

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS**

A Public Hearing will be held at the AmericInn, 360 Main Street, Deadwood, South Dakota, on October 4, 2012, at 2:00 o'clock P.M. (MDT), to consider adoption, amendment and repeal of Rules pertaining to:

1. Amend ARSD 41:06:61 – Mountain Lion Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would increase the total mountain lion harvest limit from 70 to 100 mountain lions and increase the female harvest limit from 50 to 70 female mountain lions; change the season start date from January 1 to December 26; allow any properly licensed hunter (both landowners and non-landowners) to hunt mountain lions outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District from January 1 to December 31; close Custer State Park to mountain lion hunting except during established hunting intervals for 162 hunters who possess a valid mountain lion hunting license and a temporary access permit issued free of cost and by random drawing, and structured to include five (5) hunting intervals (14-16 days in length) with each having 30 access permits (no dog hunting allowed) and three (3) intervals (7 days in length) with each having 4 access permits (dog hunting allowed); and allow for the use of dogs during specified intervals in Custer State Park.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

2. Amend ARSD 41:06:56 – Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed rule would establish a process for designating and issuing one (1) bighorn sheep hunting license for auction as follows: (1) Annual designation of an auction license – The Commission will designate one (1) bighorn sheep license to be used

as an auction license providing at least three (3) total bighorn sheep licenses are issued. The third license will be the auction license and is available to residents and nonresidents.

(2) Criteria for selecting an organization – A nonprofit organization devoted to providing big game management, preservation, propagation, habitat, and research may be considered for receiving the auction license by the Commission on annual basis through resolution.

(3) Application procedures and deadline – The applicant will submit to the Department Secretary an application letter detailing the federal nonprofit status, goals, and objectives pertaining to big game management, and experience in fundraising and objective accomplishments related to big game management.

(4) Selection process - The Commission shall review all applications and determine the appropriate entity to auction the bighorn sheep license.

(5) Execution and content of agreement – The applicant will notify the Department of the successful bidder and the Department will issue the license to that individual. The applicant will provide the Department a report and proceeds of the auction which will be placed in a Bighorn Sheep Enhancement Account and the applicant may deduct a 5% conservation fee from the proceeds of the auction revenue.

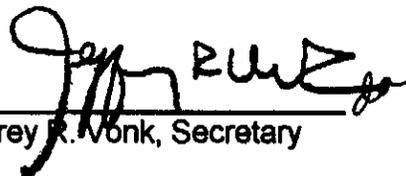
Reason: A group of sportsmen and the Midwest Sheep Foundation Chapter approached the Department and Commission to enhance bighorn sheep conservation, with one main emphasis of generating outside funding to assist in these management activities. The request of an auction tag to generate outside funding has been brought forward as a means of supplementing current Department resources and efforts. The suggested rules promulgation process would follow similar format and content of the established process used to conduct the elk license raffle. That process has been successfully proven, with modifications being added to more accurately fit an auction license and bighorn sheep rules.

The above rule proposals may be modified or amended following receipt of public comment at the hearing to include or exclude matters that are described in this Notice of Hearing. The hearing may be continued from time to time until its business has been completed and may be rescheduled.

Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit data, opinions, arguments and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) at the hearing. Persons unable to attend the hearing may mail data, opinions, arguments, and their views to the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, or transmit by email to wildinfo@state.sd.us. All persons who desire to submit written data, opinions, arguments, and their views by mail or email are encouraged to mail or transmit the same in sufficient time so that it is received by and in the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks on or before 12:00 o'clock P.M. three (3) days prior to the date of Hearing. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit data, opinions, arguments and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) to the Commission for their consideration. All written and email comments must include the name and mailing address of the person submitting the comments.

Copies of the proposed rules may be requested from the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. Persons with disabilities may contact the undersigned for assistance.

Dated this 14th day of August, 2012.



Jeffrey R. Vonk, Secretary

This Notice of Public Hearing is published at the approximate cost of \$_____.