

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:56

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	February 28 - March 1, 2019	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 4, 2019	Rapid City
	Finalization	April 4-5, 2019	Rapid City

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

**Duration of Recommendation:** 2019 hunting season

**Season Dates:** September 1 – December 31, 2019

**Open Area:**

- Unit 1: That portion of Pennington County within an area beginning at Hwy. 385 and the Pennington County line, then south on Hwy. 385 to Sheridan Lake Rd., then east on Sheridan Lake Rd. to Hwy. 79 in Rapid City, then north on Hwy. 79 to the Pennington County line.
- Unit 2: Custer County west of Highway 79, except Custer State Park, Wind Cave National Park, and Jewel Cave National Monument.
- Unit 3: That portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River and north of Hwy 44 and that portion of Jackson County north of the White River, excluding the Badlands National Park.

**Licenses:** No more than 5 “ram bighorn sheep” licenses

One of the 5 licenses shall be an auction “ram bighorn sheep” license if a minimum of three total bighorn sheep licenses are allocated.

### **Requirements and Restrictions:**

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

### **Recommended changes from last year:**

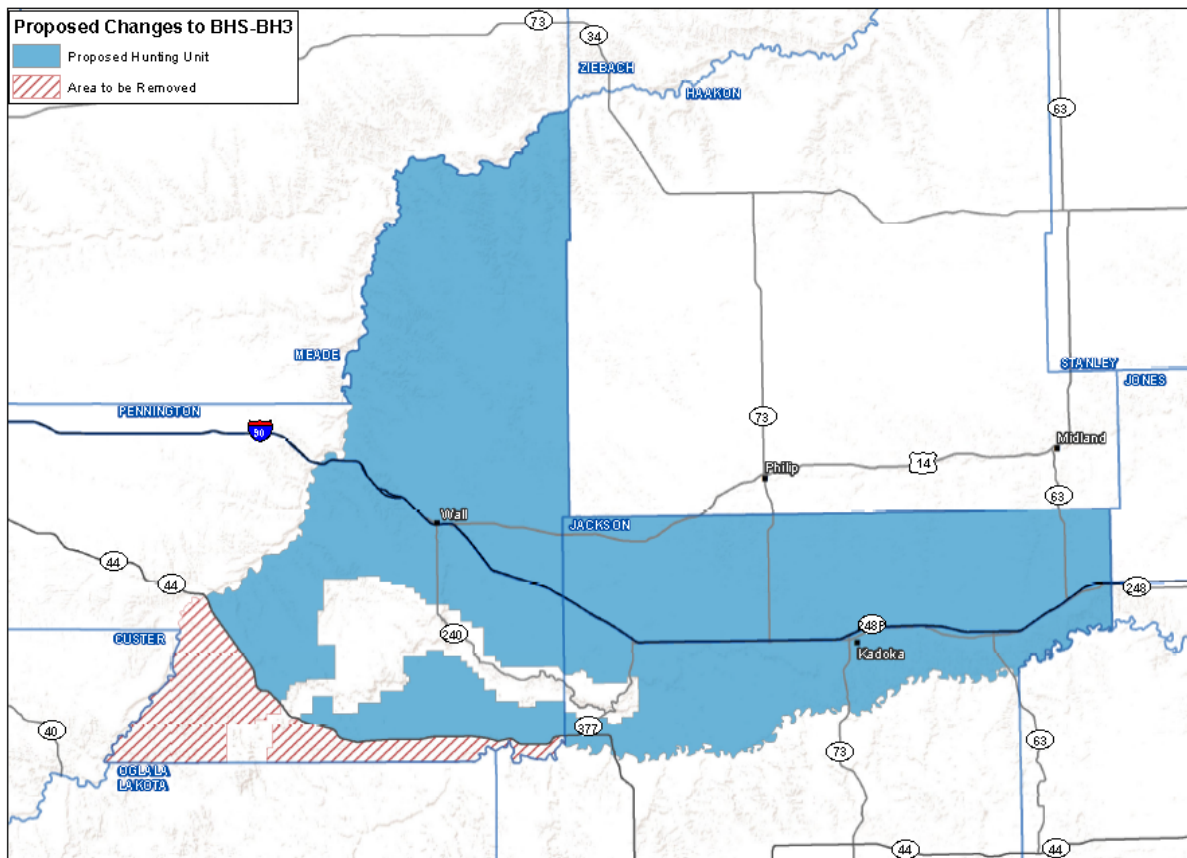
1. Modify Unit BH3 from “that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River and that portion of Jackson County north of the White River, excluding the Badlands National Park” **to** “that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River and north of Hwy 44 and that portion of Jackson County north of the White River, excluding the Badlands National Park” (see attached map).

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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The Department was approached by the Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority (OSPRA) requesting an adjustment to boundary of Unit BH3. The request was based on the fact that OSPRA manages a bighorn sheep population that typically occupies the south unit of Badlands National Park in Oglala Lakota County. This respective bighorn sheep population typically resides on tribal property, but at times can make forays onto other property including private, Forest Service National Grasslands and State lands. Individuals from this population also make forays into Pennington County where Unit BH3 is currently open. As a result, there is opportunity for a state-licensed hunter to harvest a bighorn sheep from the herd that OSPRA is managing. The Department agrees to accommodate this request and is recommending that the GFP Commission adjust the unit boundary for Unit BH3 to exclude a portion of lower Pennington County from the current unit boundary to reduce the chance for a state-licensed hunter to harvest a bighorn sheep from this population managed by OSPRA.

### Proposed Modification to Unit 3



APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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