

**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL**

Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:56

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	May 2-3, 2019	Custer State Park
	Public Hearing	June 6, 2019	Pierre
	Finalization	June 6-7, 2019	Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

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. Land operator preference is not applicable to these licenses.
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.

Recommended changes from last year:

1. Remove the November 1 deadline for submitting an application letter to language which states the deadline for an application letter will be established and announced by the Commission.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

With an anticipated change in the timing of auctioning a bighorn sheep license for bighorn sheep management and creating funds for the Second Century habitat initiative, it is necessary to replace the existing rule language whereby the Commission can establish an appropriate deadline date to allow flexibility in conducting the bighorn sheep auction. The current administrative rule language will not meet the desired timing, thus requiring action to adjust the existing rule.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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