

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Mountain Lion Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:61

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 8-9, 2021	Watertown Rapid City Rapid City
	Public Hearing	September 1, 2021	
	Finalization	September 1-2, 2021	

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 seasons

Open Area: Statewide

Season Dates: Black Hills: December 26, 2021 – April 30, 2022
December 26, 2022 – April 30, 2023

Prairie: Year-round

Licenses: Residents: Unlimited licenses

Harvest Limit: Black Hills Fire Protection District: 60 mountain lions or 40 female mountain lions (includes Custer State Park)

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. May harvest no more than one (1) mountain lion in a season.
2. No person may hunt mountain lions with the aid of traps or bait. The use of dogs is allowed in Custer State Park during specified hunting intervals.
3. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
4. No mountain lion with a spotted coat (kitten) and no mountain lion accompanying another mountain lion may be harvested.
5. A person may use an electronic call to hunt mountain lions.
6. All firearms, muzzleloaders, and archery equipment must meet the same minimum requirements as established in rules for deer hunting.
7. The Game, Fish, and Parks Commission, by resolution, may authorize the mountain lion season to extend beyond April 30.
8. The use of dogs to hunt mountain lions is only allowed during those specified hunting intervals in Custer State Park that allow for the use of dogs and outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District on private land with permission of the landowner or lessee. However, a pursuit of a mountain lion by dogs that originates on private land may cross over or culminate on property owned by the Office of School and Public Lands or the United States Bureau of Land Management other than the Fort Meade Recreation Area.
9. In Custer State Park, a person using dogs shall attempt to harvest the first legal mountain lion they have a reasonable opportunity to harvest, except under the condition where the lion pursued shows obvious signs of lactation.
10. 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.
11. Custer State Park is closed to mountain lion hunting except for 75 mountain lion licensees who possess a valid mountain lion license and a temporary access permit structured to include:
 - (a) Four hunting intervals each having 15 access permits in which hunting with dogs is not allowed.
 - (b) Five hunting intervals each having three access permits in which hunting with dogs is allowed.
 - (c) Hunting in Custer State Park shall begin with an interval that allows the use of dogs and rotate every 14 days with an interval that does not allow the use of dogs until the lion

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season closes in the Black Hills Fire Protection District. The temporary access permits are issued free-of-cost and may be issued by a random drawing.

12. All mountain lions harvested within the Black Hills must be presented to a department representative at the Rapid City Regional Office or Custer State Park Headquarters within 24 hours of harvest for inspection and pelt tagging. Any person who harvests a mountain lion outside of the Black Hills region must present the mountain lion to a department representative within 24 hours of harvest.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Rule cleanup: The mountain lion hunting season in the Black Hills Fire Protection District is open December 26 through April 30, provided that the department shall close the mountain lion hunting season in the Black Hills Fire Protection District if the harvest limit for that area is reached prior to ~~March 31~~ April 30.
2. To allow the pursuit of a mountain lion by dogs outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District that originates on private land to cross over or culminate on private land with permission from the landowner or lessee or public land as long as it's not expressly prohibited by the managing entity.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Year	Licenses Sold *	Season Dates	BLACK HILLS HARVEST			PRAIRIE HARVEST	Harvest Limit	Limit Reached	Season Length(days)
			Males	Females	Total				
2005/06	2,588	Oct.1 - Dec. 15	6	7	13	1	25 or 5 females	Female	24
2006/07	3,295	Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	7	8	15	1	25 or 8 females	Female	19
2007/08	4,070	Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	2	15	17	2	35 or 15 females	Female	23
2008/09	2,335	Jan.1 - Mar. 31	11	15	26	2	35 or 15 females	Female	45
2009/10	2,274	Jan.1 - Mar. 31	16	24	40	3	40 or 25 females	Total	41
2010/11	2,591	Jan.1 - Mar. 31	20	27	47	5	45 or 30 females	Total	52
2011/12	3,720	Jan.1 - Mar. 31	27	46	73	2	70 or 50 females	Total	61
2012/13	4,637	Dec.26-Mar. 31	26	35	61	6	100 or 70 females	Date	96
2013/14	3,856	Dec.26-Mar. 31	22	31	53	4	75 or 50 females	Date	96
2014/15	3,767	Dec.26-Mar. 31	21	22	43	5	75 or 50 females	Date	96
2015/16	3,681	Dec.26-Mar. 31	16	25	41	8	60 or 40 females	Date	97
2016/17	3,067	Dec.26-Mar. 31	14	16	30	5	60 or 40 females	Date	96
2017/18	3,384	Dec.26-Mar. 31	12	19	31	11	60 or 40 females	Date	96
2018/19	3,373	Dec.26-Mar. 31	13	8	21	10	60 or 40 females	Date	96
2019/20	3,483	Dec.26-Apr. 30	24	27	51	14	60 or 40 females	Date	127
2020/21	3,779	Dec.26-Apr. 30	23	25	48	10	60 or 40 females	Date	126

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2021-22 Custer State Park Mountain Lion Hunting Season Interval Schedule

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29 14 Days	30	31	

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 14 Days	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 14 Days	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 14 Days	27	28	29
30	31					

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 14 Days	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 14 Days	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 14 Days	24	25	26
27	28					

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 14 Days	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 14 Days	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 14 Days	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 14 Days	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 14 Days	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 14 Days	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- Five (5) hunting intervals with 3 access permits (dog hunting allowed).
- Four (4) hunting intervals with 15 access permits (no dog hunting allowed).

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2022-23 Custer State Park Mountain Lion Hunting Season Interval Schedule

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	26	27	28	29	20	31

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



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Four (4) hunting intervals with 15 access permits (no dog hunting allowed).

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RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT 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? Not applicable.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Not applicable.
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

No impact.

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