

From: Jennifer.Hartman@Halliburton.com
To: beatis@aol.com
Sent: 6/28/2012 9:07:52 A.M. Mountain Daylight Time
Subj: Mt Lions

Good morning Mr. Olson,

I've written to you before about Mt. Lions in the Black Hills, but I am persistent so you get to hear from me again. SD GF&P Mt. Lion Biologist was out to my house yesterday. I sure wish he would leave a card or something at my house, I don't even know his name. Regardless, he told my sister-in-law as she sat on the deck holding my babies that there are 3 collared cats that live near my house, in February I was eight feet from a Mountain Lion that was standing next to my deck sizing up my dog and that cat didn't have a collar on. This is a problem for me. I am not an extremist that thinks they need killed to extinction, but I hope that you are contemplating doing something drastic with this year's mountain lion season. Anyone that has an ounce of sense or spends any time at all trying to watch wildlife in the his knows there are way too many. Their territory is large, what 30-50 miles for a female and 50-100 for a male? Why are there 4 cats that reside so close to my house, because there are too many! These cats have decimated the other wildlife and are a threat to my children and something very drastic needs to be done. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



Jennifer Hartman

Colony, WY Mine

307-896-8507

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-----Original Message-----

From: Lynn Hardy

Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 6:00 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lions in the Black Hills

The huge amount of mountain lions in the black hills is obviously a liability to hunters and to GF&P's best interest. The amount of license that you have allowed is very small compared to the need. I believe that mountain lions should be considered varmints and there should be no limit and no restrictions what-so-ever on the shooting of mountain lions.

Sincerely,

Lynn S. Hardy
3108 New England Street
Rapid City, SD 57703

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lion - Lynn S Hardy

-----Original Message-----

From: Lynn Hardy

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 8:52 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: October meeting

100 lions is not enough. There should be no limit. There would still be more lions than needed with no limit.

Sincerely,

Rev Lynn S. Hardy

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - Lions - Randy Mink

From: Randy Mink <randyrmink@yahoo.com>

Subject:

To: "Barry Jensen" <barryj@gwtc.net>, "Jeff Olson" <beatis@aol.com>, "Bill Cerny" <bpccerny@gwtc.net>, "Cathy Peterson" <cathy.peterson@state.sd.us>, "Duane Sather" <duane.sather@state.sd.us>, "Jim spies" <jim.spies@stste.sd.us>, "John Cooper" <jlcoop11@aol.com>, "Suzie Knippling" <suzie.knippling@state.sd.us>

Date: Monday, July 30, 2012, 10:25 PM

I have no idea what is happening to my computer lately but I am trying to let you know I am NOT happy with the way you have been doing things lately.

The Black Hills Deer herd was controlled for years by using doe seasons. No doe season, a short doe season, doe season all month. WORKED GOOD for many, many years with UNLIMITED licenses. I spend 15 to 20 days hunting in November hunting deer in the Black Hills and it is the worst I have seen ever. The deer, the turkeys etc all seem to want to live in the housing developments, imagine that. That is the ones that still live. LIONS PLEASE PUT LIONS back on the predator list and let an unlimited amount of BH deer hunters shoot them on sight. Nobody listens to me but I have hunted the BHills for 53 years and we had lions in 1959 and we will always have them, please, before it is too late get the lion population back in control. Thanks for listening. Randy

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Tony Leonard

-----Original Message-----

From: Tony Leonard [<mailto:tonyleonard51@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 6:47 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Lion hunting with dogs

I think hunting lions with dogs should be legal. This will also promote coon hunting in SD because more people pursue hunting with dogs, leading to more money for the state. Please be sure this gets in the correct hands. Thanks.

Tony Leonard
Sioux Falls, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lion - Cheryl Crowell

-----Original Message-----

From: Crowell, Cheryl

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 11:06 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion Hunting Quota 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

South Dakota's lions belong to all Americans not just to a handful of hunters. Management decisions need to be based on peer-reviewed, publicly available research.

The 2013 Mountain lion hunting season must be canceled until new peer-reviewed population and mortality affect studies have been completed and presented for public review.

Regards,

Cheryl Crowell, 11729 Rocosco Rd., Lakeside, CA 92040 619-938-1298

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Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Rebecca Furr

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 8:05 AM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Switzer, Chad
Subject: FW: proposed mountain lion hunt

-----Original Message-----

From: Rebecca Furr [<mailto:rebtris@msn.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 8:29 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: proposed mountain lion hunt

To Whom It Concerns:

I am dismayed to learn of your plans to not only continue the so called "hunting" of mountain lions but your plans to expand it to the point that it will probably cause mountain lions to become extinct in South Dakota.

I was planning a visit to South Dakota but upon learning of your cruel and ill advised plans to basically eradicate mountain lions from South Dakota, I have decided to **boycott your state** and I will NOT be visiting or spending any MONEY in your state from this point forward until you revise your archaic and barbaric policies towards mountain lions.

My two brothers also come to visit South Dakota every year and I will be telling them about your plans to allow South Dakota's mountain lions to be hunted. They love cougars as well and will not be happy to learn about this.

What a shame for such a beautiful state with such beautiful animals to be under the control of such ignorant, selfish and greedy people. I will be sure to spread the word on the internet on tourism sites to the best of my ability. Hope it costs you lots of money since that is obviously ALL you care about.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Furr
New Milton WV

PS I have lots of family in Colorado who like to travel to South Dakota. I'll tell them and all their friends about your shameful persecution of cougars.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Jerel Sateren

-----Original Message-----

From: Sateren,
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 9:30 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mountain lions

Good idea to increase the amt of lions taken. We are seeing more in housing areas and there are fewer deer around.-Mary Sateren, Black Hawk

Jerel Sateren, Black Hawk SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: comment - lion - Kurt Russow

-----Original Message-----

From: Russow, Kurt

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 9:22 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion season proposal: please send to the commission

Dear Members of the Commission

Cato once observed that "the angry man opens his mouth and shuts his eyes." There is no shortage of emotion when it comes to our mountain lion issues in the Black Hills. But the public rage on this issue has begun to blind people to the facts. The public meetings on lions have been a place of yelling, sneering, scoffing and rage-filled grandstanding. It seems that those who feel that they mountain lion limits should be increased have primarily chosen bullying techniques to forward their agenda. I feel that Game Fish and Parks Decision to increase the lion quota around 40% (70 to 100) is more a reaction to public scrutiny than it is sound, scientific data. I plead the commission to reject this increase, and take the middle road by either keeping the current quota or reducing it 2011's limit.

Firstly, one of the main reasons not to increase the limit is that it's clear that Game Fish and Parks has had public sentiment shape their quota numbers before. A great deal of this so called lion crisis is a result from overhunting elk in previous years. Many of the Game Fish and Parks people admit that this overharvest was a result of political pressure because of previous outrage on the grazing impact from elk herds. Lion quotas have been subject to the same political problem. A statement made by a GFP representative at August 7th's lion open house, from 2005- 2009, preservationist outcry likely influenced the hunting quotas to a dramatic low. Today, the tables have turned in favor of those who want to see lion limits increase. Although Game Fish and Parks maintains that their new lion quota is influenced by improved population data, the timing of the increase warrants some reasonable skepticism. GFP does all it's research itself, it does not go through a rigorous peer review process through outside scientific sources. Although I respect the scientists at GFP, I believe the risk for bias is real, and it would only be scientific to get more viewpoints and reviews from outside GFP on this limit increase. It would seem that politics and public sentiment plays too much of a role in the limits. Now I love democracy, but it's getting to the point where it seems like people think they can vote on whether or not the sky is blue. A public agreement that the sky is neon green will not make it neon green.

I do not blame GFP for caving to frustration. At the Outdoor Campus, there were a number of angry people who were flat out abusive to GFP officials. I heard numerous accusations that GFP people were corrupt liars in cahoots with radical PETA-like lion activists to protect a legion of dangerous lions. This is beyond ridiculous, but I suppose

if someone states something with enough spittle-flecked emotion it should be taken seriously, right? GFP has a serious reputation problem, and governor Daugaard is pursuing an investigation. I certainly hope this limit isn't more about reputation rebuilding than science! Secondly, the dramatic draught we are having should move us to reassess all of our hunting limits at this point. This draught will likely have a very significant impact on herbivore populations. As herbivore populations fall, prey sources for lions will become scarcer, so they will fall as well. If this draught expands to a number of years of low grass yields, our lion population could be significantly impacted. Given the threat that all animals face due to this lack of moisture, it would be wise to hold off until we see more of the draught's impact. Thirdly, raising the limit would be unwise is that we need to study the impact we have on hunting lions more closely. Our hunting system focuses on targeting males. Large, male lions defend their territories from other lions. This produces a sanitation effect on the lions themselves and helps to prevent overpopulation. Since we have been hunting so many males, we have been opening up these territories to weaker, transient lions who may have learned some atypical hunting behaviors and thus may be more likely to target domestic animals and even people. This phenomenon has been documented in many areas that allowed for aggressive mountain lion hunting. A system that does a more effective job of targeting problem lions would likely be much more effective than a straight up lion limit. It is very clear that not all lions are the same.

Fourthly, we should avoid just increasing the limit is because of the predator pit issues we have here. Predator pits are localized zones of intense predatory activity where the predator to prey ratio is significantly higher than in other nearby areas. This is why the distribution of elk herds is so uneven throughout the Black Hills. In certain areas, elk are being decimated, but in other areas, elk herds are thriving and even overpopulated. If we simply targeted the predator pit areas rather than just a crude swathing harvest, our some of our most menacing lion issues would be solved. This is especially relevant to Custer State Park, which is a textbook-worthy example of a predator pit.

Finally, we must consider the larger picture to this issue. There are two ethics that dominate wildlife management: preservationism and conservationism. Preservationism is a "let it be" approach to nature. I see the triumph of the preservationist ethic every time I go horseback riding in Wind Cave National Park. At least once a month I ride to go see the elk herd of Boland Ridge, one of the largest herds in the Black Hills. The Boland Ridge herd is close to being overpopulated, and is managed not by hunters, but by some very active lions. Just next door however, is Custer State Park that takes the conservationist "wise use" approach. The operative word is "wise" however. That herd is down to a trickle due to over-harvesting elk and short-sighted conservation policies. We must remember that the predator with the biggest impact is man. When problems with lions arise, we need to hold ourselves with much more scrutiny than we do lions. Lions do only what is in their nature; we are the animal that knows better, and most of all, we are the animal that can prevent disasters before they begin. Please opt to take the middle road on the lion limit. Keep the lion limit to where it's at, and not allow extremism win.

Thank You, Kurt Russow, 715 East Minnesota Street Apt 204, Rapid City, SD 57701.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lion - Randy Kane

-----Original Message-----

From: Randy Kane

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 11:44 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: GF&P mountain lion quotas

Game, Fish & Parks:

It appears that the proposed new GF&P quotas for mountain lions are politically driven by the hunter lobby.

Also, the plan to use dogs in Custer State Park is inconsistent with wildlife preservation values of the park.

Personally, if I were a hunter, I'd be ashamed to admit I couldn't compete with the natural critters for deer and elk.

Randy Kane
PO Box 414
Crawford, NE 69339
308 665-1260

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lion - Tom Riddle

-----Original Message-----

From: Cyndi Riddle

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 2:14 PM

To: SDGFPINFO

Subject: Re: GFP August Commission Meeting Highlights

Congrats for commission looking at hounds for lion hunts, real positive hope able to continue that type of hunt

Tom Riddle, Mitchell SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lion - Doris Ann Wilcox

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 9:11 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion hunting

8-8-12

Please stop the new laws on the hunting of mountain lions.
These animals are apex predators and serve an important purpose.
It is important that future generations can see them in the wild.

Thanks!

Doris Ann Wilcox,
Mt. Lion Foundation member
kelly293@netzero.net

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lion - Kisha Burgardt ,

-----Original Message-----

From: Kisha Burgardt

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 8:28 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion Slaughter

I am writing to you from Kansas due to my concern for the projected hunting proposal of 2013. It is nauseating that such a beautiful animal is slated to be destroyed. I can't understand why it is so important to you to kill an animal for reasons that cannot be justified. I hope that you decide otherwise and spare the lives of our precious wildcats.

Kind Regards,

Kisha Burgardt
2732 N. Beacon Hill Ct
Wichita, KS 67220

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lion - sauwah

-----Original Message-----

From: sauwah tsang [<mailto:sau-wah@cox.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 4:27 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: hunting cougars

Your new quotas of cougars allowed to be hunted will just kill off all the cougars in Black Mountain for sure by raising the percentage to 50 ! These predators like all highly evolved animals need a certain number to sustain its species and enough breeding females and males to raise and bring in their cubs.

You are determined to kill off all the cougars to fulfil the dreams of hunters even though it is unsustainable and against all conservational point of view (cruel and inhumane also when you allowed mothers of cubs under 18 months are killed).

shame on you (angels of death)

sauwah

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Jennifer A Haynes

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Haynes

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 3:03 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: stop the slaughter of mountain lions

I would very much like to visit South Dakota as a tourist in the near future, but if you insist on continuing the slaughter of mountain lions, **I will not visit the state at all – ever.** Please support your tourist industry by stopping the killing of mountain lions!

Jennifer A. Haynes, Ph.D.

Biotech Patent Agent

949-887-6921

jennifer.a.haynes@comcast.net

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Dogs to Hunt Mountain Lions

-----Original Message-----

From: jolynn

Sent: Tue 8/7/2012 5:55 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Cc: Spies, Jim; beatis@aol.com; Knippling, Susie (GFP); jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; Peterson, Cathy; bpcerny@gwtc.net; Sather, Duane

Subject: Dogs to Hunt Mountain Lions

Kevin Parmely
21568 401st Ave
Huron, SD 57350

RE:

5. Make an allowance for the use of dogs during specified hunting intervals in Custer State Park.

I think it is a good move to allow the use of dogs to hunt mountain lions in Custer State Park. However, I think it is unfair to discriminate against the mountain lion hunters with dogs throughout the rest of the state. It would be fair to allow hunting with dogs during any and all mountain lion seasons. Other surrounding states (Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah) allow the use of dogs to hunt Mountain lions, and in other situations the SD GFP uses the surrounding states as examples and attempts to do things the way other states do. Why doesn't the SD GFP model this regulation after them as well, and allow the use of dogs to hunt mountain lions statewide during any open mountain lion season"? The SD GFP needs to be consistent. If the SD GFP is going to use other states as a model to change or make regulations; they should use their model for all rules and regulations, not just the ones that they want to pick and choose to use.

Kevin Parmely

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions -

-----Original Message-----

From: David More

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 5:22 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: massacre of American mountain lions

Dear Sir

I am sending you an email from the UK concerning plans to massacre more wild American mountain lions in the US. Do you not think it better to conserve what remains of North America's largest wild cat? North America like the rest of us is facing monumental upheaval as a result of Climate Change viz a viz the terrible heatwave that is engulfing the continental US.

To encourage more destruction of the natural world will only come back to haunt us.

Sincerely
David More

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Alan Lien

-----Original Message-----

From: Lien

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 11:13 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion season proposal

I would like to support the increase in the bag limit for the 2013 Mountain Lion season to 100 or 70 females are taken. The Mountain Lions are having a major impact on the game populations in the Black Hill,s and their recovery especially the elk, will be impossible unless the growing lion population is reduced.

Also, I would like to strongly support the use of dogs for hunting lions in Custer State Park. This needs to be done to have any hope of restoring the elk population and the fabulous elk hunting that once existed in CSP. There is plenty of documentation on the impact the lions are having on the recruitment of elk calves and something needs to be done to turn this population decline around.

Thanks,

Alan Lien

Chamberlain, SD 57325

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Clarence Sanders

-----Original Message-----

From: Clarence Sanders

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 7:08 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Proposed Mountain Lion Hunting Quota for South Dakota's Black Hills

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a non-resident but frequent visitor to South Dakota's Black Hills and Custer State Park I strongly object to the proposed Black Hills mountain lion hunting quota.

The SDGFP proposal sets harvest at 100 lions total or 70 females, which represents a range of 33 to 50 percent of SDGFP's estimate of current lion population, an estimate that most disinterested scientific observers find questionable, strongly suggesting the population estimate has been "inflated" for political reasons. I also object emphatically to the SDGFP proposal to permit hound hunting in Custer State Park, as that may represent a safety risk for park visitors like myself. The consensus among many mountain lion researchers is that to sustain healthy lion populations harvest should not exceed 14% of any lion population annually, including the results of all human-caused mortality such as road kill, depredation, poaching and public safety. Moreover, a 1992 study by Dr. Frederick Lindzey (now a Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioner) concluded that a region's lion population could not recover (even with in-migration) if subjected to mortality levels of 27 percent, when that level of mortality persists year-after-year, as in South Dakota.

Based upon the above it is clear that the SDGFP harvest proposal is either reckless or perhaps designed specifically to eradicate mountain lions from the Black Hills. As a frequent visitor to the Black Hills and Custer State Park I urge you to reject this reckless proposal and substitute one grounded in science rather than politics. Moreover, as a frequent visitor, I assure you that if this proposal is implemented I will be spending my annual tourism dollars in Montana rather than in South Dakota. For these reasons, and for the sake of sound scientific management of game and wildlife, I urge you to reject this unwise proposal.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Clarence Sanders
1548 NW Vicksburg Ave
Bend, OR 97701

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Janet Harding

-----Original Message-----

From: Janet Harding

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 6:43 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion Hunt

For Heaven's sake, when will we stop the madness. To allow 70 to 100 mountain lions to be killed is just crazy. Maybe it's time we learn to respect these magnificent animals and protect their habitat, after all they are God's creatures.

Thanks,
Janet Harding
Bakersfield, CA

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Jacqueline Nott

-----Original Message-----

From: Jackie Nott

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 6:19 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: South Dakota 2013 Mountain Lion Hunt

Dear South Dakota Fish and Game,

All mountain lion populations, including those in your state, belong to everyone in this great nation. In fact, they do not even belong to us-- they belong to this great earth which they have lived in harmony since they first came to be. By allowing the population in your state to be decimated, by allowing the killing of female lions, and by allowing the killing of young cubs your commission is deciding the fate of an entire population.

These sorts of decisions do not just affect your area-- these decisions have repercussions that extend throughout the rest of the country and across the globe.

Many large predators, particularly felids and pantheras, have been pushed away from their natural expanses simply by the out of control human breeding and population explosion. Actions that your commission takes now can either be looked at, in the future, as progressive and insightful or as sickening as when we look back on the slaughter of buffalo.

When I say that there are repercussions across the globe I am referring to the populations of lions, cheetahs, and leopards in Africa. We expect people in countries on that continent to learn to live as one with these large animals so that they will not be wiped off the face of the earth. Many of these animals are already down to 10% of what they were even just 100 years ago.

South Dakota must lead by example. If we expect others to live as one with their cats and to respect their populations by not decimating them so we all must follow this path.

Your decision to satiate the desires of hunters who are hunting for thrill rather than necessity will impact our children and grandchildren.

Perhaps one day our grandchildren will only know of a mountain lion through stuffed carcasses flaunted by your "hunters" who hunted down a scared mother cat into a tree and then shot it down like a coward. There is no sport in that. There is no challenge. There is no purpose.

Or perhaps our grandchildren will visit the last single mountain lion in a zoo and hear of it passing away into extinction. Not much else is more sad than reading of a species dying off in a particular area or off the Earth.

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission-- I ask you, please, lead by example. Show the rest of the world that your cats and big cats everywhere have just as much right to the land as we do.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please think about the future of big cats around the world. Please take into consideration the number of animals currently living in your state and how many you are writing death permits for. Please consider how many animals would need to be left in order to have a health gene pool.

Let's not look back on ourselves with shame as we do on our ancestors who decimated the buffalo and countless other creatures.

Jacqueline Nott
sparklypony.com
812-589-1491
1384 High Street
Auburn, CA 95603

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Jay Price

-----Original Message-----

From: Jay, Kim, Eleanor, Lila & Lucas

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 6:18 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion quotas

Kind folk,

The agency needs to use public and/ or peer reviewed science to sustain mountain lion populations. Not doing so leads South Dakota into a spiral of killing for the sake of killing. There must be a better way to address this problem. Please address this with good science to help humans learn how to live with the American Lion.

Thank you for addressing my concerns.

Jay Price

2954 51st Street

San Diego, Ca 92105

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Marcia Erickson

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob & Marcia Erickson

Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 6:45 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion Hunting Public Comment

I am writing in favor of using dogs for mountain lion hunting.

Marcia Erickson

12887 SD Hwy 27

Pierpont, SD 57468

605-325-3243

rerickson@venturecomm.net

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lion - Jane Lamborn

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Lamborn

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 5:56 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion

I am not a resident of South Dakota, but the proposed slaughter of mountain lions in your state is atrocious. Here in California we are learning how to live with these beautiful animals and, although we have a long way to go, we are at least trying. What are you going to do when they are all gone?

Jane Lamborn

Sheet Metal Prototype, Inc.

818-772-2715

sheetmetalprototypeinc.com

We are on a 9/80 work schedule so we are closed every other Friday. Please refer to the calendar (Production Schedule) on our website to find out which Fridays we are open.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Casey Ellerton

-----Original Message-----

From: shanon [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 5:54 PM
To: casey ellerton; GFP Wild Info
Subject: 2012 Mountian lion proposal

Casey Ellerton 25436 Sidney Park RD, Custer SD
I am happy with the new proposal of 100 cats and very happy with the opportunity to use hounds in the park. Hounds are a great tool and this is something that is long over due in this state. Hopefully we get the chance to prove to the public and other hunters that the use of hounds is very ethical and sporting.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - David Nerison

-----Original Message-----

From: David Nerison

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 4:24 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion season proposal

My name is David Nerison:
445 State Street
Spearfish South Dakota 57783.

I would like to go on record as having the opinion that there should be no hunting season for mountain lions.

Sincerely,
David Nerison

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Shawn Pliska

-----Original Message-----

From: S Pliska

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 12:49 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Reduce mountain loin numbers by 75% of the current population

Once again the elk and deer numbers continue to drop in the Black Hill region. This is the 5th year of decreased opportunities for the people of South Dakota to enjoy one of our natural resources. The excuses of weather, fire, nutrients, and disease are not cutting any more. The rate of decline is staggering at 60% deer and 66% elk licenses from the peak in the mid 2000's. Just this year the deer tags have drop 19%, elk tags down 33% over last year's numbers. Why are the elk moving out of their normal ranges? Why are the elk's calves disappearing? Why are the deer numbers dropping? Does anyone know?

What has changed in the last 5 to 7 years to cause this decline of big game animals; it seems to me that mountain lion is the number one reason. A loin will eat a deer and or elk every 7 to 10 days. Let say there is population of 200 loins, that's 7,300 deer and or elk every year that the loins eat.

I agree with following the science on wildlife but not at the public's expense. South Dakota does not have the large wildness areas like other western states to support loins. The hunting public is decreasing every year, there are several reasons why but one of the main reasons is lost opportunities.

We could debate on how many lions there are, what is the right amount, what is the right way to control them. The fact remains that the hunting public is paying the price on lost opportunities on deer and elk as well as flipping funding for studying what is happen. How can the department maintain funding with reduction of license as revenue, what is the justification?

The department has solicited input from the public on how to maintain healthy elk and deer populations while reducing mountain loin numbers. The department has heard from a wide range of people; hunters, business owners, landowners, local homeowners and the general public as a whole about their perceptions of this problem. The more input and information you have receive from the public, the better the plans you can develop and better sever the public. I know Management plans need to take into consideration biological factors such as population, habitat condition, and conflict issues, but the department has not acted on the public's input.

My opinion you should step up the quoted to 75% of the current population (250 to 350 loins) split up between all the hunting seasons. I don't care how it is done, just so the loin numbers come down. Then focus on the big horn sheep, mountain goats, deer and elks herds again. Please stop this science project.

It is astonishing how much damage this has caused to the game department and commission in the hunting public eye. I agree and support 95% of departmental issues, but this issue and how it's being handled is dead wrong. Increasing the loin quoted for 2013 season to 100 is baby steps. It is time to be very aggressive on resolving the problem. I hope it is not too late for the next generation of hunters.

Thank you for your time.

Shawn Pliska
Sioux Falls SD, 57107

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Pat Malcomb

-----Original Message-----

From: Malcomb, Pat D. [

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 12:32 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion season proposal

I believe there are many more lions in the hills than GFP says. Anytime you can shoot as many as the hunters did last year without dogs is amazing. The hills must be infested. The season should run from Nov. 1st to the end of March with no quota. You will never get them all but the numbers need to go down.

Thanks,

Pat Malcomb

Brandon, SD 57005

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Jim Hagen

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathy

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 10:10 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: lion

My thoughts are on the order of allowing dogs to hunt after a certain date, state wide, as weather, snow plays a big part in success in hunting , both with and without dogs, its exciting for me to maybe be able to tree a lion with my dogs, whoa, who would have thought. Its like takeing your bird dog out, special, have had hounds since 1978, and have dreamed of this. Hope all gos well with lion season, thanks for the chance to use hounds.

Jim hagen britton sd

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions -

-----Original Message-----

From: Rebecca Leas

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 9:50 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Cc: Rebecca Leas

Subject: mountain lion season proposal

Dear GF&P,

I write as a life long sportswoman (61 years of age) who grew up living to hunt and fish. I am a member of the Izaak Walton League, South Dakota Wildlife Federation and am deeply concerned about the state of wildlife viability here in South Dakota.

I respect and honor the biologist professionals in GF&P and if they say there are 300 lions, I will have to bite the bullet and support them. However, I think it is interesting that I spend at least four days a week throughout the entire year in the wild hiking, xc skiing, and riding the back roads, including Custer Park, and I have yet to see a mountain lion or tracks. If the hills are teeming with lions surely to God I would have seen one!

I would like to now comment on the deer and elk situation per se.

I think this whole dialogue is a bit misdirected because to me, the real problem is the number of deer men (I don't know any women who want to shoot 15 or 20 deer) expect to shoot here in South Dakota. In Pennsylvania, where we still have bear as well as lions and bobcat, each hunter can shoot one buck and a doe. The whole concept of shooting 10, 15, or 20 deer is utterly outrageous - this is not the 1880's but 2012 and habitat is disappearing at exponential rates. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that if you allow men to kill that many deer you might start to have a problem.

I started coming out here in 1990 and cannot believe how many people now live out in the hills thus destroying habitat and also then griping because there is a lion around that might take their precious "snuffy" dog or cat. I would submit it is the humans, not the lions, that are decimating the deer and elk population by destroying habitat and overkill. Custer Park is a city anymore with people everywhere - even in the "back country" of which there honestly isn't anymore. Elk hate human presence and activity so they got the heck out of there! DAAH! To make matters worse, the beetle problem has necessitated great noise and activity in the woods in CSP further irritating the elk. Studies of elk blood in other states have conclusively proven that elk respond negatively to human stressors/activity. To blame the loss of elk in CSP on the mountain

lion is misguided and just outright wrong! Sure they have taken a few calves - that is the natural eco cycle. But to blame the lions and now propose to use hounds which is utterly inhumane and further disrupts the peace and quiet in CSP is archaic. It seems to me that this whole problem has come about due to greedy hunters and a greedy state that wants hunter monies and now we have a bad situation that will be made even worse. Why not consider making areas in CSP off limits to everyone? Maybe the elk would hang in there if we did that.

Lastly, I have no problem with a cougar season but , with all due respect, South Dakota is really missing out on generating funds while also managing its wildlife. What I mean is, the cougar is a beautiful animal and why in God's name don't you make it prestigious as a big game animal and charge a decent price for a license? You can't compare a deer to mountain lion!!! Any bozo can shoot a deer.

I am disgusted by people (again mostly men) who just want to kill, kill, kill. As I said, I am out in remote areas hiking a lot and I do not fear the lion - no, I carry a 38 because of all the rank and dreadful men that haunt this beautiful region. One might think they were still back in the 1800's here.....

I deeply worry the lion will go the way of the moose and bear. When I visit my friends in Alaska they manage quite well with grizz and moose in their residential areas and teachers even have "moose days" if a moose is in your driveway and you can't safely leave. Here, it seems any wild thing that wanders into a residential area is immediately destroyed.

I can fully understand the concern about the elk but it is the hunters (not true sportsmen/women) that have caused the problem. As for deer, I see tons and tons of them and just wonder if maybe the problem is that many of the fat hunters won't get out their cars???? To me, real hunters use bow and arrow and muzzle loaders and cherish the woods and all it has to offer.

Your job is a tough one and I wish you the best.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Leas

**Dr. Rebecca R. Leas, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Health Education Specialist
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-791-2951**

"I know not what weapons WWill will be fought, but WWIV will be fought with sticks and stones". - Einstein

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Rod Leyendecker

-----Original Message-----

From: ROD LEYENDECKER

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 4:15 PM

To: SDGFPIINFO

Subject: Re: Mountain Lion Meeting to be Held Tuesday

I won't be attending the meeting but will take an opportunity to express my extreme displeasure that we manage the cat kill so closely. How about putting a quota on the number of deer and elk they kill and then open the cat season wide open. Somebody told me that SD is the only state with a cat season that doesn't allow hunting with dogs. I don't know that its true but it sounds like a good program to kill off the dumber cats and preserve the wise to kill off what we should be valuing. I'd favor opening of the cat season wide open and worry about them as a species only when, and if, the species is in danger. As it is, its the deer and elk that are heading in that direction fast. A sad goal and a horrific result.

Rod Leyendecker, Huron SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Janet Hoben

-----Original Message-----

From: Janet Hoben

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 8:28 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hunting of Mountain lions

Sirs,

I am requesting that you immediately cancel you monuntain lion hunt, and stop the cruel killing of mountain lion kittens and their mothers. Please do not become a cruel state where no wildlif is safe like Idaho and Montana. Please stop the hunts! These apex pedators are a vital part of the ecosystem.

--

*Janet Hoben, MS, MBA
1724 Peyton Ave G
Burbank, CA 91504
21-248-8998*

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Jim DeToy

-----Original Message-----

From

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 8:25 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion season proposal

There should not be a lion seasonj at all.

Jim DeToy

RC

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Mike McKnight

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike McKnight
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 6:41 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Cc: Harry Globstad
Subject: mountain lion season proposal

My name is Mike McKnight and I am President of the South Dakota Bowhunters Inc. SDBI represents the interests of bowhunters across the State of South Dakota. Many of SDBI's members are in the Black Hills and statewide all of our members have an interest in maintaining proper balance between predators and their prey. SDBI believes that the current proposal to increase mountain lion harvest to 70 females and 100 animals total is justified. SDBI is also in favor of the ability to extend the season beyond March 31 if necessary and the inclusion of the seasons allowing the use of dogs in Custer State Park. SDBI fully supports the current proposal. Thank you for your work on this issue and allowing public comment.

Mike McKnight
2912 S. Duchess Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Sent from my iPad

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Mark Anderson

-----Original Message-----

From: MARK ANDERSON

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 5:20 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion season proposal

I am an avid outdoorsman. I archery hunt everything in the state. I am a past board member of the SD Bowhunters Inc., Minnehaha Bowhunters and the Minnehaha Archers. I would like to see the SDGP&P liberalize the mountain lion season. The number of tags needs to go up exponentially. To be honest I would be in favor of no limit on the number of loins harvested for 1 full year. The use of dogs & electronic calls should be allowed. The reason for the drastic reduction of the number of lions in South Dakota is obvious: They are eating everything. The number of elk in the Black Hills, Custer State Park & Wind Cave National Park has drastically been reduced to unhuntable numbers in just a few short years. There are no elk. There are no tags. It took decades for the elk number to grow to what they were 5-6 years ago. Once the poaching problem was addressed in the 70's, elk flourished. The numbers continues to grow until tabiout 2005 (estimate). I feel strongly that the SDGF&P has let me down. They are the ones responsible for managing the wildlife for the enjoyment of South Dakotans. They saw the numbers of elk plummet in the past few years. They should have taken immediate action to stabilize the problem. Everyone except the GF&P knew the responsible party and what needed done. Eliminate the loin. By eliminate I mean reduce the number back to average levels from the past century. Elk, mountain goats, deer, big horn sheep & antelope are examples of big game animals that can be viewed by the general public. Mountain lions are nocturnal by nature. There is no time that the public can go out to view them. I understand that they need to be included in the ecosystem of the hills, but not anywhere near the numbers that exist today. To issue say 100 tags will do nothing to help the elk recover. We need to reduce the number of lions to what it was before the lions numbers exploded. Do it now. Don't put a bandaid on the problem. Fix it. My guess is the elk will not recover in the next 2-3 decades even if drastic measures are taken. If the status quo continues, we may well loose every elk in the hills. The SDGF&P wants to auction a big horn sheep tag. Until the mountain lion problem is taken care of they are wasting their time and my money. The lions will eat them 1 at a time. I am 54 years old. I have applied for an elk tag in Custer State Park for 41 years. I expect that I will never draw a tag. I have never been so disappointed with the entire SDGF&P in my entire life. I have been proud to say that a number of them are my friends. To the ones in charge: shame on you. Mistakes have been made. Let's not point fingers. Step up to the plate and do the right thing. If yopu don't believe a word I have said in my letter, sit down with the state trappers & conservation officers in the Hills and the Park. Ask them if there is a lion problem. Thank You, Mark Anderson, Brandon SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Keith Hagen

-----Original Message-----

From: Keith [<mailto:keith@precisionreloading.com>]

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 4:26 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion season proposal

I want to thank the GFP Commissioners for considering the use of hound hunting in Custer State Park. This is a great opportunity for hunters to enjoy Mountain Lion hunting, with hounds, in South Dakota. Also, this will be a very useful tool in wildlife management in Custer State Park. I would also like the GFP commissioners to consider opening the other units up to hound hunters if the quotas aren't met by March 15. This would give hound hunters the last 2 weeks of the season to pursue Mountain Lions.

Thanks

Keith Hagen
25857 407th ave
Mitchell, SD 57301
1-800-996-9984

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Mike Brant

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Brant [<mailto:mrbrb8@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 3:53 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Comments - Mt. Lion season

I still do not think that 100 permits is enough to adequately decrease the lion population here in the Black Hills. I know several people who have seen lions during the day in the hills, in Piedmont Valley and Rapid Valley. My suggestion would be to have one or two years where there are no limits on the number of lions killed during the regular season.

I agree with letting hounds/dogs assist hunters. I think it is a great way to make hunting more effective. I support letting dogs assist hunters not only in the Custer National Forest but in all parts of the Black Hills. I would like to see the mountain lion population decrease substantially so we can see an increase in the number of deer and elk populations. I also think when you start seeing lions in the valleys and near farms and ranches, it's time to remove the quotas and have unlimited access to these predators.

Mike Brant, Piedmont SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Darlene Gray Kutzler

-----Original Message-----

From: Buzz/Darlene Kutzler

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 3:27 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion season proposal

We have property west of Hill City and have seen a dramatic decline in deer and elk. We used to see 50-100 deer in our ranch meadows and now we are lucky to see 3-5. There were large herds of elk and those have declined as well. I believe your research in the area last year showed that only about 5 elk calves out of 30 survived, but most were killed by lions. I totally support the season suggestion of taking 100 lions.

Darlene Gray Kutzler
(The Gray Ranch property west of Hill City)
Phone number at home (605) 352-8177
20499-399th Ave.
Huron, SD 57350

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - John Grenz

-----Original Message-----

From: John Grenz

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 3:49 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion season proposal

Maybe you should bump the tag numbers up to 200 and we can manage a growing lion herd after the season, instead of an out of control one.

John Grenz, Pierre SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions -

Importance: High

-----Original Message-----

From: Charles Brenner

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 2:35 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion season proposal

Even though I am 52 miles close to the meeting location, I'd best stay at home because of rally traffic and my aversion to driving after dark. I hope you will accept these comments on the proposed mountain lion season.

-I have hunted deer in the Black Hills since 1962. Grew up here and came back after 20 years in the military. I have no idea why the mountain lions were ever "protected" and there are seasons involved. There were and always will be mountain lions in the Hills. I'm an advocate for open season on them. They will survive as they always have.

-I'm also having a hard time understanding the drawing business. I'm of the generation that if you could scrape up the \$8 or \$12 you could buy a Black Hills deer tag OTC at the sporting goods or grocery store. Are there really that many more hunters today? Or is the deer population suffering from human encroachment and protected mountain lions? It's kind of obvious about the mountain lion effect on elk calves in CSP. I've personally seen the effect on fawns in the Hills.

-And yes, I'll be going on my 3d attempt for a BH deer license next year. Maybe when I hit 65, you'll give me a senior option ;-). My son who lives out of state finally got his nonresident BH license this year on the 2d attempt. I'm happy for him 'cause I'll get to be his guide. But he knows that for the 2013 BH deer season I will advocate that all deer licenses in SD be resident only!

-BLUF (Bottom Line Up Front) Eliminate the cost of "managing" the mountain lion population by just making them open season.

-Thank-you for your consideration.

/s/ MAJ Charles Brenner USA Ret
20550 Hereford Road
Hereford, SD 57785-7712

Ascher, Debra

-----Original Message-----

From: Roger & Mary

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 2:51 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion season proposal

I would like to thank the Commission for considering the option of allowing the use of hounds for hunting mountain lions during the lion season in Custer State Park. Although I would also like them to consider this measure for the entire state, allowing them in the park is a start. I am 70 years old and have hunted with hounds for over 50 years. Treeing a lion with my hounds has been a dream of mine for a long time and is at the top of my "Bucket List". Hunting with hounds is a great sport and although we are a small group we do love what we do. Since the state uses hounds as a management tool and other states allow the use of hounds while hunting lions I am sure that their use can be very successful for South Dakota hunters also. I urge the commission to pass this measure and thanks again for your consideration.

Roger Prunty
223 North Janda St
Tabor, South Dakota 57063

Christine VanNess
23180 Hwy 385
Rapid City, SD 57702

August 7, 2012

Mountain Lion Season Comments
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
523 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Submitted via email: Wildinfo@state.sd.us
RE: Comments regarding the 2012 mountain lion hunting season

To the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission:

I am very concerned about the proposed changes in the mountain lion season this year. I feel it is threatening the very future of mountain lions in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. I am strongly opposed to increasing the hunting quotas, especially the female quotas and continuing the season in Custer State Park.

The commission has disregarded the original recommendations of the Department's biologists for the last three years! As a taxpayer who pays for this research, I feel you are being fiscally irresponsible by not listening to them. I support management decisions that are based on peer reviewed science. The guidance provided by the biologists serves as a safety net for the lion population and recommendations given by these professionals deserve more respect and consideration.

There is no justification for increasing mountain lion quotas. There are plenty of deer, elk and big horn sheep to supply all the hunters AND the predators. The deer, sheep, goats and elk herds will be healthier if the predators thin out these weak and diseased animals, resulting in bigger, better prey for hunters. It has also been proven that the forests will be healthier too when predators keep the big game moving. They don't stand along the stream beds and eat all the new tree growth. This was proven in Yellow Stone Park. With the current Pine Beetle devastation and all the wild fires, we are going to need all the new tree growth we can get.

I agree with the "Guiding Philosophies" listed on page 15 of the Mountain Lion Management Plan. The Department states that, "Mountain lions play an important role in the ecosystem" and that "The future of mountain lions in South Dakota depends on a public that appreciates, understands and supports mountain lions", also "Having mountain lions in South Dakota will require the Division of Wildlife to implement education and involvement strategies related to safely living with mountain lions" The current management strategies and proposals do not support these philosophies. The bulk of lion "management" so far primarily consists of killing mountain lions via removals and hunting quotas. This to me is not management.

We have heard over and over again from a few individuals who probably have never even seen a lion who promote fear saying we must kill all the lions because they "might" kill livestock or a pet or a human. There has not been one case here in South Dakota where a human was killed by a mountain lion. More livestock is killed by weather and dogs than lions. I am a Black Hills resident, living in the heart of mountain lion country, who has pets and livestock. I used to see lions several times a year, but I have not seen a single one in the past 3 years. Your hunting quotas have been very effective in eliminating them from the landscape. I do not fear the mountain lion. I fear uninformed and intolerant people, and those who give in to the political pressure from a few ranchers rather than listen to science supported by research. I believe we have a right to protect ourselves and our livestock with good safety practices, but we do not have the right to exterminate a species. This is not only irresponsible but immoral.

The proposed increase of mountain lion quotas is also not following the wishes of the majority of the people. The management plan states that the Black Hills Citizen Survey data provides the most accurate scientific measure of Black Hills citizen's general attitude towards the mountain lion season compared to the public meeting responses and unsolicited responses. On page 64 of the Management Plan, a chart depicts the Black Hills resident's desired levels of wildlife population for the next five years with 7 possible responses regarding mountain lions, those being: "eliminate, decrease greatly, decrease slightly, remain the same, increase slightly, and increase greatly". The category with the most responses was, "**remain the same**". Any increases in the 2012 season quotas would be **against the wishes of the majority of the public**. I feel the commission would once again not be representing the people they serve if this proposal was passed.

In conclusion, I ask the commission to listen to the science and the majority of the public, and reject the proposals for an increase in the quotas for the 2012-13 mountain lion season. The annually increasing quotas have already had a visible effect on this relatively small population of mountain lions in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming and continuing it will be catastrophic.

Thank you for your consideration,
Christine VanNess
Black Hills Resident & Horse owner

Richard VanNess
23180 Hwy 385
Rapid City, SD 57702

August 7, 2012

Mountain Lion Season Comments
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
523 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Submitted via email: Wildinfo@state.sd.us

RE: Comments regarding the 2012-13 mountain lion hunting season

To the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission:

I am concerned about the proposed changes in the mountain lion season 2012-13. It threatens the future of mountain lions in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming and therefore I must strongly oppose increasing the hunting quotas, especially the female quotas for numerous reasons. They should be **decreased** or at the very most – Stay the same as last year.

1. The commission has disregarded the original recommendations of the Department's biologists for the last three years. The guidance and recommendations provided by these professional biologists deserve your respect and consideration. Through media and public presentations given by the Department of Game Fish and Parks, we are told that the lion population in the Black Hills is **declining**. After conducting surveys, the Department has determined that the majority of the people want the mountain lion population to **stay the same**. On page 64 of the Management Plan, a chart depicts the Black Hills resident's desired levels of wildlife population for the next five years with 7 possible responses regarding mountain lions, those being: "eliminate, decrease greatly, decrease slightly, remain the same, increase slightly, and increase greatly". The category with the most responses was, "**remain the same**". Any further changes in the season quotas would be against the wishes of the majority of the public.
2. There is no scientific or social justification for increasing mountain lion quotas. The Department's biologists have shown that mountain lions are not the primary cause for a decrease in prey, if in fact prey numbers are down. The Department states that, "Mountain lions play an important role in the ecosystem" (page 15 of the Mountain Lion Management Plan). The ecological benefits of the presence of a keystone predator such as the mountain lion far outweigh the concerns regarding their relatively small take of the prey species. The deer and elk herds and the forests will be healthier and there will be ample prey for hunters.
3. No matter how government tries to protect people from the things they fear, it will never be able to eliminate all the possible risks. The best thing it can do is implement education and awareness related to safely living with mountain lions. People living in lion country have certain responsibilities in order to prevent conflict with lions.

4. The Department has dismissed the whole orphaning issue caused by increasing the female mountain lion quota. Mountain lion kittens require their mothers to teach them how to select their prey and make successful kills. Orphaned kittens less than six to twelve months can become problem animals killing inappropriate and easy prey. Increasing female quotas actually **increases the risk** to the public, pets and livestock.

5. The current proposal neglects to fully consider the impact that the increased Wyoming quotas will have on our population of cougars. Immigration of mountain lions from the Black Hills of Wyoming will be significantly lower because the area will be managed as a "sink" for the next three years. It appears that there is little coordination between the two state agencies.

In conclusion, I ask the commission to act according to what the science and the public majority says, and reject the proposal increasing the quotas for the 2012-13 mountain lion season. The annually increasing quotas have already had an impact on the relatively small population of mountain lions in the Black Hills and increasing it again along with Wyoming's quota will be devastating.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rick VanNess
Black Hills Resident, Hiker & pet owner

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Roseann Dudrick

-----Original Message-----

From: Rossi Dudrick

Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 11:07 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: End the Killing of Mountain Lions

Dear State Wildlife Officials,

After reviewing the state's previous kill quotas, the math for this year's hunt just doesn't add up. The mountain lion population is likely far overestimated by the pro-hunting advocates. I urge South Dakota to create a healthy ecosystem that includes mountain lions as a keystone species. The state claims to love Intelligent Design, so please don't kill it with Moronic Destruction.

Sincerely,

Roseann Dudrick

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Rich Grable

From: Rich Grable
Sent: Wed 8/8/2012 1:19 PM
To: Peterson, Cathy
Subject:

Hi Cathy,

I just wanted to voice my opinion on using dogs to hunt lions. I think it's a bad idea. The SD Lion Season has been a resounding success. It's been a season where everyone can participate. Introducing dogs changes the game and favors those with the funds and connections to hire guides and dogs. Let's keep it for everyone.

Rich Grable
825 Enchantment Road
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-430-0712

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Jean Public

-----Original Message-----

From: jean public

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 6:16 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: i am writing to oppose having slaughter of mountain lions taking place

i have relatives in south dakota and frequently visit there and believe there should be no slaughter of anymountain lions planned. i find this hunting to be venal, vicious and bringing on violence against people. hunting was ok in 1860. this is 2012. we have few animals left. we should be protecting them, not letting gun wacko psychos pick up guns and kill them. management that reflects 1860 does not belong in 2012. our world is smaller. the animals are fewer. th bureaucrats seem to be the ones getting far too populous. this comment is for the pubilc record. jean public

jean public, 8 winterberry court, whitehouse station nj 08889

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain Lions

-----Original Message-----

From: Maria Farina

Sent: Friday, August 10, 2012 1:29 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lions

To the GFP Commission:

Why are mountain lions hunted at all??? They are God's creatures just like humans with the same right to live. God made people stewards and guardians - not decimators - of the rest of His creation. South Dakota has a tiny human population which cannot seem to live peaceably with your fellow creatures. Will your agency and those who support your cold-hearted policies to annihilate mountain lions and other wildlife be happy only when all animals are extinct?

The number of cougars in your state is dwindling - don't destroy the few survivors. Leave mothers, kittens and males alone. They are not a danger, do no intentional damage, and are beautiful animals people would travel to SD to see in person. Rather than kill, your agency should show compassion, wisdom and insight and focus on preserving wildlife, their habitats and promoting wildlife tourism.

Don't kill anymore cougars!

In sadness,

Maria Farina

Concerned animal lover

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Kyle Ann Campos

-----Original Message-----

From: Kyle Ann Campos

Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2012 2:40 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Lions

Dear Sir or Madam,,

We live just outside of Custer at 25121 Little Teton Road. I have read the proposals for the upcoming lion season and I felt I must add some thoughts to the debate but they must be taken within context; I have hunted over my lifetime and have been on a lion hunt in Utah where dogs were used. I support science based population management and my goal is to see rational decisions that are free of politics and acknowledge the role of every creature in a healthy ecosystem.

That said, I am increasingly aware that my unbiased criteria are not shared by those who make decisions regarding the lion season in South Dakota. Here it seems most clear that objective science and an acknowledgement of the inherent role of lions in a healthy ecosystem. They have a place, we as humans do not and any tolerance of efforts to manipulate the situation to support the political agenda of the most extreme positions is dishonesty. Hunting with dogs is not hunting, it is just shooting and a real hunter would dismiss it as such. We have a responsibility to be principled and objective about how the season plays out. Far too many despicable acts are allowed and we see the outcomes such as kittens starving to death. This is unconscionable and should not be supported. I appeal to the rational and not the political or even the personal; stop the practices that dishonor us all.

Most sincerely, Kyle Ann Campos

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - David Williams

-----Original Message-----

From: David Williams

Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 11:39 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion proposal

I agree with using hounds in Custer State Park. I do however propose that more tags can be issued for the hound guys, 12 is not very many. How about all tags for the park allow hounds, but give breaks in the season for the boot hunters to have a go without getting upset at the hound guys. I also propose that hounds can be used on private property too.

David Williams
5110 Cale Court
Rapid City, SD 57701

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Dwight Buntrock
Attachments: SCAN0519_000.tif

Letter from Dwight Buntrock as transcribed by:
Deb Ascher, Executive Secretary for Jeff Vonk, GFP Department Secretary

8-13-12

My name is Dwight Buntrock. I have farmed by Sand Lake in northern Brown County for 50 years, and have hunted all my life. I was truly outraged by your proposal to kill 100 lions in one season when your biologists have guesstimated the lion population in the Hills is around 250. They could be off by 25%. Just a few years ago the lions were almost extinct and now you are proposing to kill half of them in one season! Have you people lost your minds? And the proposal to hunt with dogs, you call that sport. They set in the truck, let the dogs tree a lion, get out and shoot it out of the tree. At least put the hunter and the lion on a level playing field! You all should be fired if you let this proposal stand.

Dwight Buntrock
11838 - 395th Ave
Columbia SD 57433
605-396-2442

GFP Commission
523 East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

RECEIVED

AUG 16 2012

Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks
Pierre, SD 57501

To Whom It May Concern:

Even though I am what could be considered an "outsider," I do live in the western part of Kentucky which has had recent reports of mountain lions. Even those these reports have not been confirmed, they are possible as mountain lions have been confirmed in neighboring Missouri. In addition, a mountain lion killed near Chicago, IL, was genetically tested and found to be originating from the Black Hills area of South Dakota.

So when I read of a proposal to increase the quota of mountain lions for the upcoming hunting season, it really saddened me. The quota of 100 total mountain lions (or 70 females) is a bad decision from a few perspectives.

The number of mountain lions in the state is disputed; estimates put this number between 200 and 300 of these cats. The quote would effectively eliminate between 23 and 50 percent of these cats through hunting alone. A scientific study, though, recommended that the population can only be sustained with 14 percent mortality, which not only includes mortality from hunting but incidental causes such as fires and road kill. Taking into consideration that 40 mountain lions each year are killed by these incidental causes, this would push the mortality rate higher.

Moreover, when females are shot, newborn and young mountain lions suffer as well. They depend on mothering females for at least a year or so, and they will die from lack of protection or starvation if their mothers are killed. Increasing the quota will increase the number of young which will die from the loss of their mothers.

Some mountain lions come to South Dakota through other states, namely Nebraska and Wyoming. Traditionally, those incoming lions would help repopulate the state. However, Wyoming has recently increased the hunting quota there and Nebraska is also allowing these felines to be eliminated. The genetic flow could easily be stopped with less mountain lions coming into South Dakota, and less mountain lions will be seen in parts of the Midwest if any.

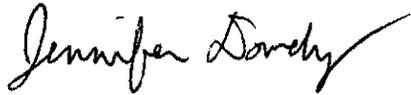
Even though mountain lions can be a problem for livestock, other predators such as coyotes also can kill some livestock. There are steps that can be taken to reduce livestock mortality which use non-lethal methods.

Finally, if mountain lions populations are reduced to a point that they are not viable and eventually die out, white-tailed deer and other herbivores will greatly increase. This would not just apply to South Dakota but to other places where mountain lions go from that state. It has to be remembered that deer, because of accidents

through deer-vehicle interactions, kill more people in the US than mountain lion attacks. Even increasing hunting quotas of white-tailed deer and other herbivores will not have an effect on the populations of these herbivores; despite generous hunting quotas in the US, white-tailed deer numbers are still plentiful.

It would be a black mark in your state if mountain lions are hunted with this increased quota and the population dies out as a result. This will have effects on other states and could be a severe impediment in mountain lion conservation. Therefore, I ask that you reconsider increasing the quota and retain the quota from last year or decrease it to keep the population stable. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Dowdy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jennifer Dowdy
2315 S 25th St., Apt. 2
Paducah, KY 42003

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2012

Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks
Pierre, SD 57501

GFP Commission
521 East Capital Ave
Pierre S.D. 57501

Dear Commission,

In this enlightened age it is unconscionable to consider the extirpation of a necessary and beautiful member of the ecosystem -The Mountain Lion

Please remember the fragile balance in nature when considering changing the animal population. Please do not permit hunting of this magnificent animal.

Yours truly,



Philip Glaser D.D.S. pglaser3@cox.net Laguna Niguel California

Letter to Cathy Peterson and transcribed by Deb Ascher, GFP Executive Secretary
August 17, 2012

Of all the animals
Man is the only
One that is cruel
-Mark Twain

Ms. Irene Lopez
4986 Field St
San Diego, CA 92110-2204

Dear Ms. Peterson-

I'm shocked and appalled that you want the mountain lion become extinct in your state! In the Black Hills, there are only about 85-138 and of those 85 are adults, and you want to slaughter 70-100 lions in the Black Hills alone! And you want to allow hounds to be used in Custer State park portion of the Black Hills to help hunters track tee and kill more lions! This is cruel and very inhumane-South Dakota should be ashamed. Other countries like Africa protect their wildlife as they know how important they are- and what does South Dakota want to do? Kill all wildlife! This is all over the internet- so we will not be visiting your state as long as you want an entire species become extinct! Here we protect our lions and have no problem with them-Being as you are awoman, I'm hoping you have a heart! I would be most grateful fi you would proect these wonderful animals and would appreciate a kind reply.

Sincerely,
Irene

RE: Proposed Mtn. Lion limits for 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The past documented harvesting of mountain lions in the Black Hills / West River area has been sufficient to decimate the current population of cats. According to the Medias coverage of recent kills above the yearly limits, has shown that the cats that are left are very young and inexperienced hunters that are being left alone to try to find food and travel to other locations. Most of the cats taken or killed have been underweight or young. The older, more dominant cats have been killed long ago and we are now playing God to try to bring all the wild animals in check according to "our rules".

Folks say the lions are reducing the deer and elk populations. Are there any numbers on how many deer and wildlife are killed on a yearly basis by autos, poachers, hunters, diseases and the like? What are the numbers for how many hunters get tags each year and how many deer are harvested? The more people that move to our area is increasing that number, therefore declining the population of the lion's food. Why does SD & WY have such a backward way of looking and preserving our wildlife? Other states, such as CA, OR, WA, ID, CO all have regulations in place to preserve their wildlife...why? Because they don't have anything left! They have been where SD is now, and are currently trying hard to bring back the wildlife they had to ensure that future generations will have something to look at and enjoy.

SD has very barbaric ways of taking care of our wildlife. For instance, instead of tranquilizing an animal, (moose, bear, lion, wolf to name just a few), and relocating it, we take great pride in killing it to "take care of the immediate situation". It costs no more to dart and relocate an animal than it does to wastefully spend taxpayers dollars on stupid things in our area. We are supposed to be proud of our state and the tourism it brings in. It's very hard to back this up when we don't care for our wildlife the same way as we do Mt. Rushmore or any other scenic views. If lions are the problem, then let the people who move into their area, be "buyer aware".

I promote not implementing a lion harvest for 2012-13 to have this information brought forward and additional checks and balances re-addressed. People...we are not God!! Let the animals take care of themselves.


Chris Matusiak
10495 Norman Ave.
Black Hawk, SD 57718
605-391-6209

Subject: Comment - Lions - David Crissman

-----Original Message-----

From: Crissman, David O

Sent: Sunday, August 19, 2012 4:13 PM

To: GFP Wild Info; Crissman, David O

Subject: Mt Lion

My name is David Crissman I live in Ipswich S.D. I've been hunting Mt. lion every year but the first 2005. I harvested one in 2006 and another in 2010. I can go along with a longer season and bigger harvest numbers, but let's not call the use of hounds hunting. The dogs are doing the hunting all you are doing is shooting a cat in a tree. Calling Mt. lions works, yes it's hard work but if a 56 year old man can get two in six years I call that fair chase. Please don't let greed, the love of money, and laziness enter into my Mt. lion hunting. I'm not all that opposed to hunting with dogs, it's the money and fair chase involved that I find hard to swallow. Thank you. Let's let science and biology dictate policy.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Sam Brooks

-----Original Message-----

From: Sam Brooks
Sent: Sunday, August 19, 2012 3:40 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Cc: tdunbar@mountainlion.org
Subject: proposed mountain lion policy

Dear Sir or Madam --

I've dreamed of visiting Mount Rushmore since I was a little kid. The last few months, I've thought of making this dream a reality by visiting the Black Hills next summer (2013); I've done considerable research and planned an initial itinerary. However, if South Dakota adopts the state's Game, Fish and Parks Commission's proposal to extend the mountain lion hunting season (in addition to allow hounds to be used to in mountain lion hunts)...

I will not visit South Dakota next summer, or ever.

That would be a shame -- I've literally dreamed of visiting the Black Hills for decades -- and I hope the commission makes the moral and scientifically prudent decision at its October 4th hearing.

Please consider this note to be a concrete example of the negative economic impact this mountain lion hunting policy will have on South Dakota. If the policy is adopted, my tourism dollars will go elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Sam Brooks
565 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, #1012
Washington, DC 20001

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Jennifer M Wild

-----Original Message-----

From: jennifer jones

Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2012 3:28 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion limits

To Whom it May Concern:

I am voicing my opinion on the mountain lion limits in South Dakota. I am in favor of RAISING the number of cats which may be harvested every year. I own a home in Spearfish and mountain lions have been spotted one-half block from my home, which is near the city park. It's time to bring the numbers of cats back down before a human life is lost.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Wild
210 Hillcrest
Spearfish, SD 57783

Subject: Comment -Lion - Helen Carney

-----Original Message-----

From: Helen Carney

Sent: Friday, August 24, 2012 3:58 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion policy

I viewed the U tube presentation of your meeting concerning the mountain lion hunt proposals. I did not hear any data concerning the young animals that were killed this spring because they moved into populated areas. If I remember correctly, all but one was in poor health and they were all young. The Journal reported that CSP took DNA samples from these animals to make a determination if they were the offspring of females taken in the hunt or otherwise killed. By now you must have these results. What is the genetic makeup of these animals? Were they the offspring of hunted females? If they were, should not this information be part of your presentation to the commission and play a role in your decision making?

Helen Carney

Ascher, Debra

Subject: comment - lions - Jeff Krolkowski

-----Original Message-----

> From: sdkro@gwtc.net [mailto:sdkro@gwtc.net]

> Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2012 7:00 AM

> To: GFP Wild Info

> Subject: proposal

>

>

I would personally like to thank the GFP for proposing the use of hounds in Custer State Park. I feel that as a hound hunter its a great opportunity to get out in beautiful country an get behind the hounds.

I truly enjoy hunting with my hounds and with the use of gps and e-collars that can reach a long ways with tone capability's, a hound man has better control of where the hounds are and are going. I for one think its a great way to increase the rate of male lions harvested over female.

Jeff Krolkowski Martin SD

Letter received Sept. 5, 2012

Transcribed by: Debra Ascher, Exec. Secretary for GFP

Dear South Dakota Game Fish & Parks:

I am writing you concerning the mountain lion season that you are setting for this year: I think that you are not getting rid of enough mountain lions, I think it should be double of what you are planning.

The reason is this:

The lions are depleting the elk and deer herd very badly. I don't think the mountain lions are going to pay you to hunt deer or elk as sportsmen in South Dakota do and if you don't care about the people that hunt and like to hunt in South Dakota. I'm 65 years old and hunted in the Black Hills since I was 17 years old and enjoyed it. Ten to twenty years you could get a license every year to hunt deer. I think it's time you put the sportsmen first and not the mountain lions.

I've talked to a lot of guys who would like to hunt more in the Black Hills instead of just once every 2-4 years. Thank you!

Yours truly
Gary Noteboom

Ascher, Debra

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 8:15 AM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Switzer, Chad
Subject: FW: Mt. Lion season

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Roghair [<mailto:tallpaulr@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 8:01 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mt. Lion season

Dear commission, i have just looked over your intended changes for the coming 2012-2013 Mt lion season. I would like to see your biological basis for the change in the number harvested. Will the population supports such a change or will it be overexploited like the deer and elk herds have been in the black hills making the hunting opportunity drop. Further more, i feel it is unjust to allow the use of dogs in just one area of the hills (ie custer) for a limited time without opening up other avenues as well. Currently i have heard stories of how hunters use dogs despite the rules against it because the hills are vast enough that they do not get caught. I am not talking about people running packs but just one or two that indeed help with the harvest of big cats. Furthermore, if you are going to allow a limited dog take, why are you not allowing a limited trapping take? A limited number of trapping licenses should be issued to allow people with different interests to partake in the harvest. Also doing so would provide those who check animals with a base line to identify cats that have been illegally trapped and then shot and brought in as a regular harvest animal. Also the use of solid foot holds could also provide a selected take, animals that are young, small, lactating females could be released and thus not have to be harvested. In conclusion i say to you that fair is fair if you are allowing a dog season you should allow a trapping season as well, it seems very bias to allow one alternative take method without allowing the other. Thank you for your time and consideration

Paul Roghair, Kadoka SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lion - Brett Jelkin

-----Original Message-----

From: Brett W. Jelkin

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 10:05 AM

To: SDGFPINFO

Subject: RE: GFP August Commission Meeting Highlights

I believe SDGF&P is doing a great job managing the wildlife and fisheries in SD. I live in CO and miss being in the Black Hills every day. Keep up the great work. All of the efforts are worthwhile.

One suggestion I hope can be considered is to offer some limited mountain lion hunting to nonresident hunters. My suggestion is that you set a limit on the number of lions harvested by nonresidents at 10 of whatever mix is appropriate and sell 500 or 1000 tags to nonresidents. The revenue generated would be substantial and the impact would be minimal. It would also provide an opportunity to hunt lions in the B.H. for those of us not lucky enough to live in SD.

Colorado is nice, but, I personally feel it has nothing over SD except a whole lot more people.

Thanks for working to keep the hunting opportunities available.

Best regards,

Brett Jelkin, Windsor Colo.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Justin Broughton

-----Original Message-----

From: Justin Broughton

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 2:16 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mt Lion Proposal

Thank you for listening to hunters and sportsman and proposing an increase in the lion quota for 2013. Your attention to the mountain lion issue is much appreciated.

The only comment I would like to make on the proposed lion season is that I would like to see the opportunity available to non-resident hunters as well as resident hunters. Opening this opportunity up to non-residents at an increased cost would raise much needed dollars that could in turn be used to further study the lion population and their impact on our ungulates in the Black Hills and to continue to improve our management of the species.

Justin Broughton, Sioux Falls SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Sarah Hazledien

-----Original Message-----

From: Sarah Hazledien

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 6:30 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion season proposal

To whom I concern:

I believe that the mountain lion season should be a predator season.

Thank you,

Sarah Hazledien, Spearfish SD

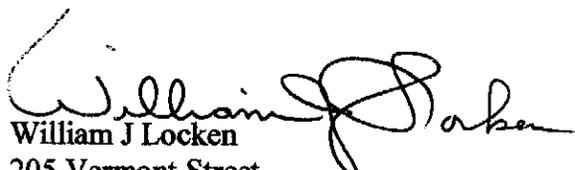
Dear Commissioners

I am an avid deer hunter and have been hunting the Black Hills since the early 1970's and I am very concerned about the deer numbers and the impact lions are having on the Black Hills Elk and Deer populations. I read in various newspapers and GFP publications that your biologists believe that deer and elk populations are impacted by hunting and habitat and that lion affect on population in minimal. What vacuum are these gentlemen operating from?

Let's just look at some numbers that support my opinion that these biologist are out of touch with what is really happening to our Black Hills deer and elk populations. Every thing I read says that a lion will make a kill of a deer size animal every 7 to 10 days. That means that one lion will kill between 36 to 52 deer a year. With an average being 44 deer a year. With this number in mind 200 lions kill on the average 8800 deer a year 300 lions 13200 deer a year. Now let us take a look at hunter harvest for the last 10 years. For Black Hills deer that ranges from a low in 2011 of 2530 to a high in 2006 of 5405. For Elk a low in 2011 of 472 to a high in 2005 of 1395. Hunters have never harvested the number of deer that 200 lions kill and in fact lions in 2011 could have killed as much as 5 times the number of deer that hunters harvested. Yet your biologist say lions have a minimal impact on deer populations compared to hunters.

Now lets take a look at lion populations as little as 8 to 10 years ago the GFP said their were no lions in the Black Hills. Now your estimates put the lion's population at between 200 to 300 animals. Your biologists say they have 30 to 40 lions in the hills with radio collars. That means that around 10% of the supposed lion population wears a radio collar. Last year we harvested 73 lions how many of them had radio collars? Should have been seven based upon 10 % of the population wearing them. I could not find that number in any public information that I had available to me. If the actual number is less than seven then maybe your lion population estimated is off a little bit.

I fully support a lion population in the Black Hills however, I believe a population of 50 is adequate to have and that could be easily controlled by putting radio collars on 50 lions and making the rest of them fair game.


William J Locken
205 Vermont Street
Spearfish SD 57783

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - sheep - Donavon Schoon

-----Original Message-----

From: Schoon Don

Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2012 2:56 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: big horn

Sirs

I am and have been a South Dakota resident all of my life. The thought of selling a big horn tag at an action is plain stupid. Myself included I know of many South Dakotans that have hoped for a tag for many years and will probably never get one from our great state. The thought of selling a tag to the highest bidder is appalling. I do not feel that our states resources need to be sold out to the rich/highest bidder. Our ancestors moved here from places that had that attitude.

So no my vote is no. Keep our resources available to all of South Dakota.

Donavon Schoon

Rapid City SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - Sheep Auction Tag - Curt Tesch

-----Original Message-----

From: Curt Tesch

Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2012 9:43 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Bighorn Sheep Auction Tag

Dear Commissioners,

First I will start by saying I'm still not convinced this is a good idea. I attended the Sheep Foundation meeting where this was discussed in depth. I didn't hear anyone have any concrete proposals on how this money was going to help other than just throw more money at something and hope for the best. It appears this, however, is neither here nor there as we are apparently going forward with this plan.

My main issue here is that you are opening this up to nonresidents but then are going to not allow certain South Dakota resident hunters to participate simply because they previously had a license. This is insane. The purpose of this license is to raise money. Why should a good South Dakota resident who obviously cares about the sheep have to sit by and watch a nonresident "buy" a tag and he can't even bid. It just isn't right or fair to leave out this small group of people, especially since they are dedicated South Dakota hunters.

Thank you,

Curt Tesch

Associated Production Services

10527 469TH AV

Rosholt, SD 57260

605-537-4565

Fax - 605-537-4564

curtaps@venturecomm.net

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - big horn sheep - Lynn Maass

-----Original Message-----

From: Lynn & Brenda Maass

Sent: Friday, August 10, 2012 7:12 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: big horn sheep

Auctioning a sheep tag is especially to out of state hunters deeply offends me. It says we will prostitute ourselves for a fee. Control of the cats should be done first.

Lynn Maass SD Hunter with a BS degree in Fisheries and Wildlife from Iowa State in 1982
Corona, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lion - Dean Hyde

-----Original Message-----

From: Evelyn Hyde

Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 2:44 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion & Big Horn Sheep Proposals

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the use of dogs for mountain lion hunting because adequate numbers are harvested under the current regulations. Also, not everyone has lion hounds plus it encourages fee hunting on private land for the ones that can afford it. Also, it would encourage a friend (illegal guide?) to assist a hunter on public land.

I oppose the auctioning of a big horn sheep license because it allows the rich an advantage to hunt them. I support the current lottery system where all residents have an equal chance to draw a license. Adequate revenue can be generated from the \$5.00 Access/Depredation fees.

Thank You For Considering My Concerns,

Dean A. Hyde
703 N Madison Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

(605) 224-5443

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - sheep - Darrell W Sauder

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 12:29 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Big Horn Sheep License Auction

I believe it is very unfair to auction off a Big Horn Sheep Licence....This simply amounts to a financially endowed person to be able to buy his way into killing a Big Horn Sheep. Granted, the money generated goes to the enhancement of big horn sheep management but there are many other fair avenues to raise money. This idea for such a valuable and sought after license and such a limited resource appears coming from a few short sighted individuals who are forgetting the average sportsman who faithfully contriblutes license fees every year for management of his game. I hope reason and common sense prevails.

Darrel W. Sauder, Rapid City SD
605 431 9609

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - sheep - Robert Farland

-----Original Message-----

From: Farland, Robert J

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 11:06 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Sheep license auction

I am not in favor of this proposal.....this is a rip-off of all SD residents who apply for this tag. Do not do this!

Robert Farland, Hill City SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: sheep

-----Original Message-----

From: Doug Harms [<mailto:harmsdj@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 8:33 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: sheep

you take surveys and never listen to the guys. cooper was the worst administrator this state could have had. sent the wardens to cop school, put a pistol on their hip and now it's all law. we don't need baby sitting. be friendly and helpful. also, get parks dept. out of gfp. we pay way too much so sissy and fam can go to parks. the fees charged for parks should pay for themselves. the hills are not expansive enough for sheep or goats. you will sell the license to a rich man and have a study, and then need a new hire to continue the study. then the lions or lung bugs will get them. the area is not vast enough for prey species to get to safe havens. never went to college but i have seen the ruin of MY hunting state. please send a copy of this to the governor. thank you,

Doug Harms, Harrisburg SD



SPORTSMAN'S CLUB OF BROWN COUNTY

**PO BOX 712
ABERDEEN, SD 57401**

Imey
For August Nov.
RECEIVED

JUN 08 2012

**Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks
Pierre, SD 57501**

June 6, 2012

SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks
GF&P Commissioners
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

The Sportsman's Club of Brown County (SCBC) strongly believes the Game, Fish and Parks should work with the Midwest Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation to improve bighorn sheep and possibly mountain goat populations in suitable habitat in South Dakota.

As the current situation stands, only a very small number of South Dakotans will ever have the opportunity to see these magnificent animals in our state, let alone hunt them. We believe an auction tag, along with the resultant monetary input from NGOs (non-governmental organizations) are the State's best chance of returning significant numbers of wild sheep and goats to their former range. In addition, the large majority of the expense would not be taken from GF&P coffers or the average sportsman's dollars.

In our understanding:

- The agreement would allow an auction tag only in years when at least two resident-only tags were also available, one in Pennington County and one in Custer County. Only one auction tag would be sold regardless of the number of resident licenses available.
- The agreement would allow one auction tag to be sold to the highest bidder, resident or not.
- The auction tag would not be valid in Custer State Park unless a sustainable herd is reestablished and at least the first tag has been sold to a resident.
- All proceeds from the sale of the tag would be returned to the GF&P.
- NGOs would provide additional funding and grants (\$50,000 or more per year).
- All tag-sale and additional income would be earmarked by the GF&P to pay the first \$25,000 needed to hire a bighorn sheep biologist, plus funding to transplant sheep and goats and perform other work as required for the proper management of these animals.
- The agreement would expire in five years, subject to renewal or renegotiation.

The SCBC is opposed to the commercialization of South Dakota's natural resources for private gain. However, we believe this agreement does not meet the definition of commercialization and is clearly in the best interest of all concerned: All monies received plus additional funding are returned to the sportsmen of this state for their benefit. The estimated income for bighorn sheep management would be in the area of \$110,000 to \$150,000 per year.

Most of us over the age of 50 or 60 years probably will not have an opportunity to hunt bighorn sheep or mountain goats in our home state, but with this program in place, our children will have a real chance. Without the agreement, the money to adequately fund a bighorn sheep management program would need to be taken from other valuable GF&P programs, which probably could not and should not happen. Without the agreement, no one wins.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely, 

Bob Bucholz

Robert Bucholz

President

Sportsman's Club of Brown County

Cc: Governor Daugaard, South Dakota Wildlife Federation, Secretary Vonk

Comment - lions - Roger Dekok.txt

Subject: Comment - lion - Roger Dekok

-----Original Message-----

From: Dekok [mailto:krdekok@santel.net]

Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 9:45 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: 2012 mountain lion propoal

I 100% support the harvest quota proposed and also support the use of hounds.

Roger DeKok

705 North Tibbetts ST

Mount Vernon, SD 57363

Comment - lions - Heath Gustafson.txt

Subject: Comment - lions - Heath Gustafson

-----Original Message-----

From: Heath Gustafson [mailto:tnthounds@rushmore.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 10:35 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Custer State Park Lion Season

I am 100% behind using dogs on Lions in Custer State Park. Dogs are an integral part of lion maintenance and although I feel it should be open throughout the Hills, Custer would be a start. Thanks

Heath Gustafson
Black Hawk SD
(605) 209 8197

Comment - lions - Jeremy Wells.txt

Subject: Comment - lions - Jeremy Wells

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeremy Wells [mailto:sdbullfighter@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2012 6:32 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mt lion

At bare minimum we need to use hounds in Custer state park since its obvious that foot hunters

can't meet the quota. But the fact of the matter is that hounds should be allowed anywhere in the

state public or private as long as permission is granted. There is no difference between using a

bird dog to flush and retrieve birds or scents and calls to hunt deer and elk. Its a tool that some

hunters have the patience for but not limited to. Pretty much anyone can own them if they want

but there's no reason to discriminate against the people that have them.

Comment - sheep - Dale Benning.txt

Subject: Comment - sheep - Dale Benning

-----Original Message-----

From: Dale Penning

Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 9:53 PM

To: beatis@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; JLCOOP11@aol.com; Knippling, Susie (GFP);

Peterson, Cathy;

Sather, Duane; Spies, Jim; bpcerny@gwtc.net; GFP Wild Info

Subject: Big Horn Sheep Tags

Commissioners,

Please consider the Auction for a sheep tag to raise money. The sheep in South Dakota need our help, and if we can use some auction money for research, all the better. The data shows this program works. Thank you for the consideration.

Dale Penning

27185 Prairie Lane

Harrisburg, SD 57032

605-743-5464

dpenning@sio.midco.net

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - Sheep - Dana R Rogers

-----Original Message-----

From: Dana Rogers

Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 9:56 AM

To: beatis@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; jlcoop11@aol.com; Knippling, Susie (GFP); Peterson, Cathy; Sather, Duane; Spies, Jim; bpcerny@gwtc.net; GFP Wild Info

Subject: SD Bighorn Sheep - Auction Tag Support

GF&P Commissioners,

I'm e-mailing you to voice my support for having one bighorn sheep tag auctioned off to fund bighorn sheep management efforts. According to the information I have found, South Dakota is the ONLY state that has a viable/hunttable sheep population that does NOT hold an auction to raise funds for research and expansion of the herd. The funds generated could greatly enhance trap and transfer efforts to acquire sheep from other states and Canadian provinces. If we do not take drastic measures to halt Mt. Lion numbers and better control pneumonia outbreaks our sheep population will simply dwindle away.

Thanks for your time and effort on behalf of the wildlife and sportsman of SD!

Dana R. Rogers

327 Freude Ln.

Box Elder, SD 57719

(605) 415-8443 C

Subject: Comment - sheep - Gary Colbath

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Colbath

Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 10:38 AM

To: beatis@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; JLCOOP11@aol.com; Knipling, Susie (GFP); Peterson, Cathy; Sather, Duane; Spies, Jim; bpcerny@gwtc.net; GFP Wild Info

Subject: Bighorn Sheep Tags

Commissioners,

My name is Gary Colbath, 4017 Wild Flower Dr. Rapid City, SD 57701. I am writing to urge you to consider adopting the proposal to issue a bighorn sheep auction tag to further promote, protect and help manage our sheep population here in the Black Hills. I am a life long resident of SD and have hunted in the hills for more than 30 years. I frequent Custer State Park and have hunted there as well. I have attended numerous national conventions and sheep functions and watched as auction tags were sold and utilized by other state's to raise funds for their animals. This presents a great opportunity for sportsmen to help support the animals we pursue and the public enjoys. As a resident, I dream of some day being able to harvest a sheep here in my state. While the chance of that is slim, without further funding and management, it will continue to decline and I believe become impossible. Please do not let that happen.

My understanding is that the auction tag will not replace or further limit the availability of resident tags so I see no down side in issuing the tag. The proposed use of the money is thoughtful and well structured. The prospect of this tag will undoubtedly raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for our sheep and other wildlife who will derivatively benefit from habitat improvement and management associated with the sheep program. Those are dollars that clearly would not be contributed without this tag. The money also will be coming from a select few who can afford the contribution, despite our poor economic situation, and will not tax the public in general or sportsmen who cannot afford even a moderate increase in application fees or other revenue generating measures. This lets those who are in the best position to help contribute while sharing the benefit with all involved in the outdoors.

Please approve a commissioners auction tag and save sheep and sheep in the Black Hills.

Thank you for your service in general and specifically for your consideration of this issue.

Gary Colbath

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Comment - sheep - George Jenter.txt

Subject: Comment - sheep - George Jenter

-----Original Message-----

From: Sandra Chamberlin

Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 1:58 PM

To: beatis@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; JLCOOP11@aol.com; Knippling, Susie (GFP); Peterson, Cathy; Sather, Duane; Spies, Jim; bpcerny@gwtc.net; GFP Wild Info

Cc: gwjenter@rushmore.com

Subject: South Dakota Bighorn Sheep

Dear. S. D. Game Fish and Parks Commissioners.

I support the Idea of one bighorn sheep auction tag to help bring back our South Dakota bighorn sheep. A couple of years ago I purchased a Navaho Nation Desert Sheep Tag, to complete my Grand Slam of North American Wild Sheep. Auction tags bring a lot of money . That money can be used to bring back our South Dakota bighorn sheep. Thanks for your time. Expanding the West River Pheasant season has been very successful. Take care, Dr George Jenter. gwjenter@rushmore.com 605-347-3684

Comment - Sheep - Roger DeKok.txt

Subject: Comment - Sheep - Roger DeKok

-----Original Message-----

From: Dekok [mailto:krdekok@santel.net]

Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 9:41 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Big Horn Sheep Auction Tag

Roger DeKok

705 N Tibbetts St

Mount Vernon, SD 57301

605-236-5440

Proposal comment:

I think it is a great idea the I support 100% to issue one auction tag. We need to jump start the funding of this program to get more sheep going. The objective is to be able to increase the population of sheep and ultimately offer more tags. An auction tag with funds to be dedicated toward this is a good idea. It is a well proven successful program in other states.

Sincerely,
Roger DeKok

Comment - Sheep - Matt Rippentrop.txt

Subject: Comment - Sheep - Matt Rippentrop

-----Original Message-----

From: Matt Rippentrop [mailto:mattrippentrop@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2012 9:15 PM

To: Jeff (SD GF&P) Olson; Barry (SD GF&P) Jensen; John (SD GF&P) Cooper; Knippling, Susie (GFP);

Peterson, Cathy; Sather, Duane; Spies, Jim; Bill (SD GF&P) Cerny; GFP Wild Info

Subject: Commissioners Meeting 10/4 & 10/5 - Bighorn Sheep

Hello SD GF&P Commissioners

I would like to encourage you to vote in favor of adopting the current one bighorn sheep auction tag for several reasons, as long as there are two resident tags available:

- 1) We hear there is "no return on bighorn sheep". If the one auction tag is incorporated it will provide additional funds for the management of bighorn sheep and the sheep will not be taking any money away from other wildlife in SD.
- 2) The sale of one bighorn sheep auction tag will allow SD GF&P to pursue transplanting new bighorn sheep to our herds, which would allow more resident tags to be issued.
- 3) There was no voice for the SD mountain goats when their hunting season was closed in 2007 and they have not recovered yet. There is a voice for the bighorn sheep now and we have a great opportunity to help save them.
- 4) You will hear that a person has 20 years of preference points for drawing a bighorn sheep tag and they don't want to have the potential one auction tag open to non-residents. Those same people don't discuss helping the bighorn sheep, just themselves drawing a tag. In 1916, SD bighorn sheep were extinct and we would not have them if it was not for the help from other states transplanting the sheep back to SD. The true non-resident, is our SD bighorn sheep.
- 5) If we don't have an auction tag to help our sheep, it is very possible there will not be a season in 3-4 years and we can all look back to 2012 when we all had a chance to turn around the future of our bighorn sheep herds for our SD residents.

Comment - Sheep - Matt Rippentrop.txt

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Matt Rippentrop (Oelrichs, SD)

comment - sheep - Will Cooper.txt

Subject: comment - sheep - Will Cooper

-----Original Message-----

From: Cooper [mailto:wncooper@knology.net]

Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2012 5:19 PM

To: beatis@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; JLCOOP11@aol.com; Knippling, Susie (GFP); Peterson, Cathy; Sather, Duane; Spies, Jim; bpcerny@gwtc.net; GFP Wild Info

Subject: big horn sheep tag auction

Member of the commission:

I think the tag auction to raise money for bighorn sheep restoration or study is a wonderful idea. It would stand a very good chance of raising a considerable amount of money in a short time. The sooner these efforts are funded the better the chance to improve the population and overall health of the existing herd.

To me it appears to be a "win:win," someone gets a tag and the remaining sheep get help.

Thank You for your consideration.

Will Cooper
422 Sawyer St.
Lead SD 57754

Comment - sheep - Mike McKnight - SD Bownunters.txt

Subject: Comment - sheep - Mike McKnight - SD Bownunters

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike McKnight [mailto:msmcknight2912@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, September 29, 2012 8:02 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Bighorn Sheep Auction Tag

My name is Mike McKnight and I am the President of the South Dakota Bowhunters Inc. SDBI is in support of the proposed bighorn sheep auction tag proposal and would ask for your support. Thanks.

Mike McKnight
2912 S. Duchess Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Sent from my iPad

Comment - sheep - Spencer Vaa.txt

Subject: Comment - sheep - Spencer Vaa

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Vaa [mailto:lindavaa@brookings.net]

Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2012 9:41 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Bighorn Sheep Auction Tag

Dear GFP Commission,

I support the proposed auction of a bighorn sheep tag in order to raise funds to enhance bighorn sheep management in the Black Hills. Excellent habitat for bighorns exists in the Black Hills that currently is not occupied by bighorns. Funds from this auction tag could be used to establish new herds and thereby increase population size so more residents could enjoy this prized game animal for hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.

A quick word on your proposed \$750 tag fee for a Nonresident auction tag holder: I was fortunate to draw a Wyoming bighorn license in 2010 after applying for 15 years. If I remember correctly, it cost me \$2,200 for the license, so \$750 would be a bit low in my opinion. Also, a tip of the hat to GFP staff for their dedicated work with bighorn sheep.

Spencer Vaa
1819 Olwien Street
Brookings, SD

Comment - lions - Tim Hoeck.txt

Subject: Comment - lions - Tim Hoeck

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Hoeck [mailto:mhoeck@sio.midco.net]

Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2012 8:01 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mt. Lion proposal

I am in favor of your plan to allow the use of hounds in Custer state park this year. We have been trying to

get this passed since the first season and hopefully we get the chance to do this. My only concern is that

there is going to be alot of people aplying for these tags that don't have hounds and if they draw a tag

they will be asking the houndsman to take them out. I don't think thats fair to the houndsman who spend

all there time training there own dogs. It could be as simple as when you apply you have to send a copy

of your dogs registration papers which shows the owners name with the application. Again thanks for the

chance that we may be able to uses hounds this year.

Tim Hoeck

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - sheep - Chris Cammack

-----Original Message-----

From: Prairie Mountain Wildlife Studio [<mailto:prairiemountain@goldenwest.net>]

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 12:24 PM

To: beatis@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; JLCOOP11@aol.com; Knippling, Susie (GFP); Peterson, Cathy; Sather, Duane; Spies, Jim; bpcerny@gwtc.net; GFP Wild Info

Subject: Big Horn Sheep Auction Tag Support

Dear, Sir, Madam

I am writing in regards to strongly SUPPORT the Sale of an Auction Tag for Big Horn Sheep in South Dakota, let us follow the success stories of the 14 other states and Provinces that have wild sheep. Every state that has sheep, except for South Dakota sells an auction tag to help sustain and financially support their existing sheep herds and help start new ones. Also these other states help each other buy transplanting sheep interstate to help get new populations going. Ever since I started attending the Nation Wild Sheep Foundation Convention in Reno 6 years ago, and watched these auction tags sell for hundreds of thousands of dollars I wondered why are we not selling a tag from South Dakota. The millions of dollars raised at that auction is divided up and used to help put sheep on the mountain all across the nation, I am sure that it is taken into consideration when we need help with our sheep and the Wild Sheep Foundation could help South Dakota or a state that dose help them rise money by selling a tag, They are probably more willing to help the state that helps them. This is just additional funds that could help us, not to mention that they are going to give us 100% of our auction Money back to South Dakota, because they realize that we have a problem and if we don't do something soon, we won't have any sheep in South Dakota, just what happened to our Mountain Goats.

I am asking you to please vote in favor of Selling an auction tag for South Dakota Big Horn Sheep

Thanks for your time and service as a comishioner,
Happy Hunting,

Chris Cammack (Union Center SD)



Designing & Building World Class Trophy Rooms

Prairie Mountain Wildlife Studio
PO Box 2
Union Center SD, 57787

Office 605-985-5221
Cell 605-490-2711
Fax 605-985-5213

Subject: Comment - lions - Carmel Severson

-----Original Message-----

From: Carmel Severson [<mailto:catsa@bellsouth.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 2:09 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Season quota for mountain lions 2013

Season quota 2013 -

I strongly object to an increase in the hunting quota of the Black Hills Mountain Lions for 2013. This population has been destabilized due to the continued yearly upping of the quotas, this is bad management and not conservation management of a valued species.

Hound Hunting in Custer State park -

Hounds should not be used in Custer State Park, this is a public space, and in this case hounds are not fair chase.

unlimited quota on recreational hunts in the prairie habitat -

I object to unlimited hunts in the prairie or any area that may be populated by lions, this is not proper lion management, this is a free-for-all.

Lion Management policy -

These lions should be managed as a valuable core population as they do in Florida, which does an excellent job at managing their lion population. The Black Hills population needs to be recognized and treated as a valuable resource, good management is geared to sustaining a population for the health of its own so it can continue to fulfill its ecological roll in the eco system.

Much time effort and funding has gone into allowing mountain lions to re-establish themselves, Lions are a key force in maintaining healthy and sustaining wildlands. Lion management in the Black Hills needs to continue to evolve and be an example to the rest of the country with the application of sound and scientific wildlife management. So far it has been poorly managed and an embarrassment to other States who continue to be progressive.

Sincerely

Carmel Severson.

www.propanther.com.

Subject: Comment - lions - Kris Weinberger
Attachments: CSP Lion Season.docx

-----Original Message-----

From: krisw@mccarthyanderson.com [<mailto:krisw@mccarthyanderson.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 8:45 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: CSP Comment

Hello,

My name is Kris Weinberger and my address is, 14903 Edgewood Pl, Piedmont ,SD,57769. Please see the file I have sent on a few points that I have put together.

1. The last week of March does not work well because if the season goes like the previous years, of a pretty consistant of 1 per day, the quota will fill without taking many from the park area.
2. A seven day season seems a bit too short. It will only include one weekend, and if there is no snow or fresh snow it will be incredibly tough. Most people will only have the weekend and there are very few people that have the capability of catching one on dry ground, unless you know exactly where one is. Obviously conditions are everything and you need to go when the snow is good for the best opportunity for success.
3. You know a big migration of elk came from several cow elk hunters in the month on January so don't let 150 boot hunters roam the park loudly blowing mountain lion calls in Jan Feb and March week after week.
4. What if the Mountain Lion Foundation type draw a few of those 4 tags available, and someone who don't want to use hounds draws some. A big what if.
5. Why not do an experimental pursuit season? If you chase and tree them some, they will leave for territory reasons, they will believe that this territory belongs to the hounds. I have hunted and talked extensively with a houndsman of 40 years with the US Fish And Wildlife of Oregon and he has talked of this on several occasions.
6. Set aside 15 permits for entire month of feb and rework it after a year or 2
7. Some type of Hound Handler Permit. Some type of qualification. The last thing we want is a bad name and there are a few out there. Maybe a personal liability policy of a million dollars? Which I already have. My dogs where name tag collars, tellemetry collars and gps collars.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comment - lions - Hazel Bonner

-----Original Message-----

From: Hazel Bonner [<mailto:bonpidge@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 6:34 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion Harvest Comments

I am opposed to a permanent increase in the taking of Mountain Lions. They should be managed based on harm to the communities, not simply have a set covered amount of lions to be killed.

I am also opposed to the use of hunting hounds In the Custer National Forest to locate and/or kill mountain lions.

Hazel Bonner

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain lions

-----Original Message-----

From: Dennes Barrett [\[mailto:biglenz@mac.com\]](mailto:biglenz@mac.com)

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 11:52 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain lions

I say elk calves are more important than lion cubs.
Shoot them till they are in balance with the resource.

Dennes Barrett
Deadwood SD

Sent from my iPad

Subject: Comment - lions - D J Duerr

From: D.J. Duerr [<mailto:djjduerr@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 11:13 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion hunting regulations

I recently heard the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission was proposing to significantly increase the "quota" for mountain lion kills in 2013 – allowing up to 100 lions to be killed in the Black Hills alone – and also to allow unlimited year-round killing of lions for contests (hunts) in prairie habitats. I also heard rumor that the Commission was proposing to allow "hounding" of lions in Custer State Park.

My first reaction to the news: this has to be a joke. But I checked into it. And, sure enough, this seems to be just what SDGFP is proposing to do.

There is no scientifically defensible basis for allowing 100 lions to be killed every year in the Black Hills. In addition, there is not much suitable prairie habitat for lions in South Dakota, which indicates the numbers of lions in prairie habitats is also small and cannot tolerate increased hunting pressure. Are you managing this species so that it will be killed off until it has to be listed as a protected species?

As for hounding, that isn't even hunting. It really amounts to wildlife harassment followed by poaching. The hounds that tree a lion may have some sense of hunt, but for the person pulling the trigger it's just following the dogs and taking a no-miss kill shot from point blank range. Our Nation's largest cat has virtually no chance to escape. It is astonishing that SDGFP is intending to allow this unethical practice anywhere, much less in a State Park. Moreover, the lions that are killed are not eaten but are generally skinned for rugs or "trophy" mounts. What a despicable waste of a magnificent expression of life.

The proposed changes to the mountain lion hunting regulations appear to have been designed to appease hound poachers looking for another "bragging rug" and irrational ranchers who are afraid of a species that has quietly inhabited this region since before humans ever set foot on the continent. These people constitute a tiny fraction of 1% the State's residents and an invisible fraction of the Nation's residents ... who pay taxes (PILT payments) for their public lands that happen to fall within the borders of South Dakota. Please do not institute indefensible and ecologically harmful regulations to appease this vocal, selfish ultra-minority. Please do the right thing and treat cougars with more respect: Establish more restrictive quotas, and ban cougar (trophy) hunts and hounding permanently.

Over many years, SDGFP has earned a reputation of professionalism and integrity. Authorizing more lions to be killed, despite small resident populations, and promoting hounding and trophy hunts is eroding your credibility.

Thank you for considering my comments,

D.J. Duerr
PO Box 1668, Pinedale Wyoming 82941

Subject: comment - lions - Jack Corr

From: Jack & Mel Corr [<mailto:corr5@mt-rushmore.net>]

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 11:05 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion Hunting Proposal

Dear Commission,

As an avid outdoorsman and father of two young hunter/fishermen, Please give me a moment of your time to comment on the up coming Lion Season. I would like to thank the commission for listening to the public outcry and taking a strong stance on controlling the Lion population in the Black Hills.

I believe the only thing in the proposal needing addressed is the use of hounds throughout the Black Hills and the over complicated Custer State Park Season.

Many of our neighboring states have used hound hunting to control lion populations successfully for years. Why has the commission discriminated against the use of hounds for lion hunting? Bobcats are O.K but not Lions?

Custer State Park could easily set their own quota and exclusively use hounds to harvest that quota. Not only would that ensure the quota be filled but eliminate the disturbance of numerous foot hunters. There are plenty of hounds in the area to accommodate this method. Hound hunting for lions is the most efficient, controlled and effective way to trap and harvest a lion quota. Hounds are used by the Game and Fish frequently to catch and collar lions.

Please help ensure the game numbers in our area are healthy and plentiful for generation to come.

Thanks for Listening,

jack Corr
24176 Alkan Lane
Hermosa, S.D. 57744

Ascher, Debra

Subject: comment - lions - Jim Hagen

From: Kathy [<mailto:hagenfarms@sbtc.net>]

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 7:21 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: dog for lion

Thanks for the chance ,to use hounds in the park,have heard a lot of good coments from houndsmen in so. Dak. One thing think season should start earlier for hounds and think people who have owned hounds, for a minium of 2 years , should get ,preference points in the draw.thanks again its on my bucket list to tree a lion with my hounds. Owned hounds since 1978.

Jim hagen 42770 107th st.britton sd 57430