

MOUNTAIN LION

The 2017/18 Black Hills season opened on December 26, 2017 and ended on March 31, 2018. The harvest limit was 60 total or 40 female lions. After the Black Hills season closed, anyone with a valid 2017/18 license who did not take a mountain lion could hunt the remainder of the calendar year on land that was located outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

There were 2,878 resident mountain lion licenses issued prior to the end of the 2017/18 Black Hills season. A total of 57 access permits were also issued for Custer State Park (CSP).

Surveys were emailed or mailed to all hunters who purchased a license before the Black Hills season ended and the survey response rate was 72%. Active hunters reported hunting an average of 7.3 days outside of CSP and 4.0 days inside CSP. Average hunter satisfaction was 4.93 and was based on a numerical scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 7 (very satisfied), 4 being neutral. Hunters who purchased a license after the regular Black Hills season ended were not surveyed.

The overall Black Hills success rate was 2.56%, with a total of 31 mountain lions harvested, 19 of which were females. Check station data for the Black Hills showed that 6 lions were harvested in Lawrence County, 9 in Pennington County, and 16 in Custer County. Nine lions were harvested within Custer State Park, all by hunters with access permits that allowed the use of hounds.

A total of 11 lions were harvested on the prairie outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. The total included 7 subadult males, 2 adult males, 1 subadult female, and 1 adult female.

Harvest statistics for 2008/09 - 2017/18 Black Hills Mountain Lion seasons (excluding CSP)

YEAR	Season Length (Days)	Licenses Sold	Active Hunters	Harvest		Average Days Hunted	Average Satisf
				Males	Females		
2008/09	45	2,428	1,646	11	15	6.5	5.18
2009/10	41	2,082	1,468	16	24	6.2	5.00
2010/11	52	2,325	1,790	19	26	6.6	5.11
2011/12	61	3,482	2,646	27	42	7.1	4.92
2012/13	96	4,351	2,872	23	31	7.3	4.71
2013/14	96	3,293	1,861	18	26	6.9	4.69
2014/15	96	3,211	1,689	18	20	7.1	4.58
2015/16	97	3,102	1,529	11	24	7.1	4.75
2016/17	96	2,561	1,153	10	13	6.9	4.51
2017/18	96	2,878	1,199	7	15	7.3	4.87

2017/18 Black Hills Mountain Lion Harvest Projections

Last Revised:
09-Aug-18

Unit/Type	Resident Licenses		Response Rate	Active Hunters		Active Hunter Success	Harvest Reports						Total Lion Harvest	Mean Satisfactn Rating	Average Days Hunted	
	Avail.	Sold		Black Hills	CSP		Males			Females					BHills	CSP
						Adult	Subadult	<1 year	Adult	Subadult	<1 year					
Black Hills (no CSP permit)	Unlimited	2,821	71%	1,171	----	1.88%	2	4	1	8	7	0	22	4.87	7.2	----
CSP Boot Access Permit	45	45	82%	27	29	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.00	10.3	3.1
CSP Hound Access Permit	12	12	92%	2	12	75.0%	4	1	0	1	2	1	9	5.91	7.5	6.1
Totals		2,878	71.5%	1,199	41	2.58%	6	5	1	9	9	1	31	4.93	7.3	4.0

Harvest statistics for 2010/11 - 2017/18 Custer State Park Mountain Lion seasons

YEAR	Season Length (Days)	Permits Issued	Active Hunters	Harvest		Average Days Hunted	Average Satisf
				Males	Females		
2010/11	90	10	8	1	1	14.0	NA
2011/12	61	74	57	0	4	4.4	5.03
2012/13	96	162	104	3	4	3.8	4.88
2013/14	96	136	92	4	5	3.6	4.99
2014/15	96	136	90	3	2	3.4	4.60
2015/16	97	57	30	5	1	5.6	5.44
2016/17	96	57	37	4	3	3.7	5.13
2017/18	96	57	41	5	4	4.0	5.26

Reported participation and mean days hunted by Custer State Park permit period

2017/2018 CSP Lion Season	Mean Days Hunted							TOTAL
	Dec. 26 Jan 8 ^a	Jan 9 Jan 22	Jan 23 Feb 5 ^a	Feb 6 Feb 19	Feb 20 Mar 4 ^a	Mar 5 Mar 18	Mar 19 Mar 31 ^a	
Permits Issued	3	15	3	15	3	15	3	57
Sample (n)	3	15	3	15	3	15	3	57
Responded (N)	2	13	3	13	3	11	3	48
Response Rate	67%	87%	100%	87%	100%	73%	100%	84.2%
Reported Did Not Hunt	0	5	0	3	0	5	0	13
Reported Hunted	2	8	3	10	3	6	3	35
Projected Hunted	3	9	3	12	3	8	3	41
Reported Days Hunted	8	27	25	25	18	23	16	142
Projected Days Hunted	12	31	25	29	18	31	16	162
Mean Days Hunted	4.0	3.4	8.3	2.5	6.0	3.8	5.3	4.0
Lions Harvested ^b	3	0	2	0	2	0	2	8

a. hunting with hounds allowed

b. total lions harvested based on mandatory check-in data, not returned surveys. One successful hunter did not respond to the survey.

Lion hunters' preference for mountain lion population over the next 5 years

	All Licensed Lion Hunters	Inactive Lion Hunters	Active Lion Hunters	Harvested a Lion
Decrease A Lot	17.5	21.1	12.5	14.8
Decrease A Little	17.9	19.5	15.6	7.4
Stay About the Same	39.9	35.5	45.9	59.3
Increase A Little	13.4	11.3	16.2	18.5
Increase A Lot	3.6	2.9	4.6	—
Not Sure	7.69	9.59	5.09	—
N	2,002	1,157	845	27
Mean*	2.91	2.84	3.0	2.81

*Mean preference is based on a scale of 1-5, where "1" is decrease a lot, "3" is stay the same, and "5" is increase a lot.