

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH, AND PARKS

COMMISSION ACTION: PROPOSAL

Mountain Goat Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:29

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 12-13, 2023	Pierre
	Public Hearing	March 9, 2023	Pierre
	Finalization	March 9-10, 2023	Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Duration of Proposal: 2023 and 2024 hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 1 – December 31, 2023
September 1 – December 31, 2024

Open Area: Those portions of Pennington and Custer counties west of Highway 79 except Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Jewel Cave National Monument, and the fenced portion of Wind Cave National Park and Custer State Park.

Licenses: 0 licenses

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Application for a license may be made by any resident hunter who has not been previously issued a mountain goat license in South Dakota.
2. Land operator preference is not applicable to these licenses.
3. Mandatory check of harvested mountain goat by a Conservation Officer or Department representative within 24 hours of kill.
4. Successful applicants must attend a mandatory orientation meeting at the Rapid City Regional Office for education of hunter, furnishing materials for biological sampling, and for orientation to area prior to hunting.

Proposed change from last year:

1. Close the season and discontinue sale of preference points.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

During the 2022 helicopter survey, 42 mountain goats were counted in the survey area near Crazy Horse Memorial, Battle Creek Road and Black Elk Peak. The GFP mountain goat action plan, Objective 3, Strategy B states "When the minimum number counted reaches less than 50 individuals the season will be closed".

Year	Licensed Hunters	Billies Harvested	Nannies Harvested
2003	3	1	2
2004	3	1	2
2005	2	0	2
2006	2	0	1

2007	Season Closed		
2008	Season Closed		
2009	Season Closed		
2010	Season Closed		
2011	Season Closed		
2012	Season Closed		
2013	Season Closed		
2014	Season Closed		
2015	2	1	1
2016	2	2	0
2017	2	2	0
2018	2	1	1
2019	2	1	1
2020	2	2	0
2021	2	1	1

RESIDENT / NON-RESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Not applicable
2. Historical Considerations – Not applicable
3. Biological Considerations – Not applicable
4. Social Considerations – Not applicable
5. Financial considerations – Not applicable

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate?
 - *Yes, this approach will reduce the number of mountain goat licenses from 2 to 0.*
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - *No. The closed season reduces hunting opportunity, but may increase viewing opportunity and allows the population to potentially increase.*
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists?
 - *This change would likely not have an impact on the next generation of hunters.*
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?
 - *This change would likely not impact the quality of life for current generations, but could impact future generations by conservatively managing the mountain goat population in South Dakota.*

FISCAL IMPACT

This will reduce the number of mountain goat licenses from 2 to 0 and reduce the number of preference points purchased (in 2021, 3,983 mountain goat applications were received).

APPROVE_____

MODIFY_____

REJECT_____

NO ACTION_____