

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

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>September 5-6, 2019</b>	<b>Spearfish</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>October 3, 2019</b>	<b>Chamberlain</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>October 3-4, 2019</b>	<b>Chamberlain</b>

**RECOMMENDATION**

To evaluate the Department's recommendation to allocate a limited number of nonresident licenses for the mountain lion hunting season.

1. The Issue

- Why make the change [1], what are the change alternatives [14], how will public/stakeholder input be solicited [9], and how will the change be evaluated if implemented [17]?
- The Department believes there is capacity to provide a limited number of nonresident hunting opportunities with little, if any, negative effect to resident hunters within the current season structure.
- As with any social topic related to wildlife management, there will likely be support, opposition and no opinion on this concept.
- Public solicitation will involve the Commission process of developing a proposal and gathering public input during a 30 day comment period prior to taking final adoption at the October Commission meeting.
- If implemented, the total number of licenses sold will be compared to previous years and trends will be evaluated once an adequate time frame is available to review. Hunter satisfaction, hunter effort and other metrics will be measured over time with future hunter harvest and public opinion surveys.

2. Historical Considerations

- What are the current and projected trends in resident and nonresident license sales [5], documented and/or perceived hunter densities [7] and the ramifications of these densities [6]?
- How do neighboring states address the identified issue [15]?
- South Dakota has never provided nonresident mountain lion hunting opportunities. Below are statistics of resident mountain lion hunters.

<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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Harvest statistics for 2009/10 - 2018/19 Black Hills Mountain Lion seasons (excluding CSP)

YEAR	Season Length (Days)	Licenses Sold	Active Hunters	Harvest		Average Days Hunted	Average Satisf
				Males	Females		
2009/10	41	2,082	1,468	16	24	6.2	5.00
2010/11	52	2,325	1,790	19	26	6.6	5.11
2011/12	61	3,482	2,646	27	42	7.1	4.92
2012/13	96	4,351	2,872	23	31	7.3	4.71
2013/14	96	3,293	1,861	18	26	6.9	4.69
2014/15	96	3,211	1,689	18	20	7.1	4.58
2015/16	97	3,102	1,529	11	24	7.1	4.75
2016/17	96	2,561	1,153	10	13	6.9	4.51
2017/18	96	2,878	1,199	7	15	7.3	4.87
2018/19	96	2,818	1,132	8	6	6.9	4.81

- It is difficult to quantify the effect of a potential 250 more mountain lion hunters, as snowfall and weather conditions are important to the success of hunters and their distribution within the Black Hills Fire Protection District and statewide is unknown.
- Surrounding and western states with mountain lion hunting seasons handle nonresident allocations at varying levels. License fees and the use of dog hunting are listed below for 13 states.

State	Resident Fee	Nonresident Fee	Allow Dogs
Arizona	\$15.00	\$75.00	Yes
Colorado	\$49.75	\$351.75	Yes
Idaho	\$13.75	\$186.00	Yes
Montana	\$19.00	\$320.00	Yes
Nebraska	\$15.00	N/A	No
Nevada	\$29.00	\$104.00	Yes
New Mexico	\$43.00	\$290.00	Yes
North Dakota	\$15.00	N/A	Yes
South Dakota	\$28.00	N/A	Yes
Oregon	\$16.00	\$16.00	No
Utah	\$58.00	\$258.00	Yes
Washington	\$24.00	\$222.00	No
Wyoming	\$32.00	\$373.00	Yes

Average Resident Fee: \$27.50; Average Nonresident Fee: \$219.58

3. Biological Considerations

- What is the current and projected status of the population [2] and habitat conditions [3] for these populations?
- Current survey trends and other indices indicate a stable to slowly increasing mountain population. With a harvest limit incorporated into the season structure for Black Hills Fire Protection District, the allowance of nonresident

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hunting opportunities would have no biological impact on the mountain lion population.

- Both resident and nonresident hunters are expected to have no direct impact to mountain lion habitat during hunting activities.

4. Social Considerations

- How would the change affect resident and nonresident: current and future generations of families [8], opportunities to expand outdoor recreation participation [10] and patterns of land ownership [8].
- With the limited allocation of 250 nonresident licenses, the presence of nonresident hunters is expected to be minimal over a four month hunting season and any reduction of resident hunting opportunities is expected to be minimal.
- Hunting opportunities with Custer State Park would still be restricted to South Dakota residents only.
- Any opportunity for nonresident mountain lion hunting would be greater than currently available.
- There is a likelihood of nonresidents having connections to family, businesses and land ownership.

5. Financial considerations

- What are the financial implications of the change for current and future: revenue for GFP [11]; the proportional contributions of revenue from residents and nonresidents to support species and habitat management programs [4], and the ability of GFP to support species and habitat management programs [5], program income for landowners to manage habitat, sales tax collections in SD, and personal income of business owners and their employees [12].
- The allowance of a limited nonresident hunting opportunity for mountain lions is expected to have no known negative financial impact on private businesses and would likely benefit certain business sectors and local communities at some level.
- From a license revenue perspective, the issuance of 250 nonresident licenses at \$280 would equate to \$70,000.

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