

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

Chapters 41:06:01; 41:06:07; and 41:06:56

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 4-5, 2022	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 7, 2022	Watertown
	Finalization	April 7-8, 2022	Watertown

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2022 and 2023 hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 1 – December 31, 2022
September 1 – December 31, 2023

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

Licenses: 11 “ram bighorn sheep” licenses.

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

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. 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.
2. Landowner - operator preference is not applicable to these licenses.
3. All licensees are required to attend an orientation meeting prior to the first day of hunting by the license holder at the regional office in Rapid City.
4. 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.
5. All successful hunters must submit their bighorn sheep to a conservation officer or Department representative for inspection and permanent marking within 24 hours after the kill.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Increase the number of “ram bighorn sheep” licenses from 8 to 11.
2. Change the mandatory orientation meeting from “preceding the opening day of the season” to “preceding the first day of hunting by the license holder”.
3. Eliminate Unit BHS-ZZ1 for preference points.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

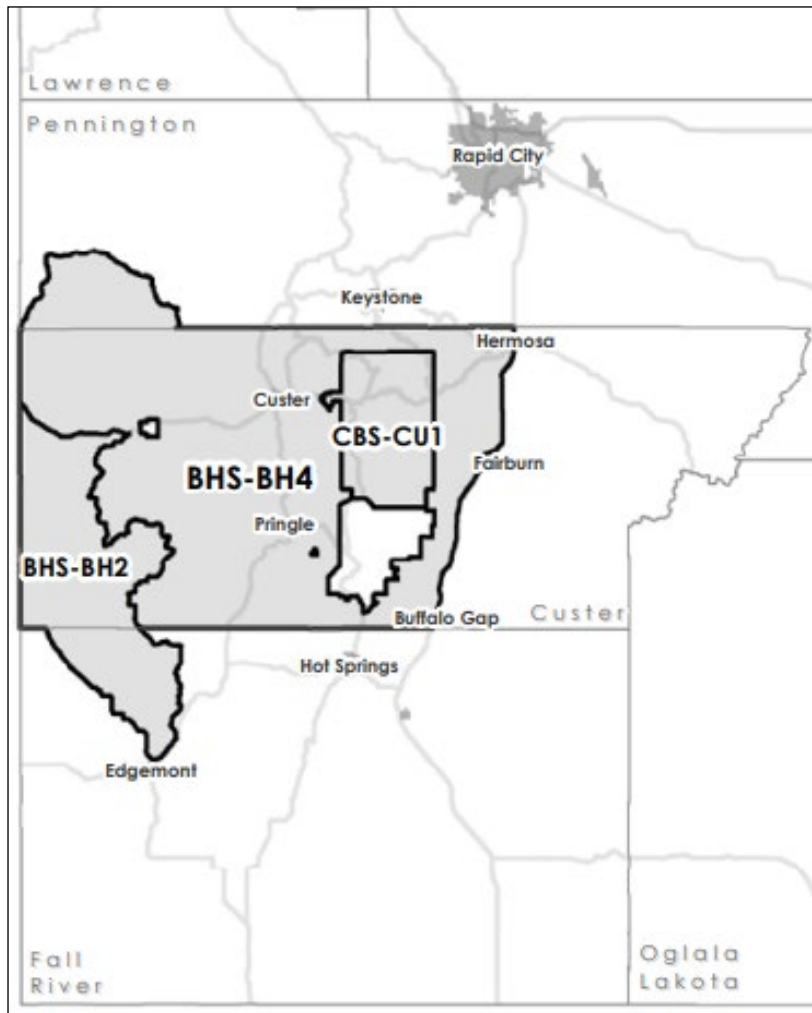
Recommended changes from proposal: None.

Allocation of Licenses by Unit

Unit	2020-21 Licenses	2022-23 Licenses
1	0	0
2	3	3
3	1	0
4	2	4
CSP	1	3

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

Proposed 2022 Hunting Units



SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Due to the recent *M. ovi* pneumonia outbreak in Unit 3, both the Department and Badlands National Park recommend issuing no licenses in this unit.

Based on the strong numbers of ram bighorn sheep across all age classes, the increase to the number of licenses being proposed in Custer State Park will not negatively affect the viewability of bighorn sheep for park visitors and will provide additional hunting opportunities.

Modifying the requirement for the mandatory hunter orientation will provide better customer service to those licensed hunters.

In addition to the licenses allocated by units above, the Commission recommends the auction license to be valid in Units 2, 4, and Custer State Park.

The removal of the BHS-ZZ1 unit (preference point only option) in the application will streamline the application process for applicants and better align with business rules in GFP's new licensing system. Hunters that want to purchase a preference point can still do so when preference points are available for purchase each year, from September 15 to December 15.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the recommended changes adopted by the Commission.

41:06:56:03. Number and type of licenses. No more than ~~eight~~ 11 ram bighorn sheep licenses may be issued for the bighorn sheep hunting season. One bighorn sheep license may be issued for sale by auction pursuant to the procedures established in this chapter, valid for one ram bighorn sheep. ~~In Unit BHS-ZZ1, no bighorn sheep licenses may be issued. However, an applicant for this unit shall accrue a preference point as provided in § 41:06:01:09.~~

41:06:56:05. Mandatory briefing and check-in. All licensees are required to attend an orientation meeting preceding the ~~opening day of the season~~ first day of hunting by the license holder at the regional office in Rapid City. All successful hunters must submit their bighorn sheep to a designated department representative for inspection and permanent marking within 24 hours after the kill.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not applicable.

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, by increasing the total number of bighorn sheep licenses.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Not applicable.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT

Minimal increase in license sales revenue.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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