an acceptable way of managing mountain lion populations	1601	4.09	1.027	4.8	3.7	8.7	43.2	39.6
Mountain lion hunting is important for South Dakota's economy	1593	2.88	1.169	15.5	18.0	39.8	16.3	10.4
Mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to livestock	1601	2.91	1.202	12.4	28.0	27.0	20.9	11.6
Mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to pets	1605	2.94	1.243	12.9	28.8	22.2	23.4	12.7
Mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to people	1604	2.52	1.195	22.3	32.3	24.1	13.8	7.6
Mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to ungulates (e.g., deer, elk)	1605	2.64	1.285	21.4	31.3	21.0	14.6	11.7
				Strongly disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neither (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
<u>Hunters</u>	N	Mean	SD	%	%	%	%	%
The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment	1613	3.43	1.185	8.9	13.5	21.1	38.7	17.7
It is important to me that mountain lions persist in South Dakota for future generations	1616	3.54	1.205	8.8	11.4	19.1	38.5	22.1
It is important to me to know that mountain lions exist, whether I ever see one in the wild or not	1615	3.69	1.116	6.7	7.4	20.2	41.5	24.1

Mountain lion hunting is an important tradition in South Dakota	1618	3.70	1.114	5.1	9.3	22.7	35.8	27.0
Hunting is an acceptable way of managing mountain lion populations	1617	4.57	.738	1.9	.6	2.0	29.9	65.7
Mountain lion hunting is important for South Dakota's economy	1612	3.13	1.141	10.0	16.0	37.8	23.0	13.2
Mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to livestock	1611	3.19	1.164	7.0	24.0	27.0	26.9	15.1
Mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to pets	1611	3.17	1.186	8.4	22.8	26.8	26.9	15.0
Mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to people	1608	2.60	1.184	20.3	29.6	27.7	14.7	7.6
Mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to ungulates (e.g., deer, elk)	1608	3.52	1.265	7.0	16.9	22.8	23.6	29.7

Figure 1.

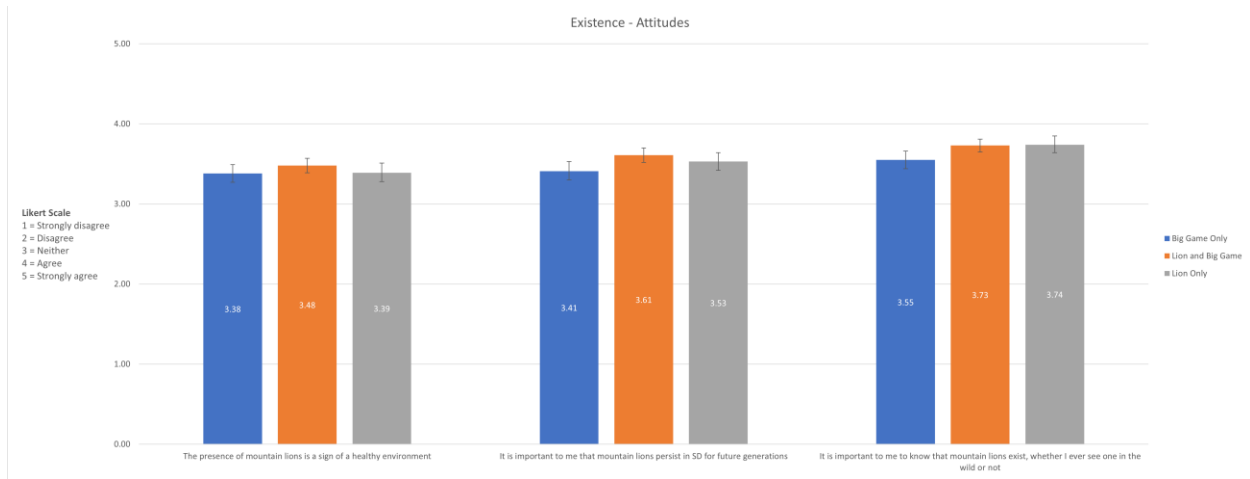


Figure 2.

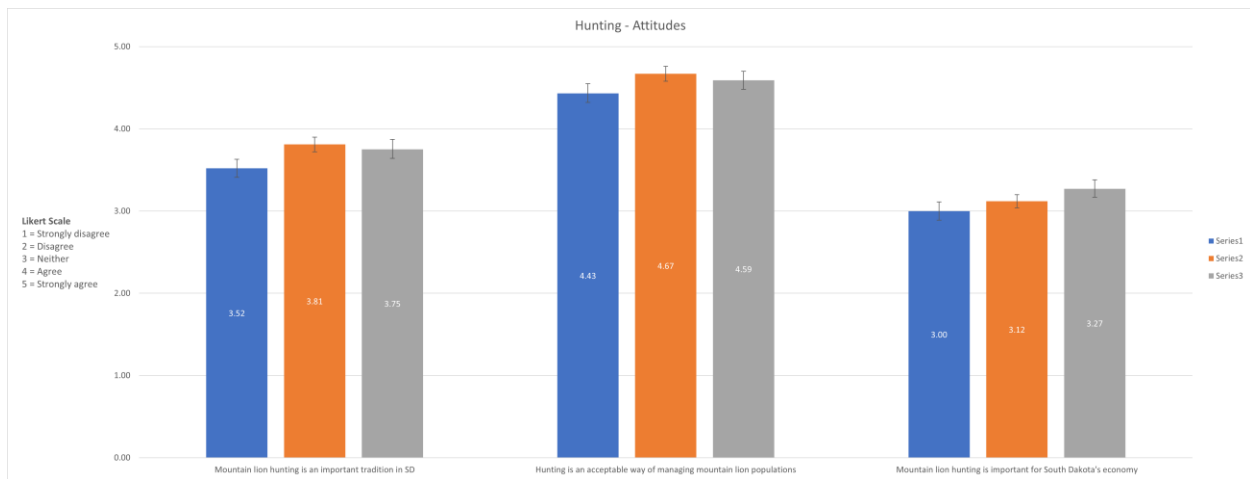
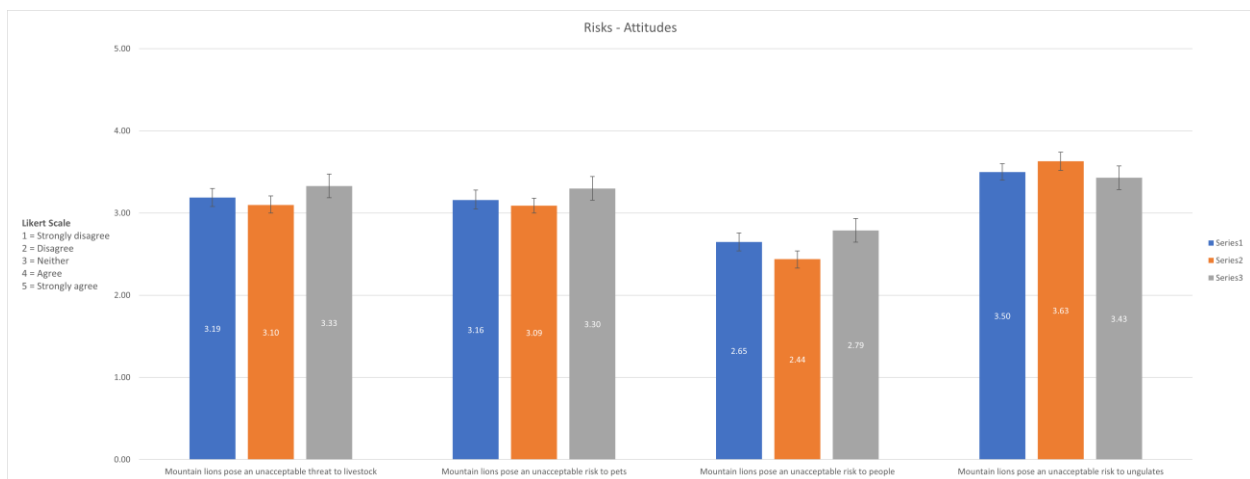


Figure 3.



Respondents were asked whether they would prefer to see the mountain lion population in South Dakota decrease, stay the same, or increase over the next 5 years in three areas: Custer State Park (CSP), the Black Hills Fire Protection District, excluding CSP (BHFPD), and Statewide, outside the BHFPD. Survey participants provided their ratings on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Decrease a lot, 5 = Increase a lot) (Table 4). Mean values indicated BH residents would like to see the mountain lion population stay about the same in CSP (M = 2.91), the BHFPD (M = 2.84), and Statewide, outside the BHFPD (M = 2.89). Similarly, hunters reported they would like to see the mountain lion population stay the same in CSP (M = 2.50), the BHFPD (M = 2.50), and Statewide, outside the BHFPD (M = 2.62).

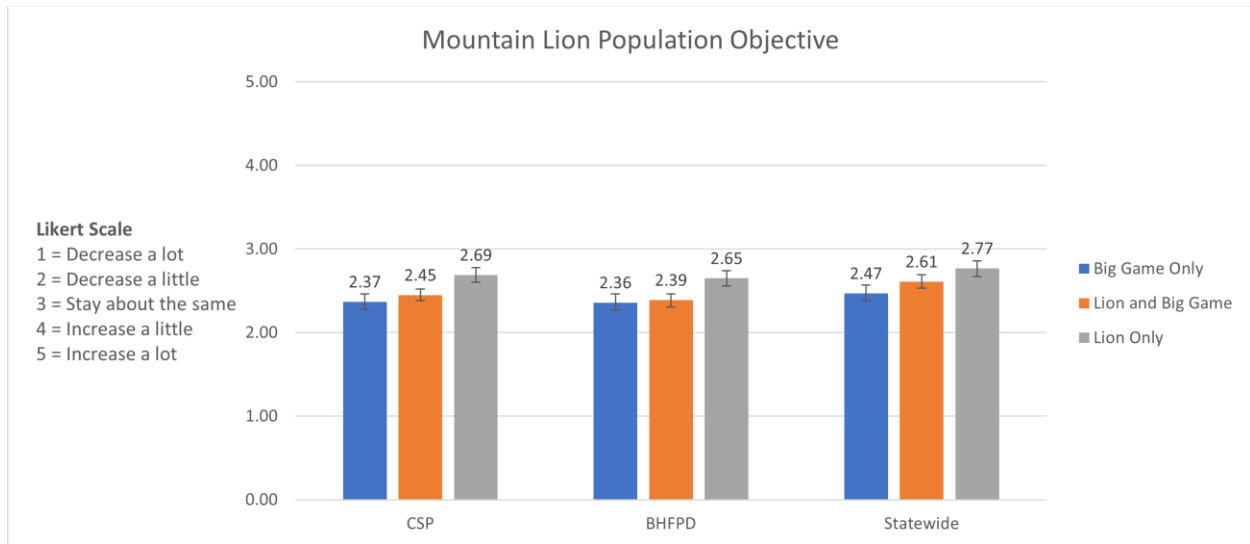
One-way ANOVAs were used to examine hunter responses across groups (**Error! Reference source not found.**). There was a statistically significant difference between hunter types on the mountain lion population objective for CSP ($F(2, 1534) = 13.925, p < 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.018$), BHFPD ($F(2, 1533) = 12.092, p < 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.016$), and Statewide ($F(2, 1531) = 10.161, p < 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.013$). Bonferroni’s post hoc tests for each of these items revealed *Lion Only* hunters were statistically higher than *Big Game Only* and *Lion and Big Game* hunters in their ratings of the population objective for each area. However, given the small partial eta-squared values, the effect of hunter type on perceptions of mountain lion population objective ratings has limited practical value.

Table 4. Mountain lion population objective over the next 5 years

				Decrease a lot	Decrease a little	Stay about the same	Increase a little	Increase a lot
				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>BH Residents</u>	N	Mean	SD	%	%	%	%	%
CSP	1484	2.91	.922	9.4	15.0	55.5	16.4	4.2
BHFPD (excluding CSP)	1479	2.84	.975	12.1	16.2	51.9	15.4	4.4
Statewide, outside the BHFPD	1469	2.89	.939	10.6	14.0	55.8	15.2	4.4

				Decrease a lot	Decrease a little	Stay about the same	Increase a little	Increase a lot
				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>Hunters</u>	N	Mean	SD	%	%	%	%	%
CSP	1559	2.50	.959	19.5	23.3	46.3	9.4	1.5
BHFPD (excluding CSP)	1558	2.46	.995	21.4	24.4	42.9	9.1	2.2
Statewide, outside the BHFPD	1557	2.62	1.022	18.4	19.8	46.8	11.6	3.5

Figure 4.



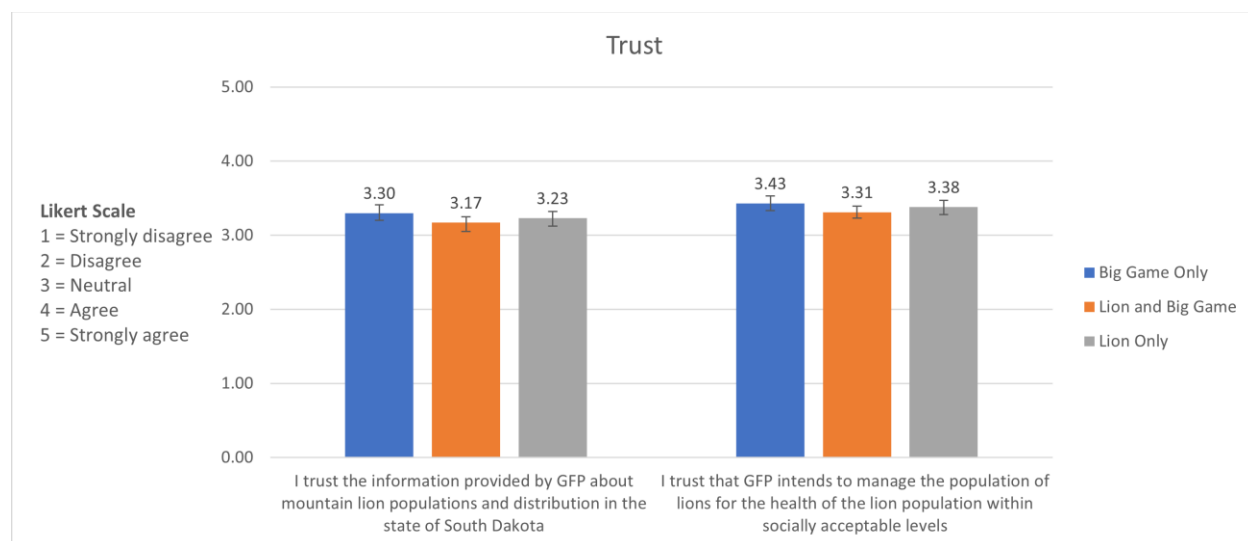
Two items in the survey measured participants’ trust in South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Respondents rated their level of agreement or disagreement on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly disagree, 5= Strongly agree) (Table 5). Mean values indicated that although BH residents agreed that they trusted the information provided by GFP about mountain lion populations and distribution across the state (M = 3.52), hunters were neutral on this (M = 3.23). Similarly, BH residents agreed that they trusted that GFP intends to manage the population of lions for the health of the lion population within socially acceptable levels, while hunters were neutral in comparison (M = 3.38).

One-way ANOVAs were used to assess differences in hunter responses to the two trust items (Figure 5). There was no statistically significant difference between hunter types for trust in information that GFP provides about mountain lion populations and distribution ($F(2, 1577) = 0.1766, p = 0.171$). There was also no difference in trust that GFP intends to manage the population of lions for the health of the lion population within socially acceptable levels ($F(2, 1571) = 1.822, p = 0.162$).

Table 5. Trust in GFP

				Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>BH Residents</u>	N	Mean	SD	%	%	%	%	%
I trust the information provided by GFP about mountain lion populations and distribution in the state of South Dakota	1573	3.52	1.017	5.2	8.6	30.3	40.9	15.0
I trust that GFP intends to manage the population of lions for the health of the lion population within socially acceptable levels	1569	3.58	1.049	5.3	9.4	24.6	43.1	17.7
				Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>Hunters</u>	N	Mean	SD	%	%	%	%	%
I trust the information provided by GFP about mountain lion populations and distribution in the state of South Dakota	1604	3.23	1.102	9.0	13.6	33.8	32.4	11.2
I trust that GFP intends to manage the population of lions for the health of the lion population within socially acceptable levels	1598	3.38	1.054	6.1	13.0	30.5	37.8	12.6

Figure 5.



Perceptions of Hunting Experiences and Satisfaction

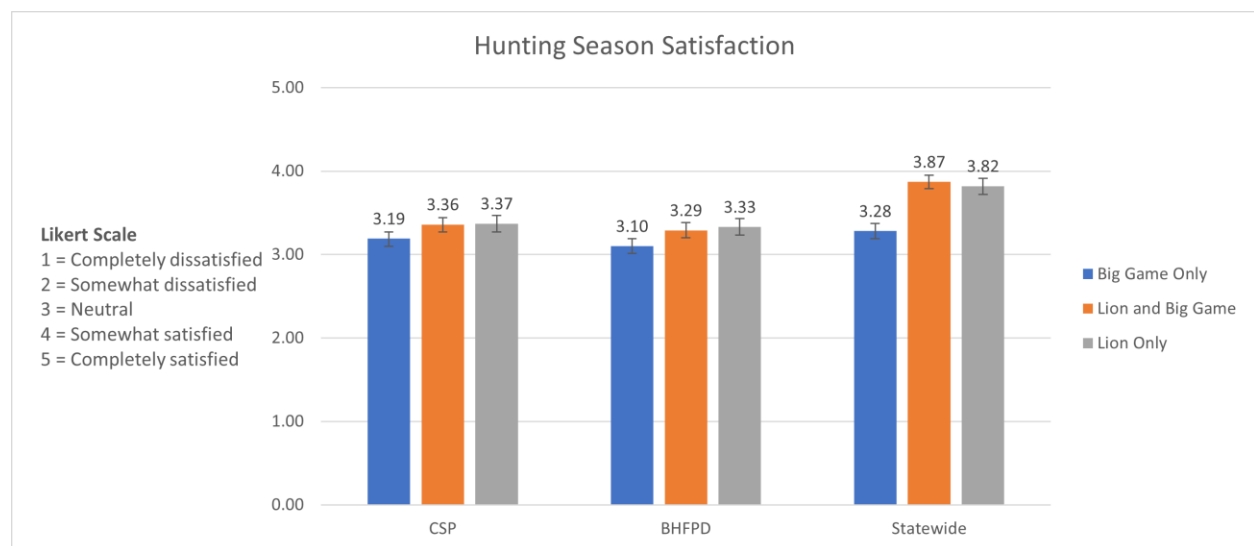
Respondents were provided a preamble outlining the Custer State Park (CSP), the Black Hills Fire Protection District (BHFPD), and Statewide (excluding BHFPD and CSP) mountain lion hunting seasons and details. Participants were asked to report their level of satisfaction with the structure of the mountain lion season in 2022-2023 in each location. Each survey item was rated on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Completely dissatisfied, 5 = Completely satisfied) (Table 6). Mean values showed that BH residents were neutral on their level of satisfaction with CSP (M = 3.18), BHFPD (M = 3.18), and Statewide, outside the BHFPD (M = 3.28). Hunters were neutral for CSP (M = 3.31) and BHFPD (M = 3.25). However, hunters reported they were “somewhat satisfied” with the Statewide season (M = 3.68).

When examining hunter responses to the satisfaction items, One-Way ANOVAs were used. There was a statistically significant difference between groups on satisfaction with the CSP 2022-2023 season ($F(2, 1536) = 4.714, p < 0.01$), although the effect size ($\eta^2 = 0.006$) was small. Although Bonferroni’s post hoc test indicated that *Big Game Only* hunters were statistically different from *Lion and Big Game* and *Lion Only* hunters, the averages for groups indicated each hunter type was neutral for CSP; although statistically significant, the differences in satisfaction ratings have limited practical application. Hunter groups were statistically significantly different on satisfaction levels with the BHFPD 2022-2023 season ($F(2, 1545) = 6.263, p < 0.01$), however, the effect size ($\eta^2 = 0.008$) was small. While Bonferroni’s post hoc test showed *Big Game Only* hunters were statistically different from *Lion and Big Game* and *Lion Only* hunters, mean values indicated all group types felt neutral about BHFPD. The partial eta-squared values indicate that minor differences across hunter satisfaction ratings do not have much practical significance. Of note, there was a statistically significant difference between groups on satisfaction with the Statewide 2022-2023 season ($F(2, 1536) = 50.825, p < 0.001$); the effect size ($\eta^2 = 0.062$) indicated a medium effect. Bonferroni’s post hoc test revealed *Big Game Only* hunters were neutral about the statewide season compared to *Lion and Big Game* hunters and *Lion Only* hunters, who were both somewhat satisfied. For the Statewide season, hunter type accounts for a moderate amount of the variation in satisfaction scores, and therefore these statistically significant differences do have practical applications when interpreting the results.

Table 6. Hunting season satisfaction

				Completely dissatisfied (1)	Somewhat dissatisfied (2)	Neutral (3)	Somewhat satisfied (4)	Completely satisfied (5)
<u>BH</u>	N	Mean	SD	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Residents</u>								
CSP	1482	3.18	1.005	7.4	7.1	59.1	12.7	13.7
BHFPD (excluding CSP)	1480	3.18	1.004	7.7	9.4	54.9	13.4	14.7
Statewide, outside the BHFPD	1472	3.28	1.029	6.7	5.9	56.6	14.0	16.8
<u>Hunters</u>								
CSP	1563	3.31	1.012	4.6	10.2	50.8	18.0	16.4
BHFPD (excluding CSP)	1572	3.25	1.098	7.0	13.0	45.5	17.4	17.0
Statewide, outside the BHFPD	1563	3.68	1.058	2.9	6.0	41.7	19.3	30.1

Figure 6.



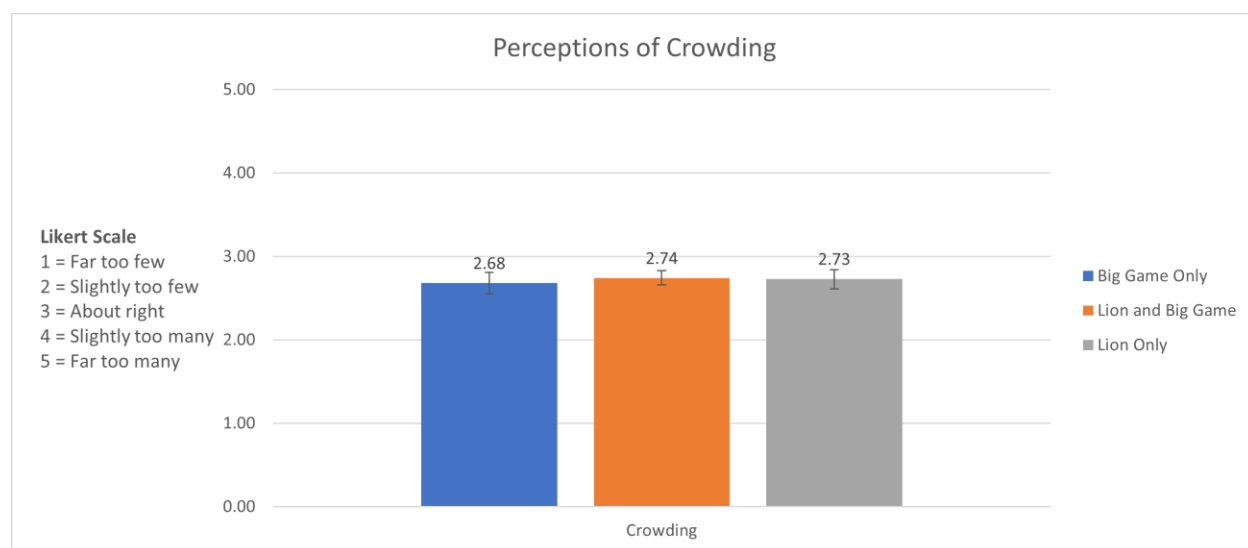
Both samples were asked about their perceptions of the number of mountain lion hunters in the Black Hills Fire Protection District during 2022-2023. This item was rated on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Far too few, 5 = Far too many) (Table 7). Both BH residents (M = 3.03) and hunters (M = 2.73) reported that the level of crowding was “about right.”

A One-Way ANOVA was used to analyze differences across *Lion Only*, *Big Game Only*, and *Lion and Big Game* hunters (Figure 7). There was no difference between groups on perceptions of crowding in the BHFPD during 2022-2023 ($F(2, 1034) = 0.328, p = 0.720, \eta^2 = 0.001$). Each group’s mean indicated hunters felt crowding was about right.

Table 7. Crowding in BHFPD during 2022-2023

				Far too few	Slightly too few	About right	Slightly too many	Far too many
				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>BH Residents</u>	N	Mean	SD	%	%	%	%	%
	1065	3.03	1.034	9.1	13.4	53.7	12.7	11.1
<u>Hunters</u>	N	Mean	SD	%	%	%	%	%
	1056	2.73	1.008	15.5	15.4	55.8	7.2	6.1

Figure 7.



Harvest Strategies

GFP was interested in gathering perceptions of various mountain lion harvest strategies. Participants were asked if GFP needed to increase mountain lion harvest beyond current levels, what their support or opposition was for 8 different harvest strategies. Each item was rated on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly oppose, 5 = Strongly favor) (Table 8). The highest favored item was “expand boot hunting opportunities” (Residents, M = 3.67; Hunters, 3.99). When comparing expanding boot hunting, expanding hound opportunity, or trapping and snaring, BH residents most favored “Expand boot hunting opportunities” (M = 3.67). They were neutral on “expanding hunting opportunities using dogs” (M = 2.94), and they were somewhat opposed to “Allow trapping/snaring” (M = 2.13). Hunters most favored “Expand boot hunting opportunities” (M = 3.99), followed by “Expand hunting opportunities using dogs” (M = 3.67). They were neutral on “Allow trapping/snaring” (M = 2.87). In short, the highest level of support was for expanding boot hunting opportunities. Of the remaining items describing harvest

strategy regulations, “Allow mountain lions harvest during deer season” with the highest-rated item among residents ($M = 3.17$) and hunters ($M = 3.92$). Of note, allowing mountain lion harvest during deer season was rated higher by both residents and hunters compared to their scores for expanding opportunities using dogs.

One-Way ANOVAs were used when analyzing hunter ratings for each harvest strategy item (Figure 8). There was a statistically significant difference between hunter types for expanding boot hunter opportunities ($F(2, 1565) = 4.669, p < 0.05$), although the effect size was small ($\eta^2 = 0.006$). Bonferroni’s post hoc test showed *Lion and Big Game* hunters were statistically higher in their ratings than *Lion Only* hunters. However, the means for all groups indicate an average response of “somewhat favor” for this harvest strategy, so statistical differences across groups have limited practical applications.

There was no statistically significant difference between hunter types for expanding hunting opportunities using dogs ($F(2, 1563) = 0.481, p = 0.618$).

There was a statistically significant difference between hunter types for allowing non-resident harvest ($F(2, 1568) = 11.654, p < 0.001$), although the effect size was small ($\eta^2 = 0.015$). Bonferroni’s post hoc test revealed *Lion and Big Game* hunters opposed this more than *Lion Only* and *Big Game Only* hunters. Given that the means for each group rounded to “somewhat oppose”, and given the small effect size, post hoc differences do not have much practical value.

There was a statistically significant difference between hunter types for allowing mountain lion harvest during deer season ($F(2, 1573) = 10.677, p < 0.001$), although the effect size was small ($\eta^2 = 0.013$). *Lion and Big Game* hunters had statistically higher mean scores than *Big Game Only* and *Lion Only* hunters. Mean scores showed each group somewhat favored this strategy, and with such a small partial eta-squared, statistical differences between groups have limited practical value.

There was no statistically significant difference between hunter types for allowing the harvesting of multiple lions per hunter ($F(2, 1571) = 0.514, p = 0.598$).

There was a statistically significant difference between hunter types for allowing trapping/snaring ($F(2, 1566) = 3.880, p < 0.05$), although the effect size was small ($\eta^2 = 0.005$). Bonferroni’s post hoc test showed *Big Game Only* hunters were statistically higher in their mean scores compared to *Lion and Big Game* hunters. However, all group scores indicated hunters somewhat favored this item, and the small effect size indicates statistical differences between hunter types have limited practical value when interpreting the results.

There was no statistically significant difference between hunter types for allowing pursuit where multiple tracks are present ($F(2, 1572) = 0.771, p = 0.463$).

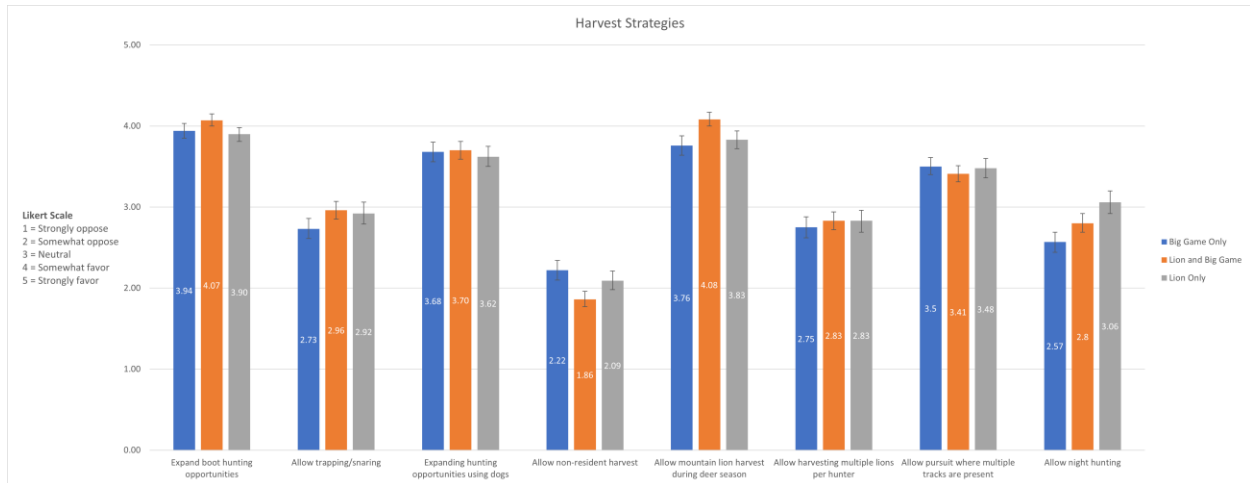
There was a statistically significant difference between hunter types for allowing night hunting ($F(2, 1566) = 12.651, p < 0.001$), although the effect size was small ($\eta^2 = 0.016$). Every hunter type was statistically different in their ratings of allowing night hunting, despite all mean scores rounding to the neutral point on the scale. Therefore, the small effect size lends further evidence that these statistical differences have limited practical value.

Table 8. Harvest strategies

				Strongly oppose (1) %	Somewhat oppose (2) %	Neutral (3) %	Somewhat favor (4) %	Strongly favor (5) %
BH Residents	N	Mean	SD					
Expand boot hunting opportunities	1516	3.67	1.122	7.4	4.1	28.4	34.5	25.6
Expand hunting opportunities using dogs	1556	2.94	1.444	24.4	15.6	20.6	20.8	18.8
Allow non-resident harvest	1540	2.34	1.285	36.4	20.5	22.9	12.8	7.3
Allow mountain lion harvest during deer season	1548	3.17	1.326	16.1	13.5	25.8	25.8	18.7
Allow harvesting multiple lions per hunter	1558	2.42	1.337	34.7	21.3	20.7	13.7	9.6
Allow trapping/snaring	1555	2.13	1.317	47.7	17.6	16.7	10.4	7.7
Allow pursuit where multiple tracks are present	1540	3.11	1.218	14.7	11.6	34.9	25.5	13.4
Allow night hunting	1558	2.25	1.306	41.7	18.1	20.2	13.0	7.0
Hunters	N	Mean	SD	%	%	%	%	%
Expand boot hunting opportunities	1592	3.99	.961	2.2	1.6	28.8	30.1	37.2
Expand hunting opportunities using dogs	1590	3.67	1.365	11.4	10.0	17.1	23.6	37.9
Allow non-resident harvest	1594	2.04	1.277	50.6	17.3	17.0	8.2	7.0
Allow mountain lion harvest during deer season	1600	3.91	1.223	7.6	6.6	14.4	30.4	41.1
Allow harvesting multiple lions per hunter	1598	2.81	1.432	26.4	17.5	22.3	16.6	17.2
Allow trapping/snaring	1593	2.87	1.443	25.9	15.1	23.6	16.9	18.6
Allow pursuit where multiple	1599	3.46	1.258	10.8	9.7	27.1	27.8	24.5

tracks are present								
Allow night hunting	1597	2.80	1.474	29.3	14.2	21.3	17.1	18.1

Figure 8.



Respondent Characteristics

On average, BH residents lived in South Dakota for 40 years, and hunters lived in South Dakota for 42 years (Table 9). Most BH residents (66%) and hunters (70%) indicated they lived in a rural community (Table 10). The majority of BH residents (80%) and hunters did not (69%) own livestock (Table 11).

Table 9. Years lived in South Dakota

	BH Residents			Hunters		
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
Years	1558	40.39	24.065	1599	42.11	19.595

Table 10. Type of community participants reside in

	BH Residents		Hunters	
	N	%	N	%
Urban	522	34.0	488	30.4
Rural	1012	66.0	1115	69.6
Total	1534	100.0	1603	100.0

Table 11. Livestock ownership

	BH Residents		Hunters	
	N	%	N	%
No	1228	80.4	1096	68.8
Yes	299	19.6	498	31.2
Total	1527	100.0	1594	100.0

References

Decker, D. J., Riley, S. J., & Siemer, W. F. (2012). *Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management* (2nd ed.).

The John Hopkins University Press.

Dillman, D. A., Smyth, J., D., & Christian, L. M. (2014). *Internet, Phone, Mail, and Mixed-Mode Surveys:*

The Tailored Design Method (4th ed.). Wiley.

Longmire, C. L. (2019). *Mountain Lion Management in South Dakota: Public Opinion Survey Results.*

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

Manfredo, M. J. (2008). *Who Cares About Wildlife? Social Science Concepts for Exploring Human-Wildlife*

Relationships and Conservation Issues. Springer.

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. (2024). *South Dakota Mountain Lion Action Plan,*

2024-2028 (Completion Report 2024-03.).

2024 Mountain Lion Survey

1. Have you hunted in South Dakota within the past 5 years? Select only one.

- No → Skip to #2
- Small game only
- Big game only
- Small & big game

1a. If you hunted big game in South Dakota within the past 5 years, did you hunt mountain lions?

- No
- Yes

2. People in South Dakota hold many different opinions about mountain lions. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly agree
The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment	1	2	3	4	5
It is important to me that mountain lions persist in South Dakota for future generations	1	2	3	4	5
It is important to me to know that mountain lions exist, whether I ever see one in the wild or not	1	2	3	4	5
Mountain lion hunting is an important tradition in South Dakota	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting is an acceptable way of managing mountain lion populations	1	2	3	4	5
Mountain lion hunting is important for South Dakota's economy	1	2	3	4	5
Mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to livestock	1	2	3	4	5
Mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to pets	1	2	3	4	5
Mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to people	1	2	3	4	5
Mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to ungulates (e.g., deer, elk)	1	2	3	4	5

- Statewide mountain lion hunting season [excluding the Black Hills Fire Protection District (BHFPD) and Custer State Park (CSP)] begins Dec. 26th and is open all year with one lion allotted per license holder. Hunting in the BHFPD starts Dec 26th and goes until April 30th or until 60 total lions or 40 females are harvested. Mountain lion hunting in CSP is by permit only for boot hunting (60 permits) or hunting with hound (15 permits) intervals from Dec. 26th to April 30th. If the BHFPD mountain lion hunting season closes before April 30th, CSP mountain lion hunting season will also close.

How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the structure of the mountain lion season in 2022-2023?

	Completely dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat satisfied	Completely satisfied
Custer State Park	1	2	3	4	5
Black Hills Fire Protection District (excluding Custer State Park)	1	2	3	4	5
Statewide, outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District	1	2	3	4	5

- How did you feel about the number of mountain lion hunters in the Black Hills Fire Protection District during 2022-2023?

N/A	Far too few	Slightly too few	About right	Slightly too many	Far too many
0	1	2	3	4	5

- Over the next 5 years, would you prefer to see the mountain lion population in South Dakota decrease, stay the same, or increase in each of the following locations?

	Decrease a lot	Decrease a little	Stay about the same	Increase a little	Increase a lot
Custer State Park	1	2	3	4	5
Black Hills Fire Protection District (excluding Custer State Park)	1	2	3	4	5
Statewide, outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District	1	2	3	4	5

6. Please describe the factor(s) that impact your perception of the mountain lion population:

7. If South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) needed to increase mountain lion harvest beyond current levels, various types of strategies could be used. Please rate your level of support for the following types of mountain lion harvest strategies.

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neutral	Somewhat favor	Strongly favor
Expand boot hunting opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Expand hunting opportunities using dogs	1	2	3	4	5
Allow non-resident harvest	1	2	3	4	5
Allow mountain lion harvest during deer season	1	2	3	4	5
Allow harvesting multiple lions per hunter	1	2	3	4	5
Allow trapping/snaring	1	2	3	4	5
Allow pursuit where multiple tracks are present	1	2	3	4	5
Allow night hunting	1	2	3	4	5

8. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
I trust the information provided by GFP about mountain lion populations and distribution in the state of South Dakota	1	2	3	4	5
I trust that GFP intends to manage the population of lions for the health of the lion population within socially acceptable levels	1	2	3	4	5

9. How many years have you lived in South Dakota?

_____ years

10. How would you describe the community in which you currently reside?

- Urban
- Rural

11. Do you have livestock?

- No – Skip to Q#13
- Yes

12. If YES, what type?

- Sheep
- Cattle
- Horses
- Pigs
- Poultry
- Other: _____

13. Comments:

Appendix B: Resident Open-Ended Comments

The arguments about too much deer predation by lions is ludicrous, owing to the auto insurance industry naming SD one of the worst places for car/deer collision and the multitude of complaints by locals hitting deer. Perhaps a campaign to increase ecotourism for lion spotting and better lion education of the local population would be in order?

#10- this is a stupid question since the community in which I reside in is on the bottom of this page
 #13- Why are you sending this to, I'm presuming anyone w/ a hunting license? Does the GFP have the kind of money to piss away on postage x2 for every survey sent out? Fraud waste & abuse of tax payer & sportsman's dollars. Good job. Why not survey those that have had or applied for lion tags? I hope we kill every cat in SD. This could have been a voluntary online survey. Those that didn't return a survey get it resent to them again? What a brilliant way to waste even more tax payer funds... idiotic...at its finest/

1. Lions are a sign of a healthy environment 2. Control deer populations

1) Not with current season 2) They are negatively impacting deer and elk where populations are too high 3) I feel populations are too high in the BH Fire Protection district and CSP. Control those populations and I believe the prairie areas will decrease 4) See #3 above 5) At a minimum allow archery elk, firearms elk BH deer, archery deer, and muzzleloader tag holder to harvest mt. lions spet 1 - dec 31 every year I think a broader geographic harvest would be a good thing. Especially within the BH 6) Allow dogs and trapping starting Jan 1 I don't want to see them gone. Just aggressively managed. Could still maintain the quota system. Just allow more methods and expanded opportunities.

90 years old

A higher priority should be eradicating deer and turkeys within Rapid City. They pose an unacceptable infection risk to humans. Lawns are covered with deer and turkey poop.

A major flaw in the structure of this survey is not giving any information on the approximate # of lions in the Hills for the last 10 years or so, plus the data on hunting success. How many lions 10 yrs ago or so? How many years did the hunting quota get met vs. not met? What is the estimated lion population now? Etc. How many hunters had licenses? Without information, no one can answer questions #4 and #5 with any degree of accuracy.

A mountain lion recently killed a 17 y.o. boy in California. Why would you want them around?

Acceptable at present time about lion populations

According to GFP online info, GFP biologists rely partially on public reports of sightings. We've never reported a sighting. If GFP would like more reports, it seems like they should publicize that.

All for lion hunting, against hunting them with dogs, traps or at night! Make it fair. They will eat some pets. They will eat some livestock, that's just part of it. Everyday pets and people are taking up more & more wildlifes land.

All of my encounters w/ cats have been in the forest or wilderness. As long as they do not encroach on urban areas, I believe the pop. is healthy. You may contact me for furthered information. Dan
816.666.3599

Although I have not lived in SD for very long I feel the mountain lion is an important and enjoyable part of this area

Although I live in rural Hot Springs I do not feel qualified to give an informed opinion about your questions. I have lived here 35 years and have never seen a mountain lion in the wild.

Although I no longer hunt, I support hunting as a good way to manage wildlife population. SD has done a good job of this. However, I miss the days of over the counter Black Hills Buck.

Always get a license in case I run into a lion but don't actively hunt them. Have heard female looking for mate on a couple of occasions. Heard a cat screaming couple days ago 3-2-2024. Of course frequent tracks in the snow. Fall River (BHFPD) co is and my property contains steep (Hot Brook Canyon) canyons which make foot pursuit impractical and limited land to continue pursuit.

Apex predators must be "sensibly" managed*! *if at all!! Wildlife biologists & managers need - really need to have significant input in maintaining healthy predator populations. The current SD "nest predator" program is an example of poor mgmt; the only reason it exists is pressure from the governor's office. For every complex problem, there is a solution that is simple, NEAT and WRONG! H.L. Miencken, quoted in the Times (UK) Fair Winds Joseph E Hall

Apex predators should be an encouraged part of any healthy ecosystem and to include big cats and others, like wolves

As a newer resident. I appreciate the opportunity to hunt for mountain lion and will pursue in the future.

As a truck driver haling various products throughout the Black Hills for 45 years. I have seen only 3 mountain lions. One at the confluence of Spring & tender foot Creeks on 385 North of crazy horse, One west of Custer near hells Canyon & open on the New Underwood road near the Elm Springs turn off. A live just east of Skyline Drive & have seen tracks up on the hill south of dinosaur Park, While I was walking the Labradors. I've also seen numerous tracks up around Valley Spur and Ridge Road north west of Bench Mark SD while deer hunting in that area. I do think mountain lions nee to be managed, but I'm pretty sure they were here long before we were.

As I stated earlier, we chose to live in a national forest but we also respect their presence. We don't walk around at night. Our granddaughters are never outside by themselves at anytime...ever. I know they have traveled through our area... have seen prints in the snow. At the same time, we have an abundance of deer, turkey. Have also seen in our subdivision bobcats, coyote... Which supports the fact that the mountain lions population is sustaining itself at the present levels.

As long as people are aware of the presence of lions it is not now an issue. Take a minimum of caution with out at night.

As previously noted, I am 94, so remarks are of little interest to most. There are pros and cons to supporting lion population in SD... I trust GFP to manage the issue based upon year and year data which will include the impacts of SD's changing population mix

As previously stated GF&P either doesn't know how many mt lions are in the Black Hills or they intentionally under report

As stated prior, myself, my neighbor, are all seeing an increase in mtn lion traffic - I'm seeing prints all throughout my resort. When we call we get lip service. I want GFP to back what your receptionist states to each of us and that they won't harm anything. I want GFP to give me in writing that if heaven forbid a small child is killed or if one of my guests pet is taken by a mtn lion that GFP will take 100% responsibility of their actions on lack of actions towards the mtn lions we are reporting. I own Spokane Creek Cabins and Campground on Iron Mtn Rd and I am one of 3 campgrounds in the area.

As with all hunting, people should be allowed to take their quarry in the natural time and habitat (ie at night and feeding grounds) so long as bag limits are obeyed. This way all residents have a fair shot at game whether just for meat or more of a challenge for sport. Thanks for listening to my opinions and sending the survey!

Balance is the goal. Overpopulation of the mt lions could be much more dangerous for our tourists.

Because housing is taking over the Hills. They have no place to go! Slow down housing.

Because of health issues, both my husband & myself no longer hunt

Between my neighbors and I just outside of Rapid City, we get mtn lion footage about once a year. We had the cleghorn sheep pass through a couple weeks ago and see them often by the fish hatchery (W. hwy 44) and I worry about them & the mtn lion pop.

Cat population appears to high the deer numbers in my area are on a steady decline.

Comments. I spent many hours in the woods each year hunting and shed hunting and know for certain the doe/yearling populations are much lower than pre lion years. I have found lion kill sites caches for both elk and deer. Of course it's obvious that the return of lions would impact the deer elk, BH sheep, and mountain goat populations. But it seemed to most hunters that GFP was slow to permit line hunting at all and has been slow footed to reduce the population adequately to maintain quality numbers of deer, elk, etc. The perception that GFP is run by liberals who also pine for the return of wolves and bear to the hills is real. I do believe in the last few years the lion population has come down some, but not enough. I believe this to be in large part that not enough of hunters know how to effectively hunt lions without the use of dogs and so rely on luck, which when pursuing an animal who is nocturnal, reduces significantly the odds of success. GFP must increase the ability of hunters to more effectively pursue lions by permitting the use of dogs and perhaps nocturnal hunting to the extent that it will reduce the number to acceptable levels that don't deleteriously affect the ungulate populations. I believe most people support a lion population in the hills, but not at the expense of healthy populations of deer, elk, etc., which both residents and non residents alike rely on for recreational enjoyment. Please do the work for the people. Thank you for the consideration of input.

Continue to keep politicians out of such issues trapping is an examples of inappropriate political involvement (governor's office).

Deer and elk pay down - need more mountain lions shot for the population to decrease

Deer population is overwhelming. A few extra mountain lions (within reason) not a bad idea.

define "boot hunting"

Desire to keep hunting challenging and fair, for hunters and lions. I think there are more lions than are able to be tagged or counted. I know we have too many deer - so we need lions. o far so good SDGFP! Thanks for the survey.

Despise SDGF&P. They are only in it for the money and could care less about us land owners

Development is now growing exponentially into lion habitat. Means more human/lion encounters. If there is an epidemic of blue tongue or anything that decimates 10% or more of the deer population then should let experienced hunters immediately cull a proportionate amount of cats. Need more signage in areas of hiking, camping, and other recreational areas letting tourists know they exist and some information on safety and how to react to an encounter. It's inevitable that there will be encounters. Get rid of the damn bears.

Did not feel I had enough info to answer some questions. As a new resident, I would defer to live long residents who have a better understanding of social/community issues such as hunting. I am not a hunter but feel strongly about maintaining SD traditions and culture!

Do away with lion and GFP people who brought them back!!!

Dog hunting should be allowed in the Black Hills. Trapping lions would be great as well.

Dog hunting should be allowed in the fine protection district with quota.

Dogs are being used in the Black Hills Fire Protection District. I have reported hearing and seeing dogs being used with no response from Game Fish!

Dogs should never be allowed. Make hunting MLs hunting - not dog chasing. If out of state hunters would be allow - make the price on the high end. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment.

Doing a good job with our wildlife keep up to work. Thank you.

Doing a great job keep it up

Don't know why you send these out as have yet to take the sportsman's word for anything as you have your mind's made up as to what your going to do.

Don't let the liberals in from the coasts!

Don't let wolves in SD!

Don't trust GFP

edge of spearfish

Eliminate the nest predator program

Excellent management.

Excellent survey. For healthy diversity, SD must do everything possible to keep our environment healthy for people and our animal population. We must protect our land, water, air and natural resources. Nothing should be taken for granted. Thank you!

Exception for trapping, if GFP contacted with animal in trap, if determined animal will die some consideration to allow trapper to keep animal!

far too many incompetant hunters!

Fewer lions = more deer. Maybe I can draw a deer tag once in awhile.

Fewer lions around would not be a bad thing.

For future please give your harvest numbers so we can be better informed

For questions 4 and 5, I don't have any idea what the current hunters numbers or lion population are. In general I like to see stable numbers of top predators with higher numbers preferred if the habitat and prey can support increases. I have more concerns over habitat fragmentation than I do about human-wildlife conflict.

Game & Fish - you know whats best - that is your job - just do your job

GF&P had done a good job thus far as much as I gather. Keep up the good work!

GFP - could put adds on tv telling people not to provoke cats, if they come in contact with one.

GFP appears to be a fine organization sorry for the felt pen on the first page

GFP basically does a good job

GFP could easily reduce staff by 10%

GFP does a great job with lions and needs to not change a thing.

GFP let them get out of hand the season is to short elk and deer are your money makers and the lions have decimated the herds about 8 year ago now starting to come back.

GFP should include mountain lion static for the past year or two, To help with the "statewide" servey.

GFP should increase mountain lion populations in Pierre and Sioux Falls and see how much support you get.

GFP- thank you for all that you do to maintain healthy wildlife, fish & fowl populations in South Dakota!

Glad to help

Glad you are doing this survey.

Going forward will hope GFP helps to keep people and livestock safe from lions, while at the same time realizing they are important to mother natures balance of populations of its wild life creatures. Lion in proximity or within community of people is not safe and GFP will hopefully act to deal with concerns expressed by people where lions are known to be sighted. We hope to be able to hike and enjoy the out of doors without having to arm ourselves for any interactions of threats by lions or other wild creatures within our Black Hills. GFP must be open, truthful, and informative to the public regarding mountain lions. They must be able to respond and act in real time, not after months and years of "studies" and "data collection." No delays even if unintentional while allowing lions to live in nature as they always have.

Good luck!

Good luck! Thanks for asking.

Great work!

Grew up in rural SD, Black Hills. My only concern on a large population is the effect on deer/elk populations.

had a lion on our deck a year

Have a cabin in the Black Hills area between Spearfish and Central City (Mateland Road) and see ML once in a while - think they are plentiful there

Have encourage hunters, landowners to send in and reposts sighting in general areas to assist in population est.

Have enough hunters / careless shooting in the hills don't need more out here! Don't need their dogs out here. Leave them alone unless a rancher has a problem.

Have livestock on national forest in summer lost one calf to mt lions

Have never seen mountain lion - have trapper - hunted for many years.

Have pets - so am very careful at night although cats have walked through my neighbors during the day and there are kill sites behind my house.

Have seen a few mt lions near my house. So far none have posed any threat to me, my wife or our pets. However, they will be delt with if they do pose a threat! So far, I think So Dak is doing a good job of managing the population. Michael D Auer 11856 Crook City Rd Whitewood, SD 57793

Have seen mt lions in my yard and close to my house! Don't care for them being in my yard but like having them in the black hills.

Having lions is important. Not having them dramatically impact ranching is too.

Hope to see increase in population Allow to hunt during deer season

Hound hunting is cruel, as is trapping and snaring Night hunting seems unfair.

Hound hunting with discretion, should be allowed. I would help with selective harvest.

Hounds and trapping should be allowed

how about doing something to get all these deer out of hot springs,sd

How many tag's are given out totally, need this information to answer survey. How many lions are taken each year.

Hunters and irresponsible shooters are a much greater threat to humans than lions. There is no mandate to keep the National Forest State for livestock. The Game, Fish and Parks needs to rely on biology and not politics or private interests when addressing our states wildlife!

Hunters are not responsible and not regulated enough.

Hunters are shooting too close to houses in Nemo Rd area!

Hunting at night could be very dangerous on per hunter is fair interesting conversation!

Hunting lions is a good way to demand fear and respect of people, livestock and pets.

Hunting lions season should be longer. Ajust amount to harvest per number of lions in South Dakota.

Hunting with dogs in CSP should not be allowed. Several years ago I was hiking in the park and several dogs approached me aggressively. Their owners arrived several minutes later, but an encounter should not happen with unsupervised dogs.

I also have dogs. I do worry when they go outside at night. I have never had a problem with mtn lions although they are visible on the game cameras behind my house. We live in the black hills so we are fine with the mtn lions helping with the deer population.

I am 1 mile from the forest service boundary/ I have not had any loss from lions, but they do travel through my yard and intimidate the livestock.

I am a ranch caretaker part-time and frequently see mtn lions. They do not worry the dogs, horses, or livestock.

I am concerned about the mountain lion populations we do see them in Black Hawk and the Rapid City area

I am favor or a trapping and snaring season without dog hunting during that time. I support trapper education with recommended methods and equipment like some states are doing with wolf trapping.

I am more concerned about the elk damage to my fences and I have no fall pasture do to the elk - perhaps increase the number of elk licenses - I lose about \$1,000 potential pasture rent per year dur to elk

I am new to western SD and have no comment on this survey at this time. Please remove me from mailing list! Thank you!

I am not a hunter and never will be. For the most part I have perceive hunters and hunting as a cruel sport. Not many (none) of the hunters I know hunt for sustenance. They hunt to kill things and for trophies. That being said, the mountain lion problem is one situation where I would have to acquiesce that hunting is necessary. The sheer volume and fearlessness of the mountain lions around humans and their habitat is frightening. And yes, I know that humans have encroached upon the lions' territory. But I ask, what is the territory of humans and livestock and pets? This survey come to me the very week that my own pet was snatched by a mountain lion - she had gone outside simply to use the litterbox and was nabbed. Within the same week a friend sent me a video of a mountain lion walking right up to their door and peering in. It prowled around for almost 40 minutes, all while her toddler and baby slept a few feet away. The risk to humans and pets and livestock cannot be ignored. The numbers are clearly such that they are being forced into residential neighborhoods. The numbers need to decrease.

I am not convinced that lions play a positive role in maintaining a healthy ungulate population. People should not have to abony about their puts being killed or people being attacked (rare but it does happen) convince me, educate me, that lions are beneficial and I will "sing a different tune".

I am not qualified to take this survey basically homebound the last 10 years

I am not willing to lose and livestock to predators including mountain lions

I am retired WCO from the hill city district. I would like to see the use of registered dogs (ppl, ?) from March 1 to the end of the season or quota, I would also like to see the mt lion season open on Nov 1 with the BHS deer season to residents and a limited number of non-res lics that would be good until the quota is filled or Apr 30. Thanks Blair Waite

I am retired. I grew up on a sheep and cattle ranch. I saw the lack of cyote control destroy the sheep industry in the Black Hills area. If lions are controled and monitored they should be a needed part of the wildlife envirement.

I am very against using dogs. I people need to hunt they should be on foot way not out of a vehicle. I am female and used to trap for many years. People get in a rush to kill mountain lions the minute one is sighted. If people bring in sheep on 9 acres then they should expect losses. But it seems like the lions always lose. Sad but true.

I am very concerned about harvesting female lions that have kittens that are teaching them how to survive and be cautious of humans. They need to be taught to be cautious of humans and stay clear of areas and times they are present.

I am very supportive of founds and trapping

I appreciate GFP, asking for my opinion. Thank you.

I appreciate the work you do!

I believe dog hunting could be expanded and would help target specific category or trophy animals. Lions already end up in traps I believe would be smart to allow the harvest of these animals as well being a targeted group. I am open to one of couple non resident tags. I would recommend about on the ground and say 1 dog permit one at a larger cost bring the money into the state. I believe GFP needs to protect the basic game more from lions because the money in elk/deer/big horn sheep/goats is for greater than lions and more people enjoy seeing or having more opportunities to hunt these animals. Thank you.

I believe Game Fish & Parks are a professional group and will manage the population as needed.

I believe GFP does what GFP wants and doesn't really care about anyone else

I believe GFP has their finger on the situation - proper harvest to keep population in check

I believe GFP is doing a great job.

I believe GFP will do the right thing to manage animals.

I believe hunting is a good method of maintaining the balance of nature-predators and prey. Mountain lions are part of the overall food chain in nature.

I believe if a mountain lion has been spotted in your area then it should be taken out. Shot, not relocated.

I believe in letting boot hunters are needed and should have the chance to take a lion! I think houndsmen do take only the mature males and let a lot of other cats go free!

I believe more Mt Lions are killed than realized due to fear. Although I have never come upon a lion on foot, I believe you need to respect all wildlife as they react to fear and are protective as well. A species should not be eliminated due to fear. As stated previously, there needs to be more education and less misleading information.

I believe mt lions are part of our "natural" state and belong here to help control deer and other populations.

I believe ranching and farming community hold too much sway in decision making that relates to wildlife population of the Black Hills.

I believe SD Need more mountain lions to help control white tail deer populations. SD GFP Need to give more white tail doe hunting tags.

I believe that DFG&P do an outstanding task in managing SD wild animal population.

I believe that hunting is fine if used for food. Don't just kill animals because you don't want them around. Animals have a way of taking care of themselves and it's worked for years.

I believe that numbers will increase and level off. Early on people hunted them for a trophy or a rug. Those hunters are done - very few would go for multiple hunters, I believe. This point would make an argument to allow dogs to allow others desiring a trophy w/o the real hard work & effort. Dogs & guides is an area where I don't know how to look at it. Under strict guidelines allowing dogs w/ guides could work to control the numbers from increasing to dramatically. Mark Stolz

I believe that residents should have more access to all big game tags. And people who get landowner preferences that don't live in South Dakota should not get cheap tags and should have to allow legal hunting on their property by SD residents to help keep populations in check.

I believe that the mountain lion population could be managed better by harvesting more mature lions and houndsman.

I believe the GFP consistently minimizes the threat that mountain lions pose to pets and humans

I believe the number of mountain lions harvested each year is about correct; however, there is a clear issue with mountain lions encroaching on centers of population. Here in Deadwood there has been a noticeable increase in the number of mountain lions sightings, the number caught on home cameras, and the number seen during the day. Following the trendline of what folks have observed (i.e., not hard data), the situation will soon be intractable.

I believe the SDGFP is doing a Good!! Job!!

I believe there are less lions.

I believe there is no need for a mountain lion population in So Dak.

I believe with the information I have, that the system is being properly managed.

I bet you all get sick of talking about mountain lions.

I did not answer some of the questions on the first page because I think those questions depend on population. Too many lions in one area such as around ? orca have resulted in pets and livestock being targeted by lions. I do not believe this would be as prevalent if population density was lower. I believe a good approach would be to take half of the quota and make them limited issue tags which would allow the use of dogs. Then at least even in the years that the weather is not favorable for our current hunting practices we would still have a good chance to manage the population. Thanks!

I do a lot of hunting on the prairie and have only ever seen 1 lion = so population isn't out of line in my opinion for areas other than the hills but ranchers see it different when they start to lose livestock. I feel to be able to shoot a cat year round anywhere would keep things in line.

I do not fear mountain lions. I am very aware they are present. I believe the influx of people population is far more ruinous to wildlife and wild lands.

I do not hunt. I am a widow.

I don't believe there are too many

I don't hunt

I don't know enough about mtn lions or their habits to render an opinion. I'm aware they live here but have never encountered one. I do think they are beautiful however.

I don't know historically the background of mtn lions in the hills. Did I not see them when I was growing up because they were over hunted? Or are there way more now than historically and it is not a healthy number?

I don't know much about M. L. hunting I've never done it

I don't know, its shed hunting time here in the black hills. I sometimes feel as if I should be packing a hand gun because of mountain lions but after giving it some thought don't. I have seen mountain lions while poking around on the BHNF but have never felt threatened. Lastly, I feel GF&P should allow lion hunting with dogs.

I don't like the idea of using dogs.

I don't see a benefit of mountain lions

I don't see this as a problematic issue and would trust the professionals at F&W to do their job

I don't trust the GFP Commission to follow the science or honor public opinion.

I don't want mountain lions to become extinct; however I don't want them walking into towns to be a threat to humans and pets

I doubt that my opinion would be helpful because I do not have any knowledge about the animals in the country. However, we must to pay attention to protecting the ecosystem, include the mountain lions.

I fear that human encroachment into mountain lion habitat will cause unnecessary harvesting of mountain lions, which would be a tragedy in my opinion.

I feel the population is too high, based on the numbers of DNA tested lions killed 100's of miles away from the hills, and also those now going in to the towns. Appears they have run out of wild space to live. SO they need to be better controlled. Hunting is conservation!

I feel we have to many lions in South Dakota. We need to let the biologist manage our resources and not the game commission.

I feel we people are interfering on new property wild life used to be moving wild animals into areas now cats and bear are being seen more.

I feel you are doing a great job with the lion management program. I have not hunted in is years.

I find that the typical great lion hunter in the black hills determines how many miles it takes on the truck to bag a lion. They hunt by driving every road possible after a snow to cut a fresh track. It has resulted in a much higher level of winter Backcountry overall.

I greatly enjoy hunting 4-wheeling and being in the outdoors. The black hills are my home. I'll do whatever I can to keep hunting in SD tradition!

I grew up on a ranch in Butte County and spent many years hiking in the northern hills. Overall, I feel the culling in the northern hills has been less than adequate and the culling in the southern hills has been slightly better. My opposition to non-residents hunting lions is due to the multiple out-of-state hunters I've met who do not respect the land boundary lines and other hunters. I am also the most frustrated I've ever been in my history of draws. I don't understand how I, a resident and taxpayer in Custer County, cannot draw a white tail, any whitetail, tag in the county, nor can I draw a mule deer tag for the northern hills. But I met several very pleasant hunters from Colorado who drew Custer County, any whitetail tags. I was unable to fill my 5th pick draw, which was any antlerless whitetail in Harding County. There are no more than 10 whitetail deer in Harding County. Someone should have paid more attention in junior high before applying to set regs for tags.

I grew up on a sheep ranch/farm in SD, never had a problem with lions taking sheep

I grew up with a great respect and passion for nature and conservation. My dad retired as the chief of the MN DNR so conservation has always been important to my family. I also understand how incredibly hard it is to get accurate population numbers on an animal as reclusive as mountain lions in a terrane as rugged as the Black Hills. I know multiple people in the BHFPD last year alone that lost livestock to cats that the state trappers were not able to capture. SD GFP told us that hunting with dogs is the most effective way to hunt cats so I think this form of hunting should be expanded into the BHFPD. I also think that if the quota is not met by the end of April, then the season should be expanded. Or maybe that is when dogs should be used to help harvest the target number of cats in that area. There were so many cats in town in Spearfish last year that something has to be adjusted before it's someone's kid that gets hurt. The habitat for cats is shrinking so the population needs to be managed differently.

I have 6 1/2 acres and help other people with horses, that need grazing in the summer

I have a comment about the bounty program. No one I know thinks it is a good idea. We need our small animals as there should be a balance in nature. Just saying!

I have chickens , horses, cattle. I have lions in my yard often. They are passing through. They have killed several deer under my bedroom window. If they pose a threat we contact GFP.

I have documented cougar concerns throughout the U.S. and Mexico. As an award-winning international environmental journalist, I am providing you with a well-informed perspective. My handwriting is bad due to cervical spine nerve damage. Fortunately, it does not affect my IQ. I respect and appreciate all honest efforts of state agency employees on the public payroll to establish protocols that provide equal protection under the law to our relatives who have no human voice in matters. Thank you for conducting this survey. I look forward to seeing the results and their professional analysis. Remember it is not the governor, rather normal citizens like me, who support you.

I have had lions walk in fresh tracks I made. I have seen 8 fresh lion tracks in the same area. The Black Hill is a small area and has a large population moving into the hill

I have hunted lions for 16 years. Never saw a lion just tracks in the snow.

I have in the past seen hunters on the Piedmont Fire trail carry dogs out in the morning and night scopes on their firearms.

I have lived in rural Lawrence County for over twenty years, a lion has killed a turkey on my property and carried off harvested deer hears but posed no threat to our cats. Having one close also helped keep the deer away which are destroying the national forest by over browsing

I have lived in this housing development for 48 years and until a few years ago, we have NEVER had problems with mountain lions! In the last 2 or 3 years several have had mountain lions ON their decks, in their driveways and in their yards. (even in the daylight!!) Several have lost pets to mountain lions. There have also been many sightings in residential neighborhoods in town and within city limits! This is ridiculous, unnecessary, unsafe, and unacceptable! There are simply way to many mountain lions.

I have lost colts due to mountain lions

I have met three people who have had encounters with mountain lions. The first was in his car on a narrow road. The cat didn't move, even when the horn was used. His comment left little doubt that the cat was unafraid. the second was a friend walking his tow young daughters on a trail. The cat was appk 40 yards up the trail. They made themselves look large and made a lot of noise; to no effect. The lion finally lost interest and walked away. "The longest 5 minutes of my life." he now carries a handgun when they are hiking, and is careful in the areas they choose to go. Incidentally, he stands 6'2" tall and weighs 245lbs. The third was a friend of mine who is a nurse. She was walking her two black labs and came across a lion on the Mickelson trail. She screamed and made herself look large. The dogs acted erratically, but barked at the cat "almost non-stop". The cat just looked at them, and after several minutes, walked away. The cast are not afraid of people. I do not wish to see them exterminated; but we could instill some caution in them if we were allowed to hunt them with dogs. After treeing a cat, you have an opportunity to see if the cat meets your criteria (Tom, female, etc). If not, the cat is released with a healthy fear of people and dogs. Out of room; but still on my soapbox!

I have never hunted and I have never owned a firearm. I don't feel qualified to express an opinion.

I have never seen a mountain lion in the wild, but I think they are the most magnificent animal God created. That is why I strongly oppose the season just for the sport of killing one.

I have no need for coyotes, lions, wolf. I also will not allow night hunting of any kind with my cattle and water tanks and windmill get shot up enough in the daylight seasons.

i have no problem mt lion hunting or population control through hunting

I have no problem with the hunting of mt lions as a management tool or to manage the depredation of live stock. But using dogs to run them to treed is a barbaric practice. If a hunter is to lazy to hunt them then he doesn't deserve a license. Shooting them after being treed or cornered by dogs is cowardly. I have hunted in SD for many years. Deer, ducks, turkey, pheasants, etc and have never used or agreed with using dogs.

I have not heard or seen livestock kills in this area.

I have not noticed any lions or lions prints since moving to Hot Springs. There are too many town deer. There were prints by my storage unit out toward Wind Cave Park.

I have only seen one lion in the wild in 28 years, it didn't harm the livestock at all. Strongly oppose traps, snaring and use of dogs.

I have pets, family, and hike often. And do not feel threatened by mountain lions.

I have seen them on and near my property, never had any problems.

I have several lions on hunting cams, once captured 3 lions in one photo. Too few white tail deer around now in the Black Hills, may quit archery hunting until population gets better. More lion tags need to be issued in the hills for our local hunters, allow to use dogs in the Hills & allow some night hunting until population gets reduced.

I have to trust you guys. I have lived here all my life and have seen a total of 2 mountain lions in all that time. Now I do know & agree that they are here but I have not seen them. I lived for 25 years at Hart Ranch and walked 2 miles every day - early in the morning but never did see a mountain lion. Maybe I was just lucky!

I have worked with farmers, ranchers and rural town residents some of ranchers say the lion population has gotten to high in their area. I have been a loan supervisor and am now a realtor. I enjoy big game hunting but never have gotten any big trophy deer or antelope and missed by chance for an elk after 18 years of preference.

I herd mt lion chirp's so of my house one morning and mt lion tracks in fresh show going north on staff road from 25359 address, one set of tracks was big and 2nd set was a little smaller. They weren't dog tracks either.

I hope G and P significantly reduces lion population by sportsman hunting so ungulates can increase. If would be great to buy elk or deer licenses over the counter versus by lottery.

I hope that GFP takes this matter seriously. If member of GFP would like to discuss this with me, I would happily oblige. Jesse Ketzer 605-641-9546

I hope to see hunting in the future for my kids & grandkids management of predators allows this should continue to be matched with the carrying capacity of the land!

I just have a inside cat (kitty)

I know my comments will not have much influence on your decisions of how to manage the lion population in the Black Hills. I am going to share my ideas. I have lived and hunted in the BH for over 50 years before the lions became established. We enjoyed a casual hunt and would see many deer during the day. We often pass several nice bucks before taking a large buck. Now we see fewer deer and after several days of hunting, harvest any buck. During the summer people enjoy seeing the does and fawns. Now we see fewer fawns. The lions get many fawns. We find the remains when checking fence and salt licks. Before the lions, there were porcupines throughout the hills. We have not seen a porcupine in recent years. Also there are fewer rabbits. Everyone enjoys seeing wildlife in the hills. Since the lions have been established, we see fewer animals. Seldom or if ever do we see a lion. I think the lions have reduced the overall population of wildlife in the BH. There was a healthier and better balance of wildlife before the lions. I realize that the lions are here to stay. It is reported that it takes a deer a week to maintain a lion. If there are the reported population of 300 lions in the BH, then it takes about 1500 deer a year to feed the lions. That means that there are that many less for the people to see and for hunters to harvest. I remember when we could buy a deer hunting license at the local store. Now we have to apply in the middle of the summer, hoping we will be lucky enough to draw A tag because a lion have reduced the deer population. I know there are more hunters now, but there would be more tags available if there were more deer. I hope the SD GFP will manage the number of lines to minimize their impact on the other wildlife in the forest. Possible allowing the use of dogs during a special season could be a tool to reduce their numbers. So far, they have not been a major problem for livestock producers and other domestic animals. I appreciate the opportunity

I know that lions can be a nuisance for farmers. I just don't want unnecessary killing of this animal. I know they are in my neighborhood; I have cameras in hopes of seeing one. I don't want to see them killed.

I lease land for cattle use.

I like knowing that historically present animals are finding niches in the Black Hills to reestablish populations.

I like mountain loins they are beautiful creatures... in the wild missing cats, have bothered the home I think they should be tranquilize and move back into the Hills, sick be destroyed, babbies if any and found, rescue and released into the wild, raise them in their environment very important. Thankx for letting me speak.

I live .5 miles from an elementary school. Lions that target cats (easy kill) will move on to small children - we have many children in our neighborhood! My neighbors & myself would gladly let GF&P onto our property to remove the lion(s) from our area. (Corral Dr, RC)

I live in a town and my security cameras have recorded 3 lions within the last 5 months

I live in Chapel Valley. I have heard them howl at night. Under/of my spruce trees I found a carcass of a deer with his hind quarter eaten. I have no small pets. All in all they are beautiful creatures and I would like to see one.

I live in Custer city but enjoy hunting, hiking and camping in the mountains. I do not feel threatened by mt. lions. I also enjoyed mtn lions hunting in Colorado until the DOW ruined it by bad policies and lies.

I live in South Canyon Country Estates (off of Nemo) in the last month there has been 2 or 3 sightings of mountain lion(s) in our neighborhood. Prior to these sightings it has been 16 years since I seen a mountain lion in our neighborhood.

I live in the heart of lion country close to WY I feel our deer and sheep and turkey suffer greatly and dogs would help mange them on years with little snow. We had to release one 125# out of a trap this year is it very dangerous if we could despacht them would be great also.

I live in town, but have had multiple kills in my neighborhood over the last 12 years. Actually have seen just as many in town as I have in the woods. We have way too many lions in SD!

I live on property surrounded by BH national forest. I see lion tracks but have never seen one. This suggests that there are not too many of them around.

I live outside Rapid City limits. I have seen cat tracks out here. People who have livestock threatened by big cats should have the opportunity to remove the threat whenever it is necessary.

I lived by the river for many year never seen a m lion- now in the hills -seen tracks-

I lived in Washington State for 30+ years and see enough, hope you guys don't repeat what they're doing, and retired and moved home to SD and been here for 14 years. P.S. wolves are worse than the cats, in todays world there is no room for them, sad but its still true, the money that has been spent on them, could go somewhere better and get our future (kids) out enjoying and experiencing the great outdoors, there's enough changes out there without adding to it. My humble honest opinion. Thank you.

I love having the mountain lions but believe that they need to be managed. There is really any other predator to aid in population control. Thanks for sending out this survey. I will be hunting lions next year.

I love my mt lion who hangs around my house. As long as he doesn't bother me, I don't bother him. He is beautiful.

I love you folks, you do great work! Keep it up!

I need more info on population trends before I can feel comfortable answering some questions.

I own the cutest dog on the planet!!

I prefer to protect their habitat and therefore population - we live in their territory! Now - if lion are present near schools - a danger to pets, children, then they need to be removed.

I purchase a tag just to have in case of sighting a cat I help protect neighbors livestock - very seldom will I take the time to hunt lions

I ranch in Perkins Co & business in Lawrence. Pets and guests with children & pets we care for. We maintain minimum cover.

I realize that mountain lions are difficult to manage and harvest numbers in part or gauged by health of deer and elk herds. I would be in favor of more live trapping and slightly less hunting.

I really enjoy hunting predators. There is becoming more and more restrictions on where we can get to with more private land close off roads/trails and the lack of access to the large snowmobile trail system that really restricts access.

I run through the hills.

I see a need to control the population of lions, and a need to have CSP land. BHNF and National Parks land allow hunting.

I see no reason to have mountain lions in the BH.

I see no reason to promote and allow trophy hunting. I do support managing lion population for seasons of human safety and management of lions that prey on livestock and pets.

I sometimes hunt big game, I come from a long line of ranchers, hunters, farmers. Dogs do more damage to livestock, wildlife than lions do and we do not hunt them (dogs). Unless mountain lions overpopulate, let them live.

I spend a lot of time outdoors and have only been lucky enough to see 3 lions. I have a healthy respect for their presence. They belong here.

I spent a lot of time in the Black Hills Forest and see lots of wildlife. I've only seen mountain lion scat. There doesn't appear to be too many lions in the Hills.

I strongly oppose hunting lions with dogs. I don't consider this ethical hunting.

I strongly oppose use of hounds. As a property own, I do not want hounds crossing onto my property and do not see a need for hounds.

I strongly trust people to trust and enforcement of rules and laws that are to be by our trusted park located people as much as any enforcement by officers who are needed sometimes when getting help of any law enforcement and people that are capable.

I strongly urge to keep the hunting away from populated areas

I support all hunting. Hunting keeps mtn lions from being to bold!

I support farmers & ranchers to protect their livestock when needed

I support hunting/fishing fully but I do view some hunting methods as irresponsible ie night hunting, but that is my opinion.

I think GF&P trys to do a good job within their budget while putting up with tree huggers & political bullshit! Thank you

I think GFP does a great job but not many fill their fags so they should have more oppportunity to do so and to harvest more than one at a time

I think it is sad people are taking over all the habitat and leaving no room for animals that are just doing what nature intended them to do.

I think more hunter would purchase lion tags if they were able to hunt during deer season. I also think we can fill the quota.

I think overall the GFP is doing a good job managing lions.

I think people that want fewer mountain lions should move somewhere without mountain lions.

I think S Dakota does a good job of management. I'd like to see changes in the application process, for various big game species.

I think that the GFP are doing a good job of managing the lions

I think the cost of a license should increase for those who want to hunt mountain lions.

I think the SD GFP staff are doing a good job.

I think there is more lions in our area then before.

I think they are beautiful creatures and would hate to see them disappear from the Hills! We must understand that we are encroaching on their territory.

I think this survey is a good thing to do.

I think using dogs would help manage the population.

I think we need to kept our mountain lions around, but to controll them in needed area's

I think you need more input from us oldtimers! I've been there, done that!

I think you should spend more time working with urban areas to control the wildlife populations within city limits. For instance Hot Springs has way too many turkeys in town and at the golf course which is in the city limits. there are a hundred or more turkeys on the golf course and as far as I'm concerned it is a health hazard. Just wait till all those hens hatch out 8-12 chicks this spring. Do your job. Tim Fast 605-685-5007

I trust the forest service knows best how to handle mountain lion population.

I trust the state of GFP. They are professionals and should be left to make the decisions about wildlife in SD.

I understand that I am encroaching on the lions habitat and they are a necessary part of this ecosystem.

I view mt lions as any other varmint like coyotes that needs to be eliminated

I want the mountain lion to survive, but the presents of "man" has a hanged the balance of nature. Other species, elk, need to be preserved and balanced also as much as possible.

I wish that only boot hunting should be allowed and believe our number are way less than your reporting.

I work for GFP. And I disagree with the chackin process for lions. Its the reason why I quit hunting them. Hunters should be able to skin and gut the cat immediately after harvest. The meat is delicious and I feel its a tremendous waste of life and proteiin when hunters have to spoil the meat to allow US (GFP) to get an accurate weight on it. What are we doing with that data to make it worth the waste of meat? I think a tooth checking like we do with elk, with a small questioner would be more appropriate for this season. If you have any questions for me, my office is 20 foot from Dr. Buckleys in rapid city. Fisheries biologist.

I would have liked to know some baseline population and mountain lion health information prior to answering.

I would like to hunt more deer and elk

I would like to keep the harvest as a min a work troubled area. I also feel GFP has done a good job on this prey ran.

I would like to see a limited season to where you could use dogs- but if a night hunt is included I think that should be limited and a different license for it with a high fee to do it allowed to out of state folks with a higher fee. \$75-150.00 more limited amount or may behave a fund raiser tag once a year for auction or etc. I think some state put ap x-amount of ceratain type lic for elk or sheep or bears for example sold to highest bider, etc or for a youth or VA or handicap permit

I would like to see the use of hounds expanded because I feel it is much easier to filed judge a lion that has been treed.

I would only question the use of hounds or traps but also question my opinions because of my uneducated guess on the population numbers of lions. The success rate of harvest in the beginning of lion hunting was a bit alarming. Good management of hunting seasons have seemed to work well. Thanks for asking!

I'd like to see boot hunt in CSP be a little longer per tag and 4 days?

I'd like to see lion season open for deer season also. No need for out of state hunters No need for dogs all season maybe last week or 2.

I'd prefer hunting in South Dakota stay guarded to the revenue driven decisions. I'd prefer to manage the population of lions as required by incidents of public issues - pet deaths, lions in dense population areas and also managed for the health of other big game. In my hunting, the main issue is hunting lions when you find multiple tracks. I don't think taking an animal with young dependents is ethical but I have disengaged when finding multiple mature tracks. Also allowing hunting in a larger season (earlier start) would allow ethical hunters a greater chance to manage the population. If revenue is an issue, maybe create a 2nd season with additional fee. I believe out of state hunting will create more of a management mess than anything. Yes could be create huge revenue but not worth it in my opinion. Thank you for including me in your survey. Zach

I'm 94 yrs old and never did hunt.

I'm less concerned about the publics perception than the health of the ecosystem and mountain lion populations. I believe that there are too few mountain lions because they help control other predators such as coyotes, etc. healthy mountain lion populations are best for the environment & for hunters alike.

I'm not a hunter but I think hunting is probably the best way of managing wildlife population

I'm not a hunter lions have always been a concern when they come in city limits (Rapid City). I trust SD GFP to do the responsible , sustainable, and human thing.

I'm not a hunter so my answers are so me what unqualified to answer. Hope this helps.

I'm not sure, but I suspect that turkey population, deer population, and elk population have suffered because of mt. lions. I love turkey hunting!

I'm sorry I'm not much help with this. I have no experience with hunting and know nothing about it. The status quo seems to be working.

I've been an outdoorsman most of my life. I loved it when I would cross their trail or back track and find one had been following me but some years not seeing one I've never had the urge to shoot one.

I've never seen a mountain lion in the wild, although I have seen physical evidence including tracks and deer kill remains on our RC property

I've heard enough stories from reliable sources as to what dogs can do to mountain lions. It is not Sportman like. I am not in favor of using dogs at all. My concern... If you would allow pursuit where multiple tracks are present, you could kill the mother of cubs, and the cubs would therefore not learn proper hunting skills from mother and might be more inclined to kill livestock. Also, Lions have been doing a pretty good job of removing CWD diseased cervids. If you remove too many lions, we could have an increase in the disease. I do trust that the SDGFP Biologists have done their research to set up a fair hunting season

If GFP wants to change and add out of state licenses then change them a lot and lower residents costs

If lion populations have become an issue allowing individuals the use of dogs would be extremely beneficial.

If mountain lions are, or get to be, a threat than relocate or reduce the numbers

If people are worried about their pets then they need to keep them inside at night and protected during the day like I do. They can't blame a wild animal if they are an irresponsible pet owner. I wish we had a lot more bears and other wild animals such as moose too. Mountain lions are beautiful animals and I hate to see them murdered for sport. If there is a dangerous lion killing a lot of livestock then I understand killing it but not for sport.

If they need to be hunted - on foot - no dogs

If you have not met your quota there is no need to increase hunters - or #s. There is no clear and definitive way to measure numbers - and unless it isn't being reported - mountain lions are not a threat to people. If you are willing to let pets free roam in a wilderness area - that is not a threat to pets That is either lack of education or stupidity the GFP cannot flex. We own cabins to tourists and have educational materials available with regards to mountain lions and other wild animals.

If you increase hunting maybe every other year

If you lose livestock to cats, ranchers should legally be able to kill the cats

If you want to control elk and or deer population just issue more licenses you don't need lions to do that

In hiking extensively the Black Hills in over 20 years I honesty have never scene a mountain lion. Their numbers are over hyped. Thank you.

In my opinion, GFP manages wildlife for the purpose of revenue. Many regulations do not appear to benefit sportsmen, wildlife, or the general public. These changes appear to have been implemented in the last 20 years and decisions appear to have been influenced by lobbyists. The more GFP regulates, which usually means attempting to influence numbers of animals, populations decrease. Pheasant and deer numbers are down. Walleye numbers are down. There are likely many factors that contribute to it, but GFP regulation doesn't seem to improve it.

In the 1950s the cattleman's association paid \$100.00 to \$1000.00 for mountain lions because they got a taste for cattle & sheep.

In the 2023 mountain lion report there was 525 lions in 2018 and in 2019 there is 275 estimated. They harvested 61 lions and removed another 20. 169 unaccounted for.

In troubled areas cats should be hunted more aggressively. We sold our house on Crook City road in 2018. We were aware mt. lions were in our area, but were surprised to see a video of 2 cats walking up the steps to our old home in broad daylight. That's a little to close! We are interested in the practice of using dogs to push the cats back out of residential areas.

Interesting opinion survey. I do believe SDGFP does a good job in managing such an exclusive species of mountain lions. Populations and population dynamics is tough. Thank you for your efforts!

Introduce more predators back to the area like wolves & bears, we need to maintain the deer better which benefits vegetation and other animals thriving

It is my belief that the mountain lion population was introduced into the Black Hills of SD years ago in an effort to mitigate high whitetail deer numbers. As a result, the number of deer tags has consistently been reduced year after year, and the sighting/interactions with lions in more urban areas across our state (as well as others) has grown prolific. Most recently, a 21 year old man was killed by a lion in California. While I am well aware that this lion is most assuredly not from South Dakota, it cannot be said that mountain lion and other predators (wolves, bears, etc...) do not pose a serious risk to human life and flourishing. As the number of both people and lions increase so shall the number of fatal encounters.

It seems the management of the lion population is in a downward trajectory. The use of dogs should be terminated in hunting lions. That to me isn't hunting.

It would be desirable to prohibit all hunting in CSP

It would be nice to have data on estimated population number of cub/year, and primary food source - deer population # of Deer killed by cars to compare hunting number with.

Item #2 Parents of young children and owners of pets are responsible for their charges well-being. Unacceptable threat to humans when drink drivers are busy smashing up themselves and others? What are you talking about:? Lions are supposed to kill and eat wild ungulates. They are carnivores. Item #8 I'm suspicious of "social acceptable levels". Your decisions should not be swayed by political whines or anti-hunting notions from other parts of the counting.

John Wrede is an ass! :)

just as important are any house pets

Just keep a healthy population of the mountain lion - a good count on how many is so important. so they don't all get killed off.

Just leaves the lions alone. But when there's too many, allow hunters to cull. NO DOGS NO TRAPS NO SNARES.

Just remember, this is South Dakota and we live here for a reason. Managing the mountain lion population is important, so is hunting, livestock and pets. Mountain Lions in the past were fairly elusive, which isn't the case anymore.

Keep any population control as humane as possible! No traps, no dogs!

Keep the mountain lion population under control but also keep the human interference under control. Keep dogs out of it.

Keep up the good work

Keep up the good work!

Keep up the good work! Thanks!

Keep up the good work! Yay science!

Keep up the work!!

Keeping the public aware of lion population in specific areas being managed helps people to understand the actual impact of the population and whether the harvest need to be increased or decreased.

Land in same family since 1900. No known mt lion problem. Leave our dominant cats alone. They teach their young to kill wildlife and stay away from farmstead and domestic animals. The same for the coyotes. Chad Sebade is a good asset if there is a problem.

Large dog breed

Lease land to a local rancher

Leave South Dakota alone.

Leave the hunting season the same

Legalize trapping. More dog hunts. I don't want mountain lion hunting to mess up deer/elk hunts. I get if your out in your stand/blind or stalking and you see one you want to shoot it but I'd rather keep the deer/elk hunt more pristine manage lions through dog hunt/trapping

Less lions for a safe community

Let them hunt them.

Licenses should be more available to residents first

Lion hunting should be allowed year round in Black Hills fire protection district and land owners with livestock should be given a licence for half price

Lion in my yard this morning. Re-open Custer State Park airport!

Lions are a extreme threat to deer and elk - should be treated as pests for control

Lions belong in the ecosystem.

Lions only pose an unacceptable risk to stock pets, game animals when population of lions is too high.

Lions perform an important ecological function in the ecosystem by removing sick deer on a year-round basis

Listen to livestock landowners, they know the land & environment best

Live in urban, work in rural with a large number of livestock. Have not seen anything to bring mountain lion concern in our area. 15,000 acres observed, mountain and canyon like terrain.

Live stock on the ranch we own, but not where I currently live.

Lived in the Black Hills for 25+ years in very rural area and have only seen 1 lion in our area! I don't trust GFP numbers for harvest as to an overpopulated mountain lion problem.

Lived on a ranch for a good portion of my life mt lions never bothered the cattle (coyotes didn't either)

Livestock is a big consideration

Livestock owners should be allowed to protect their stock on their own land.

Living most of my life in western SD, I have never seen a mountain lion while hiking, bicycling, or walking, but I'm sure they have seen me as our neighbors had a young mountain lion on their back patio. As a kid, hiking all over the hills and Sturgis, we never worried about mountain lions. It seems to have become more of an issue since the last 1990s/early 2000s. Why? Were they always here, just housing/development forced them to be more visible? Were they introduced/re-introduced in the area? We also have deer and turkey in our neighborhood, when they aren't visiting the neighborhood, I wonder if a mountain lion in in our area.

Long survey

Loss of habitat due to development in future may be a concern?

M lion move around alot hard to say!

Maintaining a healthy populations of mountain lions helps the economy and environment of the Black Hills a like.

Make some time slots to use dogs through out season in BHFPD by draw like CSP seasons

Manage cats - whatever it takes

Manage lions more aggressively in high population areas. Let them flourish in more remote locations of Black Hills and/or prairies.

Maybe increase public awareness of mtn lions nearer population centers as people population increases. Folks new to the Black Hills may be ignorant of the mtn lion population and need to understand our impact to the mtn lion's home.

Migration of lions out of the Black Hills is a good indicator of carrying capacity. Game cams should be distributed to private property on the fringes for detection.

More concerned about lions population expanding.

More information is needed on how much mortality to livestock occurs. Also, what about compensation to ranchers for losses that don't involve hunting.

More tags should be given to residents rather than nonresidents

Mountain lion are part of the animal ecosystem live with them.

Mountain lion killing should not be a source of state revenue.

Mountain lion population is over populated around our neighborhood in the Black Hills.

Mountain lion population needs to be controlled - hunting with dogs is the best method for control - It works!

Mountain lions are a keystone species and thus crucial to our ecosystem here. However, the proper management of them is also important to control their population. With no natural predator, hunting by humans is the best option and preserves the hunting tradition in SD.

Mountain lions are a threate to California people

Mountain lions are beautiful animals. Rarely seen by most people. They should not be hunted for sport.

Mountain lions are beautiful but equally dangerous - we need the habitat to keep them which also keeps them and us safe

Mountain lions are beautiful creatures that should not be over hunted.

Mountain lions are important part of our environment. Humans are the threat to our environment. Humans ruin it we are the monsters.

Mountain lions are part of the chain, we need to keep the population balanced and in syn with the other animals that we hunt in South Dakota.

Mountain lions DO NOT pose unacceptable risks to ungulates, livestock, pets, or people who adequately protect them. Yeah, I'm "one a them fuckin' libruls" (thank you, Hot Springs residents) who believes people should protect their livelihoods instead of killing magnificent predators. West River residents are always bitching about the hordes of deer, and ranchers need to stop believing they're guaranteed a living in the Bill of Rights.

Mountain lions have a right to exist. without being hunted.

Mountain lions have NO PLACE acceptable in the Black Hills or SD.

mountain lions help keep the deer population under control. Not enough information given in this survey to answer some questions.

Mountain lions were here before people I would imagine. Enough control to maintain safety should suffice.

Moved to outskirts of Hermosa. New comers wanted chickens. Don't blame the lions for coming in for chicken dinner.

Mt lion walks through our yard and around our house. We are worried about our safety. Can mt lions be relocated?

Mt. lions are an important part of the natural ecosystem. I do agree that they can pose a threat to humans/livestock/pets - they have an important role.

Mtn lions are a part of a healthy functioning ecosystem. As we have removed most other apex predators (bear, wolves) lions perform a crucial role in keeping our ? herds healthy.

Mtn lions are an absolute threat to deer and elk populations. Hunting should be the same as coyote requirements. Open the season up the same as we do for coyotes.

Mtn lions scare me more than grizzlys, moose and my mother - but they have a place in the ecosystem. Education is probably the way to remind people of how to be respectful and not set up mtn lions for trouble by their own habits/ignorance.

My comments in part 6 cover my opinion. These mountain lions were well within the city limits of the town of Custer. But thank you for taking the time to put this survey together to get our feedback.

My concerns is for pets. Every year we see signs of lion taking deer. We don't want hunters or lions near our pets.

My husband and I retired in 1999 and moved from Lincoln County to a home just east of Custer. At first, we heard that a lioness had had cubs at the rough terrain at Sylvan Lake. We didn't believe it. They are secretive and night creatures. More and more people started seeing them. I have only seen three lions in 25 years. Vehicles kill them occasionally. The last several years, we Custer people have seen almost NO lions because of your too many lion hunt licenses out there. The custer "hunters" love their guns and love killing animals. When your first hunts were allowed, the gleam in every Custer hunter's eyes were glittering and eager. Please allow diversity!

My husband works for the USFS and is walking to tower sites often in the Black Hills He has never encountered a mountain lion.

My job keeps me from actively hunting lions but someday I think I would enjoy it

My trust of the GFP is low because we were told years ago (before the mountain lion season began) that there were no mountain lions when we knew there were. The same thing is happening with bears and wolves now. Just be honest about it.

N/A - Just keep the cats!

NA

Need more information on the current population of lions in the hills. Where are they concentrated more. If populations are high around the urban interface, consideration should be given for a larger harvest in those areas.

Need to allow dog hunting

need to have more deer harvest in urban areas

Need to increase hunter safety/firearms courses for folks and have a type of firearms report course for folks. Encountered a few that cannot shoot/aim/safety handle a firearm and have no business hunting. People think by watching the Outdoor Channel they know all there is to know about hunting. I stopped hunting due to all the non-shooting types that pull the trigger and don't take the time to ID the target and processed. Have a Nice Day!!

Need to keep pressure on cats so they stay wild not like cal. and co. I'm more concerned with the possibility of wolves moving in. They would do sever damage to wildlife and stock as they have in other states?

Never had any problems with domestic animals have seen a deer or two over the years that was suspect

No

No blood, no foul.

No Dogs!! Keep lion hunting ethical for those creatures. The season should start in Oct, Nov, Dec. That extra few months would help reach a set quota. December season start would be a good start.

No hound hunting No outside/out of state don't want to see it commercialized No trapping

No hunting with dogs. Let the men and women be real hunters.

No livestock here. Our lots are two acers in size and the canyon is narrow. I was a principle of a school in Sioux City Iowa. I was there for 25 years.

No mountain lions at all, so no hunting licenses would be needed at all!

No trapping please! It is in humane. I live here to new the beauty of wildlife and nature.

Non-Resident hunters should not be allowed to hunt lions we have enough resident hunters with want to hunt.

none

None

Not a hunter

Not knowing the numbers i feel im unable to answer alot of these questions

Not sure how valid a survey like this will be helpful. Most of us do not have the valid resource to make an educated, unbiased decision.

Not sure if it is already a program however I believe a mentoring program to recrute and educate new hunters into the world of lion hunting would be a benifit to expand knowledge as well as economic benefit

Now when you go out walking you have to carry a weapon guns in the Black Hills

Now why would we have mountain lions here we can't have chickens and the wild turkeys and deer want to bring them in

obeying wildlife and hunting to maintain proper populations. food and enjoyment need to be a part of SD

Ok ? my efforts. I am getting older.

Oops - didn't see this area - put any comments on previous page - to reiterate: I think the people in charge of keeping track of the lion population are professionals and/or area residents in those areas. Unless you have a valid reason for not wanting them (losing lots of your livestock, for example) I believe mountain lions serve a purpose in the ecosystem and help keep a balance in nature. I don't know about hurting people. Most of the time, I think some people probably but not always, visitors who don't listen to warnings that mt lions are "wild" animals and get too close to them and/or their babies.

Optimal lion population would prevent decrease/loss in other game animals

Overall GFP does a good job but there are too many lions and they are too used to people. Hunting them with dogs will cut the numbers and make them respect or fear people.

People move to the forest knowing wild animals live there and things happen then they complain

People move to the woods and expect to make it into a suburbia type environment. I have had one lion and one black bear in my yard in all my years and consider that a gift that I was able to observe them. Amazing animals. This is their home first - I keep track of my dog and cat! I am respectful.

people need to be aware of their surroundings when living in the country not only for lions, snakes skunks ect. watch where you walk and pay attention.

Pets are our thing

Please allow hunting with hounds in all districts with strict harvest quotas.

Please continue to manage the mountain lion and all game populations here in SD so that we as SD residents can continue to hunt and enjoy them.

Please do not allow snares or traps. That is incredibly cruel. Its also dangerous to recreationists thinkers that hike w/their dogs. I do not want my dog to die in my arms, in a trap or share only so a hunter can say the got a lion. He happened to a friend. How devastating. I also don't know what the BH Fire District includes, all of the BH? and I have no idea how may lion hunter there were in 22-23. Thank you for asking the public for their opinions.

Please do not cancel our majestic cats! I'm tired of cancel culture!

Please do not let over population occur or persist.

Please do not snare - trap - hunt with dogs or hunt at night. Inhuman!

Please don't allow night hunting! Also, it should be limited to SD residents only.

Please HELP educate the public that feeding game (deer) within city limits promote a safety hazard as the deer stop naturally foraging and congregate in large groups depending on corn, hay and high protien cattle feed provided by mis-guided residents for their personal enjoyment not thinking about health welfare of the wild game or safety of their community in cars, walking on sidewalks and ultimately attract lions. David Holmgren PO Box 668 Keystone SD 57751 605 999 2055

Please protect this beautiful animal.

Population control important in all animals. Thanks for doing the survey and I think, good animal management.

Prairie dogs are a bigger problem than lions

protect the big cat

Providing current and previous annual mountain lion numbers would be useful. When we are in the Black Hills which we are frequently I am always concerned about a mountain lion encounter yet I've never seen one. I have walked over fresh tracks from a lion in the early morning snow - once since 2006.

Quotas are to be reached, get dogs out there. Rip the bandage off and harvest cats with dogs. Hardly any cats get killed in rhe southern hills due to lack of snow. When we get snow dogs would harvest them. Get units to reach quotas.

raise dogs

Ranchers should be able to protect their livestock. People should be cognizant and responsible for their pets. State should be managing prey for the predators - people should be responsible for their own safety and respectful of nature. Please keep me on your list.

Regardless of location (I live in Hot Springs) I have seen Mountain lion(s) movements (tracks & scat). There can and should be peaceful co-existence with mtn lions - ranchers, livestock owners, and more rural SD residents should have 1st or higher priority for culling or diminishing lion numbers - as being most negatively impacted and most likely knowledgeable of their movements and habitats. Thomas P Cove II "Toni" (605) 209-2349

Remove me from mailings please

retired rancher

Right now its the coyotes that seem to be a problem.

satisfied

Satisfied game fish and parks work with lions

SD Game Fish Parks seems intent on eliminating mountain lions in the Black Hills. The thrill of the kill is winning. I worry more about the 2 legged predators when hiking the hills than the 4 legged variety.

SDGFP does a fantastic job managing fish & wildlife due to their professional conservation officers and biologists. Keep up the good work.

Seam to be doing good job, a thought 1 Or 2 draws where youth guide hunt with dogs with GFP offer around or in a certain area, a special deer for fund raiser like some states, big horn sheep, fund raiser do for

See comment on #6

See item #6.

See mt lions but never a problem. Use common sense when hiking on having livestock.

See mt lions often on my property in the Black Hills (Hanna Road)

Seems like there are more sightings of ML's in our development areas. And I've used a game camera in central hills for 30 years and only captured ML's last 2 years.

seems that our turkey population cycles with deer population which suggests lion presence rather than coyote pressure or CWD. Ranch along Battle Creek east of Hermosa

Since the 2015/2016 season the kill limit has been 100 animals. The number of animals killed has been half of that or less even though, since the 2019/2020 season, the actual hunting season has been longer. This leads me to suspect that the estimate of the lion population is inaccurate and that the actual number may be lower. According to the Wildlife Informer the "population (BH lion population of 277 animals) is stable for now, but if mortality rates stay the same it will be difficult for the population to remain stable." The implication here is that if the actual number of kills reached the set limit the population of lions would crash. From the questionnaire I gather that GFP is considering expanding the hunt by using dogs, trapping, etc. If the Wildlife Informer is correct the GFP should be looking to reduce the number of animals killed. I do not believe dogs, traps, and night hunting should be allowed for "recreational" hunting. However, if there is a problem animal then use the most efficient means to deal with it safely. My overall impression is that the GFP bows to the politics of the hunting lobby and economic wishes of politicians rather than utilizing management policies which would achieve a healthy sustainable population of lions.

Since the quota you set is never reached, maybe put a bounty back on the lions.

Something need to keep deer herds smaller

Sometime there will be a tragedy with the lions

South Dakota needs to stop the youth doe tags under 11 years old. It is completely depleting the deer population on public land. Now people blame the mountain lions for low deer numbers. Mountain lions have not changed. The way GFP manages deer populations have. The deer numbers are the lowest I have ever seen in 32 years. Now private land owners are locking out hunters. Public land has become horrible to hunt. I stopped recommending friends to hunt South Dakota.

Spotted one single lion: May 2008 during commute to work. The cat came out of the Hill City cemetery, ran across Deerfield Rd, passed in front of a row of townhouses, and proceeded south west uphill.

Still new to the area. I'm not sure if I have a opinion on lion hunting yet

Stop buying up private land and taking off the tax rolls

Stop hunting in general

Stop hunting mountain lions

Stop the killing!

Stop trophy hunting.

Strongly agree that trapping/snaring and hunting with hounds should be outlawed

Strongly oppose using dogs to hunt mountain lions and strongly oppose multiple tags

Survey question #4 - I strongly disagreed because of the question's leaded wording. There is no "tradition." In the past the hunting predators was an effort to exterminate (hence no wolves). If that is the "way of life" in question, I strongly oppose it. Mountain lion hunting should not be a state industry. The lions were here first, people need to learn to respect. As for risk: there is always a risk, but it is not unacceptable. In fact, the real problem is fragmentation as the results of land development. Perhaps the state should consider a program in cooperation with other agencies and organizations that would prevent the loss of forest acreage to luxury homes and commercial.

Take all info into consideration. In low population years for the lion, permit #'s should decrease. If lion numbers are high and animals become weak or unhealthy due to overcompetition then permits could increase. I appreciate you sending this survey. It is important to include residents' opinions. Thank you.

Take economy out of the equation we must all be stewards of these resources for the future. Put a couple of "regular" sportsmen on the commission instead of having all self serving wealthy landowners.

Thank you

Thank you for considering all opinions and wildlife in your plans

Thank you for sending out this survey

Thank you for taking public comment from the lion hunting community.

Thank you for this opportunity

Thank you for this survey. Need more control of excess ? lions coming into housing & city areas

Thank you for your efforts at managing wildlife in the Black Hills N. F. The lion harvest is an important part of managing lion populations.

Thank you, for allowing me to express my opinion.

Thank you, for sending out this survey. I plan to go to your website to learn more about how we are managing mountain lions populations.

Thank you, for the opportunity to voice my thoughts.

Thank you, it is nice that you care what residents think.

Thank you!

Thank you.

Thank you. Hope you are having a great day.

Thanks for all of your hard work! It is appreciated!

Thanks for all that you do!

Thanks for all your efforts over the years to manage and control all our wildlife so hunting opportunities exists for all our residents.

Thanks for asking our opinion, Dr. Buckley. I hope you and your experts decide these things, using your education and experience - and not the influence of hunters - as many of them want to shoot a lion simply for a trophy and with no regard for the species.

Thanks for asking!

Thanks for asking.

Thanks for digging into this and potentially looming at other options in hunting mt lions.

Thanks for the chance to comment.

Thanks for the opportunity

Thanks for the opportunity for the input

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the mt lions survey mt. lions should remain a part of our wildlife spectrum in SD if we can maintain it at an acceptable population!

Thanks for the survey

Thanks for this questionnaire & this chance for me to voice my feelings on this subject!

Thanks for this survey.

The cats belong here

The do good people that only think for there cause do none of us good

The GFP cannot be trusted. How many more shooting ranges are they going to try to sneak thru the legislation and a bunch of gun nuts!

The mt lion population needs to be reduced in the BH.

The mt lion population should never impact livestock or our humane populations. These predators need to be managed by giving hunters opportunities to do it. It can have a positive economic impact statewide.

The mt. lion population seemed to go down a lot with the mt. lion season.

The only reason I buy a license is so I could shoot one on my private land and be able to keep it. I don't hunt in the BHFPD

The reason history repeats itself is humans don't learn. Lions were obliterated because they killed people, livestock, poultry, and pets

The remote areas of the Rocky Mountain Range is a wonderful place to be concerned about the thriving of mountain lions and other dangerous predators. In densely populated areas, like the Black Hills of South Dakota, the safety of human and livestock life is vastly more important than high minded ideals upon what healthy lion population management may or may not look like.

The rules regarding hunting and our general interactions with wild animals seem thoughtful and correct. However, the enforcement of the rules from the National Forest, the state and the county is totally 'hick' lax. We complained for years, since our arrival, about a neighbor having a salt lick right off the road, in this yard. Not only did his habit draw in all manner of wild life & cause a driving hazard, it was only at the point that our cameras caught a pride of 4 lions together that our neighbor got spooked and removed the salt. We have complained about the same neighbor night hunting the lions he draws in, and no one neighbor night hunting the lions he draws in, and no one ever cares to lay down the law. There is also lax enforcement over legal boundaries for all hunters and their shooting close to our house concerns us much more than any mountain lion. The threads of civility are made of law and order. If we fail to enforce the laws we've written, civility will certainly reflect that. let's be civil and follow laws.

The situation needs to be continuously monitored

The turkey deer and elk in my area are disappearing ... hard to blame that on just the coyotes.

The whole goal to managing a healthy and substable population starts with proper management! The best way to accomplish this is to use all tools and methods to best of those abilities. Using boot hunters, hounds are both need to insure a manageable population of cats.

There are enough deer to support both human and lion hunting them

There are no natural predators of the mountain lion. Thus they to constantly be controlled or population will explode if food sources is good.

There are too many coyotes in the Black Hills. you need to deal with them as well.

There are too many deer. More mtn lions might thin the deer down. There's not a lot of car wrecks because of mtn lions.

There are too many lions near populated areas, mostly due to the fact that that is where the deer are.

There are way to many lions in the Hills region. When you have to go outside with a gun while your pets are out side because there have been multiple sightings of lions in town mean's there are way to many and not afraid of humans or dogs! Dogs need to be allowed to hunt lion's to keep them under control and harvest adult lions when using dogs.

There is a reason nature works the way it works. There is a balance. Upset the balance and problems occur. "Mans" solutions are rarely best.

There is more than you will ever know. You don't even see a deer in AZ anymore!

There is too many lions in S Dak. They need to be managed better. This is 2024 not 1824 fewer.

There should be some kind of compensation for livestock losses to lions.

There's always public pressure to increase the take of large predators especially wolves and cougar. I don't know if this influences SDFGP cougar policies. Also, I am not an advocate for or against hunting cougar in the Black Hills, since it's part of my job.

They don't bother us on this ranch so far but I know there are a few around. We don't want an overpopulation but we don't want them all killed.

They need to be in the hills with us. Just manage the population as you are.

They will kill livestock if hungry.

Think what you are doing in fair - don't want too many does for use unless the population increases.

This person does not live at this address. I have lived here since 2022. Please update your records. Thank you!

Though I understand the need to protect information at times I generally am suspicious of what statistics and the government publishes for ? for nature. I believe in collective conservation efforts & want to trust those in leadership are working for the betterment of our wildlife populations.

Thy ar a lot of cats in my area. Fall River county. Lived here 3 years and have seen seventh cats and cats kill. I think they should be controled a little better.

To GFP I live on the edge of Deadwood. We have a cat come through once in a while, walk around the yard and leave. We also have deer and turkeys that hang around. We appreciate their company. But now people are moving in and building mansions in the mountains destroying their habitat. Destroying what they come here to see and soon they will want to get rid of the wildlife because it will be leaving a mess in their grass and trimming their trees and shrubs. Pretty sad but it will happen. People let their house cats roam wild. I haven't seen a jack rabbit in Deadwood or Lead in three years, our cotton tails are gone also "SAD". We need to keep our natural habitat and bring back our wild life world wide - we need to preserve our ECO system "SERIOUSLY" I drive through the Spearfish canyon at 5AM going to work. I have had cars pass me going at least 60 miles per hour. trust me, they are not thinking about deer or any wild life bring on the road But yet our wild life gets the blame "Pretty sad again" I believe Rapid again killed 200 deer because they hurt private property and getting hit by cars from people driving too fast and not paying attention there again killing the deer is the easy way out Maybe insurance should give a yearly bonus to people who don't hit any deer - I don't know. Any way thank you for your time Respectfully Ken Motcko

To respect the animals we must thin thin the animals

Too many big cats are moving to urban areas and becoming a nuisance to pets.

too many cougars here and too many deer also

Too many in Spearfish

Too many lion lovers in the Black Hills - personally feel that puts pressure on GFP to limit the # of cats taken. Deer and coyotes are destroying the deer and elk population. Their management (deer and elk) should be a priority over mtn lions.

Too many lion lovers that moved here and we personally feel influence the decisions GFP makes on the management of the lions. They should be more concerned about our deer and elk population than keeping transients happy!!

Trap coyotes

Trapping is cruel. Dogs are cruel. Mountain lion hunting is sick! Humans are morbid - killing mountain lions is a mental illness not a necessary way to exist.

Trapping, using dogs and night hunting are/or should be/ repugnant to any self respecting hunter. WE need mountain lions to keep our deer & elk populations healthy

Treat them like any other predator

Trust experts that manage wildlife to do so with all tools and means appropriate i.e. hunting and allowing farmers and ranchers to protect their livestock

Trying to balance mountain lion/deer and elk populations along with encroaching human habituation is difficult! Good luck in your efforts!

Turkey population is out of control in hot springs. Bring in the lions and wolves! The city is too dumb to figure it out!

Turn out the Hounds!

Two years ago, I saw a young mountain lion outside my kitchen window before work. It was annoying to see. I yelled and it was gone in a flash. I live in city limits of Custer. I don't feel that they pose a threat at this time. I just worry about little kids, my pets, and rabbits but the lions seem very scared of us humans. I'm not too worried about them.

Undesirable, Lions roaming streets of a city. Desirable, Lions part of nature's beauty outside of city.

Unfortunately after government agencies have lied to us they can no longer be trusted. Tell the truth! Then people can make informed decisions!

Unless a lion becomes a problem or danger to humans they should be allowed to survive. If they predate livestock - reimburse the owners. We are encroaching on their land and have to live with it and some livestock loss.

Until the number of lions that are killed by autoes? or as "problem cats" or are orphaned by the harrasing ? of their mothers are counted AGAINST the "quota", South Dakota will continue to destroys its cougar population.

Until you can get the tourism dollars out of the true members the lion population reported will always be squared.

Use dogs to reach the quota.

Walks like a duck quacks like a duck and been my pleasure to add him to my plate!!

Way to many mountain lions. Hunting season should coincide with deer season and beyond.

Way too many people on ATV's getting into the back country where many different animal species have lived since the beginning of time. They are pushing the mountain lions food source into area where they would not normally hunt. It is in these areas where they are coming into contact humans and pets and this has caused part of the problem. The other issue is people being allowed to build homes in wilderness areas. This is destroying natural habitat and it eco system. Open pit mining is and issues and so is logging. I live in Lead most of the life spent the majority of the free time in the woods. I've seen tracks and seat but I've never spotted one in the woods. I'm sure they have seen me over the years. I've seen probably 12 or more in town.

We appreciate how the mtn lion population has been controlled with the hunting season. Before that there were too many cats and we feared for the smaller children. We saw way too many cats back then.

We can hunt these cats pretty liberally and the population will always come back. I see not threat to humans unless we let them get of hand like before there was a season. It was not a "tradition" until then either. The only "attack" documented was one they could neither confirm nor deny. The guy probably was too embarrassed to admit a woman tore him up. I want the doe season back and for the youth and mentored seasons to be pulled in the Hills if no one else can hunt them. The low deer numbers in the BHFPD in the to be addressed.

We continue to build into their territory. Why should they be killed for something that we do?

We cure in the mountains in Keystone and have a lion visit concessionary. We have never fort throughout because we protect its space.

We do not hunt at all and never have.

We do not need mountain lion or wolves in the black hills.

We don't hunt and no nothing about SD mountain lions to contribute to this.

We had a mountain lion on the neighbors ring camera cross their drive way heading for my side yard this past fall. I've lived there for 29 years, it was a little concerning.

We had a ranch in Colorado and each year I would loose several head of sheep to mountain lion and bear. There has to be an environmental balance.

We have a cabin in BHFPD and we're concerned when we walk or hike the hills, about coming in contact with a lion

we have a cabin in the hills, never seen one but have seen tracks of all shapes and sizes. the young hungry or injured are the ones you find in town

We have a foal coming it has been a rather large investment. Don't need it to be killed for a lion.

We have been seeing lots of mountain lions around our property

We have lost calves to mountain lions in the past.

We have outdoor cats and dogs; some cats have disappeared. We have seen mt lions tracks on our 5 ac. lot only once.

We have pets

We have seen mountain lions and there have been no issues until hunters pushed them out of the hills into our neighborhood. So called ethical hunters I used to consider friends admitted they purposely did not apply for big game tags to prevent any pressure or harvesting game for the mountain lions. Pathetic. Night hunting is absolutely wrong. You are allowing idiots to hit them when they are only able to forage for food. The increase in people in the hills forces them to stay inactive and only come out at night. If you don't want them, just end it now and save the suffering. I have trapped and harvested furs growing up. Unfortunately, there are too many people with no ethics. I am against trapping for any type of species.

We live in the Black Hills near hwy 44 west. While we have not encountered lions on our property we have had reports from neighbors. that they have so we understand we could be impacted by the presence of these animals. Just the same we feel it is important that we preserve these animals in the wild to promote an accurate and healthy eco-system.

We live in the forest & co-exist mountain wild life. We love seeing & would like to see it, including mountain lions thrive for years to come.

We live in the Hermosa foothills and have had numerous lions on our property and in our area. One killed our neighbor's cat, another killed a stray (awesome) but left its remains in our yard as scat. I grew up in central Nevada and worked as a ranch hand for a number of years where lions are hunted constantly with dogs. In all my time riding in the mountains I only saw one lion running at a great distance. Since I have moved here I have seen five, two in one night and one in broad daylight. My good friend got pictures of 7 different lions on his trail cameras on 40 acres in the same season! I like lions but we have way too many here. They are overcrowded and acting against their normal patterns because of it. Worry lions are good lions and avoid people!

We need apex predators

We need dogs to hunt cats.... go count the mule deer in the BH read Utah's deer plan. If you want more deer, kill cats...

We need more research to determine the health of population and impacts on other species

We need the cats, not only for the balance of nature, but for the fact that the mountain lions need them, as they do, to know god's wild are there, long before we were. The hills will be lonesome without them as they would the elk and deer. They have killed no person and enhance our lives - they are beautiful creatures and until they do harm, need to be allowed to live in this land as we do. Thank you for letting me have a voice!

We need them

We need to be realistic about a balance in nature - MAN is the biggest problem!

WE need wolves too!

We see a mountain lion about every 6 months along Fall River about 50 ft from our house. Always in the winter.

We see the lions occasionally on the security camera - I know they are out there. We accept that. Be smart be safe - but don't try to eliminate the natural component.

We see to many of them

We the people have encroached on their habitat, therefore they should not have to suffer consequences because of our demand for land

We understand that lions have to be managed to assure healthy elk populations, deer probably less so. Our area is over-run with deer, but our resident lions have been taken by hunter we personally know and the population is so small no new lions have moved in. GF&P is in our opinion, markedly over-estimating populations and certainly allowing over- harvesting!

We understood the need for a healthy population but we would like to know what GFP are doing about the lions that are coming into town and pose a risk to people and pets. Especially in the valley where some people have chickens and there is a few pastures with cattle. Whether this information is useful or not, we appreciate you asking the publics opinion about this

We were just talking about m.l. here at home and why people in Hill City FB page are asking about them b/c of feeding their deer. They thought having reg deer was a bad thing b/c m.l. would come. But m.l. are not bad. Just don't let your pets out at night. If a m.l. kills livestock I do think that type of kill is something that requires attention! You can't have a m.l.. Keep killing your \$ livelihood. You should be able to kill it after informing GFP. Thanks.

We're impressed you're doing this work! We understand people are hard to please. and are probably pulling in different directions. waiting for wolves and grizzlies to come back!

We've lived in an area in Colorado with over populations of mt lions. We've seen many many of them in person. We've safely raised small livestock in that environment. We've also seen what happens when out-of-state permits generate enough revenue that those hunters are given preference over locals - and that's a HUGE disservice to locals.

we've lost pets that we loved to lions but believe that is part of natural selection. we are the intruders.

When lion season first opened it up it was published in the paper. I realize you can go to website and see how many have been harvested, but that is not easy sometimes. Would like to see a better system.

When will we see the results of this survey? Will the GF&P actually follow these recommendations?

While I'm not opposed to hunting, there needs to be a fair game between animal & man and a humane game at that i.e. guns & bows as opposed to snares & traps. And while I'd prefer not to cross paths with a mountain lion, I don't believe they have overpopulated to the point where they pose a threat to humans or are causing unbalance to the ecosystem. From what I understand, they err on the side of shying away from human contact and prefer to remain elusive. Thank you!

Will apply for a license next year. What is the status of bobcat hunting which I'm interested in.

With as many people that like to use the Black Hills we don't need to worry about our kids and pets of ourselves while enjoying the hills. I've had a large male in my yard - scary - they have no fear.

With more people moving to SD it's pushing all wildlife out of their habitat. Balance and understanding of us vs. wildlife through education is key, we can all exist in harmony. Thank you!

With so many people moving more into the hills, out of city limits, they need to be aware to manage their animals - pets. The natural animals, such as mt lions, can be present and are searching for food. We need to respect the wild animals in their environment.

Wolves are more of a concern to me. There is no reason to allow wolves in SD. Our elk population is so low I have not been able to draw a tag in 35 years of applying.

Would appreciate CSP & BHF to help with tax structure in surrounding areas that provide fire, EMT, ambulance and sheriff services.

Would it be possible to promote or increase hunting in areas where mountain lions are coming into towns and threatening pets and becoming an issue? Seems the northern hills have more trouble.

Would like to hunt mountain lions in the future.

Would like to see alot less coyotes - maybe a bounty like nest robbers

Would like to see mountain lions never become less in our state then now

Would like to see the season open during deer season as I usually go south Jan 1 thru April 1.

You are an agency responsible for keeping part of our nature in balance. We all need to trust your research and guidance. I believe if a lion poses a risk to livestock, people or pets, one should be allowed to shoot the lion out of protection and should let GFP know.

You do a good job on all wild life.

You folks no more than I

You had better keep your lions off my property where my kids play or they will be in grave danger

You need urban, suburban, rural, and very rural at the very least to be in touch with the current population and growth of SD. This applies to all thoughts on how property in SD is best used.

Your expertise is essential to answer these confidently

Your job is not easy, and over all I think you do a good job.

Appendix C: Hunter Open-Ended Comments

I think an Archery hunt with the use of Dogs and a special draw tag for that would be a useful management tool. The hunter being able to sex the animal before shooting.

Thank you for caring about our opinions.

"Keep up the good work" Have lottery for 5-10 guided hunts with dogs in the Black Hills. No more than 5-10 Charge more for the lottery \$1,000-\$1500. Apply proceeds to youth hunting training. Let's bring archery classes back in our school systems

A lion killed one of our pigs. We killed the lion. Have had no other signs of lions around. You guys are doing a great job. I think you should make changes where it makes your job easier not harder. Dog hunting would bring on a bunch of headaches for you guys. We live outside of Whitewood and have quite a few lions around.

A lion pushed one of our horses through a cross-fence, severely injuring it.

a mountain lion killed deer and drug into a green house in broad day light. I have pictures in can show you.

Again I like and agree with the current rules in place to protect the animal. As someone that rarely hunt deer with a rifle because I believe it is to easy. I believe mountain lions have a far better chance of survival. I believe the amount of deer tags that are issued in the hills is insane and hunting in the hills poses a greater threat to the hunter rather than the animal. Hunters are not being held accountable for their continued stupidity while considering other hunters.

Again, I really enjoy my Elk Hunt in and feel mountain lions. Do not balance nature the way they used to in today's environment. I am also concerned of my safety during very early morning hours in the woods with mountain lions running around and possibility of attack. My daughter lives in Wyoming and I'd like to go Elk Hunt in with her out there but because they have let the grizzly bears get out of control And mountain lions etc. oh I actually care for my safety out there and do not go. So I would like to see elk permits, double or triple availability in South Dakota and if mountain lions are one of the factors, then they should be put at the bottom of the protection list . This is because of what the grizzly bears have done to elk hunting in Wyoming. It is very dangerous. My daughter says the Bears have become smart about rifle shots and actually head towards them to steal away big game and endanger people. So for the people who do not hunt, why don't you get up early in the morning and go walking around in the woods where there are known mountain lions and go by yourself. Have a good time.

All good

Allow dogs in the black hills year round until quota met

Allow hounds in the hills

Allow hunters to use dogs in the black hills.

Allow more tags for people to use dogs to control the population. This strategy has the highest success rate to better manage the population. Mountain lions are hard on other wildlife populations. More elk tags could be given out if the mountain lion population was decreased within the state.

Allow the use of dogs. Way better selective harvest. Make it a lottery draw just like CSP. Open regular season October 1 when elk season opens and you get people in the woods more frequently. Also gives you more of a chance to catch a snow event.

Allowing dogs in the black hills fire protection district to pursue cats would be a huge win! So would being able to hunt during deer season since that is when the most people are in the woods hunting.

Allowing dogs to be used would cut the cat population. People do not feel safe walking the Black Hills. Many vacationers have mentioned this.

Allowing hunting during deer season would be great, especially if you need to decrease overall lion numbers.

And cattle

Anytime I see "socially acceptable" in a question that is a red flag. Allowing the general population to make decisions about hunting and fishing is a huge concern. Look at Colorado, introducing even more wolves with an elk population already declining. The general public non hunters made that decision for Colorado DNR.

As a boot hunter I feel restricted in some capacities. I would like to see Trapping added but no lethal Trapping unless GFP felt the population was way out of hand. I would love to use mountain lion lures and urines to help create opportunities for cam traps to aid in the pursuit of lions. I also feel extremely limited by the closing of the trails in SD. For example I hunt custer peak and some of the best and fastest access to that area are "closed". I also have a lion that passes once a month between 8:30-9:30pm exactly 28-30 days apart. Because night hunting is not permitted my chances of securing that lion without snow is significantly lower. I think the system in place now is a well balanced system and changes should be heavily considered and carefully evaluated. Even opening up the things that help me do better when there is lack of snow could be abused by another. I'd also like to see a quota since everyone thinks the limit is the quota. I'd like to be emailed about areas experiencing mountain lion troubles. Ranchers and their location where they have problems with mountain lions. And I would definitely like to be updated about mountain lion attacks. If this information is available I would like to have access to it as I currently do not.

As a Hunter of deer, elk, antelope and turkeys for over 60yrs I view Mt. Lions as competitors, Not another hunting opportunity. Thank you.

As a resident I've been trying to draw a Black Hills any deer tag, can't wen draw this license, due to all deer being killed by mountain lions unlimited lions should be killed every year 365 days under the deer population has increased where a resident can apply and get any deer tag in Black Hills you would make more income on deer tag's. Then you do on lion tag years ago all you had to due to purchase a tag over the counter, this is so mess up also I probably will never draw a any deer tag in the black hills again the system is so mess up Have to bye preference points to hunt that is bull crap, go back to the old days of drawing tags kill all the lions also this would help the elk population.

As I mentioned Elk and Deer generate more income for state and local business. So we need to keep lions in check cuz they can wreck deer and elk populations (mostly the younger ones) contrary to popular belief they don't just feed on cripples and the sick.

As someone who enjoys cutting trucks I think bringing hounds in would ruin the intense nature of truly hunting. Anyone can kill a tree'd lion. Leaving hounds out of it make it more of a sport. I've hunted nearly everything in SD. Lion hunting is still my favorite & I have yet to shoot one. Thank you

Black Hills Quota is not enough and does not get filled. After boots on the ground season use dogs to fill quota. Let us kill cats year round in the hills. They are killing our critters every day and we should be able to kill them year round. There are WAY more cats in our Black Hills Than what the GFP says.

Boot hunters are not keeping up/meeting the quote. Thank you - Kristin Nedved

Boot hunting is acceptable to me, dogs not so much. Do not favor nonresident lion hunters, particularly with dogs.

Cat season is already open during deer hunting season except for the black hills. I feel it should stay that way.

Cats are to populated.

Cattle horses and several pets

Cattle and Horses

Cattle and horses and have confirmed losses in baby calves.

Completely satisfied with the current management. If there's livestock depredation would like to see the use of hounds & state license hunter remove the problem animal if the depredation is excessive.

Concerns for the future of South Dakota Hunting & Fishing. • Reinstate brood count for the pheasant population. Follow science not tourism. • Remove nonresidents from free fishing weekend in South Dakota. Depleting our resources without anything in return. • Reinstate Deer license drawing prior to 2018 changes. The deer hunting public never accepted or approve this proposal it was rejected by 81% from public comments. • Lions are not the control method for CWD, follow the same format for coyotes, no season, no limit. • Add amendment to the South Dakota constitution, make Hunting and fishing a constitutional right for South Dakota. 21 states already guarantee this right, we do not. GF&P opposed this amendment. Why? • Make the secretary of the GF&P elected position. The world and people are changing, so it is more important that the conservation groups stick together. We have more people moving from other states to South Dakota that do not hold our tradition and values, it is important that we protect those rights as well as our heritage.

Cow calf operation

Csp model should be used to black hills, limited number of hound hunters for short periods of time. Lions are a public resource mostly on public land boot hunters can share without having much negative impact on their experience.

Deer numbers are way too low due to disease and over hunting and that is what needs attention urgently not a change to mtn lion season.

Deer population has been dropping significantly for the past 5+ years. Everyone has pictures of mountain lions on their game cameras but they are too elusive to hunt during the day. More aggressive methods of controlling the mountain lion population must be taken - trap, poison, dogs, night hunting, etc. I own 270 acres of tree covered Missouri River breaks that use to be excellent habitat for deer but has been reduced by 80% in the past few years. I am willing to allow hunters with dogs or whatever on my property to control lions. Todd Huber

did not go

Do a draw system for tags in BHFPD

Do not allow dogs anywhere near private property. Change the season to allow hunting lions during deer season. Thanks.

Do not allow dogs, snares, night hunting. Out of state hunting. It is cruel to the animals. If you call yourself a hunter and you cannot get a lion with boots on the ground, day time then you're not worthy of to hunt them

Do not let wolves into this state :)

Do not open the hills to hounds! There are enough dedicated boot hunters that maintain areas well. I have boot hunted since the season started and can say with 100% confidence hound hunters would completely disrupt opportunities for people who either can't/won't pay. And opens the door for a flood of non-resident hunters even if they are filling "outfitter" tags or an equivalent. Hound hunting the park on the lottery is great. I am happy for those people that draw, but do not open public land to hound hunting. What you would see is a very small number of people completely take over the game and boot hunters would stand little to no chance. The line is already being blurred with the private to public pursuit.

Do not want to see lion populations increase outside of the Black Hills. Black Hills population should be controlled so deer, elk, and livestock populations do not suffer.

Dog use in greater BH area later in season would be acceptable. Allow boot hunters first access, then open it.

dogs

Dogs are the best way to hunt lions and that should be allowed on a much wider scale. The way the system is currently set up seems to be just a money maker on license fees. I buy one every year but don't hunt every year as the timing of snow in the Hills and work doesn't usually coincide.

Don't see the cat tracks that we use to in the early years of the season. I don't know if this of interest to you lots of coyotes and birds of prey (to many in my mind).

Don't trust much of what gfp is doing lately. Especially with the deer draw structure going to hell and removing pheasant brood counts. The only thing used to make management decisions for gfp is the almighty dollar and Kristi Noem. Coming from a long time republican that will no longer vote for anyone even remotely involved with her!

don't want my cats and dogs to be harmed or killed

Don't always trust the bureaucracy within the gf&p.

Don't commercialize lion hunting like we have everything else.

Don't let dog come into the hunt, do other things before it comes to dogs doing the hunting

Don't like the idea of hunting lions with dogs, snow mobiles, and would be open to allowing some lines to be shot during the deer season with a limit like there is in the early season.

Don't turn hunting mountain lions profitable for either individuals or the government. Keep it strictly managing the population utilizing hunters who find the challenge the primary reason for the hunt... not for profit.

Dont like dog hunting

East river (outside of the black hills)

eliminate the restriction for harvesting lion. 1. can't shoot one with spots 2. can't shoot one when paired up

Eradicate mountain lions from SD using any means necessary

expand the lion season to so it starts when deer season opens and make the number of allowed lion kills unlimited. Also allow the use of dogs statewide.

First of all our gfp doesn't manage any wildlife in South Dakota just money Just look at our deer numbers across the entire state especially east river where our numbers have been plummeting since 2019 and our gfp continues to sell antlerless deer tags Hell why don't we shoot hen pheasants because there's too much money for the state of South Dakota GFP to lose from killing the baby factories. In all reality lions are probably the toughest of all the wildlife to manage when you really don't know the the total population of lions in the entire state or the Black Hills

fix the above question so more than one can be selected.

Get rid of the lions

Get things figured out game populations have decreased so bad for deer,elk,turkeys and antelope but you keep issuing tags for them but do nothing for decreasing predators

GF&P has lost credibility because of their handling of the mt lion population and lying to the public about the numbers!

GF&P is in a tough position. Lions represent the wild aspect of nature and that is in itself invigorating, but like waiting to put a traffic light up at a dangerous intersection until someone is severely injured or killed, we don't want to wait for a tragic person / lion encounter to realize we had a problem brewing. Good luck on your survey and I hope it helps to make some important decisions.

GF&P need to listen to people that do not benefit from decisions they make.

GFP do a good job in South Dakota

GFP has estimates on population but has no way of telling the full population. If there are problem cats in certain areas yes they should be targeted but not the population in a whole.

GFP has little respect for the land owner.

GFP is doing a good job and I appreciate all the efforts you put in to balance the many competing interests that exist when it comes to the management of wild game and predators. Thank you

GFP need to manage the lion populations and hunting like coyotes. and absolutely need to start allowing the use of dogs statewide. Most people cannot stalk (walk) and kill a lion, hills too ruff. Lions don't respond to e-calls like coyotes, rarely come to a call. If GFP allows the use of dogs, hunters could selectively harvest none nature cats, better reduce number in certain areas and generate better hunting opportunities. I hear a pretty good number of lions are killed by the same hunters every year. That a few hunters kill lions almost every year (8 to 10) in the past 15-20 years. I don't have an issue with this. But you almost have to be human mountain goat to walk lions down in the Black Hills. Which makes it too damn hard for us old hunters! Respectfully, Ron Watson - Hot Springs SD

GFP needs to focus more on what most hunters are capable of harvesting or desire to hunt - elk & deer in the BHFPD. No introduction of any more predators and aim to increase elk and deer population.

Good season as is! Don't increase dog hunting.

good survey

Good survey

Grew up in SD hunting. Love west river hunting and would like a chance to get back to it.

had a mountain lion run my horse through a fence & had a large vet bill.

has sheep and cattle

Have no problems with cats so far.

Haven't kept up with mountain lion hunting much, so may not know all that I need to. Lived in a larger city for the past ten years, so haven't hunted much, but have moved back to a rural area so hope to hunt more.

Having the season open in the fall, during deer and elk season would help boot hunters fill the quota easily. I hunted deer in the hills for 20 days in November and could have shot two different mountain lions had the season been open. My suggestion has, and always will be to open it up to hound hunters in the spring, to fill the quota if necessary. This would give everybody a fair chance at harvesting a mountain lion every year, while also making sure we fill the quota.

Help me get one Thanks

Hound hunting needs to be opened up.

Hound hunting would allow a more selective harvest. It is really no different than using dogs for pheasants.

Hounds is a must for a healthy harvest! We may be at a healthy population but we do not have a healthy harvest at all. I strongly agree with the harvest of females but not lactating or immature cats. The way it is now the majority of the cats are harvested in areas they can reach in 30 minutes of the main towns. Units need to be established as well

Hounds man are the scrooge of the earth. They are vile and break the law constantly. Hound hunting should be outlawed in the BHFPD.

HOW MANY ELK AND DEER THEY KILL. HARD TO DRAW A HILLS DEER TAG. AND WE ALL KNOW THE YEARS IT TAKES FOR AN ELK TAG. USED TO HUNT HILLS DEER WHEN YOU BOUGHT THE TAGS ACROSS THE COUNTER. WHAT HAPPENED?

Hunting keeps mountain lions from becoming brazen!!

Hunting lions should be the same as hunting coyote. They kill too much game deer, elk & bobcats.

Hunting lions with hounds is certainly not as easy as society makes it seem. That's a long many faceted journey. I think you should strongly watch the harvest total and allow dog permits for people.

Hunting with dogs and being able to harvest additional cats would be beneficial.

Hunting with dogs is not fair Chase

Hunting with dogs would increase likelihood of success. but for most hunters they would have to rent dogs id "get a guide." I'm not ready to do this?

I agree that we need to control mountain lions. Even if we leave it at 1 lion per hunter I don't see what it matters how they harvest it. If a person like myself is better at trapping then hunting then why not let them harvest it that way. One nice thing about a trap is that we could release a young one or a female or just one that's not mature enough. Given no foot damage etc. Why allow everyone else to harvest them anyway they want but discriminate against the trapper for doing what he loves to do. And chances are that if harvested with a trap they will be dispatched ethically and humanely.

I agree with the current strategy and if the time comes where additional numbers are required to maintain levels then simply allow harvest during deer season. This will achieve goals with minimal negative impact or bad public relations

I agreed that gfp is trying to manage mountain lions for their healthy existence. Problem I see is deer and other big game are declining in a lot of areas and are not being managed well. With current management strategy and tag sale strategy I don't see populations rebounding anytime soon

I am a life long hunter but I don't agree with sport hunting.

I am a life long resident of South Dakota who has a real passion for the outdoors and the future generations of residents to enjoy our outdoors and quite frankly I see our SDGFP grossly mismanaging our wildlife and its resources to favor economic impact versus preserving our traditions and rights and opportunities that MANY South Dakota residents grow to love and reasons they choose to continue to reside here. Don't make SD a commercial only hunting opportunity (of which is the direction its moving) in the event to gain the all mighty dollar while killing the awesome opportunity we used all enjoy. There have been many bills and laws passed recently to indicate it is going that way.

I am a rancher just outside of the bhfpd, we have never had issues with livestock and lions. I have never killed a mountain lion, although I have seen a few on the ranch. I do support a healthy population inside the hills and out. We boarder Wyoming and they seem to do a fantastic job managing lions with hounds and quotas. Hounds are the only way to manage and maintain a healthy population of mountain lions. Hounds give hunters the opportunity to pass on a small lion or a lactating female. Boot hunters kill the first lion they see which is typically a young naive cat. Often a female. That is not the case with hounds. Hounds also keep lions in check, study's show that lions that have been hazed with dogs are less likely to have encounters with humans and pets. Look at the science, hounds it the only way to do this.

I am a retired WCD (Hill City ?) I advocated for limited hound hunting when I was still working. Open the season on Dec 1 every year for boot hunters. Then on March 1 let the hound hunters who should be registered with GFP fill the quota. March is our snow month normally every year anyway. Andi see no reason why non-residents shouldn't be able to hunt lions. At least if we have a March hound season. Thanks Blair

I am I pretty avid hunter I do walk 90 percent more than most. Have seen only one lion in SD. Have seen a lot in WYO. I do believe they take out a lot of deer and elk but they have to eat just like us please do not let out of staters hunt. These animals are not here for ECONOMIC REASONS this includes all game animals and I believe all residents should have an equal chance of hunting no depending on the Dollars in there bank account they will spend. Thank you.

I am strongly opposed to opening lion hunting in the Black Hills to hound hunting. According to gfp the boot hunting has maintained the population to acceptable levels. Why are we discussing changing something that works. Hound hunting is under attack nation wide. Opening lion hunting to hounds is inviting unwanted negative publicity from across the country.

I appreciate the ability to hunt in the state

I believe a draw system similar to the CSP system for hound hunting would expand the opportunities and help meet harvest management goals better. If it was still a limited draw system that would help curb the concerns of it turning into a pay to play hunt. The boot hunters could still have their exclusive times to hunt as well. Snow ends up being the key to either style of hunting and boot hunters seem to only hunt hard during fresh snow events. I also think that it would increase statewide participation do to the exclusory of drawing the permit. One of the issues with the CSP hound hunt is the lions knowing and racing to the park boundary when the hounds are chasing them. I had 4 lions run off park this December/January during my hunt. The ability to keep hunting beyond the fence would increase take and success.

I believe better management would occur with the use of hounds through a draw system. Too many females being harvested as it's structured currently.

I believe fewer people hunt cats every year because its to hard for them and they lose interest. Too many trails have been shut down or put to 60" or less. I'm all about hunting with hounds. But I don't want to see everybody going to get their own hands and thinking they know how to run dogs.

I believe GFP is doing a great job.

I believe that a few more lions need to be harvested each year to help with the deer and elk population. In winters where we don't receive that much snow it makes it hard for us boot hunters to achieve the harvest limit set by the game and fish which then effects the deer and elk.

I believe that allowing the use of dogs creates an opportunity to use selective harvest methods. Most hounds men I know tree numerous cat a season but rarely harvest any. With the use of dogs the absurd numbers of cats around towns like deadwood could be harvested or persuaded to live elsewhere after multiple chases. I do appreciate that you take the time to do the surveys and try to make the right choices in regards to cat hunting. Can't please everyone and in my opinion the life of ungulates far out weighs the importance of the predator

I believe that not allowing hound hunters is just flat being prejudiced against a type of hunter. I believe people really don't understand what hound hunters do. And allowing snaring on public ground is harmful to people that use it with bird dogs - hounds - pets.

I believe that the Mountain Lion population is healthy and could probably even be increased. The quota is rarely met, which I believe speaks to the population to some degree, but also more greatly to the skill and natural abilities of the amazing animal. One fear I do have is that at the correct population or slightly above the cats will become aversive to human conflict with such a population and SD, one thing you rarely hear is human conflict, whether genetics or surplus of prey, or maybe sheer instinct/genetics, among other factors, I can say they truly want to avoid humans. This is certainly not the case in many other states with even smaller populations in some cases. One thing I do believe could help that favorable behavior continue is a limited season, perhaps at the end of the season in the Fire Protection district where quote is not yet met, a limited amount of hunters limited draw. For a high price, revenue generating tag are able to run dogs until the season ends or quota is met. Overall, I am pleased with where the population is at and thank you all for doing your part and managing the population of such a cool animal to hunt. There's nothing quite like calling in a lion!

I believe the boot hunters should have until March 31 to hunt lions. After March 31st, have a tag system that would allow hounds until the 15th of April

I believe the lion population in CSP needs to be a lot less! Maybe the elk herd would grow. I believe mountain lions eat a lot of deer and elk.

I believe we could increase the take of mountain lions if you started the season by mid October. If that is the goal, to lower the population?

I buy a lion permit every year. If I see one I can shoot it. So far I don't go out to hunt one.

I buy a tag every year so if an deer hunting and see a lion i can shoot in in eastern SD. I have a cabin by Rochford SD have seen one walk by 10' from my glass door. Seen 5 lions altogether on bike trail all at the same time. I think they are over running in the Black hills. I also don't go out and hunt mountain lions.

I can't believe you would ask if we wanted to let non residents lion hunt. How fucking tone def is SDGFP??? Quit selling our resources to non residents for peanuts. Pretty decent survey until I read that bullshit.

I didn't hunt this year thanks

I do believe the lion population is slightly overpopulated. I've seen 3 lions in the last 6 months on my commute to work crossing the road but all very near neighborhood communities and difficult to hunt them in those areas. Has there been any discussion about opening the BHFPD to dogs in a similar way to Custer state park? Do 15-20 tags but not limited to certain weekly timeframes? Could go as far as limiting them to units similar to cow elk units. You know where there is a more condensed area of lions in parts of the hills, make that area a unit open to dogs to lessen the population and then in a couple years, reassess the population and see if we made a conservative dent in controlling the population. The boot hunters are out there (myself included) but it's tough when we aren't meeting the quota year after year. The weather makes a huge difference especially this year. We need to find a solution to meeting the quota or getting close to , to really get a handle on them. Need to get more people out there and engaged in chasing them around. Slight side note, have you spoke with the forest service to discuss reevaluating the seasonal gate closures to actually benefit wildlife on winter range? There are areas that could seasonally close and other areas that could be opened that would allow lion hunters access to pursue them. And discuss rerouting snowmobile trails that don't go right through wildlife winter ranges. Whats the point of closing areas to wheeled vehicles if snow machines can ride off trail and illegally chase elk? The snowmobile trail program receives so much \$\$\$, either use that money to work with the FS to alleviate user issues or figure out a way to transfer some of that money to the FS so they can make an effort to help since their trail/road program is under staffed and under funded.

I do not believe the GFP is honest and correct on the # of lions in the state, or the # of deer - elk - or any other game or fish. As a taxpayer and a landowner and land renter I think the GFP will say or do whatever they want for monetary gain. I strongly believe GFP think these animals are thours. Be honest! With you #'s.

I do not have livestock, but have a lot of friends west and east River that do. Livestock is a important part of SD, and there lives.

I do not know the actual numbers of lions killed outside of the BH and Custer, but I do not feel it can be many. Between comparing trail camera data in the Yankton area with fellow hunters, I know we have a good population here. But I can say I have only heard of maybe 3-4 lions killed in a 5 year span. This may be because people don't take it too serious nor try very hard to hunt them. I myself just carry a tag for the off chance I see one while hunting. I would like to see the opportunity to harvest lions through trapping and snaring, even if that is limited to one per person. The trapping community is very small and I really wouldn't see if being much of a harvest in general, but another opportunity for those of us that do. Especially in this area, if we have a lion coming around every week or two, this gives us an opportunity. Running dogs is a great opportunity, but with how chopped up the landscape is in this area, it is very difficult to do without having a lot of permission.

I do not owe a dog for Lion hunting nor would I purchase one to hunt Lions if you could use them in the hills. However, I don't see how the GFP can deny those who enjoy hunting with dogs the opportunity to harvest Lions with dogs. There has to be a way to allow for both styles of hunters. To me it's like saying you can only fish Walleyes on the Missouri from shore and not with a boat because it is an unfair advantage for those with a boat. If you don't come up with a means to start reducing the Loin and Coyote population in the hills your Deer and Elk populations continue to drop.

I do not think SD has a mountain lion issue. I favor hunting with an increase in population to allow for more opportunity for harvest.

I do plan to own live stock & live amongst farm/ranches where live stock is prevalent. I believe coyote populations must also be addressed. I have & hold a mtn lion license to defend myself & property in the chance that I may see one and have the opportunity to harvest one. I do not actively set out to look/hunt for one.

I do strongly feel dogs should be allowed and have never seen the hills and prairie deer populations so low

I don't actively hunt lions but always get a tag in case I encounter one on my property

I don't want lions to exist (?) - don't like losing calves each year two were shot within two miles of our house. Three calves are worth $1800 \times 3 = \$5400$ that I lost. I am sure the lions are a predator & not big game animal

I don't blindly trust SDGF &P at all. To many times I see decisions they make are based on what will bring the most dollars in to the states coffers.

I don't like the idea of using hounds to kill mountain lions in the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit. The fact that it would have potential to commercialize mountain lion hunting in South Dakota. I wouldn't want that. I am pro hound but it's unique how in most areas you can't use hounds to hunt mountain lions. I would love to have an extended mountain lion season that begins during deer season in the Black Hills.

I dread the day when a human is attacked. It will happen I feel.

I enjoy my hunting and being in the outdoors. Thank you.

I feel anymore its all about money with the SDGF Department

I feel hunting with dogs would also allow better management of what cats are harvested allowing younger cats to mature. Also allowing hunters to better assess what they are harvesting

I feel mountain lion season should be like coyote season . Simple deal ! There killers and should be kept a mystery and not be seen by most . Also I believe there are to many in csp.

I feel mountain lions are here to keep the balance, if your going to have wolves your going to NEED mountain lions!!!

I feel South Dakota deer and elk populations should be protected!

I feel that GFP is doing a good job of managing the balance of mountain lions. However, I feel there are more lions than most believe and they have a devastating impact on deer, elk and Turkey population as well as their appetite for small pets. I personally get a Mountain Lion tag. Annually, but have not hunted them much. I'm limited to calling them as I can't handle long hikes and snow through rocks etc. I have a personal opinion that if GFP truly believes in the quota that we should allow the use of dogs in the BHFPD after the end of the regular season. Until the quota is reached, those tags could be on an additional draw basis.

I feel we need to curb tge use of ATV/UTV in the Hills. Whether I am elk, deer, or coyote calling it is invariably ruined or interrupted by some one going cross country/ off any marked trail. While I have walked a good distance to access the area in an attempt to not scare game.

I fill out these surveys because I trust you to use DATA and resident hunters wishes to help manage populations. Thank you for the tough job you all do. Sincerely, data-loving-resident-big-game-hunting-research-scientist-for-25+-years-person

I get a license to be legal to shoot one if I see it on my property. I don't actively hunt for them.

I get a mt lion lic every year because we have mt lions near where I live North of Mitchell. There have been lions sighted within 500 yards of my house on 1 ocasions. The first time I was the Davison co. sherriff and I was patrolling in Mt. Vernon when I got a call that there was a lion after a deer not more than 100 yards from my house. By the time I got there it was gone. A neighbor lady saw it go through their yard the next day. Last Nove 1923 there was a lion on a trail cam. Just about 450 yards a set of 2 lion tracks over there. I also hunt in the Badlands and have seen a lion out there in 2022 while Deer hunting. I also saw a wolf that year.

I have a lion license.as a means of protection. I intend to fill the tag only in a circumstance where my safety may be challenged while I am deer hunting or hiking in the Missouri River hills. I am not an active lion hunter as such.

I have been getting a license just in case I see one in my area.

I have been hunting the same area in the Black Hills for 3 years. Never had much time to hunt there. Called it in one time. Saw the slght movement of my hand with the mouth call (fawn distress) . I heard a hiss,snarl, game over. Never saw the lion. Thick juniper, ponderosa. Perfect ambush terrain. Hunting there this season also. Optimistic. Enjoying the challenge.

I have experienced calf loss that we attributed to a lion. A state trapper was called and completed an on site inspection. I believe lions are an acceptable part of our environment but I also believe that producers should be compensated for their losses.

I have friends in the Black Hills that has had problems with lions - I trust GFP will continue to help with these problems and continue to manage the population of lions

I have hunted in the hill for over 40 years never have I seen fewer deer in the hills I talk to friends in the hills that used to see 100 deer a day now see a hand full season needs to be open during deer season or year around I have had lion tags for a lot of years and have one this year but live 400 miles to the hills not going out this to for go to try to find a lion. you could sell more tags if it was open during deer and elk season. Why not allow dogs get ride of the lions. The GFP should have never introduce to SD.

I have hunted lions every year since 2005. Absolute rush and I'm totally addicted to lion hunting. I just hunt in boot season & have never hunted with dogs. My recommendation is not to change anything.

I have hunted mountain lion since 2005, it has been the most challenging, exciting & rewarding hunting yet. But at my age it is slowing down. too fast.

I have hunted mt lion multiple years on foot and have never been successful. Yet, I have seen 1 cat. I currently do not know anyone who has been successful in the last few years. This is a different way to hunt them and I do think dogs would be more preductive. However I do not like the idea of dog taking over the mt lion hunting in the state. Some tags would be good but limited possibly to finish off the quot aby x date. So like if the state wants 25 cats dead by feb 15th if that's not met dogs could get it there. Then back to boot or something like that. All at the end would be fine as well.

I have killed 3 mountain lion boot hunting it is very doable and very rewarding keep it the way it is

I have lions very close to me and actually had a mother and two cubs break into my chicken coop and killed most of my chickens. Also have a large male in the area. I wish we could use dogs to hunt them. They are very stealthy and hard to track down.

I have lots of experience with lions. I trapped (and released) 7 lions on my land in 2 year period. I would like to see the ability to harvest lions via trapping and open the season in October. I am concerned with them being around with grandkids visiting. Fortunately the female who had cubs here multiple times moved after being trapped and released and now am not seeing as many males come thru.

I have not drawn a deer tag in four years. Fewer lions = more deer and a better chance to draw a tag. The new deer tag draw system is a joke, I may give up hunting.

I have pets and grandkids - manage well!

i have sheep, cattle, pigs, horses, poultry, goats

I have wooded pasture and I feel unsafe for my grand kids knowing mountain lions are in our area

I hope that SD never allows hunting with dogs.

I jus want to be ready for the event if given the opportunity

I know it's hard to please everyone and I think the does a pretty good job with our resources.

I know land owners that have lost livestock in the BHFPD and the all ask me for help but the season isn't open. Lion season should run year round.

I like everything about the mtn lions and the structure of the seasons. I don't think it would hurt thin a few more out. I think lions are exceptionally hard on deer elk and turkey populations. I understand that lions aren't the sole reason that those populations are lower, however I think they are about as proficient apex predator as they come. And I personally feel as though the other big game species in the hills are feeling the effects. I wouldn't be opposed to allowing hunters to get a second lion tags if they harvested the first tag. Or even allowing a small quota of tags(10-15)for during black hills deer season. I think there are plenty of answers. I'm not so sure that the system that's in place isn't just fine the way it is. I'll leave my last thought as this, is rather see GFP not alter the deer tag system anymore before I would change the lion season. Thanks,

I like mountain lions to hunt but not necessary to get one but for the spirit of the wild

I like the season as it is! Some people say the hills are overrun with lions. I don't see that. The area I go is mostly inaccessible by vehicle in the winter. I've had 4 game cameras out every fall and winter for several years. I check them weekly. I usually have 1 male and 1 female every week to 10 days; never traveling together. I have wonderful videos of lions in their natural habitat; usually at night, but on occasion during the day. I've walked and tracked many miles every season since 2005! I've seen 1 during the season and 1 out of season. I've never harvested a lion, or, even taken a shot. So far, I haven't helped control the population, but my observation is the population is controlled by the lions themselves in the area I hunt.

I like to hunt the hi country north of Trails Head but snow shuts that down. I got the 5th lion 2005 during deer season around Fought Lock Falls. I know lion hunting messes up hunting for deer guys & elk. But that area has many lion travlen through there. thats my opinion but! Thanks Jerry Jaskela

I like what's going on with mountain lion hunting in South Dakota. Might consider extending season into May in years like this year when snow is sparse. Great job SDGame and Fish. We need more Walleye stocking in lake Oahe!!

i live in eastern sd and get moutain lion licence for here but have yet to see one but have sighting arond my area

I live in NE S. Dak. I have never seen a mountain lion there but others have. I only buy a license so I could harvest a mountain lion if I do see one. I live on an acreage with a lot of trees and would not like having a mountain lion in the area where my grandkids are playing outside. Therefore I buy a license just in case one does start to hang out around my property.

I live in Western Custer County. The last several years I get to many cats on trail cameras to often

I lived in CA when it was outlawed (1997) now the deer are gone and the grasses become fire hazards

I love how proud active GFP is with managing our wildlife/game. I would like to say that I am disappointed with the application process for a tag bc I applied for the 2024 season and got issued a tag for 2023 in December. I would like to be restitute my money or get a tag for the rest of this season that I for for and planned on using. I'm a huge fan of SD GFP but I got issued a wrong tag. Thank you for all that you guy's do!

I LOVE HUNTING

I make one or two lion calling trips to the hills each winter. I was successful 2 years ago. I still enjoy this challenge every winter. I also stay in motels and eat in the restaurants. I help support the economy during a slow time of year. If hound hunting was allowed in all the hills I would probably not continue coming out and try calling cats.

I moved to Rapid City in SD in June 1962. After the introduction of the MT. Lion, along with the Deer Dease, the Deer Hurd has been reduced to almost nothing in many areas of the Black Hills. There were area's where the Deer Hurd would congregate between Rapid City and Sturgis. People would drive up the Interstate and watch and photograph the Deer and Elk. That is no more. The Coyote population has just about been wiped out by the Mt. Lion. Mt. Lion do not only eat sick or injured Deer. They eat what ever they can catch. The only thing that the introduction of the MT lion to the Black Hills has done is destroy the Deer and Elk Hurds. We no longer hear the music from the Coyote's like we used to. I miss that.

I only get a mountain lion license in case I do see one on my agricultural land I own.

I only purchase a license for the off chance I came across are in the field, more for protection than anything. I don't actively pursue mountain lions.

I oppose the hunting with dogs - not fair.

I own 40 acres in the Black Hills. 1 1/2 mi South of Moon on Boles Canyon Road. Mt. Lions are common in my area. Have had a lion killed by traffic in Boles canyon rd right at my gate. Dept. said it was a 6 month old female weight 35lbs. Have had mt. lion kills of w.t. deer on my property.

I plan to purchase a tag again next year, in case I have the opportunity to hunt next year.

I purchase a license almost every year even though I don't get to the hills cause of having young sons. But I hope that when they are old enough we will still have lion hunting so I can take them. I hope that it doesn't turn into something that is commercialized.

I purchase a mountain lion tag every year just in case I come across one. Then I am able to hunt the mountain lion. I don't plan and hunt for mountain lions. I think it is very important to have a mountain lion season in the state. I believe mountain lions have an impact on the deer population.

I purchased a tag to be legal if I had the opportunity to harvest on. I never actually went hunting for a lion

I realize managing wildlife and humans is difficult. Lions seem to be a love/hate with people/opinions. I think South Dakota overall does a good job managing the lion population. There are certain years I think we could certainly harvest more lines in the hills. I know there are people pushing for hounds in the hills and certainly think it is an extremely effective way to harvest cats. The dynamic of the hills is different with public/private lands. Lots of cats eye track are in and out of private parcels of land. I think there are places that would work to allow hounds. I hear a lot of hound hunters saying we need to shoot more lions, yet they don't want to shoot females. So if hound hunting was allowed, where is the fine line between Houndsmen running all the big Toms versus the boot hunter that gets harassed for shooting a 70 LB female? If the population is getting out of control, we need management on both ends of male/female cats. What does allowing during deer season mean? September is archery lion/deer or just November rifle. Maybe November/December 1st late opener. You would catch a few more snows. All in all, I think it is a great opportunity for. Any S Dakotan to harvest a trophy? Thanks for all the opportunity. PS I think for every South Dakota resident that checks in five cats gets a Black Hills. Any elk tack for future thought.

I said I strongly oppose expanding hunting cats with hounds in the BHFPD. That said, if there are certain roadless areas that hound hunting could be expanded to, that may be okay. To that end, however, I suspect hound hunters would quickly push cats into areas where hounds aren't allowed. In general, I make these comments about hounds because I don't want hounds running into private property.

I sincerely hope the SDGFP starts to manage its game and fish resources with the Game and Fish in mind and stops being so concerned with the number of nonresident dollars coming into our state. Since I started hunting and fishing our game and fish numbers continue to fall. There are fewer mature big game animals than ever and fishing our South Dakota lakes seems to be becoming more and more difficult.

I strongly agree with opening the season during elk and deer seasons, as well as pursuit of multiple tracks of lions.

I strongly oppose expanding hound hunting. Population objectives are being met. Increasing hound hunting would take away opportunities for boot hunters. It also starts down a slippery slope of commercializing hound lion hunting. Once money can be made guides will start showing up and lion hunting as we have known it in the hills will change to a paybto play system.

I support the use of dogs in the Black Hills Fire Protection District

I support the use of hounds in the Fire Protection District.

I support the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions in the Black Hills, as it's the most effective method of increasing the quality of harvested lions. With hounds, I believe hunters would harvest less young or lactating females.

I think GF&P does a good job managing lions. We don't need to allow out of staters, or expanded tactics that make it an unfair chase for the cats. Please don't allow dogs, or night hunting. We are expanding technology too much into fishing and hunting and it is ruining the experience and some game populations. It is about the hunt...it is not intended to be a guarantee kill. I think we need to outlaw drones, and other sonar technology from hunting a fishing.

I think GFP is doing very well with how it is managed at this point please stay with the same system

I think GFP should be protecting elk and deer herds and worry less about lion presence in SD. Do the math and see which increases your budget the most and more importantly, what about the number of hunter hours spent with each species. Lions are a joke. Rid them.

I think it would be beneficial to keep the kill locations updated with the kill quotas. All units Park, Hills and prairie.

I think mountain lion hunting should be just like coyotes see 1 shoot it! they are all predators that kill everything we want to hunt!

I think opening the season in Nov would be good. I had a Mt lion eat a deer in my truck this deer season, Nov. Truck was parked next to a cabin with yard lights on.

I think residents out hunting deer or elk should be able to get a lion tag that can be used to legally harvest a lion if they see one while hunting during deer/elk season.

I think the mountain lion population should be regulated and open year-round until your quotes are met

I think the number of lions in our area is greatly impacting the deer population along with disease. I have game cam photos of 3 lions eating a fresh kill that we found during archery season. SE corner of Bon Homme county. Mark Yonke

I think there are more mountain lions in the state then what we are lead to believe

I think there are too many around and need thinned out

I think there are too many logging roads that cut through the hills to allow hound hunting, but yet I am very pro hound hunting, just not in the Black Hills. I think the Black Hills present a very unique opportunity for boot hunting only.

I think we need to bring the ML pop down to help the elk & deer #s and my personal preferred method is allowing harvest during deer & elk season.

I think you all do a great job.

I truly believe the GFP could and should take much better measures to manage the Mountain Lion population in South Dakota for the benefit of the Mountain Lion and other wildlife. All of you at the top need to be better listeners of the people you have in the field and those who spend a lot of time in the field.

I trust GFP to make decisions. I trust myself to protect myself & my dog if needed. So far, so good. Thank you.

I want what is best for my great grandchildren and beyond to have the opportunity to hunt and gather as they please. Opportunities are less every year. Fishing spots are fewer, and the pressure seems high.

I was neutral on most hunting questions as I feel I don't know enough about lion populations and success rates. I personally like to hunt lions with dogs and tree the lions, take a picture and walk away as I have no desire to hunt them unless they were on my land.

I was opposed to dogs for hunting, but argument for being able to pick what shoot in a tree seems to be better way to control sex of animal.

I was raised on a farm and ranch and always believed predators were blamed for livestock losses without factual evidence. Most was scavenging, and not predation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment

I would appreciate a lower total number of lions in the hills

I would be in favor of allowing hunters to harvest a lion during the deer seasons in the BHFPD if they encounter one. No hound hunters in the BHFPD to meet the quotas and put the fear of hounds to the lions may help keep them away from residential areas. The hound hunters have more of an option to harvest male/females/kittens. Thanks

I would like to be able to spend more quality hunting time in the hills with my family, reduce the lions so I can hunt deer with my daughters more regularly.

I would like to comment on the trust in the GFP, the disagreement of the GFP comes from a long history of both denying the presence of mountain lions in certain areas as well as underplaying the population throughout the hills. This also comes in line with the new regulations that are attempting to be placed for both the elk landowner tags and limiting deer tags for residents. Both of these are steps forward in the privatization of hunting and deepening the pockets of large landowners. From past experiences and the regulations being pushed by the people who are suppose to support and protect hunting rights for all people, I find it very hard to trust or support the agency at this time.

I would like to harvest an elk soon. I am getting old. Get the cats under control.

I would like to hear from the biologists on the current estimation of the lion population and have a comparison of population density as it relates to other western states that have lion hunting seasons. If the quota is 60 and we (boot hunters) do not meet the quota does that actually affect the population of the deer and elk? 60 is a number set by GFP to prevent over-harvest, correct? Is it actually bad if we do not hit the quota every year. I would prefer NOT to allow hounds. If we are going to allow hounds there are a ton of logistics that are going to be difficult to enforce. Selective harvest; IE only taking the big males that get treed. The purpose of harvesting is to to control the population, correct? The best way to control the population is to harvest females, correct? What about the dogs trespassing across private property when running a track? If we choose to allow dogs then it should be at the end of the season and perhaps west of the Rochford Road to the Wyoming line. The houndsmen are asking for the opportunity to run lions in their home state. How many houndsmen are there? 10 or 12 maybe? If these guys are allowed to run their dogs and each harvest their one allotted lion is that really going to affect the lion population significantly? Especially if they only harvest the big males. Will they be allowed to use their dogs to help their friends? Or clients for a fee? It just sounds like a bad idea that opens the door to problems. I do know this... I live in the Black Hills. I would just like to be able to have a rifle deer tag to hunt where I live every year. I could care less about west river or east river, I don't have the time or resources to hunt those units. Before the lion population boom, this was possible.

I would like to hunt this season during firearm rifle season as well in Hills.. I am out anyway, be nice to combine opportunities.

I would like to see a trapping season for Mt lions. I do not like the idea of using snares on lions. I feel too many non target species will be caught.

I would like to see hound hunting in the Black Hills Fire Protection District handled the same way it is done in the park. And yes, we have hounds :)

I would like to see hunting with dogs allowed.

I would like to see lion populations up across the whole state.

I would like to see only boot hunting to be continually allowed within the BHFPD. If quota isn't met I would be accepting of allowing hounds the last month of April. I would dislike seeing mountains take the route of the preference point system. It's one of the last big game species where it is equal opportunity. Trapping using live box traps would be an interesting option. I do not like the option of snaring; being we are such a high recreational forest, but secondly then allowing hounds to hunt lions, they could become snared accidentally...Maybe only allow snaring on private land only.

I would like to see the Black Hills put into units. When there is a lot of snow not many are killed here in the Northern Hills, but more are harvested in the Southern hills. I would like to know where to find your depredation studies. Hills tags are difficult to get anymore, why? Is it because of depredation and hunting. Have we met a quota since lion season was separated from deer season? Keep out of state hunters out, because then it isn't tradition but a business. Hunting shouldn't be a business; it should be a tradition.

I would like to see the GF and P go back to allowing mountain lion hunting during the November Black Hills deer season.

I would like to see the Mountain Lion season start sometime in October or 1st of November and continue through April in the Black Hills Fire Protection District. Also allow hunters 2 licenses but up the harvest to 80 total or 50 females.

I would like to see the season extended until the annual harvest limit is reached, especially on low snow years

I would like to see the season start earlier. At my age, its tougher hunting in the winter months when it's extremely cold and the snow is deep. Especially if I wanted to use archery equipment to harvest a lion. Maybe even open it open to archery only for September/October, then any method in November. Then thermal after January 1st.

I would Love to Hunt lions but to old

I would love to hunt Mt Lions. I would enjoy seeing one in the wild as well. Listen to your licensees, they most of the info needed for managing.

I would see things differently if I was a rancher - be much more concerned about the # of lions - not sure how much loss is due to lions wonder though also wonder about the original creation of habitat and wildlife before man came and changed so much God had a design - we messed it up

I would strongly support the allowance of hunting mountain lions during deer season, along with ease of purchasing licenses (no draw)

I would support night hunting of lions outside of the Black Hills

I'm glad that SD allows archery hunters to carry defense firearms like pistols when hunting. I wish the rules were more clear about when deadly force is permissible during a Mt Lion encounter while hunting other game or when hiking. Also what steps to take if there is an encounter.

I've hunted everywhere since the first lion season in 2005 0-28 not a success story

I've never seen one but I have saw lots tracks while I am hunting in the woods so I know they see me

I've had a lion and her cubs kill my chickens. They need to be hunted to keep them at an acceptable count and away from homes.

i've had. mountain lion kill a horse once but new cattle

If certain lions pose a threat. Harvest them

If harvest limits are not met by a certain date then allow a depredation hunt the last few weeks with hounds. I understand the economic impact with non resident hunters but I would like to see this stay a resident only hunt.

If lion numbers are down elk and deer numbers increase this allows more tags for hunters as it is tough enough to get deer and elk tags now

If quota isn't met, allow dogs for a week or two until quota is met. For areas outside Black Hills, allow all resident hunters to shoo a lion without a mt lion tag and if someone gets one, they can keep it for \$500 or so tired of buying licenses for this and that just in case one of those come by.

If the GF&P wants to expand opportunities for lions look at: expanding the season opener to December 1 allow night hunting/calling

If there is ever a dog season, I would give them the last month of the season to fill the quote if there is any. Then the boot hunters would have a fair chance and the dog boys and girls could clean things up at the end. Hides are prime at the end of the season as well.

If they allow dogs in the black hills get ready to lose all cat hunting just look what is going on in Colorado and people think it won't happen in South dakota leave the dogs out of the hills

If they were too many lions in SD, the quota would be met every year! And its not.

If you allow dogs to run mountain lions in the black hills the tree huggers will be here and try to stop in the next year look at what they are doing in Colorado it is just a matter of time be for it happens NO DOGS in the hills

If you want honest answers don't put my name on the return survey

If you want to do something good for the state, you should reduce significantly lions, coyotes, a coons

In some areas the population of lions are high in the hills. Deer population are getting lower in those areas. They move to areas with more food. We have try to that.

It is difficult to trust SDGFP when in the past members have blamed elk hunters for declining elk numbers while radio collar studies were showing cats killing 24 or 25 of every 25 elk calves each year. I want a healthy cat population but when I see as many as I see each year (without even trying to see them) there are too many still! Thanks, I appreciate your efforts to gather input!

It would be nice to see the pursuit and harvest of a lion that is traveling with another large lion be allowed. I have seen multiple trail camera photos of larger lions traveling together. Also I have had times I've had to abandon tracks because a second large track had joined after I had initially started following single track.

It's good to have a Eastern hunting right I have seen 3 in the last 6 or 7 years I had farmer Friends that had 3 - 500lb cubs mauled scraped down their sides and a lot of People's kids walk around in the trees here I walked by one checking my game camera's going to my third camera I heard a Brach Break Looked back and seen him Jump out of a tree that I Just walked by Now I watch a little more

keep dogs in csp

Keep dogs out of it. Boot hunters only

Keep non-resident out allow use of dogs last 3 weeks of season Gives boot hunters time and then houndsmen can fill the rest of the quota.

keep the dogs in the park

Keep the harvest the same - I think it hard to find maps of wilderness boundries

Keep the hunt sporting but reduce the lion population.

Keep the numbers about the same and don't let the lions become overpopulated to where they are hazardous to deer/elk numbers

Keep up the good job and don't pay attention to the radicals

Keep up the great work!

Keeping mt lion population under control is very important - majority of people would like to see more turkeys - deer - elk - sheep

Kill all the lions and wolves

Kill more lions

Large predators must be controlled by the states not by the federal liberals. Good deer and elk populations are dependent on predator control, including mountain lions, wolves and grizzly bears. In this state, grizzlies should be eliminated and the rest controlled. If one big cat eats 20 deer in a year only 500 lions must kill close to 10,000 a year. Add to that just as many killed by wolf packs we will have moving into out state from all directions if blind liberals keep control.

Lease pasture for cattle grazing the past 3 years. No livestock loses. Have seen lion dragging off deer on game camera or looking in patio door and on our land

Leave it the way it is.

Let's ensure we pay the biologists to do biology and not math or statistics. Having accurate accounting of lions and other species is good for ALL. Whether you agree with using dogs or not, too many small and very small lions have been killed and this will continue to grow large cats who will be competing for food, pushing them into human populous.

Like any predator, mountain lions need to be managed but not over harvested. They provide a critical balance to our wildlife ecosystem and I have always trusted our SDGFP to monitor and give guidance to the number that should be harvested. Please never allow night hunting of mountain lions. I am an avid hard blown coyote caller and I am sickened by the number of hunters that are now harvesting coyotes at night with thermo imaging optics. It poses such a risk when hunting at night. Finally, I am always amazed at how mother nature controls our ungulate and predator populations.

like to see more lions

Lion harvests are greatly limited by boot hunting. It's also safe to assume that not everyone who has harvested has done so by those means. If meeting quotas is the goal we need to adjust methods of pursuit accordingly.

Lion hunting is an awesome opportunity here in the hills. Hope its around a long time.

Lion hunting is an important management tool that should always exist. We should allow that tradition to be used forever and allow more hunting with dogs as that is the best success rate for hunters.

Lion hunting is difficult and takes skill and years to learn. The use of hounds is traditional and does not always mean a lion will tree. More education and outreach to non hunters would be beneficial. Most people don't understand lion hunting. Look at some of the work by Steven Renellia.

Lion population need to stay inside Black Hills

Lions are a predator. They keep wildlife on their toes. The healthy ones stay alert, the cripples, sick or old get taken first

Lions are an important part of our ecosystem. Hunting them w/ hounds allows for more proficient management decisions. It allows time to identify the animal's sex & age before harvest. Houndsmen are professionals & their dogs were born for this purpose. It is more dangerous to send a hunter out there with a distress call to sit at the bottom of a tree & try to coax one of these animals in. It is exciting to see lions more often but to effectively manage population of all game animals, we need to have ethical & efficient tools available to us

Lions need to be able to be hunted at night

Lions need to be managed cannot allow numbers to get to like some of the other states

Listen to the South Dakota hounds men association they will be here forever -

Live on the east edge of deuel county. Have Mountain Lions show up on trail cameras a few times. It's not uncommon for local cattle to run through fences or have dead calves when there's a lion in the area.

Livestock on my daughters ranch in faulk county - cattle and goats have found lion tracks in several pasture dugouts

Look at #6

Losing livestock to a predator is something that will always happen. It is our responsibility to help protect our livestock when those encounters happen. But those encounters should not be happening every day and night if the predator population is properly managed. The lion population has been very poorly managed for several years now which has allowed it to become as high as it is now. To have several different lions from young to old and male and female in the same 5mile radius is not something that should be happening

Making a hunt for non residents may be harmful for terrible hunting and gates not closed, cattle running and cattle killed along with goats sheep. Deer season is hell for ranchers with non residents.

Man and woman can control the #'s of elk and deer through hunting - and there are alot more people wanting to hunt elk and deer... More than we are allowed to now. Have been applying for CSP elk bull tag for 30 years and with no luck drawing... I don't think I care to feed cats with elk I want to hunt. And will likely only to be able to take 2 bulls in my lifetime in the hills. If cats are cutting into my chances of drawing elk and deer tags. then I am in favor of alot fewer cats. I sure don't mind you calling me to chat. Thanks!!

Many license holders never see a mtn lion in the wild. We should have ideas on how to increase the harvest while not decreasing opportunities for the "working person" hunter. Work schedules don't often allow to hunt fresh snow or are even can be limited to weekend hunts. I believe using dogs, or allowing out of state hunters decreases the chances of the average person to have the opportunity to fill a mtn lion tag. It becomes an issue of those with money to have a higher chance than the average hunter.

More opportunities for resident hunters who use their preference points to successfully draw a custer state park permit with hounds. I've been trying for several years and have been unsuccessful.

Most places I've hunted mountain lions aren't a real problem. I've hunted big game in different countries and us. Do not introduce wolfs in SD!!!! They will kill just to kill!!!!

Mountain Lion Harvest location data is taken from hunters. I feel it is public data that should be publicly available.

Mountain lion populations are way to high. I can replace livestock but it is impossible to replace family/friends. It is only a matter of time before something bad happens.

Mountain lions are predators and will kill anything to eat there are plenty in other states. In our state they can all be exterminated. They post a threat to all living beings!

Mountain lions are so internal part of the BHE ecosystem and there fore population balance is necessary to support that ecosystem.

Mountains are good for the nature of life in the Dakotas

my horses have been attacked twice my barn cats keep disapearing

My primary residence is in Sioux Falls, however I have a second home in a rural area north of Pierre in which I spend at least half of my time hunting & fishing throughout the year. I don't own any livestock but my family does. Thank you

n/a

N/a

N/A

na

Na

NA

Need more lions east river for more hunting options

Need to be able to use hounds in the hills

Need to be put on predator list hunt them year around

Need to harvest more mountain lions. Start the season earlier.

Need to open year round in blackhills until quotas have been filled.

Need to reduce the number of mountain lions!!! Our we won't have a deer turkey population left.

need to use dogs

Night hunting. Open all predator hunting up for unrestricted night hunting on public lands, to include the use of thermal and night vision devices.

no comment

No dogs. No night hunting. Longer season, Dec 1 through April 31. I also feel that cellular trail cameras are a form of cheating, which should be addressed.

No hound hunting

No need for mountain lions or wolves we have plenty of hunters that can manage wildlife numbers

None

None at this time.

Not a fan of hunting with dogs, thats a young persons game and discriminates against older hunters ,and not fair to the lions ,something GF&P never seems to take into account. Same with starting the season right after Christmas,it should start 1st of November while theres still some decent weather.At 65 I'm finding myself coming down sick while climbing the Hills in freezing weather. You should have the seasons separated for the Hills and outside the Hills,theyre 2 entirely different things.Lots of spotted cats getting turned in,no tickets,lots of baiting going on same thing,no tickets.

Not hunting (a walk) a mountain lion let us walk within 10yd. If not seem it was going to let us walk right up on it. Not afraid at all! It let us veer off safely - 2-29-24 about

Note.. people who have hunted and resided in South Dakota their whole life should receive an elk license by their 60's and 70's .. thank you.

Obviously I'm a hounds men (that I hunt CSP almost every year.) It is a great tradition and sporting way to contest population. We can take the proper sex on a hunt that the GF&P believe to be the best management move. I think the boot hunters need the time to pursue there trophy but why not allow the hounds men of SD to help meet GF&P goals. I know most of the hounds men in SD and most want what is best for the lions and the Deer/Elk population. Maybe start with a limited access permit to run hounds in the BHFPD (similar to Custer State Park) to me it is working in there for the elk calf survival and deer. I have noticed in person one the last 10 years. There could be different units with different quotas based on population. Thanks for this opportunity to write.

OK

Only hunt east river so far. Might go west river but I have a wife that gives me a lot of no answers for going west lol.

Open lion season from Oct 1 through April with a quota.

Open NR hunting with its own harvest quota

Open season starting September 1st in the BHFDL

Open the season earlier in the hills

Open the season with the deer season. If the quota has not been met by mid February turn the dog guys loose!

Please allow trapping and use of dogs before opening it to out of state residents. Thanks you.

please consider expansion of hound hunting

Please continue with these surveys and any other public outreach or public hearing strategies.

Please do not allow nonresident hunting or greatly expand the use of dogs for mountain lion hunting.

Please do not even consider using hounds to control cat populations. The harvest numbers have been extremely well balanced with a typical harvest amount being consistent. There's also no where else to hunt mountain lions in which it's only done by hunters on foot . Not dog runners

Please do not expand dog hunting or night hunting in bhfpd. Please do better enforcement of the houndsmen in csp. I've witnessed houndsman party hunting by driving all over the park hoping to be the first to cut a track then getting the phone and calling the guy with the hunter. Also would like to see limits to the number of times a houndsman can guide each season in csp. Sure seems like the same few houndsman guide most csp hunters with dog tags. Please don't feel pressured by the few houndsman or the city folk to expand dog hunting. I strongly feel that allowing big game tag[deerand elk] holders to also harvest a lion, especially archery hunters will increase harvest if needed.

Please inform the community and have state biologists and GFP workers at the mountain lion classic/raffle held yearly to hold informative meeting for the community that supports mountain lions the most!

Please NO dogs outside of the custer state park!

Posted most of my thoughts in the previous text. Open boot hunting starting Nov 1 close Jan 31 and allow dog hunting Feb 1 to April 1. Keep the quota the same (males and females). Dog hunter would be able to tell if it's males or females when treed and keep management in check. Starting the boot hunting in November isn't going to mess up deer hunters too much, verses opening it Oct 1 for elk hunters. I feel there is enough people chasing elk around already we don't need cat hunters up there also. This is all in the Black hills fire protection I'm talking about. Thank you for the survey and taking our input. Les Tiltrum 605-858-9968

Put a bounty on coyotes and allow the use of artificial light and state and federal land

Question 2 is a loaded question the "unacceptable? wording. If that word wasn't used my answers would change. I think numbers are high but don't want lions completely removed. There is an acceptable risk having a managed lion population.

Really don't see any need for a season at all

Reduction in mt lion population in se sd is a must. I continue to believe reduction in elk tags in csp is directly related to elk population decrease due to increase in mountain lion population

Release the hounds

Right now there is more distrust of government than I've ever seen. Public relations is probably one of the more difficult aspects of game management. Transparency goes a long way

SD is increasingly moving towards the commercialization of Big Game Hunting. Most SD residents who hunt Big Game in SD do not want their seasons and preference points affected by increased out-of-state hunters. Do not further commercialize big game hunting.

SD lions are essentially taking revenue from the state and opportunities away from hunters. Units like 27A have been decimated by cats. In the early 2000's this was a premier mule deer hunting unit and now you're lucky if you see a deer in a lot of places. The only thing that changed was lion pressure. Allowing hunters to buy a tag and shoot lions year round statewide, would be a good start. The non season fire protection district rule needs to go away! There are too many lions living on the border of the fire protection district that are not shot in the off season months because they are on the wrong side of the line. Lastly turn the trappers lose! What better way to actually get some cats harvested and get a handle on cat populations.

SDGF is the biggest joke in this state! I was lucky enough to draw an elk tag in 2010. I couldn't apply til 2019. It will take me at least 15 yrs to draw again. In that time Comissioner Beis has had the opportunity to kill 24 bulls! Don't gimme that shit about depredation either! He has cows on FS land for \$1:35 a month! You wonder why people don't hunt anymore? They can't draw a tag! Joe Barrett 605-580-1125

Season opener same as deer

Season should be longer make it limited if needed to large adults in later months

See previous comments in survey

See previous comments. Above

Seems like mt. lion just get in the way of my chances of drawing a deer or elk tag. Kind of like out of state hunters there not worth the trouble for me

several years w/ cattle until retirement

Sightings of lions, East River have become more frequent so if population control is adequate within the Black Hills why are the lions territory being expanded?

Since 2013-2023, a ten year span in South Dakota has harvested 465 lions, and 264 of those lions were female and contributed to 56.77% of the totally harvest. 201 of those lions were male, contributing to 43.23% of the harvest. The remaining 35 lions harvested were all kittens just baby kitty's many less then 3-5 months old and the smallest weighing only 14lbs and many in the 18-30lb range so kittens that were clearly still surviveing off of their mother contributed for 7.53% of the 10 year harvest. If that 7.53% number sounds ok to you and you dont consider disgusting in your mind, you're a heartless individual that is clearly not for the greater good of true lion management. You're just a senseless killer. Also to be noted that the female harvest of a lion population should never exceed 15% yet here in South Dakota nearly 60% seems to be perfectly excitable by those in left in charge of providing proper management of South Dakotas lion population. South Dakota doesn't have to to better we NEED to do better they way these numbers are and able to be freely accessible to anyone if the exact reason lion seasons get shut down by modern day ballet box biology.

Since mountain lions were introduced steady decline in elk & deer numbers even in east river areas I live along a creek will see deer & turkey then gone for week or two will come back but some neighbors have seen mountain lion on camera

So far we have had no issues with predators killing our chickens.

Start the season in October. This will help to get the cat limit. No dogs in the BH forest, but continue in Custer Park and prairie.

Strongly disagree with out of state hunters being able to hunt mtn lions here. I believe the outfitting businesses are already out of control on all other species and would think this would be the same. I am a Hunt Safe Instructor trying to get youth involved in hunting and alot of places are getting locked up by leased land and hunting is getting to be a rich mans sport and not a family tradition like it used to be. I commend the land owners that allow our youth and others to hunt without the huge price tag! We try to teach our youth about making family friendship with the landowners by maybe helping with tasks on the farm or ranch and making a lifetime friendship instead of just offering money to buy your way onto land like alot of people. Hunting is a tradition that is fading way too fast!!! I think our future generations are going to miss out on alot of hunting because of the almighty \$ and it's sad!!!

Thank you for all that you do for South Dakota wildlife & hunters!

Thank you for allowing the public to voice their opinions through this survey.

thank you for asking our input

Thank you for being stewards of our natural and animal resources

Thank you for including me in this survey. Please give more weight to opinions of hunters and rural respondents, who are most impacted by lions.

Thank you for taking a look in to the current mnt lion management. My main concerns encountering a mnt lion while leaving the forrest in the dark and the negative effect on deer and elk population, specifically in the Black Hills

Thank you for the opportunity to hunt mt lions and bobcat in SD!

Thank you for the research

Thank you please manage the mountain lion population to acceptable levels

Thank you!!!

Thanks for the opportunity to give my feedback.

Thanks for the opportunity to hunt cats.

Thanks for the opportunity to share feedback!

The best thing GF&P could do is expand the boot hunting season during deer season, to open opportunities. So many times I cut fresh single tracks while deer hunting but am not allowed to pursue them. Some of the rules such as following only one set of tracks is outdated - it only punishes the honest hunters. I am strongly opposed to hunting mountain lions with hounds in the Black Hills. They already have the entire rest of the state year round, and nearby Wyoming to run hounds. Hound hunters cannot control their dogs, which opens up trespassing issues with the increasing development of the Black Hills. It also further commercializes big game hunting and guiding in our state. I am strongly opposed to night hunting a big game animal (mountain lions). It opens up ethical and legal concerns. Recap: Open up season during deer season, NO Hounds, NO night hunting, & Get rid of arbitrary track rule that only honest hunters follow.

The best way to control them is open it back up during deer and elk season, that is when people are in the field not Jan and Feb when it's below 0

The cattle on our property are seasonal - only a few weeks in the Fall

The current season is during the coldest snowiest times of the year. It is also after most hunting seasons and Christmas so I believe that keeps a lot of hunters from participating.

The ecosystems are all interconnected and good management tools are important. I love big game hunting and have been frustrated over the past several years concerning decreased opportunities to acquire tags. Hopefully good decisions are made going forward, to help maintain a healthy balance.

The Fire Protection District should not include private hand out side the US Forest and Parks

The first question you should have asked is "did you hunt mt lion in 2023. I did not but I had a mt lion lic. Did not have time to hunt but I look forward to future years.

The GFAP told the public 30 years ago the lions didn't exist in South Dakota. They are presently telling the public that wolves didn't exist in South Dakota. I truly don't believe anything the GFAP says. They told the public that the lottery license for deer was only going to last for 5 years to increase the buck population and that was a lie. If the GFAP really wants to do something good make the land owners that get elk tags every year hunt on the own land. I mean ready if they are getting deprivation tags because the elk are causing damage to their property then why are they allowed to hunt off of their property?

The GFP is doing a solid job thus far. I really would hate to see our state mtn lion population get ruined due to cats getting killed by the aid of hands. If people are complaining about "Too many cats" need to actual go out and hunt them. They will soon notice that there actually isn't that many cat in the hills. Thanks for all you do!

The issue this year in my opinion was the lack of snow.

The limits to the way hunters are able to hunt lions needs to change. Look at the harvest numbers this year and one of the worst conditions to hunt, and still were taking good numbers of cats. Even tho they tend to be younger cats. There are lots of cats that need to be harvested.

The lion population in South Dakota is excessive particularly when the source of their food-wild game and livestock is considered. With deer, elk and wild turkey populations declining, we don't need lions to further reduce their populations. Only increasing hunting opportunities will help with this problem. Also, the movement of lions into residential areas is unacceptable.

The livestock we have are in Nebraska - within Juiles of SD. Where have the deer gone is SE gregory and western charles mix co near Pickstown? There used to be so many deer in the area and many were road killed. Now one rarely sees a deer in that area. I don't believe it is disease as the ranchers in that area are no and seeing the carcasses. I fully support expanded mountain lion hunting opportunities and reduced restrictions on hunting and harvest of lions. Thanks Dr. Buckley for your time.

The mountain lion season and harvest structure is fine the way it is, and it has been set up this way for a long time. There aren't enough lions in the Hills to open this type of hunt up to non residents, as evident by the fact that the quotas have not been met and the lion population has not grown out of control. Please leave non residents, and as painful as it might be their dollars, out of mountain lion hunting in South Dakota.

The mule deer population in Fall River County is 27A and 27B units is at an all time low. Please do not allow any harvest of mule deer doe. Thank you.

The old timers got rid of the cats for a reason. Not shooting them on sight is a big mistake. Because you'll never get rid of all of them. The elk and deer herds will only suffer while the cats are as abundant as they are now.

The only effective way to manage numbers of lions in an area is with the use of hounds. Hounds could target sheep areas an take out females as needed to keep the numbers in control

The opportunity for expanding dog hunting is the obvious choice. Stop listening to the screeching of the tree huggers and use common sense. Also the govt being what it is, I'm sure the potential for taking a few more dollars out of sportsmans pockets has been explored. Permits, registrations, additional regulations, etc... Its a bureaucratic Disneyland just to do it already.

The reason I have a lic is because there have been sighting and have seen footprints close to my land and want to be able to protect my livestock

The state GF&P spends too much time attracting out of state hunters. Your current spin you put on ringneck harvest should be split up between preserves and others. Should start the brood count again to determine how the population truly is. Your current draw for resident elk needs to be revamped. I started applying 25 years ago and now doubtful if I'll continue to apply. The only side that wins with your current system is the GF&P, certainly not this lifetime resident.

The use of dogs is a great management tool since it allows a very close evaluation of any animal prior to a decision to harvest based on sex, age and cubs if applicable. I'm baffled that we use that option in CSP but not the rest of the BHFD. Expanding the season to include deer season would bring in more hunters if harvest goals are not being met.

The use of dogs would help regulate the population better. It is easier to gage the age and size of cat treed then just running & gunning.

The use of hound would allow the harvest of mature cats not young and lactating females witch is the majority of the current harvest

The way your allowing hunting seems to be keeping them at a good level

their is absolutely no reason this anamial is allowed to live in this state. the gfp will find this out when a human becomes the lions next meal ,Only a matter of time b

There has been sighting in my area but personally never saw or hunted one, and have never traveled to hunt one

There is AT LEAST 2,000 lions in the black hills area. They are all over trail cams on skyline, piedmont, nemo road etc. i looked for tracks on a 5-6 mile hike around hill city and saw 3 different tracks in the last 4 days. There is easily 5x more lions then what is believed in the Black Hills area.

They are not native to this part of the state. I view them as an invasive species.

They have never been a problem for me

They need to change the deer draw back to the old system.

They should be listed as verman. The same as coons and coyote. No licence needed.

This comment is not about mountain lions by I have stated this position on other surveys. Non-resident hunting in South Dakota should be severely limited. The benefits of being a resident of South Dakota should be reserved for South Dakota residents only.

This was a much needed survey. When are you sending one out on wolves? Why does the GFP do things first and then ask the public to take a survey?

To effectively maintain a healthy population of Mt Lions, you have to allow the use of dogs. No hound hunter will be turning in 15 pound or lactating cats like the "pro" boot hunters

To many lions - deer population way down if more deer and elk more revenue to offset lion income less lions less danger for pets and people I had a horse attacked by a lion one lion will eat a deer a week you do the math more deer would bring out of state hunters with more \$

To many lions isn't good for small children and pets

Too many lions everywhere

Too many mountain lions - decimating the # of elk and deer need to consider additional methods of management - allow dogs in Fire Protection District

Unfortunately in recent years i have lost all trust in sdgfp. Financial based decisions with no concern towards our future deer and turkey populations are just one example. Also regressing in youth/mentor opportunities like changes to turkey season that negatively affect our youth opportunities. Literally scares me and is just disappointing beyond words to see a heritage I enjoy largely due to the non political connections it brings to everyone involved now be ruined by just that, money and politics.

Use a lottery system for lion tags. Allow dogs to be used. Fill the quota and be done!!!

Very much opposed to allowing dog hunting for lions w/in the Black Hills, trespassing issues will be a concern along with turning the sport into a paid to hunt harvest.

Walworth County SD Farmers Ranchers and lineman have seen cougars... I've yet to see one in our area I combine grain for 45 years around 1500 - 2500 acres seen a large mountain lion 2007 at Savoy, SD

Way too many cats and coyotes in the hills

We also have horses and pets.

We are asking for trouble when they have been seen in areas that children walk to school at and if one child gets killed because you are not putting enough human pressure on them, it will be your fault

We definitely need to manage mt. lion (bear and wolf) populations to enhance elk, deer, turkey etc. populations. Hunting is conservation and big business/economic impact. Thanks for the opportunity to participate! RMEF Life Member/Member for ~33 years.

We have both cattle and horses.

We have cattle and horses.

We have lost a lot of our poultry and livestock to lions

We need to allow dog hunting on lions so we can harvest males, not females. Dog owners will not shoot females out of trees. I have been to many trees and seen it was a female and pulled dogs and let run. Same as young toms. Dog owners do not allow this.

We need to explore more options to keep the lion population in check. It may not be politically correct to use dogs state wide but we need all avenues looked at before we have a tragic lion / human encounter. With the increased traffic in the Black Hills it is a matter of time. Then what????? It will be to late.

We need to let deer and elk hunters hunt mountain lions during deer season and elk seasons which will help to bring the lion populations down to acceptable levels

we need to make applying for cats much easier and try to help people who are senior citizens get some tags--in all our other draws the people who are older with lots of preference points don't get drawn--- we need to give the permits to those with the oldest ages first and get them taken care of -then over the years the age will work its way down to a nice balance.

We need to manage the population or they will become an unacceptable risk to livestock people and pets, numbers need to be kept in balance to preserve our other great types of hunting. I love the presence of lions out would rather shoot an elk.

We own several acres in the Black Hills (300+). We have a lot of lions in the area but the terrain and not being able to use dog makes our success in hunting lions very low. Would support dog hunting with rules and guidance to respect landowners.

What about wolves damaging the deer and elk population

What exactly is the problem with how it is now? In my opinion, everything is going perfect the way it is. Just because the houndmen are pushing for expansion, there should be no expansion of hound hunting. It's too easy for them to kill cats and killing cats should be hard. They should be earned with boot leather put in. Just because the quota for BHFPD isn't met in recent years doesn't mean there's a problem. It's not a mandatory quota. I think it's better for a healthy population of cats to not meet the quota. This antiquated, deep seated fear of mountain lions is unfounded and should not be factored into population. Management decisions as much as it is, let's not weather trends over the time skew our decision making either. Some years there is a lot less snowfall during Mountain Lion season, so hunting is a lot harder than the quota is not met. Other years there's a lot of snow and the quota is met or almost met. This is just the natural way of things. The quota does not need to be met each year. We do not need to be so reactive to this natural cycle that we start changing management laws to close. I believe the GFP's population estimate is very accurate. I believe the quota amount and the overall structure of the season is set up excellently. This will be an unstoppable thing. Town Hunters will never be satisfied, They'll just want more and more. So let's not start to give in at all. Thanks for allowing me to be heard.

SOUTH DAKOTA MOUNTAIN LION ACTION PLAN *2024-2028*



**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA**

WILDLIFE DIVISION REPORT 2024-03

DRAFT JULY 2024

This document is for general, strategic guidance for the Division of Wildlife and serves to identify what we strive to accomplish related to mountain lion management. This action plan will be utilized by Department staff on an annual basis and will be formally evaluated at least every 5 years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan is a product of substantial discussion and input from many wildlife professionals. Comments and suggestions received from members of the South Dakota Mountain Lion Stakeholder Group, private landowners, hunters, and those who recognize the value of mountain lions and their associated habitats were also considered.

Action Plan Coordinator – Andy Lindbloom, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP).

GFP Mountain Lion Action Plan Team that assisted with plan writing, data review and analyses, critical reviews and/or edits to the South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan, 2019-2029 – Nathan Baker, Byron Buckley, Stephanie Buckley, Steve Griffin, Trenton Haffley, John Kanta, Mike Klosowski, Julie Lindstrom, Chad Lehman, Jim McCormick, Andrew Norton, Dan Sternhagen, and Lauren Wiechmann.

Those who served on the South Dakota Mountain Lion Stakeholder Group during this planning process included: Brian Dail (Greater Dacotah SCI); Sean Fulton (Black Hills Sportsmen Club); Nancy Hilding (Prairie Hills Audubon Society); Chad Kiel (Predator Hunter Association); Chase Larson (Black Hills Mountain Lion Hunters); Suzanne Martley (SD Chapter of the Sierra Club); Dana Rodgers (SD Wildlife Federation); Todd Russell (US Forest Service); Matt Tucker (Rosebud Sioux Tribe); Jeremy Wells (SD Houndsmen Association). In addition to those citizens that volunteered for the stakeholder group, Commissioners Travis Bies and Travis Theel of the GFP Commission also attended and participated in the meetings.

Recommended Citation:

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. 2024. South Dakota Mountain Lion Action Plan, 2024-2028. Completion Report 2024-03. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.



INTRODUCTION

Mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) historically occurred throughout South Dakota and were considered numerous in the Black Hills. However, the population declined in the early 1900's due to unregulated hunting and bounties that were placed on mountain lions until 1966. In 1978, mountain lions were listed as a state threatened species. With a breeding population established in the Black Hills and a better understanding of population dynamics within the Black Hills, the mountain lion was removed from the state threatened species list and classified as a big game animal in 2003 with protection under a year-round closed season. The first regulated mountain lion hunting season in South Dakota was established in 2005 and continues today to provide hunting opportunities and manage populations towards desired social and biological objectives.

Overall, South Dakota residents have a positive attitude towards mountain lions. Public opinions on mountain lions vary, however, and there will always be a certain level of controversy surrounding the management of large carnivores. With the use of science-based knowledge to make management decisions, this plan will ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population of mountain lions in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The current Black Hills population objective is 200-300 total mountain lions, but actual population abundance may range depending on a multitude of factors. Population objectives for mountain lions on the prairie habitats of South Dakota have not been established as these areas are managed primarily to abate potential livestock losses on private property, minimize human conflicts, and maximize hunter opportunity.

The “*South Dakota Mountain Lion Action Plan, 2024-2028*” will serve as the guiding document for decision making and implementation of actions to ensure mountain lion populations are managed appropriately, addressing both biological and social tolerances, while considering the needs of all stakeholders. Additional information regarding mountain lion management, research, and history can be found in the *South Dakota Mountain Lion Management plan, 2019-2029* (South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks 2019; https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/docs/LionPlan_FINAL_2019.pdf).

POPULATION MONITORING

In general, mountain lions exhibit secretive behavior, occur in low densities, and occupy habitats with relatively dense vegetative cover and rough topography. These characteristics make estimates of population abundance and trend difficult. GFP uses numerous trend indicators to assess the mountain lion population in the Black Hills. The primary surveys and data used to assess trends include: 1) hunting season data, 2) documented mortalities, and 3) mark/recapture surveys. Analyses, results and detailed summaries of all mountain lion surveys and monitoring efforts are reported biennially (Lindbloom et al. 2023; https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/mountain_lion_status_report_2023.pdf).

Hunting Season Data

Hunting season dates and harvest limits are currently used to manage mountain lions in the Black Hills Fire Protection District (BHFPD), and a year-round season with no limit exists in the remainder of South Dakota. Harvest limits are established to ensure harvest does not exceed management objectives.

All harvested mountain lions in South Dakota must be presented to a GFP representative within 24 hours of harvest for inspection. Information is recorded about the harvest and tissue samples are collected from harvested mountain lions for genetic analyses used in mark/recapture population estimates. Trends in harvest age and sex proportions are evaluated annually in the Black Hills. Furthermore, harvest surveys are also sent to all licensed hunters to collect hunter effort (# days hunted) which is used to estimate harvest per unit effort.

Documented Mortalities

All known mountain lion mortalities in South Dakota are recorded and the BHFPD mortalities are evaluated for population trend assessments. For trend assessments of mountain lions in the BHFPD of South Dakota, GFP primarily evaluates total, harvest, non-harvest, and removal mortalities. Variation in recovery or detection probability among cause-specific mortalities prevents comparison among categories.

Harvest mortalities can be influenced by hunting season regulations, weather, and other factors. Non-harvest mortality trend may reflect increases or decreases in the mountain lion population. However, factors influencing non-harvest mortality can be variable and may influence trend assessments.

Population Estimation

Abundance of mountain lions in the Black Hills is estimated using the Lincoln-Petersen mark-recapture Chapman model. GFP uses biopsy-darting as the primary method to mark mountain lions immediately prior to the season, while the hunting season is considered the recapture event. DNA analyses are conducted by the USFS National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation, Missoula, MT.

Vital rates from radio-collared individuals and recruitment data from previous research studies in the Black Hills (e.g., Thompson 2009, Jansen 2011) are used as input variables to calculate the total mountain lion population. Age and sex composition of starting populations is based on the 3-year average composition of harvested mountain lions.

Population trajectories are an important management tool that enables a better understanding of harvest strategies dependent upon management objectives. Growth rates of mountain lion populations are primarily dependent on female survival and kitten recruitment. Understanding population rates of change allows managers to implement proactive management recommendations while practicing adaptive management techniques.

DEPREDAATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Mountain lion management in South Dakota is a complex and adaptive process that must include careful consideration of the biological, social, economic, and political impacts. Overall, the demand for mountain lion depredation services from GFP is low. The most significant factor that likely affects social tolerance and the demand for mountain lion depredation services in South Dakota are population levels and landowners' financial dependency on livestock or other personal property. Fortunately, few landowners have interactions with mountain lions because of the animal's secretive nature and relatively low densities.

Conflicts with mountain lions may occur any time of the year but more frequently in areas with more people, more mountain lions, more livestock production, and less available habitat. Outside of the Black Hills, mountain lion habitat is limited and the potential for an incident increases. All reported mountain lion observations from the public in areas outside of the Black Hills are recorded into a centralized database. Observations of mountain lions within the Black Hills that occur in a municipality, urban, or other area/situation of current or future potential conflict are also recorded.

In South Dakota, mountain lions may be removed by GFP due to livestock depredation, attacks on pets, or in situations where a mountain lion poses a substantial threat to public safety. GFP will remove a mountain lion for attacking domestic animals. However, GFP may not remove a mountain lion in conflict situations where a pet provoked a mountain lion or where domestic animals could be protected using exclusionary fencing. GFP will not relocate a mountain lion that previously attacked livestock to another area, because it may impact another livestock producer. In these situations, it is GFP's current position to utilize lethal removal as the most appropriate management technique. However, GFP does provide technical advice to livestock producers and homeowners regarding non-lethal techniques (e.g., protective fencing and additional livestock husbandry practices) to be proactive and hopefully minimize mountain lion conflicts with livestock and pets. Feeding of prey species, such as deer and turkey, in urban areas or near rural homes is discouraged as it can lead to an increased presence of mountain lions.

Lethal control is conducted exclusively by GFP staff when deemed appropriate. However, in certain circumstances citizens may kill a mountain lion if necessary. Under SDCL § 41-6-29.2, killing of a mountain lion is permitted if reasonably necessary to protect the life of a person or if a mountain lion is posing an imminent threat to a person's livestock or pets. If a person kills a mountain lion pursuant to state law, they must contact GFP within twenty-four hours of killing the mountain lion.

While GFP management techniques and strategies have proven successful over the past 20 years, mountain lion depredation and the associated conflicts will continue to be a challenge. To help minimize these conflicts when possible, GFP must ensure that mountain lion populations are managed proactively and that management goals are being met. Defined

wildlife population objectives, management goals, and stakeholder opinions are critical to effectively manage wildlife populations (Leopold 1933, Riley and Decker 2000).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

Effective decision-making by wildlife agencies necessitates the need to consider public perceptions and opinions, as well as potential responses to management policies. Along with hunter harvest and biological data collected, public involvement is an important component in developing and implementing wildlife management plans. Public participation helps ensure decisions are made in consideration of public needs and preferences. It can help resolve conflicts, build trust, and inform the public about wildlife management in South Dakota. Successful public participation is a continuous process, consisting of a series of activities and actions to inform the public and stakeholders, as well as obtain input regarding decisions which affect them. No single citizen or group of citizens can represent the views of all citizens. Multiple avenues for public involvement and outreach, therefore, are used in the development of the Mountain Lion Management Plan. These approaches are designed to involve the public at various stages of plan development and to ensure opportunities for participation are accessible to all citizens.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks first began collecting public opinion information related to mountain lion management in 2002, at which time mountain lions were listed as a state threatened species (Gigliotti et al. 2002). Since that time GFP has administered multiple surveys regarding mountain lions in South Dakota: five state resident surveys (Longmire 2019, Gigliotti 2012, Gigliotti et al. 2009, Gigliotti 2002, and Gigliotti et al. 2002); three Black Hills deer hunter surveys (Gigliotti 2007a, 2006a, and 2005a); one elk hunter survey (Gigliotti 2006b); and 13 mountain lion hunter surveys (Huxoll 2018, Longmire 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012a, Gigliotti 2011, 2010a, 2009, 2008, 2007b, and 2006c). In addition to surveys, GFP has held multiple public meetings/open houses in 2005, 2010, and 2012 designed to provide information to the public and gather public input about mountain lion management in South Dakota. Additional public comment has been collected over the years in conjunction with management plan revisions; GFP Commission public hearings, open forums, and petitions processes; and via informal avenues such as emails and phone calls to the Department. A stakeholder group was established in conjunction with the 2024 management plan revision process as an additional means for gathering input related to mountain lion management. Additionally, a public opinion survey was administered to both hunters (i.e., the most recent season resident applicants for statewide and Black Hills mountain lion hunting and Black Hills big game hunting) and Black Hills residents (i.e., residents within municipalities in and around the Black Hills and residents outside of municipalities within 15 miles of the BHFPD) in the spring of 2024

Attitudes toward Mountain Lion Hunting Season

Over the years South Dakota residents have been supportive of a mountain lion hunting season (Longmire 2019, Gigliotti 2012, Gigliotti et al. 2009, Gigliotti 2002 and Gigliotti et al. 2002). In the 2024 public opinion survey, hunters and residents were provided with a preamble detailing the Statewide (excluding the Black Hills Fire Protection District [BHFPD] and Custer State Park

[CSP]), BHFPD, and CSP mountain lion hunting season characteristics. Participants were asked how satisfied they were with the structure of the mountain lion season in 2022 – 2023. Approximately half of hunters (51%) and residents (59%) were neutral about the CSP season, half of hunters (46%) and residents (52%) were neutral about the BHFPD season, and half of hunters (49%) and residents (56%) reported some level of satisfaction with the statewide season outside BHFPD.

There is varied support for various mountain lion harvest strategies. Survey respondents were asked to report their level of support for different strategies that could be used if GFP needed to increase mountain lion harvest beyond current levels. Residents most favored expanding boot hunting opportunities (60%), allowing mountain lion harvest during deer season (45%), and allowing pursuit where multiple tracks are present (38%). Hunters most favored allowing mountain lion harvest during deer season (72%), expanding boot hunting opportunities (67%), and expanding hunting opportunities using dogs (62%). Residents were most opposed to allowing trapping/snaring (66%). Previous studies showed opposition to trapping/snaring. Currently, state law and administrative rule do not allow the taking of any big game animal (including mountain lions) with traps or snares. Previous survey results showed resident opposition to this method (59%). (Longmire 2019). Finally, hunters were most opposed to allowing non-resident harvest (68%).

Social Tolerance

Research into the acceptance of wildlife indicates both objective and subjective factors shape beliefs about wildlife populations (Zinn et al. 2000; Decker and Purdy 1988). In addition to objectively measured population levels, risks, and benefits factors such as value orientations and perceptions of population levels, risks, and benefits have been found to be important in determining stakeholder acceptance capacity for wildlife (Zinn et al. 2000). Understanding attitudes is important since they can influence and predict behavior, and the more specific the attitude is toward a certain behavior the stronger the relationship between attitude and behavior (Vaske 2008, Fishbein and Manfredo 2003, Ajzen and Fishbein 1980).

The attitudes and beliefs about mountain lions held by SD residents are complex. Over the past 16 years surveys have consistently shown the full range of attitudes towards mountain lions is present among South Dakota residents, ranging from strong support to strong opposition toward mountain lions. Attitudinal statements have been used to measure SD residents' beliefs regarding mountain lions (Longmire 2019, Gigliotti 2012 and Gigliotti et al. 2002).

In the 2024 study, three items measured existence and environmental value of mountain lions. Over half of hunters (57%) and the majority of residents (74%) agreed that the presence of mountain lions was a sign of a healthy environment. The majority of residents in 2002 (72%) agreed that the presence of mountain lions was a sign of a healthy environment, while 12 percent disagreed and 16 percent neither agreed nor disagreed with it (Gigliotti et al. 2002). In 2018, a smaller majority (57%) agreed that the presence of mountain lions was sign of a healthy environment, 20 percent disagreed, and 23 percent neither agreed nor disagreed with it. Additionally, most hunters (61%) and residents (76%) agreed it is important to them that

mountain lions persist in South Dakota for future generations. Most hunters (66%) and residents (80%) also agreed it is important to them to know that mountain lions exist, whether they ever see one in the wild or not.

Attitudes towards mountain lion hunting were also assessed in the 2024 survey. Over half of hunters (63%) and a little less than half of residents (47%) agreed mountain lion hunting is an important tradition in South Dakota. The vast majority of hunters (96%) and residents (83%) agreed hunting is an acceptable way of managing mountain lion populations. Interestingly, 39% of hunters and 40% of residents were neutral that mountain lion hunting is important for South Dakota's economy.

The risks and threats of having mountain lions on the landscape were also captured in the 2024 survey. Hunters and residents were divided on many of these items. A little less than half of hunters (42%) agreed mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to livestock, 41% of residents disagreed. Similarly, a little less than half of hunters (42%) agreed mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to pets, while residents disagreed (42%). A little less than half of hunters (42%) agreed mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to people, while over half of residents (54%) disagreed. In previous surveys, the majority of SD residents disagreed that having mountain lions in SD is too dangerous a risk to people. In 2002, 62 percent of SD residents disagreed mountain lions were too dangerous a risk to people, 25 percent agreed with it and 13 percent neither agreed nor disagreed (Gigliotti et al. 2002). Similarly in 2012, 57 percent disagreed that mountain lions were too dangerous a risk to people, 27 percent agreed and 16 percent neither agreed nor disagreed (Gigliotti 2012). More recently, in 2018, 53 percent disagreed with this statement, 28 percent agreed and 19 percent neither agreed nor disagreed. Over half of hunters (53%) agreed mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to ungulates, while over half of residents disagreed (52%).

South Dakota residents' concerns for mountain lions killing too many game animals have fluctuated over the years. This fluctuation is likely due, in part, to fluctuations in mountain lion, deer, and elk populations in the Black Hills over the last 16 years. In 2002, a slight majority of SD residents (52%) disagreed with the statement that they were concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals. One-quarter (25%) were concerned about this and 24 percent neither agreed nor disagreed with this statement (Gigliotti et al. 2002). The proportion of SD residents who indicated they were concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals jumped to nearly half (45%) in 2012, while one-third (33%) were unconcerned and 22 percent neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement (Gigliotti 2012). In 2018, the proportion of residents who were concerned about this dropped to 33 percent, 42 percent indicated they were unconcerned, and one-quarter (25%) neither agreed nor disagreed that they were concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals. Black Hills residents were more likely than residents on the prairie (52% compared to 39%) to disagree with this statement (Longmire 2019).

Respondents were also asked whether they would prefer to see the mountain lion population in South Dakota decrease, stay the same or increase over the next five years in the following

locations: Custer State Park [CSP], Black Hills Fire Protection District (excluding CSP) [BHFPD], and Statewide, outside of BHFPD. In CSP, 46% of hunters and 55% of residents wanted the population objective to stay about the same. In BHFPD, 46% of hunters wanted it to decrease to some degree, while 52% of residents wanted it to stay about the same. Statewide, 47% of hunters and 56% of residents wanted the population to stay about the same. In 2002, when mountain lions were still listed as a state threatened species, one-quarter (25%) of residents wanted the mountain lion population to increase to some degree, less than one-third (30%) wanted it to stay about the same, and 17 percent indicated they would like to see the population decrease to some degree. Over one-quarter (28%) were unsure about what the population goal should be (Gigliotti et al. 2002). In 2018 (13 years after the first mountain lion hunting season) residents were asked the direction they would prefer to see mountain lion populations go over the next five years within the Black Hills Fire Protection District and statewide (outside the fire protection district). Over one-third (39%) of residents preferred to see the population in the Black Hills Fire Protection District stay about the same, and 35 percent of residents would like to see the population statewide stay about the same (Longmire 2019). Over one-quarter (29%) of residents would like to see the population decrease to some extent over the next five years statewide, and 21 percent would like to see the population in the Black Hills decrease. A similar proportion of residents would like to see the population in the Black Hills and statewide increase (20% and 17%, respectively). About 20 percent of residents indicated they were unsure about mountain lion population goals over the next five years (Longmire 2019).

Survey results over the past 16 years have consistently shown that the full range of attitudes toward mountain lions exist in South Dakota. This finding is significant in it means managing mountain lions can be controversial, and mountain lion incidents have the potential to become contentious depending on how they are addressed. Understanding how various stakeholders perceive mountain lions in South Dakota is an important component of overall mountain lion management that is responsive to public values.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Mountain lions are a topic of interest and conversation throughout the state. GFP staff provide education and information in both formal and informal settings. This includes, but is not limited to, the Outdoor Campuses (Rapid City & Sioux Falls), GFP offices and parks, teacher trainings, and other staff presentations. While presentations occur throughout the state, they are more frequent in the western portion of the state, especially in and around the Black Hills. GFP will continue to be active in educating area residents, schools, and visitors about mountain lions.

Additional education materials are provided in the form of a GFP brochure entitled “Living with Mountain Lions”. This brochure has information about mountain lions in South Dakota along with general information about the species. A hunter educational brochure entitled “Mountain Lion Identification and Methods of Determining Sex and Age” has also been created to inform hunters in South Dakota about mountain lions, and to assist with field identification on sex and

age. Furthermore, GFP is currently working on an informational brochure which demonstrates successful techniques used to protect chicken and other domestic animals from mountain lions.

POPULATION GOALS

The GFP will manage mountain lion populations and habitats consistent with ecological, social, aesthetic, and economic values of South Dakota citizens while addressing the concerns and issues of both residents and visitors of South Dakota.

The Black Hills population objective is 200-300 total mountain lions, but actual population abundance may range depending on a multitude of factors such as mountain lion vital rates, prey species population densities, mortality factors, public input, and the precision and accuracy of biological monitoring. This population objective range was developed and updated after thorough analyses of mountain lion population data, prey availability, recreational opportunities, livestock depredation issues, human safety and conflict issues, and substantial input from a wide variety of publics with an interest in mountain lion management in South Dakota. GFP will adopt harvest strategies that will allow the mountain lion population to stay within the objective range.

Population objectives for mountain lions on the prairie habitats of South Dakota have not been established. Survey data are lacking for mountain lions on the prairie and these areas are managed primarily to abate potential livestock losses on private property while at the same time to provide recreational hunting opportunity.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

Objective 1: Monitor and assess mountain lion populations by conducting scientifically based biological surveys within South Dakota.

- a) Annually survey hunters to estimate harvest statistics.
- b) Annually conduct mandatory checks for all harvested mountain lions to collect and assess harvest and other biological data.
- c) Annually collect and evaluate reported mountain lion mortalities.
- d) Estimate abundance of mountain lion population in the Black Hills.
 - Evaluate alternative methods to improve estimate of abundance.
 - Evaluate alternative indices to improve detection of population trend.
- e) Investigate, document, and collect biological samples from sick and/or dead mountain lions demonstrating symptoms of concern.

Objective 2: Manage mountain lion populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs.

- a) Manage for a sustainable population of mountain lions within the Black Hills of South Dakota.
 - The winter population objective will be 200-300 total mountain lions.
 - Collect scientific-based public input from hunters, landowners, and the general public during every management plan revision to assess public perceptions regarding mountain lion management, better define social tolerance levels, and re-evaluate objectives and strategies.
- b) Modify and adopt hunting season structure as needed to minimize regulation complexity:
 - In the Black Hills Fire Protection District (BHFPD), excluding Custer State Park (CSP): maximize hunting opportunity for unique hunters allowing unlimited boot hunting with harvest regulated primarily through restricted season lengths and harvest limits.
 - In CSP: maximize hunting opportunity for hunters with dogs with harvest regulated primarily through limited permits and restricted season lengths.
 - Outside BHFPD: emphasis to minimize potential human conflicts with mountain lions and maximize hunting opportunity for hunters with dogs allowing unlimited permits and a year-round season.

Objective 3: Cooperatively work with private landowners, municipalities, and the general public to resolve mountain lion depredation to livestock, human safety concerns, and urban mountain lion conflicts.

- a) Continue to document and respond to all mountain lion depredation and human safety concerns in a timely manner.
- b) Educate the public and public municipalities on the potential for increased mountain lion human safety issues from feeding deer and other wildlife.
- c) Utilize mountain lion kill permit authority (see *Depredation Management* section) when warranted, to address mountain lion depredation and human safety concerns.
- d) Provide technical assistance to municipalities regarding mountain lion-human conflict management.
- e) Annually collect and evaluate reported mountain lion observations in areas of potential human and/or livestock conflict.

LITERATURE CITED

- Ajzen, I. and M. Fishbein. 1980. Understanding attitudes and predicting social behavior. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hill.
- Decker, D. J. and K. G. Purdy. 1988. Toward a concept of wildlife acceptance capacity in wildlife management. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 16:53-57.
- Fishbein, M. and M. J. Manfredo. 2003. A theory of behavior change. Pages 29-50 *in* M. J. Manfredo, editor. *Influencing human behavior*. Sagamore Publishing. Champaign, Illinois, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2002. Wildlife values and beliefs of South Dakota residents. Report # HD-10-02.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2005a. 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report # HD-3-05.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2006a. 2005 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report # HD-4-06.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2006b. 2005 Black Hills rifle elk hunter survey. Report # HD-6-06.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2006c. Evaluation of the 2005 mountain lion season: Hunter survey. Report # HD-3-06.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2007a. 2006 Black Hills deer hunter survey report. Report # HD-3-07.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2007b. Evaluation of the 2006 mountain lion season: Hunter survey. Report # HD-3-06.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2008. Evaluation of the 2007 mountain lion season: Hunter survey. Report # HD-4-08.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2009. Evaluation of the 2009 mountain lion season: Hunter survey. Report # HD-3-09.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2010a. Evaluation of the 2010 Mountain Lion Season: Hunter Survey. Report ID#: HD-8-10.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2011. Evaluation of the 2011 Mountain Lion Season: Hunter Survey. Report ID#: HD-8-11.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.

- Gigliotti, L. M. 2012. Wildlife and environmental attitudes of South Dakota citizens: A 2012 survey. Progress Report: 1-2012. U.S. Geological Survey, South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Brookings, SD: Department of Natural Resource Management, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M., D. Fecske, J. Jenks. 2002. Mountain lions in South Dakota: A public opinion survey – 2002. Report # HD-9-02.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M., T. L. Teel, and A. Dietsch. 2009. Black Hills residents' attitudes towards place and wildlife: Preview of selected results. Report # HD-9-09.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Huxoll, C. 2018. Big game harvest projections. South Dakota Game Report # 2018-05. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Jansen, B. D. 2011. Anthropogenic factors affecting mountain lions in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Dissertation, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota, USA.
- Leopold, A. 1933. Game management. Charles Scribner's Sons, eds., New York, New York, USA.
- Lindbloom, A. J., S. L. Griffin, L. Wiechmann, B. Buckley. 2023. Mountain lion population status update. 2023 Biennial Report. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Longmire, C. L. 2012a. Evaluation of the 2012 mountain lion season: Hunter survey results. Report # HD-3a-12.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Longmire, C. L. 2013. Black Hills mountain lion season: Hunter survey results. Report # HD-6-13.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Longmire, C. L. 2014. Black Hills mountain lion season: Hunter survey results. Report # HD-3-14.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Longmire, C. L. 2015. Black Hills mountain lion season: Hunter survey results. Report # HD-4-15.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Longmire, C. L. 2016. Black Hills mountain lion season: Hunter survey results. Report # HD-4-16.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Longmire, C. L. 2017. Black Hills Mountain lion season: Hunter survey results. Report # HD-3-17.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.

Longmire, C. L. 2019. Mountain lion management in South Dakota: Public opinion survey results. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.

Riley, S. J. and D. J. Decker. 2000. Wildlife stakeholder acceptance capacity for cougars in Montana. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 28:931-939.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. 2019. South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan 2019-2029. Wildlife Division Report 2019-06. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.

Thompson, D. J. 2009. Population demographics of cougars in the Black Hills: survival, dispersal, morphometry, genetic structure, and associated interactions with density dependence. Dissertation, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota, USA.

Vaske, J. J. 2008. Survey research and analysis: Application in parks, recreation and human dimensions. Venture Publishing, Inc., State College, Pennsylvania, USA.

Zinn, H. C., M. J. Manfredo, and J. J. Vaske. 2000. Social psychological basis for stakeholder acceptance capacity. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 5:20-33.

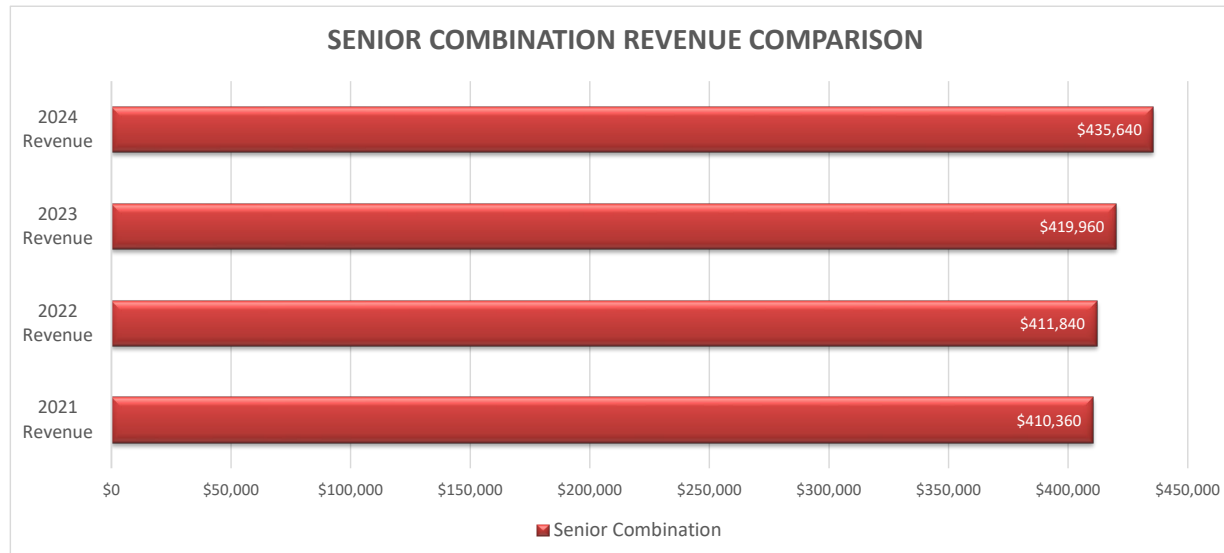
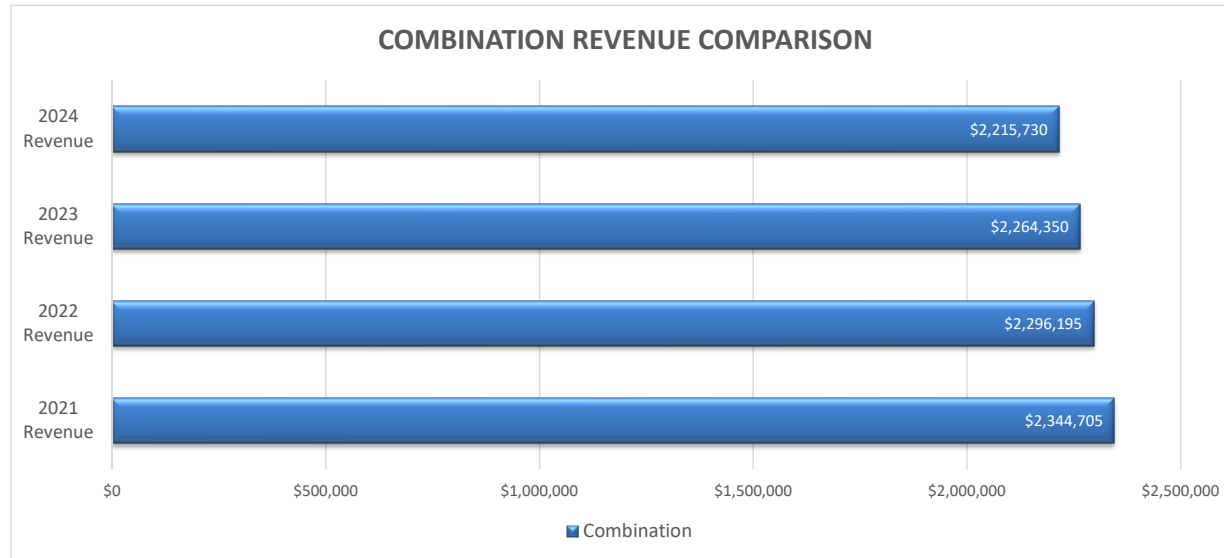
DRAFT



COMBINATION LICENSES

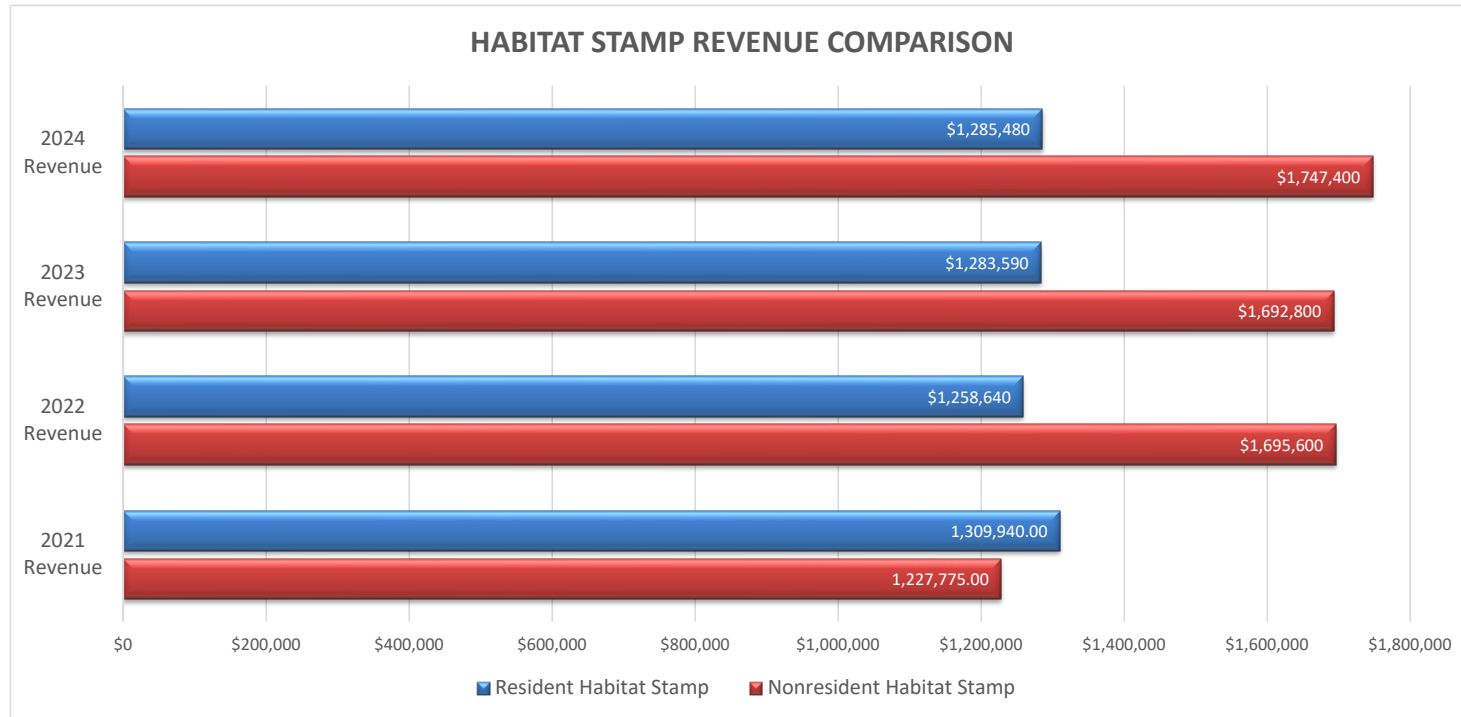
December 15 - June 30

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
Combination	42,631	41,749	41,170	41,850	40,286	\$2,215,730	(884)	(1,564)	(\$48,620)	(\$86,020)	-4%
Senior Combination	10,259	10,296	10,499	10,351	10,891	\$435,640	392	540	\$15,680	\$21,587	5%
Combination License Totals	52,890	52,045	51,669	52,201	51,177	\$2,651,370	(492)	(1,024)	(\$32,940)	(\$64,433)	1.48%



HABITAT STAMP December 15 - June 30

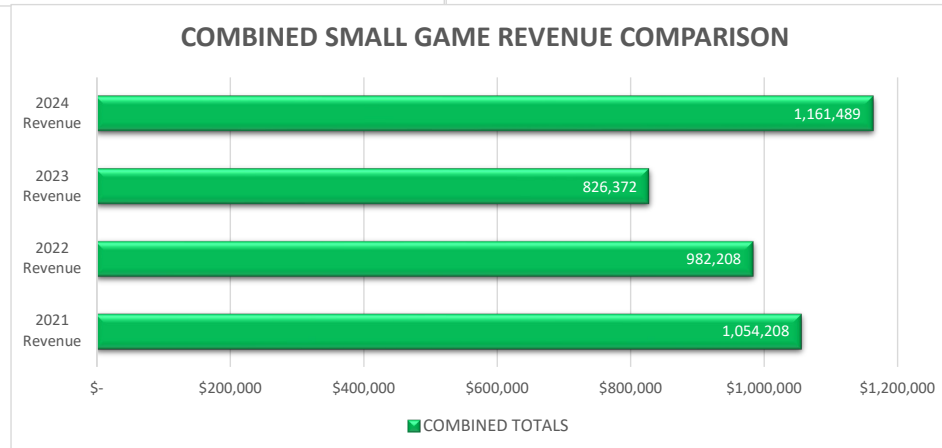
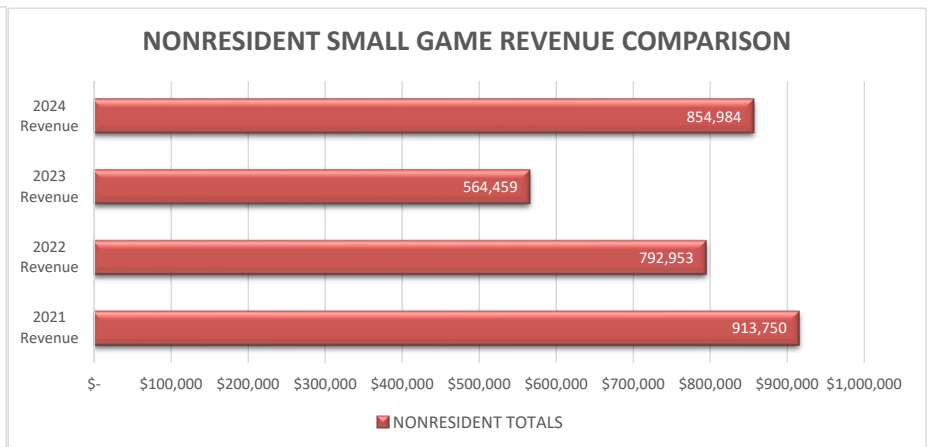
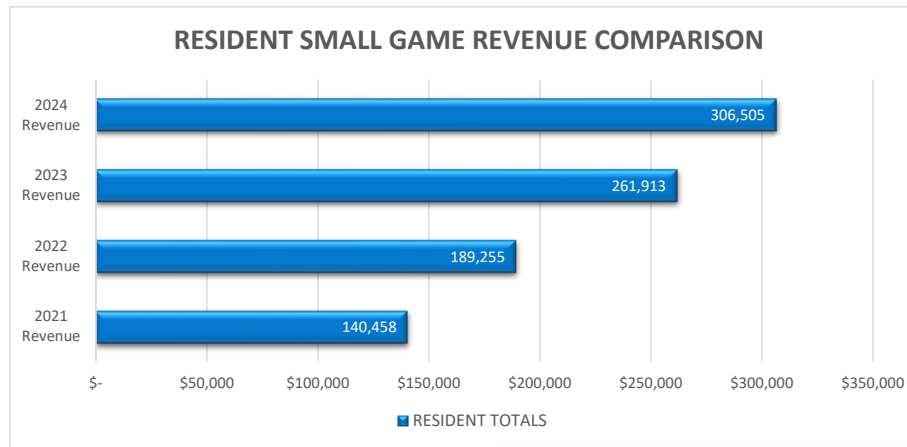
License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	from 3 Yr. Avg
Resident Habitat Stamp	130,994	125,864	128,359	128,406	128,548	\$1,285,480	189	142	\$10,395	\$7,828	0%
Nonresident Habitat Stamp	49,111	67,824	67,712	61,549	69,896	\$1,747,400	2,184	8,347	\$87,360	\$333,880	14%
Habitat Stamp Totals	180,105	193,688	196,071	189,955	198,444	\$3,032,880	2,373	8,489	\$97,755	\$341,708	4%



SMALL GAME LICENSES

December 15 - June 30

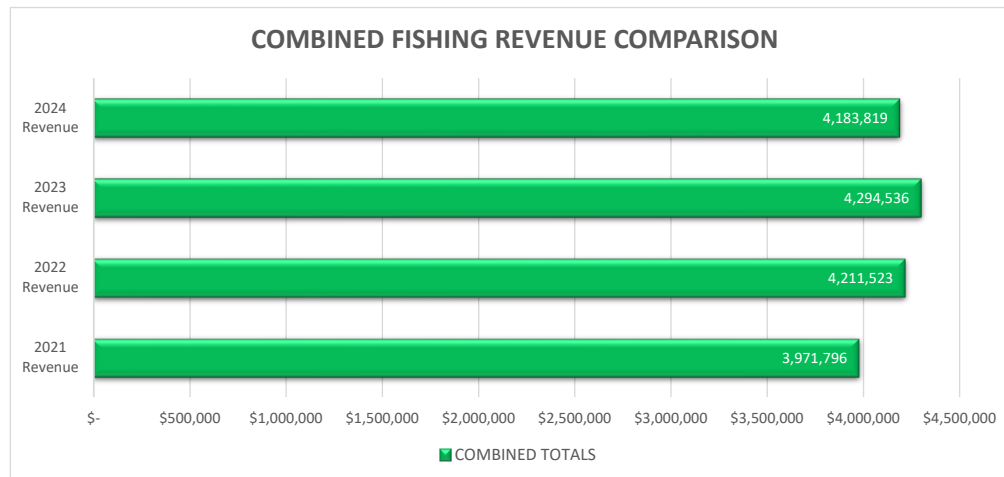
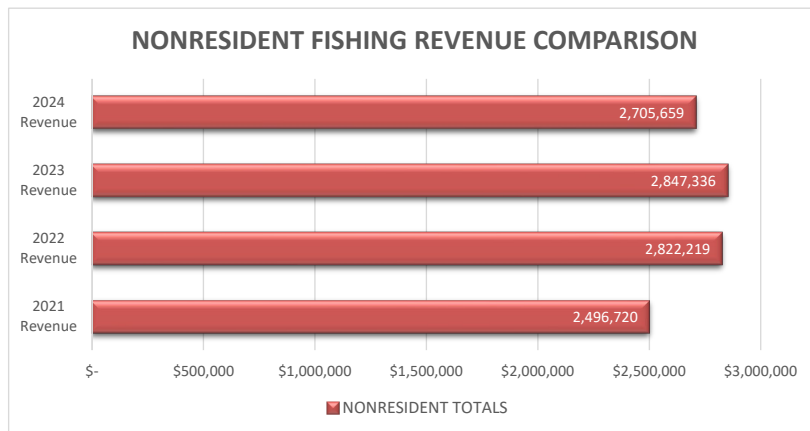
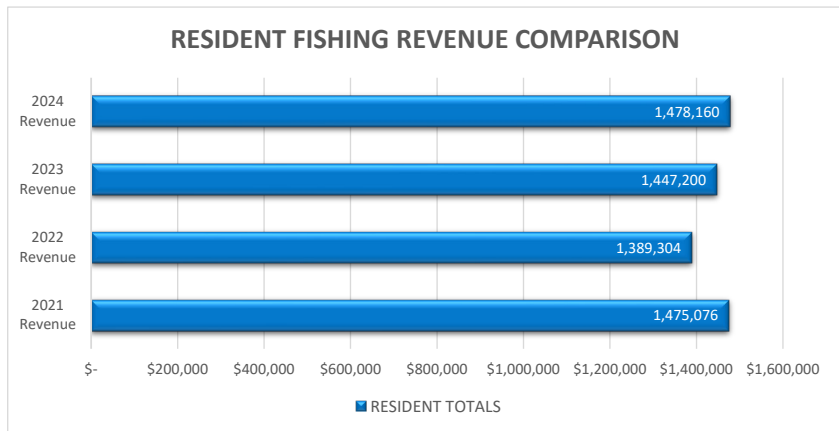
License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
Small Game	1,511	2,618	4,866	2,998	6,033	\$199,089	1,167	3,035	\$38,511	\$100,144	101%
1-Day Small Game	368	158	100	209	208	\$2,496	108	(1)	\$1,296	(\$8)	0%
Youth Small Game	804	1,251	1,416	1,157	1,521	\$7,605	105	364	\$525	\$4,368	31%
Furbearer	3,248	2,910	2,853	3,004	3,030	\$90,900	177	26	\$5,310	\$790	1%
Predator/Varmint	903	1,482	1,493	1,293	1,283	\$6,415	(210)	(10)	(\$1,050)	(\$48)	-1%
RESIDENT TOTALS	6,834	8,419	10,728	8,660	12,075	\$306,505	1,347	3,415	\$44,592	\$105,246	39.43%
Small Game	5,708	4,606	2,995	4,436	5,221	\$631,741	2,226	785	\$269,346	\$94,945	18%
Youth Small Game	260	334	204	266	355	\$3,550	151	89	\$1,510	\$890	33%
Shooting Preserve 1-Day Nonresident	181	208	103	164	172	\$7,912	69	8	\$3,174	\$368	5%
Shooting Preserve 5-Day Nonresident	1,025	1,212	822	1,020	1,004	\$76,304	182	(16)	\$13,832	(\$1,191)	-2%
Shooting Preserve Annual Nonresident	76	102	64	81	62	\$7,502	(2)	(19)	(\$242)	(\$2,259)	-23%
Furbearer	4	3	2	3	5	\$1,375	3	2	\$825	\$550	67%
Predator/Varmint	3,099	2,936	3,113	3,049	3,165	\$126,600	52	116	\$2,080	\$4,627	4%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	10,353	9,401	7,303	9,019	9,984	\$854,984	2,681	965	\$290,525	\$97,930	10.70%
COMBINED TOTALS	17,187	17,820	18,031	17,679	22,059	\$1,161,489	4,028	4,380	\$335,117	\$203,176	24.77%



FISHING LICENSES

December 15 - June 30

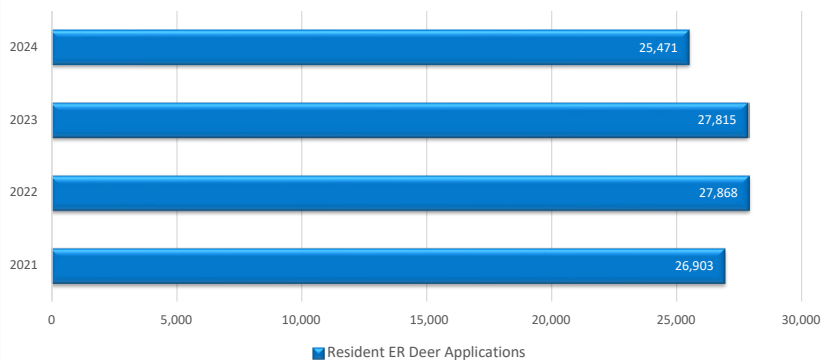
License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
1-Day Fishing	3,119	2,589	3,237	2,982	3,581	\$28,648	344	599	\$2,752	\$4,795	20%
Annual Fishing	46,583	43,885	45,561	45,343	46,442	\$1,300,376	881	1,099	\$24,668	\$30,772	2%
Senior Fishing	12,150	11,651	12,133	11,978	12,428	\$149,136	295	450	\$3,540	\$5,400	4%
RESIDENT TOTALS	61,852	58,125	60,931	60,303	62,451	\$1,478,160	1,520	2,148	\$30,960	\$40,967	3.56%
1-Day Fishing	21,458	18,956	18,825	19,746	18,366	\$293,856	(459)	(1,380)	(\$7,344)	(\$22,085)	-7%
3-Day Fishing	12,274	11,062	11,381	11,572	10,501	\$388,537	(880)	(1,071)	(\$32,560)	(\$39,639)	-9%
Annual Fishing	25,362	31,487	31,717	29,522	30,198	\$2,023,266	(1,519)	676	(\$101,773)	\$45,292	2%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	59,094	61,505	61,923	60,841	59,065	\$2,705,659	(2,858)	(1,776)	(\$141,677)	(\$16,433)	-2.92%
COMBINED TOTALS	120,946	119,630	122,854	121,143	121,516	\$4,183,819	(1,338)	373	(\$110,717)	\$24,534	0.31%



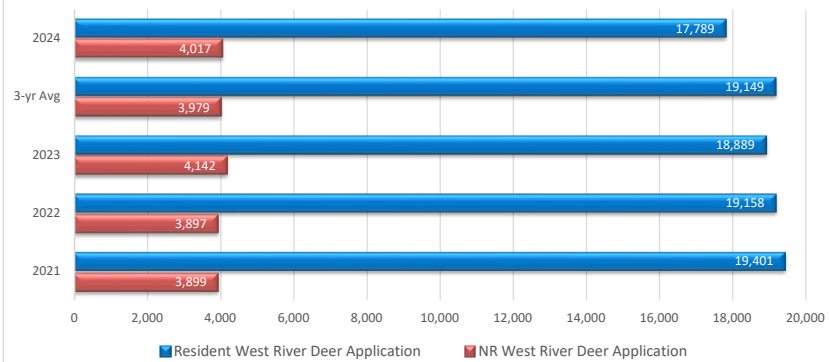
2024 BIG GAME LICENSES

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
East River Deer	21,456	22,051	22,068	21,858	20,697	\$763,790	(1371)	(1161)	(\$41,260)	(\$40,250)	-5%
Resident West River Deer	14,511	14,706	13,907	14,375	13,427	\$574,830	(480)	(948)	(\$21,730)	(\$44,270)	-7%
NR West River Deer	1,347	1,397	1,377	1,374	1,342	\$375,576	(35)	(32)	(\$4,804)	(\$6,725)	-2%
Resident Black Hills Deer	3,401	3,505	2,950	3,285	2,948	\$117,920	(2)	(337)	(\$80)	(\$13,493)	-10%
NR Black Hills Deer	249	282	236	256	236	\$67,496	0	(20)	\$0	(\$5,625)	-8%
Muzzleloader Deer	958	1,000	1,000	986	1,000	\$40,000	0	14	\$0	\$3,360	1%
Resident Refuge Deer	135	131	135	134	127	\$5,080	(8)	(7)	(\$320)	(\$267)	-5%
NR Refuge Deer	14	12	14	13	14	\$4,004	0	1	\$0	\$191	5%
Custer Deer	73	73	20	55	20	\$3,120	0	(35)	\$0	(\$5,512)	-64%
Resident Archery Deer	12,457	6,306	8,671	9,145	8,192	\$302,780	(479)	(953)	(\$19,420)	(\$42,020)	-10%
NR Archery Deer Public/Private			2,200	n/a	2,183	\$624,338	(17)	n/a	\$593,562	\$595,383	n/a
1st Draw Applications Submitted											
Resident ER Deer Applications	26,903	27,868	27,815	27,529	25,471		(2344)	(2058)			-7%
Resident West River Deer Application	19,401	19,158	18,889	19,149	17,789		(1100)	(1360)			-7%
NR West River Deer Application	3,899	3,897	4,142	3,979	4,017		(125)	38			1%
Resident Black Hills Deer Application	12,426	12,138	12,017	12,194	11,409		(608)	(785)			-6%
NR Black Hills Deer Application	1,769	1,802	1,955	1,842	1,858		(97)	16			1%
Muzzleloader Deer Application	4,636	4,420	4,279	4,445	4,169		(110)	(276)			-6%
Resident Refuge Deer Application	494	440	433	456	424		(9)	(32)			-7%
NR Refuge Deer Application	123	114	127	121	126		(1)	5			4%
Custer Deer Application	1,031	1,145	1,064	1,080	1,022		(42)	(58)			-5%
NR Archery Deer Public/Private Application			2,827	n/a	3,463		636	n/a			n/a

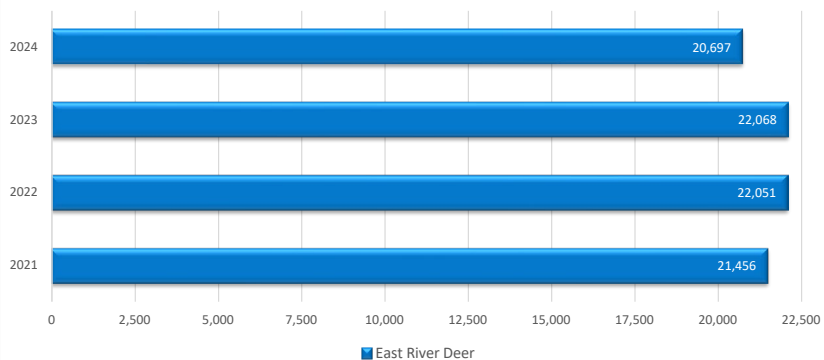
EAST RIVER DEER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED



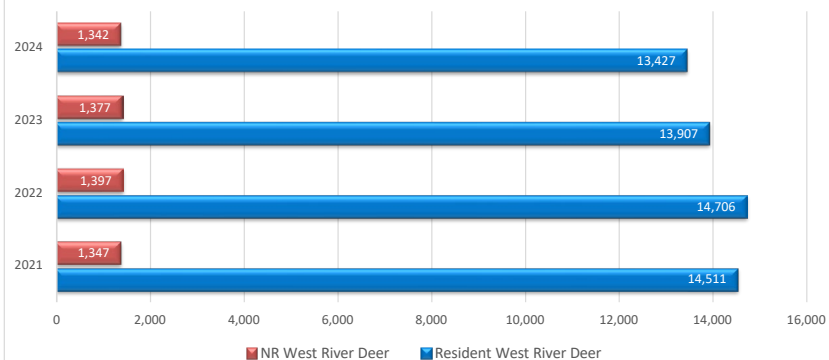
WEST RIVER DEER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED



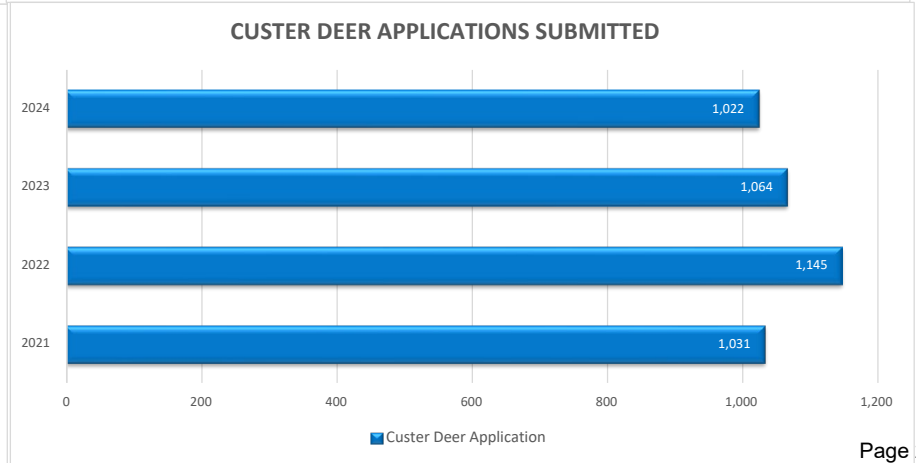
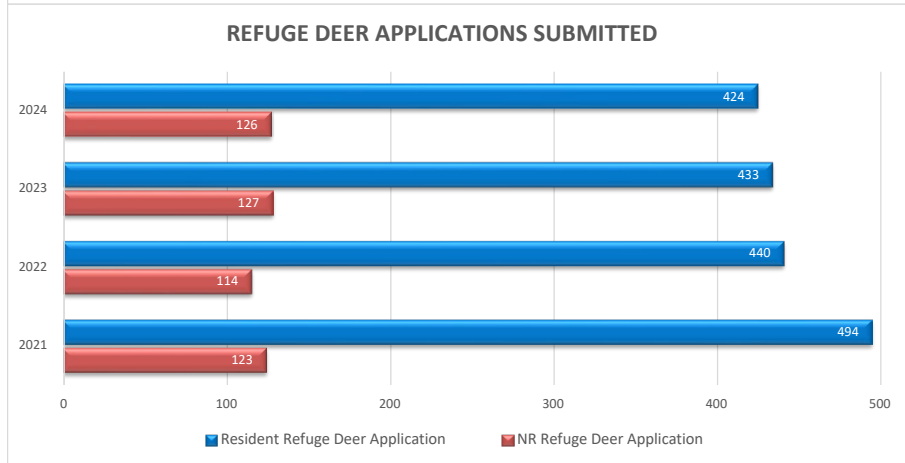
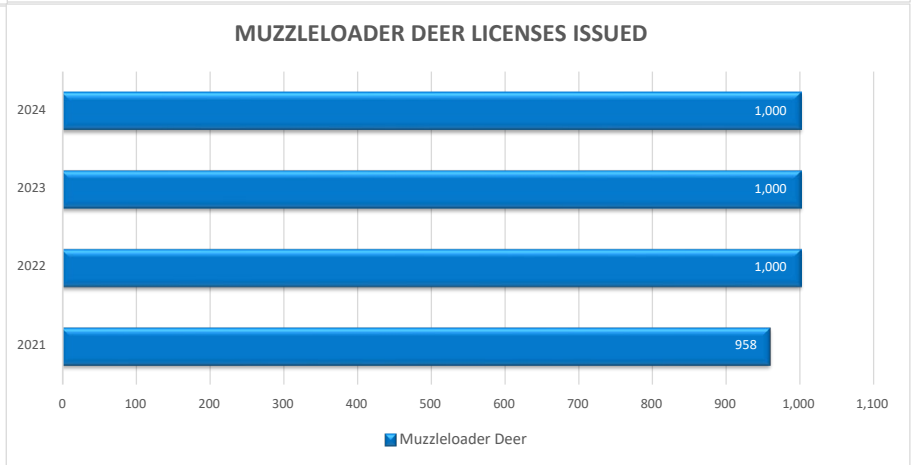
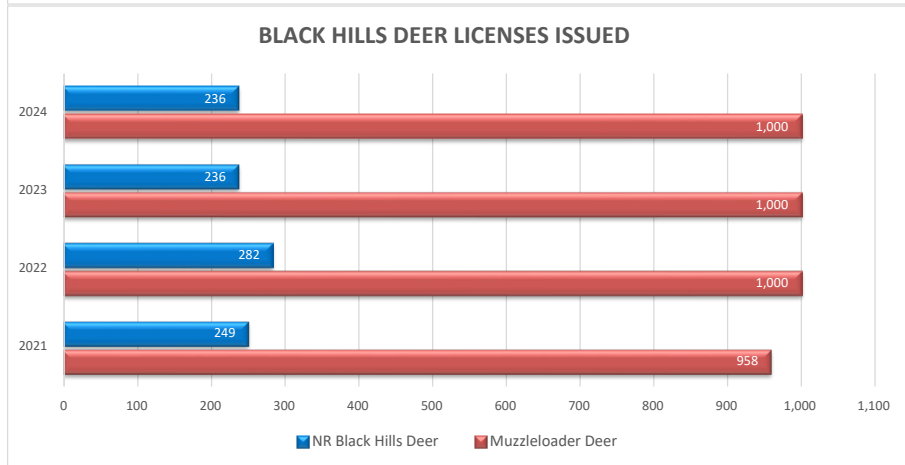
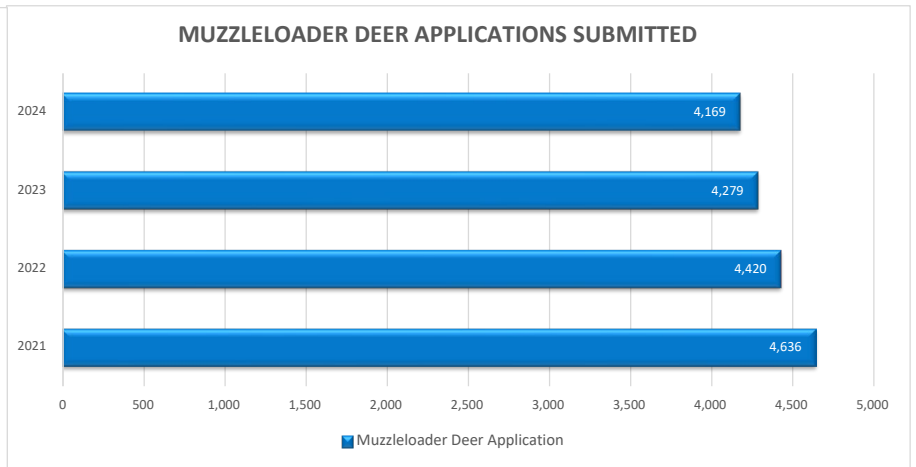
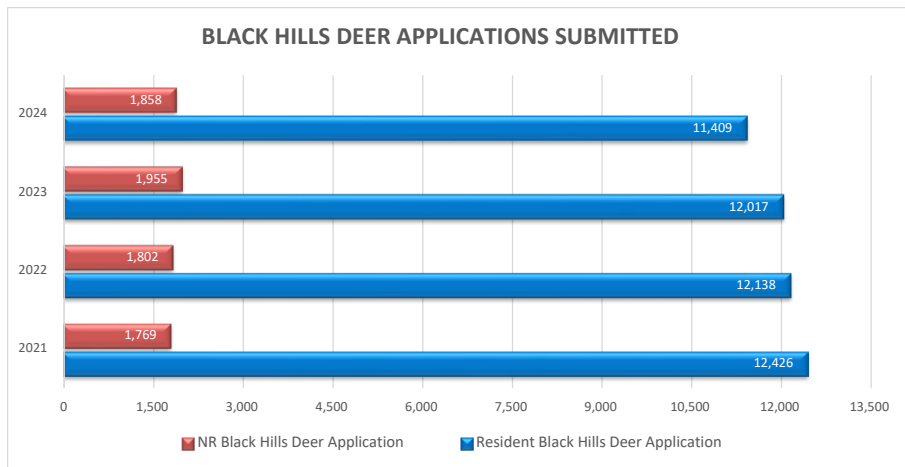
EAST RIVER DEER LICENSES ISSUED



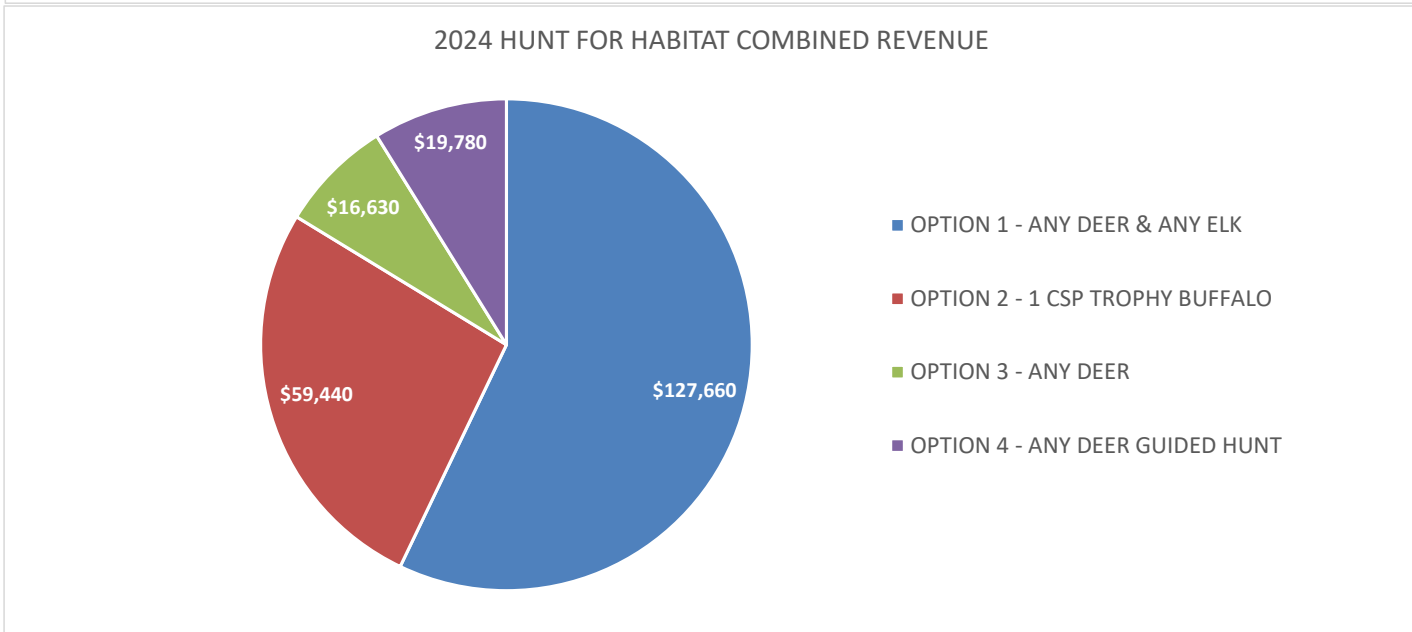
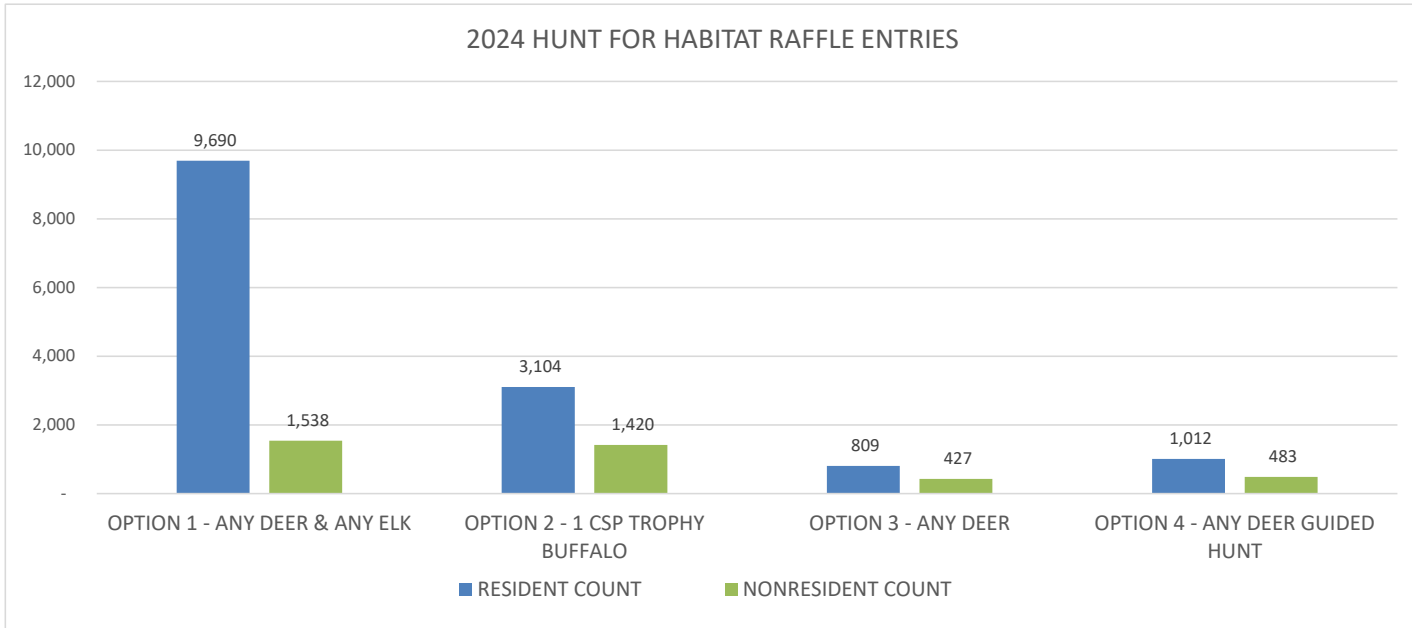
WEST RIVER DEER LICENSES ISSUED



2024 BIG GAME LICENSES



2024 HUNT FOR HABITAT RAFFLE SALES THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024



Public Comments -June 3 - July 7, 2024

Mountain Lion Hunting with Hounds

Joshua Didier

Hulett WY

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting in the black hills fire protection district.

Drew Sacrison

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the black hills fire protection district. With the use of hound we would be able to manage the harvest and stop killing kittens and lactating females

Casey Bauer

Fairpoint SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the black hills fire protection district

Austin Hagen

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Full support of utilizing the use of hounds in the Black Hills. Every competent state department uses hounds to manage mountain lions; except for South Dakota. The houndsmen bailed the state out of the mess in Custer State Park and it's time to return the favor to houndsmen.

Dakota Case

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting in the Black Hills Fire Protection District. Regardless of its current status within South Dakota, it is a legal, ethical, and traditional hunting practice that should be protected. It also enables hunters to evaluate cats, determine sex, and better meet harvest quotas with mature males while protecting breeding females for further propagation of the species.

Alan Murphy

Park Falls WI

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds with in the Fire Protection District of the Black Hills.

Carson Smith

Winner SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the Black Hills fire protection district.

Nathaniel Alexander

Hermosa SD

Position: support

Comment:

Hi I think the montin lion population is not been managed properly. My opinion is you can only man by number and sex of the animals you are trying to harvest. With not doing so you are only killing juveniles males and female. That's not good for are population. I support and believe we need the use of hounds. thanks have a great day

Rudy Garrison

Caldwell KS

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the fire protection district

David Birkoski

Great Falls MT

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting in the fire protection area in the black hills of South Dakota.

Sharon Walls

Reno NV

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the Fire Protection District of the Black Hills for lion hunting.

Craig Reeder

Laurel MT

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of dogs to hunt lions in the fire protection district of the black hills.

Patrick Uskoski

Gillette WY

Position: support

Comment:

I support allowing the use of hounds to hunt lions in the Black Hills fire protection area. It would help in the selective harvesting of mountain lions. It also would help Wyoming hunters by not being overrun with hunters from SD who want to hound hunt but cannot do it in their home state in the area where the vast majority of mountain lions live. We do have a nonresident limit in our black hills area but it does not stop SD residents from hunting the area the entire season with resident riding along with them. Not allowing the use of hounds on the SD side definitely effects the hunting opportunities in Wyoming for Wyoming residents.

Kirk Fleming

Columbia Fls MT

Position: support

Comment:

I would like to show my support and encourage the use of hounds in the fire protection district/black hills as a valuable and necessary management opportunity.

John Sprague

Great Falls MT

Position: support

Comment:

Although I live in an adjoining state I know this is a great way to safely control lion numbers

Christian Hagen

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the BHFPD during the 2024-2025 Mountain Lion season. Hound hunting is conservation and sound management of our public resource.

Joshua Wortley

Naples ID

Position: support

Comment:

I'm showing my support for the ability to hunt mountain lions with hounds in the Black hills fire protection district. Houndsmen are a vital resource that can utilize to balance nature

Nathaniel Alexander

Hermosa SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the black hills fire population district

Ronald Trundy

Steuben ME

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the protected fire district

Chris Morgan

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support hound hunting for mountain lions in the fire protection district of the black hills

Jarrold Fischer

Lake City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the fire district region

Ted Stacey Stacey

Camp Crook SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the public hunting of mountain lions with hounds in the black hills fire district

Judy Derrickson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the expansion of mountain lion hunting with hounds

Richard Bisbee

B SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds with in the fire protection area

Brian Monen

Inwood IA

Position: support

Comment:

The use of hounds in fire protection area of black hills

Arlin Whirlwindhorse

Kyle SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds for perusing lions in the black hills fire protection area.

John Thomas

Blanchard ID

Position: support

Comment:

Utilizing hounds to pursue and harvest mountain lions is a critical tool in managing numbers. Fully support hound hunting being added to black hills area of state

Kyle Dartnell

Silver City NM

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the Fire Protection District of the Black Hills! Many thanks.

Mark Armstrong

Foster OR

Position: support

Comment:

For more black hills cougar hunting with hounds

Taylor Custis

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support the use of hounds in the Black Hills Fire Protection District. It is long overdue.

Steve Bonkrude

South Dakota SD

Position: other

Comment:

The Black Hills predator cat populations are growing and need increased management. Our deer and turkey populations are experiencing major predation losses and we have an untapped opportunity to manage the predator populations and increase the hunt quota success percentage by opening the Black Hills Fire Protection District to lion hunting with hounds.

I support the use of hounds within the Fire Protection District of the Black Hills it could really help out with the Black Hills game management in a big way.

Mark Schneeman

Gillette WY

Position: support

Comment:

I support hunting with hounds in Black Hills

Dave House

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the use of hounds for Mt Lion hunting in the Black Hills.
Running an animal until it's tired and scared until it goes up a tree is not sporting in my opinion.
Outfitters are going to capitalize on this for certain.
Regular people won't be able to afford to hunt and it will end the use of calls!
Keep the hunt rugged!

Kristen Nickel

Hayward WI

Position: support

Comment:

I support using hounds

Angela Schneeman

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support the use of hounds within the fire protection district. Hound hunting is the most practical way to manage a lion population.

James Johnson

Belle Fourch SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am a Belle Fourche rancher and I support the use of hounds in the black hills to hunt mountain lions. Let's manage these great predators the best way possible to have a healthy population of deer and elk, as well as mountain lions.

Ryan Justice

Sweet Home OR

Position: support

Comment:

support the use of hounds for cougars.

Delgado Ruben

Chowchilla SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the fire protection district.

William Lodermeier

Tuscola TX

Position: support

Comment:

I support the expansion of allowing hound hunting mountain lions in the fire range! I believe it will better the conservation of the lions. With the ability to be selective in what is harvested. Thank you for your time!!!

Michael Spink Spink

Marianna FL

Position: support

Comment:

Open up Black Hills to Lion hunting with hounds.

Justin Sherwood

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support the use of hounds in the Black Hills Fire Protection District in any and all forms.

John Bullion

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the Fire Protection District of the Black Hills.

Sheldon Domagala

Bowman ND

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the fire district!

Cassidy Moody

Hill City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds with lion hunting in the black hills fire protection district

Dustin Cook

Harman WV

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds with in the fire protection district

Joshua Herreman

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

We need to allow mountain lion hunting with hounds. There are many positive reasons for this. It would reduce kills of females with kittens. It would increase kills of juvenile males and it would increase the success ratio for hunters. We would also have better population control in years of erratic weather, which is unfortunately becoming more and more common.

Nichole Freilino

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of dogs for hunting lions in the Black Hills National Forest of South Dakota.

Heath Weavill

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I dont support the use of Mt. Lion in the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

Caden Stoddard

Norris SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the Fire Protection District of the Black Hills, I feel as though using hounds is the most accurate way to manage/harvest the mature lions in this area.

Joseph Studebaker

Peru NE

Position: support

Comment:

I'm in support of any thing that expand the use of hounds to pursue game

Sam Stoddard

Norris SD

Position: support

Comment:

I strongly support the use of hounds for Mt Lion hunting in the Black Hills of SD

Abram Collins

Murdo SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds while hunting mountain lions. It's very ethical and can also get a lot of research done with a cat in a tree.

Aaron Gilliam

Dorsey IL

Position: support

Comment:

As I currently live in Illinois, I search for a new state to move to. I will definitely be choosing a state that is hound, friendly and passes. Pro hound hunting laws I support the use of hounds within the fire protection district

James Walker

Clancy MT

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds for hunting mountain lions in the Black Hills area.

Jesse Freese

Milaca MN

Position: support

Comment:

It would be amazing to be able to hunt mountain lions with hounds in the black hills of South Dakota as a resident let alone a nonresident.

Bret Robertson

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

Support the use of hounds in the BHFD

Brooks Koopal

Platte SD

Position: support

Comment:

Support the use of hounds in the fire protection district

Miles Threadgill

Lamont FL

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds to pursue lion in the fire protection district of the Black Hills

Lauren Vransy

Iron Ridge WI

Position: support

Comment:

I support expanding grounds for pursuing with hounds for mountain lion in the fire protection district.

Stacey Baertsch

Helena MT

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support lion hunting with hounds in the areas identified by the State of South Dakota.

Shane Ryals

Palermo ND

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds for lion hunting within the Fire Protection District in the Black Hills.

Lindsey Shepler

Midland PA

Position: support

Comment:

I support the expansion of land to hunt mountain lions with hounds to the black hills national forest.

Patrick Weimer

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds with in the fire protection district. This isn't about what method is best or who's better at doing it. It's about opening up new opportunities for hunters with in our state. Hounds have been proven to be the most practical method to manage lion populations with in most western states there is no reason south dakota shouldn't do the same. We all have the same end goal in mind, responsible management of a key stone species in the black hills and we should all have an equal opportunity at just that. So I ask you please move forward with opening a lions season to allow the use of hounds in South Dakota.

Jett Blakeman

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the black hills fire protection district.

Bud Schuldt

Webster WI

Position: support

Comment:

Lion hunting the black hills

Brian Pickens

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support using hounds to hunt mountain lions in the Black Hills fire protection district.

Andrew Stadnik

St. Louis MO

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the fire protection units of the black hills

John Dudley

Charles Town WV

Position: support

Comment:

I support hound hunting within the fire district of the black hills.

Dennis Stachewicz

Gwinn MI

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the fire protection district of the Black Hills.

Terry Zink

Marion MT

Position: support

Comment:

Please support and vote yes on hunting, chasing and treeing mountain lions with hounds.

Sabryn Maloy

Seward NE

Position: support

Comment:

I support hunting with hounds in the fire protection district of the black hills!

**R. F. Shane Hayesno Rf Shane
Hayes**

Menan ID

Position: support

Comment:

Scienc3 based predator management. Hound hunting

Zane Tibbs

Fort Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mountain lion hunting with hounds within the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

Brent Tucker

Crescent Valley NV

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds to hunt lions in the black hills

Nathaniel Stacey

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I strongly support hunting loins in the black hills with hounds!

Toby Hohnholt

Guernsey WY

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the fire protection district

Kody Lostroh

Ault CO

Position: other

Comment:

I fully support the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting in the fire protection district of the black hills. Even though I'm a non resident, I know that hunting lions with hounds is the best management tool available due to the ability to be very selective on the sex and age class of lions harvested. Thank you for your time.
Kody Lostroh

Matt Mcleod

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Hounds shld be allowed for mountain lions

Brandon Wynn

Albuquerque NM

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the Fire Protection District of the Black Hills. The science indicates that this would be a favorable wildlife management tool. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Colin Peterson

Colfax WI

Position: support

Comment:

Please vote to allow the use of hound dogs for pursuing game animals in the Black Hills Area Fire Protection District. I believe sportsmen and women will be responsible with this valuable resource and will not endanger it, but rather protect it.

Joshua R Baker

West Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

The use of hounds for hunting is a cherished pasttime and one of the most ethical ways of hunting and with more and more land being parceled off the use of public land for hound hunting is more important now then ever

Hannah Peterson

Harris MN

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds to pursue mountain lions.

Dale Houser

Kimball SD

Position: support

Comment:

I'm in support of creating a season in the black hills for the use of hounds on mountain lions. With the use of hounds I feel a hunter can be more selective on weather to let a cat go or harvest that cat

Reese Mason

Malad ID

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support the allowing hound hunting for mountain lions in the black hill national forest.

John Eckman

Greybull WY

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds hunting mountain lions within the Fire Protection District of the Black Hills

Pearl Rooney

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

As a long term south dakota residents I support the use of hounds with in the black hills fire protection district to help reduce the number of lions and help our dwindling deer and rocky mountain goat herds.

Katie Weimer

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds with in the fire protection district. In recent years we have had several lions with in city limits. Way more than in the past and I do believe reduced lion population could effectively help this from happening.

Theodore Wenner

Roswell NM

Position: support

Comment:

I support the expansion of the use of hounds in the fire protection district of the Black Hills. I am a houndsman from New Mexico and support the expansion of the ethical use of hounds anywhere I can, even if I have no possibility of taking advantage of that opportunity myself. Thank you for considering expanding the hound hunting tradition.

Hugh Swanke

Newcastle WY

Position: support

Comment:

I support the efforts to allow mountain lion hunting in the Black Hills. Please make this happen.

Nick Aldrich

Grass Lake MI

Position: support

Comment:

I'm writing to you in support of expanding hound hunting in SD. As a resident of MI hound hunting allows so much bonding with family and friends as well as love and caring for dogs.

Michael Lamarche

Lemmon SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support the use of hounds for mountain lions in the fire protection district of the black hills.

Josh Miller

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the fire protection district

Alisha Spikberg

Culver MN

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use and expansion of using dogs in lion hunting in the Black Hills National Forest. Houndsman are traditional hunters who work with their hounds to ensure a safe, effective and enjoyable hunt. Much like a goose or pheasant hunter would with his retriever.

Sandra Hodges

Covington GA

Position: support

Comment:

Avid Hunter with Coonhounds hunting for mountain lions.

Echo Thurston

Butte MT

Position: support

Comment:

I Support the use of hounds within the Fire Protection District in the Black Hills. Thank you.

Leslie Soring

Whitewood SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions in the hills.

Ryan Weidner

Sturgeon Bay WI

Position: support

Comment:

Please support expanding hound hunting in the Black Hill as a tool to help manage mountain lions. Thank you.

Elijah Whirlwind Horse

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am voicing my opinion on mountain lion hunting in Black Hill fire protection area. I think we should be allowed to use hound dogs to hunt mountain lions in the Black Hills protection area. We will have a better selection on the animals we take and have a lot more healthier mountain lion population in the black area And won't be killing so much immature, mountain or kittens. I believe it will make them more afraid of humans and stay away from town and local areas. It would be a better management practice.

Nellie Duprel

Newell SD

Position: support

Comment:

I grew up the daughter of a conservation officer. I respect nature/wildlife and responsible management. I am a hunter and have great respect for managing populations in the most effective way that is also fair and ethical to the animal. Using dogs is greatly needed. I have had personal negative experience with the rise in lion populations in the hills and feel a better method to managing their populations would make a great positive impact.

Andrew Ferris

Wall SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Do not ruin mtn lion hunting for foot hunters do not allow hounds in black hills

William Wright

Sioux City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds with in the Fire Protection District of the Black Hills for mountain lion hunting.

Casey Mitchell

Amherst NE

Position: other

Comment:

expand hound hunting in the black hills, use dogs and quit killing females and kittens!

Steve Molter

Monticello IN

Position: support

Comment:

I support hound hunting for lions in the black hills

Katie Weimer

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds with in the fire protection district. In recent years we have had several lions with in city limits. Way more than in the past and I do believe reduced lion population could effectively help this from happening.

Maddex Pletcher

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and Nebraska what do these 5 states have in common? I'll tell you..... Each one of these states have better opportunities for houndsmen then South Dakota. Each one of these states also takes into account in their population objectives that they will consistently be receiving dispersed lions from the state of South Dakota. With that I'm mind why is it that we feed lions to other states with opertunity for their houndsmen to harvest cats from south dakota and we restrict the use of hounds and limit opertunity for residents of our own state.

Robert Nienow

Wausau WI

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the fire district of The Black Hills

Tom Gatzke

Little Rock AR

Position: support

Comment:

Support opening the black hills fire district to hound hunting for mountain lions

Juniper Weimer

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds with in the fire protection district of the Black Hills

Collins Weimer

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the fire protection district to pursue lions.

Marc Weimer

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I will support opening a hound season for lions interested fire protection district of the black hills

Henry Bolen

Donnellson IL

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the fire protection district

Jeremy Nedved

Plankinton SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support hound hunting in the Black Hills.

Cody Berghuis

Watertown SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support hound hunting in the fire district of the black hills

Sawyer Whirlwindhorse

Rapidcity SD

Position: support

Comment:

I wanna be able to hunt mountain lions in the black hills to run my hound dogs closer to my home.

Sawyer Whirlwindhorse

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I wanna be able to hunt mountain lions in the black hills to run my hound dogs closer to my home.

Luke Holcombe

Birch Tree MO

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the fire protection district of the black hills national forest

Timaysha Baldwin

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support the use of hounds with in the Fire Protection District of the Black Hills!!!

Bill Young

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposed to legalization of lion hunting with hounds.

Tate Wells

Prairie City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of Hounds inside the fire protection district.

Mike Mast

Wadena SD

Position: support

Comment:

Let the hounds run! Ill spend alot of money there

Stacey Neuharth

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of lion hounds in the fire district of the Black Hills.

Mark Sanders

Hermosa SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support having the hounds in Black hills national Forest we are getting too many lions we need to control the population they are killing too many deer and elk bighorn sheep mountain goats and ending up out here on the prairie where they're on nuisance

Branden Chevrefils

Williams AZ

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds with in the Fire Protection District of the Black Hills.

Finn Sacrison

Hermosa Sd SD

Position: other

Comment:

I Support the use of dogs to pursue lions in the black hills fire protection district

Alexandra Robertson

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

Support the use of hounds for mountain lions in the Black Hills Forest District

Ben Smith

Omaha SD

Position: support

Comment:

Expansion of lion hunting.

Luke Peterson

Lamoure ND

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds with in the fire protection distract.

Dennis Mez

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please allow the use of hounds for running mountain lions in the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

Dennis Mez

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please allow the use of hounds in the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

Lucas Harrington

Rumson NJ

Position: support

Comment:

Allow the use of hounds in the Fire protection district of the Black Hills

Patrick Rooney

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

As a long time visitor and a new found resident I have recently moved from New Jersey to Spearfish. I support the use of hounds to pursue lions in the fire protection district and hope that you will consider allowing these great houndsman the ability to recreate in the same public lands that everyone else gets to.

Patrick Weimer

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like to see sdog shoot for a reduced population objective than our current lion population objective has been allowing.

This would open more opportunity for area houndsmen and in turn open more opportunities for deer elk and turkey hunters by helping rebound some of our current game species that are struggling.

Or deer numbers have been down in recent years. I know that a lot of area hunters would like to see these numbers rebounding at the possibility of more tag availability than there currently is.

The reason our lion season was created was to reduce numbers not maintain them and at this time I as well as many others think that this still needs to be the objective.

Now I give credit to the boot hunters they have been harvesting a good number of lions and are maintaining the population with the large number of female lions harvested. But a lot of the cats being harvested are young 1-1.5yr females and these are not the lions hunting our deer elk and turkeys these lions are eating rabbits skunks porcupines and other small woodland critters. While the old wise cats that don't often get harvested are the ones living off of our deer elk and turkeys. So I ask the commission to look into a reduced lion objective from what we currently have for a short period let's hit that target that has been placed let's reduce the numbers ever so slightly and open more opportunities for not only houndsmen but deer hunters, elk hunters, and turkey hunters and even our sheep and mountain goat hunters alike and we are all here to enjoy the renewable resources the black hills has to offer and maybe just maybe instead of taking 3-4 years to draw a bh deer tag we get down to 2 years at most. With all this being said I think we all have something to gain from allowing houndsmen and our hounds to pursue Mountain Lions in the fire protection district.

Jeremy Wells

Sturgis SD

Position: support

Comment:

As it is here again the Mt lion discussion and the opposition from mostly the boot hunters you have to ask yourself why they would be against hounds and it's pretty simple. They know it is the most effective way to harvest and manage the Mt lion population! But as a Houndsmen I'm not here to kill them all because that's not what anyone wants but rather a healthy management of adult cats and bring more opportunities to getting families and fellow hunters to a lion tree. I would also like to point out the declining bobcat population and I personally feel that the lions have a big part of that and if we lowered the numbers a little that we could possibly see a little rebound in the bobcat numbers as well as the deer and elk and create lots of other opportunities!

Gavin Turbak

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Hounds in fire protection

Kathy Weimer

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the fire protection district I live in spearfish and we get mountain lions in town and through our neighborhood all the time. I worry about my dog and the elderly neighbors that walk early in the mornings. I've seen lion tracks in the snow walking right through my yard on Grant Street. We have to many lions if the are in town it never used to be this way.

Jason Sanford

Grantsburg WI

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds to hunt lions in SD

Alex Schaefer

Madera CA

Position: support

Comment:

I'm submitting my support for the expansion of resident lion hunting and pursuit opportunities in the black hills fire protection district.

Thank you

Other

Jason Reinke

Aberdeen SD

Position: support

Comment:

How about we have only some many license sold in general. The state the non-resident comes from should have to purchase the tag from South Dakota. For every tag they purchase, they should sell one of their residential tags off as a non-resident. A 1-1 trade off. No state can purchase any more tags than they sell. The price of the tag should be determined by type of gf some and the rarity of the tag.

Larry Norman

Kingsville MD

Position: support

Comment:

Can an out-of-state resident receive disabled veteran status For their hunting license? If so, how does one go about it?

Adam Pace

Vici OK

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Austin Tate

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Raccoon Hunting with Dogs

Knox Kat

Belle Fourche SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Stop allowing Raccoon hunting with dogs

Wendee Pettis

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

opposed to out of staters hunting raccoons with hounds.

Turkey Hunting Seasons - Spring & Fall

Jon Olson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

I see that spring and fall turkey seasons are on your agenda in June. Somebody had better find some courage to start limiting the NR hordes pouring into the black hills every spring.

Mark Widman

Tea SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would ask the commission to support the petition to eliminate the UNLIMITED Non-Resident Black Hills Spring turkey permits and set a draw with a 22% allocation of the 3-year running average of resident BH Spring turkey permits sold.

Thank you.

Al Kraus

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Non-Residents have destroyed the turkey population in our black hills. there should be no such thing as an unlimited number of tags for a limited resource. Easy solution, cut the tag number in half and double the price. That way you guys get your money and quit killing all our turkeys.I support a limited draw on NON-RESIDENTS.

William Cannon

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support changing the turkey tags to a draw system for nonresidents both prairie and black hills. Way too many nonresidents just showing up after they have exhausted their states tags. The situation is not safe for the hunters or in the best interests of the turkey population.

Aric Olson

Wentworth SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support limited nonresident turkey tags in the Black Hills.

Jon Olson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

I am writing in support of the petition filed by SDWF to limit the number of NR Black Hills spring turkey tags.

Myself and my family have stopped hunting hills spring turkey do to overcrowding. Now, NR, have outnumbered resident hunters the last 2 seasons. This situation is only going to get worse. You know this will eventually happen, so, let's get out in front of it now, and make it happen be fore it becomes a long, drawn out affair like archery deer did.

Jeff Hohle

Rochford SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in strong support of the proposal to limit non-resident Black Hills Spring Turkey licenses for non-residents. The turkey numbers have declined significantly in our area (Rochford). I know there are many factors contributing to this, but I also know I see many non-resident turkey hunters in our area. Almost exclusively non-resident, in fact.

Mark Smedsrud

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Commission,

A petition has been submitted to eliminate the unlimited Turkey tags currently allotted for the black hills. I currently have not applied for years due to the decreasing population and increase in demand from the nonresidents. This past spring while spending time in the hills hiking, I encountered more NR plates than I encountered resident plates. In the same time encountered fewer turkeys than I have seen in a while. The landscape is changing across the big western states in regards to NR tags. Looking at neighboring wyoming. It use to allow more NR apply for a variety of tags across the board. Recently they decreased to a 90:10 ratio to help with demand of NR licenses for their big game. While I appreciate the opportunities to hunt out of state, I agree with their approach of protecting resources and providing better opportunities for the residents that reside within their state.

The early design in how people apply for and received a permit was based on a concept that supply and demand would be stable. Unfortunately what we have seen is a significant increase in demand, and the supply of these animals decreasing. The result of that is that the idea that we could give every, single person who wanted the opportunity to hunt one of these animals is just not the reality of today. There is just not a system or a way in which we can do that and sustain resources and quality for those that reside here!

The issue we have is equity, and when is the commission going to follow neighboring states recommend increasing the number of license allocations to residents and curbing mission creep from the NR. A tell tale sign we are behind curve is the internet. When a quick google search yield forums and sites encouraging NR to apply for the hills based on unlimited tags allocated and the fact you can hunt the hills on two borders, it's time to consider a long needed change!

One of the things that we don't want to lose is that many people choose to live, work and raise their families in South Dakota because of the opportunities that exist with our current outdoors, and it is these folks that this will benefit!

Paul Lepisto

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please support SDWF petition (see attached comments).

Jeffrey Olson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the petition to change the process of unlimited non-resident turkey hunters in the Black Hills

Jeffrey Peters

Pierre SD

Position: other

Comment:

With respect to the proposed fall Turkey season 2024; I right this response in particular to the proposed Stanley Co. fall season. Opportunities to hunt in Stanley Co. are very limited for many hunters such as myself with no connection to private land. I have a deer license for this fall in Stanley Co. but I was unaware that considerations were being made to open a fall turkey season. Without knowing how many Turkey licences are going to be made available,I have the following issues:

1. I hunt around the public land near Oahe Dam and I would be in opposition to opening a turkey season prior to the deer season because of the limited area to scout and try to prepare for deer season.
2. I am not certain I can support a turkey season at all in this area based on what the weather could be and the "numbers" of additional hunters in the field.
3. If this hunt is to reduce the population,the majority of which is located in the Oahe Dam area, foul weather would certainly move most of the turkeys back down into the private residential areas.
4. If the residents are upset with the number of turkeys in the winter,a trap and relocate program could be completed as was done this past winter.
5. I would also think reestablishing the food plots up in the upper hunting areas would contribute to holding turkeys throughout all but the toughest winters as all they lack is winter food sources. There are roost areas and protected areas up there and north of the housing along the river.
6. As you probably can tell,I am also a turkey hunter in this area(spring shotgun season). I was able to hunt this area this spring and found the population healthy and provided exciting opportunity. I'd hate to see that diminished.

Thank you for you considerations.
Jeff Peters

Forrest Cain

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly support the Reduction of Non-resident black hills Turkey tags. We have established an 8% cap on archery antelope and deer I'd like to see something similar for black hills Turkey. I was born in SD and have been hunting and fishing my entire life. This year marks my 43 year hunting big game. The amount of non resident Turkey hunters is alarming to say the least. The numbers of birds are lower than I can ever recall and yet we have more folks from out of state hunting those birds as we do residents?! Ludicrous! Please consider placing a cap on non resident black hills Turkey tags in an effort to protect this struggling resource for the citizens of this state!

South Dakota Division



The Izaak Walton League of America

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters, and Wildlife

July 5, 2024

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission
523 East Capital Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America respectfully asks you to support the petition that has been submitted by the South Dakota Wildlife Federation.

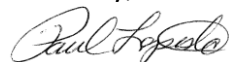
The petition seeks a change in the Black Hills Spring Turkey non-resident licensing process. The petition asks that the current unlimited allocation of nonresident Black Hills spring turkey licenses be changed to a drawing. It also asks that the same average (22%) of the licenses, currently allocated in the prairie units, to be used for nonresident Black Hills permits.

The population of turkeys in the Black Hills is declining. The growing number of unlimited non-residents permits being sold is a concern to many South Dakota turkey hunters. In 2023 more non-resident permits were sold than resident permits. In 2024, 53% of permits sold went to non-resident hunters.

Given the popularity and high demand for this permit, we urge you to support the petition and put it out for public comment. That will allow resident and nonresident hunters the ability to comment on it before a final decision is made.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul Lepisto
Regional Conservation Coordinator
Izaak Walton League of America
1115 South Cleveland Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-4456
plepisto@iwla.org
605-220-1219



Comment 12766 Jeremy Wells



DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The July 2024 South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission Meeting will be held July 11-12, 2024, at the Good Earth State Park located at 26924 480th Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57108. This meeting will be held in person, Zoom Webinar, and Livestream.

Listen to the meeting beginning on July 11, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. CST via Livestream at <https://www.sd.net/remote1/> or join via Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link below. Depending on your application, you may be required to enter the Zoom Webinar ID and password. Meeting attendees will not be able to have video and will be muted upon entry.

Meeting Dates and Times:

- **Thursday, July 11, 2024, starting at 1:00 p.m. CST**
- **Friday, July 12, 2024, starting at 8:00 a.m. CST**

Zoom Webinar Link: <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/91264176710?pwd=Vm00NEowdGV6N09lb1hnVUkMUF3Zz09>

Or join via phone:

- **Dial:** 1-669-900-9128
- **Webinar ID:** 912 6417 6710
- **Passcode:** 970458

Public Input: To provide comments, join the meeting in person, via Zoom, or via conference call using the information above. To ensure an efficient public hearing and/or open forum, those wishing to testify should register by 1:00 p.m. CST on the day of the meeting by emailing Liz Kierl at liz.kierl@state.sd.us. Testifiers should provide their full names, whom they represent, their city of residence, and the topic they will address.

Online and Phone Testimony: Testifiers wishing to speak online during the commission meeting will be asked to ‘raise their hands’ during the public hearing and open forum if they’d like to testify. The meeting hosts will call your name and give you permission to unmute when it is your turn to speak. Those joining online will not be able to share video and will be granted audio only. Those joining via phone can raise and lower their hands by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.

Written Comments: Written comments can be submitted at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record, comments must include the complete name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of seventy-two hours before the meeting (not including the day of the meeting).

Dated this 3rd day of July 2024.

Stephanie Rissler

Stephanie Rissler, GFP Commission Chair