

2024 MOUNTAIN LION



APPLICATION DEADLINE

Statewide Mountain Lion..... no deadline
Custer State Park Access Permit..... Dec. 6, 2023, 8a.m. CST

LANDOWNER PERMISSION REQUIRED

Permission is required to hunt private land in South Dakota. Every year Game, Fish and Parks receives complaints from hunters who drew a license and couldn't obtain permission to hunt private land once the season opened. Do not apply just because licenses are available. Have permission to hunt before you apply. If you don't receive permission before you apply, you may not be able to obtain it during the season.

APPLY ONLINE AT GFP.SD.GOV

Visit gfp.sd.gov, click "Licenses," and then "Purchase License." From there, the system walks you through step by step. If you do not already have an account, you will be required to create one. You will begin by selecting a season to apply for and your first-choice hunting unit. Please note that you are required to provide a credit or debit card number to finish the transaction. Upon completion and submission of your application, you are then placed directly into the drawing for the unit you selected. Preference points are automatically included if you possess any from previous years.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Residency

Mountain lion licenses are only available to South Dakota residents. To be eligible to apply for a license, a person must:

- Have a domicile within South Dakota for at least 90 consecutive days immediately preceding the date of application for, purchasing, or attempting to purchase any hunting, fishing, or trapping license/permit. A domicile is a person's established, fixed, and permanent home to which the person, whenever absent, has the present intention of returning, and
- Make no claim of residency in any other state or foreign country for any purpose, and
- Claim no resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in any other state or foreign country, and
- Prior to any application for any license, transfer to SD the person's driver's license and motor vehicle registrations.

EXCEPTION: The following persons are eligible for resident licenses:

- Any person who previously had a domicile in SD who is absent due to business of the United States or SD, or is serving in the armed forces of the US, or the spouse of an active duty military person;
- Any person who previously had a domicile in SD who is absent due to the person's regular attendance at a post-high school institution as a fulltime student or in a medical or dental residency program;
- Any person in the active military of the US or that person's spouse who is continuously stationed in SD;
- Any person who is a patient in any war veterans' hospital within SD;
- Any person who is an employee of the veterans' administration or any veterans' hospital in SD;
- Any person residing on restricted military reservations in SD;
- Any person regularly attending a post-high school institution in SD as a full-time student for 30 days or more immediately preceding the application;
- Any foreign exchange student over 16 years of age attending a public or private high school who has resided in the state for 30 days or more preceding the application;
- Any foreign exchange student who is between the ages of 12 and 16 who has completed the GFP course of instruction in the safe handling of firearms and has been issued a certificate of competency upon completion of instruction and who has resided in SD for 30 days or more preceding application for a license;
- Any person who is a minor dependent of a resident of SD

Termination of Residency

A person (other than a person who fits into one of the previous EXCEPTIONS) is deemed to have terminated their South Dakota resident hunting, fishing, and trapping status if the person does any of the following:

- Applies for, purchases, or accepts a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license issued by another state or foreign country;
- Registers to vote in another state or foreign country;

- Accepts a driver's license issued by another state or foreign country; or
- Moves to any other state or foreign country and makes it the person's domicile or makes any claim of residency for any purpose in the other state or foreign country.
- However, a person who has lawfully acquired a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license and who leaves the state after acquiring the license to take up residency elsewhere may continue to exercise all the privileges granted by the license until the license expires if the person's respective privileges are not revoked or suspended.

Social Security Number

The last four digits of your Social Security Number are required. The Social Security Number information is required from all U.S. residents before this application will be processed [SDCL 25-7A-56.2]. This information will be kept confidential. The information is required to be in compliance with state law on collection of delinquent child support payments.

South Dakota law prohibits the issuance or renewal of any hunting or fishing license if an individual owes \$1,000 or more in past-due child support unless the individual enters into a repayment agreement with the Dept. of Social Services for payment of the delinquent child support [SDCL 25-7A-56; 25-7A-1(28)]. There is a requirement to enter into a repayment agreement with the Dept. of Social Services even if the individual is presently making child support payments, or if child support is being withheld from wages or income. To enter into the required repayment agreement, individuals must contact the Dept. of Social Services – Division of Child Support; 700 Governor's Drive - Kneip Building, Pierre SD 57501, or call 605.773.6456.

Group Applications

- All applicants within the same group will either be successful or unsuccessful in the drawing.
- The group size is limited to a maximum of three people per group.

Submitting Applications

Applications must be submitted online. If you do not have internet access, you can apply by calling 605.223.7660 or visiting any GFP Wildlife Division Office.

Age Eligibility

- Residents who will turn 12 between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31 can hunt after Sept. 1 during the calendar year they turn 12, provided the season is open.
- Residents under age 16 must have successfully completed a HuntSAFE course to apply.

Submitting Fees

Payment for applications must be made with a valid credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express). Your credit/debit card will be charged once you complete the transaction.

Application Rules

- You may submit one application for the statewide mountain lion license and harvest one mountain lion, total, for all seasons.
- Licenses may not be transferred to another person.

SEASON APPLICATION INFORMATION

The license fee includes a \$6 surcharge established by the South Dakota Legislature. Surcharge monies are divided between programs for wildlife damage management and public hunting land access, programs that benefit both landowners and hunters.

TRIBAL LANDS. State licenses are valid on private, deeded lands within the exterior boundaries of an Indian reservation. Persons applying to hunt on Tribal lands should contact the appropriate tribal office concerning tribal lands.

STATEWIDE MOUNTAIN LION SEASON

License Eligibility: Residents only

Open Area: Statewide

Individual License Quota: One mountain lion license

Season Harvest Limit: A maximum harvest of 60 mountain lions (or 40 female mountain lions) has been established for the Black Hills Fire Protection District. Mountain lion hunting in the Black Hills will close immediately when either the total harvest limit or the female harvest limit is met.

All license holders are required to maintain daily contact by phone or website to ensure that the season within the Black Hills Fire Protection District is still open and has not been closed due to reaching the harvest limit. This information will be updated with each mountain lion harvested and can be accessed by calling 1.866.895.9067, or by visiting the GFP mountain lion webpage at gfp.sd.gov/mountain-lion.

Reporting Mountain Lion Kill: All harvested mountain lions, including the entire carcass and pelt, must be presented to a GFP representative for inspection within 24 hours of harvest.

Mountain lions harvested in the Black Hills must be reported to GFP personnel and checked in at the Rapid City GFP Regional Office (4130 Adventure Trail at the site of the Rapid City Outdoor Campus) or the park headquarters at Custer State Park. Hunters who are successful in taking a mountain lion must call the GFP Regional Office at 605.394.2391, or CSP office headquarters at 605.255.4515, during weekday office hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m.), or call State Radio at 605.393.8121 during nights and weekends.

Arrangements can then be made to have a GFP representative meet the hunter at the Rapid City GFP Office or the headquarters at Custer State Park.

Individuals who take mountain lions outside of the Black Hills must contact a Conservation Officer or other GFP representative within 24 hours of kill to arrange for inspection of the carcass and pelt.

License Fee: \$28

Statewide Season Dates: Dec. 26, 2023 - Dec. 25, 2024, on land that is located outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

Black Hills Fire Protection District Season Dates: Dec. 26, 2023 - April 30, 2024; except the mountain lion season will close immediately if the harvest limit of 60 mountain lions, or 40 females, is met at an earlier date.

Requirements:

- The use of dogs is allowed year-round outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District and must originate on private land. The hunt may cross over or culminate on private land with permission from the landowner or lessee or on public land where allowed.
- Licensed hunters must accompany the dog handler when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt thereafter until the hunt is completed.
- No person may pursue or release dogs on tracks indicating multiple mountain lions traveling together.
- Any mountain lion accompanying another mountain lion may not be harvested.
- All mountain lions taken, including carcass and pelt, must be presented to GFP staff within 24 hours of the kill for inspection.
- All firearms, muzzleloaders and archery equipment must meet the same minimum requirements established for deer hunting in South Dakota.
- Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
- Hunters may not take mountain lions with the aid of traps or bait.
- Hunters may use electronic calls.
- All licenses are sold online or at GFP offices.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applications must be submitted online. Applicants may purchase a license through the end of the season online or by stopping at GFP Wildlife Division offices. Please allow 10-14 business days for processing and mailing of the license before the hunt takes place.

Season-Unit-Type Choices:

MTL-ST1- Statewide; except where prohibited. See special provisions for limited Custer State Park Access Permits.

76: (one any mountain lion) unlimited resident licenses (\$28)

MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING WITHIN CUSTER STATE PARK

Custer State Park (CSP) is closed to mountain lion hunting except during established hunting intervals for hunters who possess a valid statewide Mountain Lion license and a CSP Access Permit. Individuals interested in hunting mountain lions within CSP must submit an application in the random drawing for a chance to obtain a free CSP Access Permit. Successful applicants are required to possess a 2024 Mountain Lion license before hunting.

HUNTING INTERVAL	PERMITS
December 26 - January 8	3 permits, dogs allowed
January 9-22	15 permits
January 23 - February 5	3 permits, dogs allowed
February 6-19	15 permits
February 20 - March 4	3 permits, dogs allowed
March 5-18	15 permits
March 19 - April 1	3 permits, dogs allowed
April 2 - April 15	15 permits
April 16 - April 30	3 permits, dogs allowed

The access permit application process is only available online. Applicants must apply by 8 a.m. CST on December 6, 2023. Applicants are limited to five choices. Group size may not exceed three applicants.

Apply at gfp.sd.gov/hunt-fish-license.

Preference Points: The use of preference points is required for all choices. If you only want to hunt one specific time interval, only select one choice or your preference points will be used on subsequent choices. Preference points can only be obtained by applying and being unsuccessful in this drawing and can only be accrued at one preference point, per year. If the Black Hills Mountain Lion season closes prior to the start of a hunting interval, preference points for hunters that possess the access permit will be reinstated.

The following criteria and rules will apply to hunting within Custer State Park (CSP) for mountain lions.

- Once an individual has harvested a mountain lion, or their designated hunting interval has passed, their CSP Access Permit will expire.
- All mountain lions taken, including the entire carcass and pelt, must be presented to GFP staff within 24 hours of the kill for inspection.
- If the Black Hills Mountain Lion season closes prior to the April 30, mountain lion hunting within CSP will also close.
- No person may hunt any big game species within 200 yards of any public access road or building in CSP.

USE OF DOGS IN CSP

In addition to the requirements listed above:

- Dogs are allowed in CSP only during specified hunting intervals with a valid CSP Access Permit.
- Hunters using dogs must attempt to harvest the first legal mountain lion that they have reasonable opportunity to harvest, except under the condition where the lion pursued shows obvious signs of lactation.

CONTACT US

GAME, FISH AND PARKS LICENSING OFFICE

20641 SD Hwy 1806

Fort Pierre, SD 57532

605.223.7660 | TTY: 605.223.7684

Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

gfp.sd.gov