



Department of Game, Fish and Parks
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Report to Survey Participants 2009 Mountain Lion Season Evaluation



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Dear 2009 Mountain Lion Hunter,

This is a summary report of the 2009 Mountain Lion Season. All hunters licensed to hunt mountain lions were sent a short questionnaire designed to measure hunters' evaluation of the mountain lion season. We sincerely thank all of you who participated by completing and returning your questionnaire. A total of 1,948 usable questionnaires were returned for an 81% return rate. Your information was very valuable in helping us evaluate South Dakota's fourth mountain lion season. The information will also help with future management decisions regarding mountain lion season designs.

Larry Gigliotti, Ph.D.
Planning Coordinator / Human Dimensions Specialist

Evaluation of the 2009 Mountain Lion Season HUNTER SURVEY

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South Dakota's fourth mountain lion season ended February 14, 2009, just 45 days after opening on January 1st after the 15th female was harvested, meeting the safeguard harvest limit of 15 females. The total harvest limit for the 2009 season was 35 mountain lions or 15 females (statewide). The 2005 and 2006 seasons included a Black Hills and prairie unit while the 2007 and 2009 mountain lion season combined the two units into one statewide unit. The Black Hills was closed for the 2008 mountain lion season. A total of 26 mountain lions were harvested in 2009 (Table 1 and Figure 1) (13 mountain lions were harvested in 2005, 15 in 2006 and 19 in 2007).

Landowners who have purchased a mountain lion license can harvest a mountain lion year-round on private land they own or private land they lease outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District. All harvested mountain lions must be presented to a conservation officer, state trapper or department representative within 24 hours. This survey only covered mountain lion hunting during the period that the regular season was open (January 1 – February 14, 2009).

Only about two-thirds (67.8%) of the licensed mountain lion hunters actually spent any time hunting for mountain lions for an average of 6.5 days. About 74% of the active mountain lion hunters reported seeing lion tracks or other signs of mountain lions while hunting and 14% of the active lion hunters observed a mountain lion.

Success per licensed hunter (includes all licensed hunters) was 1.07% and success per actual lion hunter (hunters that actually spent some time hunting for lions) was 1.58%. A total of 1,646 hunters were estimated to have actually spent time hunting for mountain lions during the 2009 mountain lion season.

Evaluation of the Season – Satisfaction. About 61% of the mountain lion license holders were satisfied with the mountain lion season as conducted in 2009, 28% were neutral and 11% were dissatisfied.

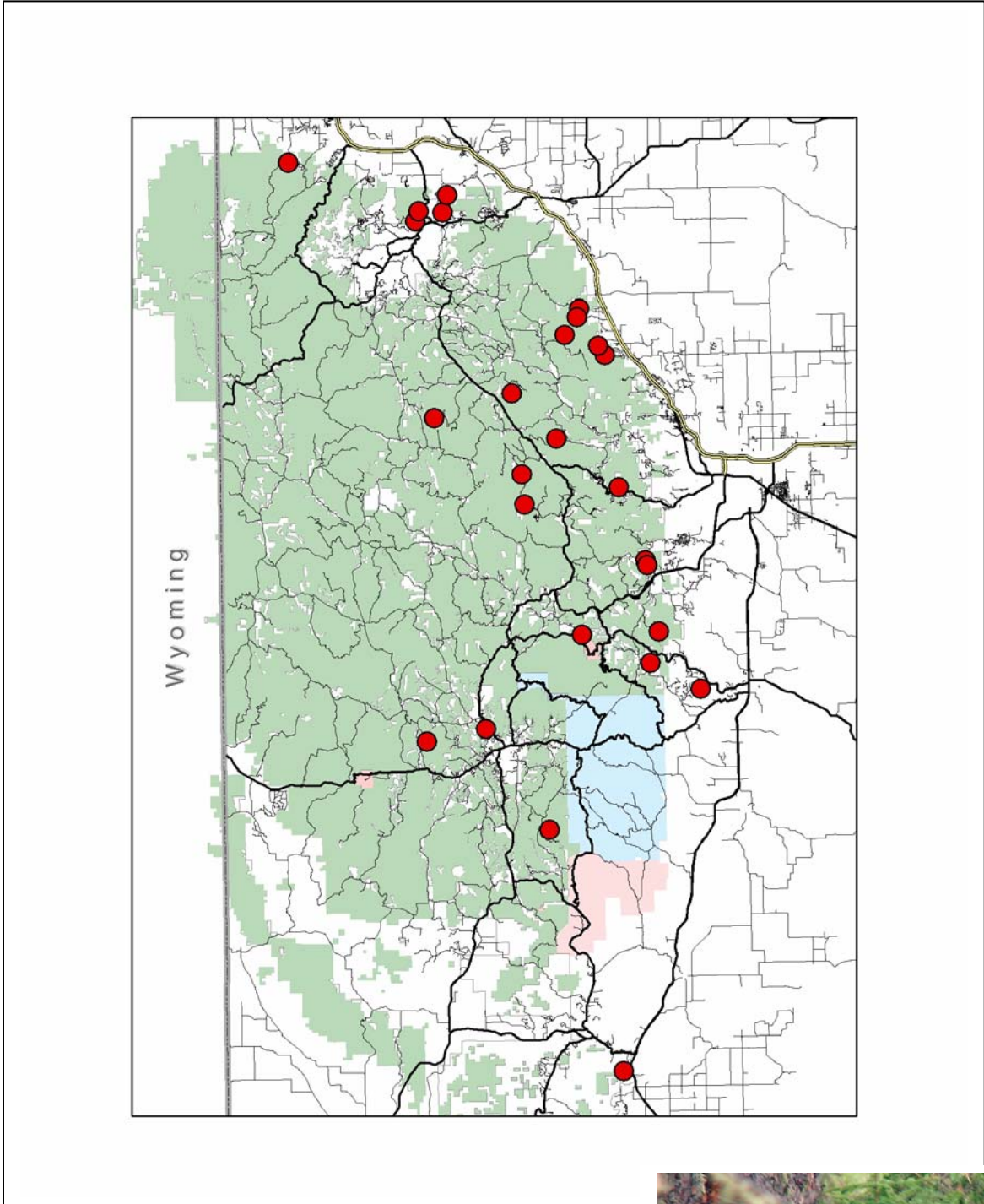


Figure 1. 2009 Mountain lion season harvest locations – Black Hills, South Dakota.



Table 1. Mountain lion harvest information for the 2009 mountain lion season.

<i>Harvest Date</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Hunting Unit</i>	<i>Location of Harvest</i>
01/01/2009	F	1.5–2.5 yrs.	75 pounds	Black Hills	Custer Co.
01/02/2009	F	5-7 months	46 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/03/2009	F	6 years	101 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/03/2009	F	9.5–11.5 yrs.	108 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/06/2009	F	1.5–2.5yrs.	84 pounds	Black Hills	Meade Co.
01/07/2009	M	3 years	145 pounds	Black Hills	Meade Co.
01/08/2009	M	3 years	138 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/08/2009	M	7 years	159 pounds	Black Hills	Custer Co.
01/10/2009	M	4–5 years	140 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/10/2009	M	1.5–2 years	121 pounds	Black Hills	Custer Co.
01/10/2009	F	2–3 years	92 pounds	Black Hills	Fall River Co.
01/11/2009	F	2 years	92 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/13/2009	F	2 years	100 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/15/2009	M	6 months	53 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/15/2009	M	5 months	43 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/15/2009	M	7 years	129 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/16/2009	M	6 months	53 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/16/2009	F	1.5–2.5 years	76 pounds	Black Hills	Custer Co.
01/23/2009	F	2–3 years	88 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/24/2009	M	3–4 years	140 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/24/2009	F	2–3 years	87 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/26/2009	M	5–6 years	129 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/31/2009	F	1.5–2.5 years	80 pounds	Black Hills	Meade Co.
02/02/2009	F	3–4 years	92 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
02/13/2009	F	2–3 years	98 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
02/14/2009	F	1–2 years	78 pounds	Black Hills	Meade Co.

A copy of the complete report: **Evaluation of the 2009 Mountain Lion Season: Hunter Survey** can be found on the Game, Fish and Parks web page at:

<http://www.sdgfp.info/Wildlife/MountainLions/MtLionIndex.htm>