

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-907, public hearings will be conducted by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission on August 4, 2023, at the Niobrara Lodge 803 East Hwy 20 Valentine, NE prior to consideration and/or enactment of the following:

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections §§ 37-301, 37-303, 37-314, 37-308, 37-308.01, 37-317, 37-404, 37-426, 37-427, 37-451, 37-452, 37-505., a public hearing will be held at 8:15 AM to consider amendments to Commission Order C14, Mountain Sheep, regarding the authorization of mountain sheep hunting permits for the 2024 season.

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections §§ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-301, 37-303, 37-314, 37-308, 37-308.01, 37-317, 37-404, 37-426, 37-427, 37-451, 37-452, 37-505 a public hearing will be held at 8:30 AM to consider amendments to Title 163, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 4 Wildlife Regulations Section 014 Mountain Sheep to add a new resident management lottery application period if a sheep management hunt is authorized (in Commission Orders C014).

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections §§ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-301 through 37-313, 37-337 through 37-352, 37-434 through 37-446, 37-1001 through 37-1015, 37-1264 and 37-1266, 60-314 and 60-3,105, 60-680, 60-6,190, 60-6,334, and 60-6,353 through 60-6,362, a public hearing will be at 8:45 AM to consider amendments to Title 163, Nebraska Administrative Code Chapter 5, Parks Regulations Section 001 General regulations governing the administration and use of state park property, to increase park entry permit fees effective January 1, 2024 as follows: Vehicles registered and licensed in Nebraska, annual permit from thirty dollars (\$30.00) to thirty five dollars (\$35.00) and a temporary (daily) permit from six dollars (\$6.00) to seven (\$7.00). Vehicles not registered and licensed in Nebraska, annual permit from sixty dollars (\$60.00) to seventy dollars (\$70.00) and a temporary (daily) from twelve (\$12.00) to fourteen dollars (\$14.00) The duplicate permit will increase from fifteen (\$15.00) to seventeen dollars and fifty cents (\$17.50) for vehicles registered and licensed in Nebraska and from thirty (\$30.00) to thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for vehicles not registered and licensed in Nebraska.

Copies of the proposed regulations and the Fiscal Impact Statement shall be available for public inspection at the Game and Parks Commission office and the Office of the Secretary of State.

Copies of the proposed Commission Order changes shall be available for public inspection at the Game and Parks Commission website at www.outdoornebraska.gov.

All interested persons may attend and testify orally or by written submission at the public hearing. Interested persons or organizations may submit written comments prior to the hearing, which will be entered into the hearing record if they: 1) include a request to be included as part of the hearing record; 2) include the name and address of the person or organization submitting the comments; and 3) are received by 1:00 p.m. CT August 2, 2023 by Sheri Henderson at the Lincoln office, 2200 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370.

Tim McCoy, Director

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Agency: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	
Title: 163	Prepared by: Alicia Hardin
Chapter: 4	Date prepared: June 29, 2023
Subject: : Section <u>014</u> , Mountain Sheep	Telephone: 402/471-5448

Type of Fiscal Impact:

	State Agency	Political Sub.	Regulated Public
No Fiscal Impact	()	(X)	(X)
Increased Costs	()	()	()
Decreased Costs	()	()	()
Increased Revenue	(X)	()	()
Decreased Revenue	()	()	()
Indeterminable	(X)	()	()

Provide an Estimated Cost & Description of Impact:

State Agency: Indeterminable
 Political Subdivision: \$0
 Regulated Public: \$0

If indeterminable, explain why: The change to regulations is to add a new application period for mountain sheep management hunts, but it is unclear when or how often this type of permit will be issued. The permit number, type of permit, dates for a season, and open and closed areas for a management hunt are authorized through Commission Orders (CO14 Mountain Sheep).

NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Last Approved Date: ~~October 26, 2018~~ **May 29, 2019**

Title 163 - Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Chapter 4 - Wildlife Regulations

014 Mountain Sheep

The following regulations are prescribed by the Game and Parks Commission, State of Nebraska in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-301, 37-303, 37-314, 37-308, 37-308.01, 37-317, 37-404, 37-426, 37-427, 37-451, 37-452, 37-505. For purposes of these regulations, unless context otherwise requires, the definitions found in Chapter 37, sections 202 through 247 of the Game Law, are used.

Unless otherwise specified, mountain sheep are defined as bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) wherever referenced in Title 163, Chapter 4 of the Nebraska Administrative Code.

For season dates, year and permits authorized, permit bag limit, shooting hours, and open areas see Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Order C14, Mountain Sheep, on the Commission's website: outdoornebraska.gov.

014.01 Application for Lottery Permits

014.01A Regular Lottery Permit Applications shall be accepted from Nebraska Residents only, from the third Monday in April beginning at 1 p.m. CST through the first Friday in August (receipt date at Game and Parks Commission office in Lincoln) during years when a lottery sheep permit is authorized (Commission Order C14.02). All valid applications accompanied by the required fee (Chapter 1, Section 006; Administration Regulations) shall be considered equally in a drawing. It is unlawful to submit more than one application per calendar year for a **regular** lottery sheep permit. If more than one such application is submitted by or for any person, all of his/her applications shall be excluded from the drawing and accompanying lottery fees shall be forfeited.

014.01B Management Lottery Permit Applications shall be accepted from Nebraska Residents only, beginning sixty (60) days prior to the opening of a management season (Commission Orders C14, Mountain Sheep) at 1 p.m. CST for fourteen (14) days. All valid applications accompanied by the required fee (Chapter 1, Section 006; Administration Regulations) shall be considered equally in a drawing. It is unlawful to submit more than one application per calendar year for a management lottery sheep permit. If more than one such application is submitted by or for any person, all of his/her applications shall be excluded from the drawing and accompanying lottery fees shall be forfeited.

Title 163
Chapter 4

014.02 Orientation Session: Persons with sheep permits must attend an orientation session prior to hunting.

014.03 Guiding Requirement: Each permittee must be accompanied by a representative of the Commission while hunting unless written exemption is provided by a designee of the Director of the Game and Parks Commission.

014.04 Checking: Any mountain sheep which is taken must be presented to an official check station specified by the Commission on the same day it is killed, unless the check station is notified that day and arrangements are made for a later check. Sheep must be presented to the check station with the head naturally attached to the carcass; hind half may be detached from the front, provided evidence of sex is retained on the hind half. An identifying seal or plug will be attached to or inserted in one horn and this identification must remain permanently attached.

014.05 Weapons Allowed: Firearms and archery equipment as specified in 001.01B2.

014.06 Mountain sheep or mountain sheep parts may be donated to individuals or organizations for display or educational purposes under the authority of written authorization of the Commission. It shall be unlawful for mountain sheep or parts thereof which are possessed under this authorization to be sold, bartered, or given away except by authorization of the Commission. Mountain sheep or sheep parts shall be permanently marked with an identifying number. Priority of disposition shall be at the discretion of the Commission.

014.07 Except for meat and flesh, legally possessed parts from mountain sheep other than bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) may be bought, sold, bartered, or given away.