

Ascher, Debra

From: Riley Niewenhuis <riley.niewenhuis@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 12:02 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Lion season

There has been a Mountain lion in our area for a while now. One night it almost killed and took my neighbors little yard dog. This was about three miles from my farm where we have cattle and other farm animals. Now even a bigger concern in our small farm community. A family that has three kids at the ages of 4 to 8 were playing outside their home near the house. They wanted to show their babysitter their fort in the trees just on the other side of the driveway. When they started to cross the drive their dog luckily decided to follow them to the trees near an old grain bin. When the dog got wind of the lion it started to bark and the lion took off from the location that is the kids fort or was their fort. The kids and the sitter saw the lion up close and are scared to play outside anymore. My wife and I are expecting our first child in late May of this year and we hope our kids can play outside on our farm as we did as kids.

If there is a lion where it doesn't belong I believe we should be able to pursue the lion with hounds to take care of the problem. From a concerned - father, land owner, and livestock operator. Riley Niewenhuis of Corsica SD in Douglas Co, east of the river.

Ascher, Debra

From: Christopher Meland <cmeland1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 6:50 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Dog use for hunting mountain lions.

I support the use of dogs for hunting mountain lions because of the loss of deer and elk population in the black hills and western South Dakota.

Chris Meland, Sturgis South Dakota

Ascher, Debra

From: curt wood <c.wood420@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 8:00 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mt. Lion hunting

Curt wood 2231 hurley dr. Sturgis sd. Please allow dogs to hunt lions in the black hills,the elk population is dwindling!

Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Strongly Oppose Hounds

From: Jamie Al-Haj
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:26 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Strongly Oppose Hounds

To It May Concern:

As a citizen of the state of South Dakota, I strongly oppose allowing dogs to hunt mountain lions.

This issue has been debated twice over the past two years in the SD legislature and each time has been defeated. I am requesting that the SDGFP respect the landowners of South Dakota and uphold the ban on using hounds to hunt mountain lions.

Thank you,
Jamie Al-Haj
Rapid City

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hunting with hounds

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

From: Ethan Ernest [mailto:ethan.ernest@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 10:51 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hunting with hounds

Sent from my iPhone My name is Ethan Ernest, and I live in Winner SD. I would like to express my feelings on the the use of hounds to hunt lions outside of the black hills. Using hounds is unarguably the best and safest way to hunt lions. It is my opinion that a rancher that has a lion on his land that is creating problems such as killing livestock should have the right to get any houndsman that he so chooses to help him with this problem animal. It is important to pursue this animal as soon as possible after it makes a kill on a mans personal property. Also a season outside of the black hills with the use of hounds gives a great chance for houndsmen across the state to pursue the hobby which we all love. Using hounds also gives a chance to determine the sex and age of the lion. I feel that fewer pregnant females, females with kittens, and kittens themselves would be harvested by the use of hounds. Thankyou for giving me the chance to voice my opinion, as well as taking this idea into consideration .

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound hunting for cougar

From: P [<mailto:jvacat9571@aol.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 10:58 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hound hunting for cougar

My husband and I are South Dakota Residents.

We are vehemently opposed to allowing dogs to be used to hunt cougar, either on the prairie or in the Black Hills.

It MUST NOT be allowed.

Patricia Fink

John Fink

Hill City, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Request the use of dogs

From: Debbie Pageler [<mailto:office@sissetoncourier.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 11:01 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Request the use of dogs

To whom it may concern:

Please let me take this time to show my support of the use of dogs on lion hunting outside the hills. I appreciate your time!

Deeb Pageler
Sisseton, SD 57262

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: No hound hunting in the prairie region

From: Beth Stewart [<mailto:bethstewart77@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 4:08 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Re: No hound hunting in the prairie region

Thank you for following up on this. I live in Silver Spring, MD. I'm copying and pasting my reply up here so you'll have it all in one place.
Thanks!

There is no justification for the expansion of hound hunting as there have been no confirmed depredations of pets or livestock by Cougars outside of the Black Hills area.

Please base departmental policies on facts not fear.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Beth Stewart
Silver Spring, MD 20904

—Original Message—

From: Beth Stewart [<mailto:bethstewart77@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 12:48 AM
To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; ilcoop11@aol.com; barryi@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony
Subject: No hound hunting in the prairie region

There is no justification for the expansion of hound hunting as there have been no confirmed depredations of pets or livestock by Cougars outside of the Black Hills area.

Please base departmental policies on facts not fear.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Beth Stewart

Sent from my iPad

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Cougar Hound Hunting Proposal

From: Carmel Severson [mailto:catsa@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 5:01 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Re: Cougar Hound Hunting Proposal

City - Pembroke Pines
State- Florida.

Thanks.

From: Carmel Severson [mailto:catsa@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 7:22 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Cougar Hound Hunting Proposal

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to state my opposition to the use of Hounds to Hunt Cougars - proposed rule by South Dakotas Houndsmans Association.

It is not a humane mode of hunting, it negates fair chase. Hunting a cat with a pack of dogs does not give a cougar a fair or fighting chance.

It is no secret that some houndsman will allow their dogs to harass an injured cat & other animals sniffed out by the dogs, it is also known that some will allow their dogs to sniff out & slaughter kits left behind. You have no way of policing or guaranteeing that Hunters using dogs to find & chase down a cougar, will not set their dogs on young cats, injured or other wildlife.

Cougars in the Dakotas & surrounding regions are hunted and harassed enough already, as a top predator it is a key player in maintaining the vitality of the wilderness . Management of this native cat could be improved, & is currently not in the best interest of the cougar. I am viewing this rule as simply another way for those who are intolerant of predators, to not only a way to limit their numbers, but to actively prevent cougars re establishing in other parts of their prior range.

This proposed rule hinders rather than helps the cougar population maintain a healthy presence in the remaining wilderness.

Thank You for your consideration.

Carmel Severson.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain Lions

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

From: Martin Meyer [mailto:greatsky@gwtc.net]

Sent: Friday, January 16, 2015 1:28 PM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: Re: Mountain Lions

Martin H. Meyer

Hot Springs, SD 57747

> -----Original Message-----

> **From:** Martin Meyer [mailto:greatsky@gwtc.net]

> **Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:09 AM

> **To:** GFP Wild Info

> **Subject:** Mountain Lions

>

> **To Whom it concerns,**

>

> I have just heard of the possibility that the state will consider year round hunting of Mountain Lions in the Black Hills.

> If true, then this is an absolute atrocity!

> I fail to see what this would accomplish other than wiping out the Mountain Lion population completely. Is that

> the goal? Perhaps it's naive, but I certainly hope and believe that

> level heads will prevail and prevent this from happening.

>

> Sincerely, Martin H. Meyer

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain lions

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

From: Kathryn Hess [<mailto:kbhess21626@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 5:04 PM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: Re: Mountain lions

My information

Kathryn A.Hess

Nemo, SD 57759

> -----Original Message-----

> **From:** Kathryn Hess [<mailto:kbhess21626@hotmail.com>]

> **Sent:** Thursday, January 15, 2015 11:57 AM

> **To:** GFP Wild Info

> **Subject:** Mountain lions

>

> I have written protesting using dogs to hunt mountain lions and there is another reason not to allow it. The limit of DEAD mountain lions has not been reached for the past couple of years. Nebraska is going to put off hunting to check numbers. Why can't this state do the same. Not all people hunt with guns. Some of us, tourists included, like to hunt with cameras. If you are worried about the almighty dollar, then let people who want to watch wildlife come to the state to see what wonderful wildlife there is.

>

> I plan on writing letters to the editors at other papers in other states to let them know how backward this state is and that all the people in power are interested in is allowing people to kill wildlife for the sake of the almighty dollar. Please come into the 21st century and stop this inhumane way of life.

>

> Cordially, Kathryn Hess

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound Hunting of Mountain Lions

From: Brenda Manning [mailto:buzz_brenda@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 8:09 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hound Hunting of Mountain Lions

Dear GF&P Commission:

I am writing to let you know how opposed I am to the use of hounds/dogs hunting mountain lions. And I am especially opposed to the possibility of expanding this already horrific practice from the Black Hills area of Custer State Park to the prairie!

Hound/dog hunting is very cruel and inhumane. I have my own weimaraner rescue and cannot even fathom the idea of using a hound/dog in this barbaric practice. The prairie offers no refuge for the mountain lions, trees are few and far between. The mountain lions would most likely be forced to combat the hounds/dogs on the ground with no chance of survival. Unfortunately, it is not only the mountain lion that is killed. There will be many deaths and injuries to the hounds/dogs who pursue the mountain lions. Also, if the mountain lion has kittens they will most likely be killed as well. What is the difference between this and dog fighting? Here we have a mountain lion being pitted against a pack of hounds/dogs whose adrenaline is running very high. The lion is fighting for their life and possibly the lives of their kittens while the hounds/dogs are being driven by the adrenaline. There are no winners in this type of barbaric match.

tanglefoot13@earthlink.net Please do **NOT** allow the expansion of hound/dog hunting of mountain lions to the South Dakota prairie.

Sincerely,

Brenda Manning
1306 E. Sully Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605-222-1099

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mt. Lion hunting with dogs/hounds

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

From: kylem6353@gmail.com [mailto:kylem6353@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 7:43 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mt. Lion hunting with dogs/hounds

To the SDGFP Commissioners,

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to my email.

I would like to let you know that I do not agree with expanding / allowing the use of dogs / hounds for the purpose of hunting / pursuing Mt. Lions in South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Kyle Manning
Pierre, SD 57501

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Use of dogs to hunt lions

From: sdmuleskinners [mailto:sdmuleskinners@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 5:58 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Use of dogs to hunt lions

I would like the commission to approve the use of dogs to hunt Mt.Lion outside the Black Hill Fire Protection district.

South Dakota Houndsmen Association has asked for this rule change to help South Dakota Ag producers control lions. The Dept.of GFP has said they do not wish to manage lions outside the Black Hills

South Dakota Houndsmen Association is not in favor of a OPEN dog season in the Black Hills.

We do not want a wide open lion season. With dogs running everywhere. If the Department ever moves forward with a dog season I hope the SDHA will be allowed to help set the seasons & RULES.

BRADS TISDALL

SDHA President

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: ARSD 41:06:61:06 Mountain Lion Hunting by Hounds

From: quigleyren1@aol.com [mailto:quigleyren1@aol.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 12:15 AM

To: GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

Cc: info@mountainlion.org

Subject: ARSD 41:06:61:06 Mountain Lion Hunting by Hounds

Dear Sirs,

I am a retired 62 year old retired female firefighter/EMT Medic from Julian-Cuyamaca, California now living in Escondido, CA. My mother was a native of South Dakota and spoke of your state and its many resources with love and so with my love of mountain lions and her as my heritage I feel compelled to write.

Many of my years have been spent in the wildernesses of California, Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming as a firefighter and rancher. I have pulled calves in the dead of winter in Idaho, driven cattle into the high country of Nevada in spring, fought the wildfires of California. I dealt with predators of all sizes, from squirrels, whose holes in the ground broke our cattle's legs, to the beavers whose dams flooded our ranches and pastures. I was there when the great herds of elk in Jackson Hole needed to be selectively culled due to sickness and starvation due to overpopulation in the dead of winter. I understand the inherent spirit of the ranchers and farmers of our West and Midwest and a way of living that few experience or understand and appreciate. I also recognize that without the predators (mountain lions) we are walking a tightrope in regards to maintaining balance in our wilderness world. Hunting with hounds goes back to our foundation and roots, but I believe for those of us who love and thrive in the lands that house these incredible predators we need to rethink our use of them to hunt.

I used to be able to hop on my horse and gallop into town thru knee high buffalo grass, sadly, those days are gone. I believe that in order for our States to maintain any kind of "memory of what was" it will fall to the ranchers, farmers and hunters who still work these lands. I think the time of hunting with hounds to kill the mountain lion is gone. These predators are in a fight for their lives and prosperity and I know that any hunter worth his salt would never go after a compromised prey. I am thinking that instead of retiring hound hunting completely, perhaps, as they have done in countries around the planet, they could look to becoming eco-advocates for these beautiful animals and use the hounds to help biologists and researcher track and tag them, or tourists photograph them.

I miss my wilderness, the wind driven snows, tracking and being a part of something beyond me. I do not wish away this lifestyle for the hunters, but rather a changing of the way in which we interact with these animals. Perhaps replace the gun with the camera...use the hounds to track and aid research to find ways to kept this lifestyle and spirit of America alive.

One cannot track and hunt that which is extinct. As we kill off these animals indiscriminately we lose the diversity of the gene pools from many animals and we end up with compromised and weakened animals, which will bleed into all aspects of the surrounding wildlife.

I request, with the deepest respect, to my peers, to rethink using hounds to take out the last of these incredible animals that color our history. I am not asking you to stop using your dogs, but to use them to better our wilderness. To work to keep our wilderness wild and to not allow it to fall prey to the encroaching cities and crush of humanity that will eliminate all that makes this life worth living.

Please discontinue using hounds to hunt the lions in South Dakota. Do not let them go the way of the buffalo and wolves. We are less as a people without the presence, seen or unseen, of these animals. Their quiet presence in the perimeters of our lives may not be known until they are gone, and then it will be too late.

Whatever your decision will be I will understand but I am hoping that this will be one part of history that can be re-evaluated and adjusted for today's needs rather than business as usual. This might be one tradition that needs to be revered and then retired.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With deepest respect,

Renee D. Alford

Escondido, CA

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hounds

From: gcfekes@rap.midco.net [mailto:gcfekes@rap.midco.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 7:50 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Hounds

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to express my opposition to allowing hounds to be used during mountain lion hunting.

Let the hunters use their skill and cunning to hunt lions instead of relying on hounds. Sportsmanship means giving the opposition a fair chance.

Sincerely,

Connie Feekes Rapid City, SD 57701

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Lion hunting

From: Larry and Cheryl [<mailto:bowdens@qwtc.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:57 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Lion hunting

I would like the following to be presented to the commission during the public comment period.

I am the current president of the "Western South Dakota Fur Harvesters Association". I have spoken to the commission several times on hunting and trapping related issues.

Our organization would like to support the use of dogs to pursue lions in the West River season.

Thank you,

Larry Bowden

President WSDFHA

Hot Springs SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Pending proposal

From: dilove@gwtc.net [mailto:dilove@gwtc.net]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 7:53 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Pending proposal

Dear Emily,

Would you please see to it that my comments make it to the commissioners? This is in regards to the plan to allow the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions outside the Black Hills at any time. Simply put I am dead set against it.

When will SDGF&Ps people stop this insane war against an animal that, despite all perceptions by idiots, are not anywhere near the threat they are presented as?

When will it be recognized that Betty Olson is a qualified whacko with a totally incomprehensible fear/hatred of mountain lions and her demands relegated to the circular file?

When will SDGF&Ps begin to ignore the incessant and selfish desires of the so-called sport hunters and hounds men who, obviously, get their kicks in destroying an animal that they don't eat and which is threatened (again) with extinction in the Black Hills?

There is no good reason for allowing the proposal to pass. I plead and beg with you again to demonstrate true management and to stop being a rubber stamp for cruel, callous and selfish individuals who would destroy that which, by law, belongs to all of us.

Most sincerely,

David R. Love

12166 Silver Star drive,

Custer, S.D. 57730 605-673-3824

Ascher, Debra

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 7:57 AM
To: Kiel, Emily
Subject: FW: To : Game Fish and Park Commissioners

From: Linda Two bulls [<mailto:lk2bulls@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 10:45 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Cc: redcloudlula@gmail.com
Subject: To : Game Fish and Park Commissioners

I am apposed to the use of hounds for hunting mountain Lions year round.

Please do not allow this.

Signed,

Lula Red Cloud
Hermosa, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: use of dogs to hunt Mt. Lions

From: garyfinn60@gmail.com [mailto:garyfinn60@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 11:58 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: RE: use of dogs to hunt Mt. Lions

RE: Comments on the use of dogs to hunt Mt. Lions

From: Gary Finn

2361 Palisades Lp
Sturgis, SD 57785

I understand that there has been some consideration for allowing dogs to be used to hunt Mt. Lions outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection Area? I think there is some merit to the use of dogs. Last year I hunted Mt. Lions in Wyoming with dogs. The dogs treed the lion quickly and we were able to take the lion. If a rancher wants a lion taken off of his property, dogs would allow the lion to be taken quicker and easier; without chasing the lion from ranch to ranch.

I believe that permission should be obtained from the landowner; just like any other hunting. I am against dogs being used to chase game like deer or antelope.

I think it boils down to the Rancher deciding if he wants lions hunted with dogs on his property. One option would be to have hunters with dogs register with GFP and then GFP would call them to hunt a lion that a Rancher wants taken off his property. It would make both parties happy.

Thanks for letting me put my 2-cents worth in.

Gary Finn

Sent from Windows Mail

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound Dog Hunting of Mountain Lions

Importance: High

From: Dawn Wipf [mailto:dawnwipf@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 2:09 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hound Dog Hunting of Mountain Lions

Importance: High

January 13, 2015

Dear SDGFP Commission,

I am writing to urge you to please vote "no" to expand the use of hound dogs in hunting of mountain lions on the prairie and ban it all together!

This consideration should be taken very seriously, and as the deciding committee for this decision, your decision should be based on all perspectives and given very deep thought. We are living in a new era, one that has come to respect our animals and treat all animals with humanity. American citizens no longer accept barbaric and inhumane treatment of animals. We must all be leaders in this decision and South Dakota should step up and be a leader for the humanity of wildlife....South Dakota was THE LAST state to make animal cruelty a felony....shame on South Dakota!

We all know that wildlife needs to be controlled in certain areas and situations, but controlling wildlife DOES NOT need to be inhumane, and hound hunting is inhumane! There's no need to be repetitive, as I know you will be reading several comments and the facts have been presented to you, so just listing a couple good reasons include the fact that it's very inhumane and scary for the mountain lion, as well as making predators of the hound dogs and putting them in danger. Two very important reasons!

So PLEASE, be respected leaders and make the right decision to reject expansion and ban hound dog hunting of mountain lions. There are several resources out there for alternative methods to this from organizations and other states that have incorporated humane ways to control wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dawn Wipf

Aberdeen, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Lions & Dogs

From: Nancy Gregory [mailto:nancygregory48@ymail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:08 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Lions & Dogs

Please leave the Lions ALONE! No Dogs - NO Seasons....why can't you just let them be???? Do you really want no free roaming wildlife left in the entire state???????????

No lion hunting with dogs or we will be out there demonstrating, posting photos on your web sites and spreading ugly pictures all through social media...

How ridiculous can you be?

Nancy Gregory

Nancy Gregory

Hot Springs, South Dakota 57747

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: hound hunting of mountain lions

From: Chris Albert DVM [mailto:chrisalbertdvm@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 11:08 AM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: Re: hound hunting of mountain lions

Lebanon Junction, KY

Sent from my iPhone

From: chrisalbertdvm@aol.com [mailto:chrisalbertdvm@aol.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 6:36 AM

To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.ienses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

Subject: hound hunting of mountain lions

Dear Sirs:

There are many Americans, myself included that love to visit wildlife and not destroy them. I urge you NOT to expand the hunting of mountain lions with hounds. It is a barbaric practice and there is no need to deplete these animals.

There are no confirmed depredations by mountain lions outside of the black hills area, so there is no need for this kind of management. If there is any fear of conflict it should be addressed by non-lethal deterrence or conflict prevention measures.

Please allow mountain lions to disperse without the threat of hound hunting.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Chris Albert, DVM

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Re: Hunting Mt Lions w/Dogs

Importance: High

From: Uecker, Jeanne
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 12:39 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Re: Hunting Mt Lions w/Dogs
Importance: High

Phone call from:
Guy Ferris
Pierre, SD
605-222-8283

Re: Opposed to use of dogs to hunt Mt Lions

Jeanne L Uecker
Law Enforcement Program Secretary
SD Game, Fish & Parks

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Support for use of hounds for lion hunting

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

From: Mark Trask [<mailto:mark-tracker@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 12:26 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Support for use of hounds for lion hunting

To whom it may concern. I ranch in Meade and Pennington counties in western South Dakota. I have personally lost horses to lion depredation. I fully support the use of hounds to hunt lions. Mark Trask. Wasta SD 57791

Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound hunting on the prairie

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

From: Evan [<mailto:eandersonwasta@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 12:34 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hound hunting on the prairie

I support the idea of being able to hunt lions with hounds on the prairie!

Evan Anderson

Wasta sd

Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Re: Lion Hunting w/Dogs

Importance: High

From: Uecker, Jeanne
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 12:21 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Re: Lion Hunting w/Dogs
Importance: High

Call from:

Jack Kuhl
Pierre, SD
605-280-4188

Opposed to using dogs to hunt mountain lions.

Jeanne L Uecker
Law Enforcement Program Secretary

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Lion hunting

From: Fred F [<mailto:fmfoland@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 12:46 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Lion hunting

I support lion hunting with hounds on the prairie.

Fred Foland, 28

Midland sd

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: No hound hunting, please.

Here is my address below. Thanks.

Alan B. Fisher
1049 S. Yachtsman Dr.
Sanibel, Fl 33957

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

From: Alan Fisher [mailto:alan131@me.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 1:57 AM

To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com;
barryj@gwtc.net; hpdc@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

Subject: No hound hunting, please.

Sent from my iPhone
Alan Fisher

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Proposal to expand the use of hounds in hunting mountain lions

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Daniel Derrick <bicester73@yahoo.com>
To: "wildinfo@state.sd.us" <wildinfo@state.sd.us>
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 9:52 PM
Subject: Proposal to expand the use of hounds in hunting mountain lions

My name is Dan Derrick and I, and my wife Karen, own a 24+ acre parcel in the Black Hills, south of Custer. We are now, and have always been, against mountain lion killing in any form except for the protection of self and family who are in imminent danger. Yet we recognize that the State allows for a lion hunting season and that quotas are established by the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (GF&P). Those are facts we cannot change, though we would like to. Notwithstanding this current state of affairs, today we certainly voice our opposition to and resist any expansion of the law, the administrative rules, or the rules and procedures of the GF&P or its advisory board which and who govern the conduct of this "sport." Please deny the petitioners their proposal to expand the use of hounds in hunting mountain lions in South Dakota, for at least the following reasons.

The proposal to expand the use of hounds in hunting mountain lions on the prairie (or anywhere else) is flawed in several different ways. First, the use of dogs in this "sport" is cruel and hardly "sporting." Ultimately, the mountain lion would always be on the losing end of any chase and subsequently "unsportingly" executed. Second, unless hounds are leashed there can be no guarantee that their pursuit of a fleeing lion will not wind up on private property. That raises all sorts of knotty issues that would ensue between home/landowners and the hunter, and would inevitably draw the State into a potential lawsuit because it would always be complicit as a willing third party. Third, hounds are noisy and, while seemingly after only one specie of wildlife, will unavoidably upset other animals. Livestock, family pets, deer and other wildlife would be upset and, subsequently, whatever eco-balance that remains during a mountain lion hunting season would be eradicated. Fourth, the pursuit of a mountain lion until either cornered in a ravine or up a tree hardly fits the GF&P objectives of responsible wildlife management. This potential change has been ill-thought and if enacted will jeopardize sound and responsible wildlife management, ultimately work against hunters, and concerned ranchers will quickly see this as folly and will abandon their alliance with those who see mountain lion hunting as a necessary and desirable "sport." In other words, this policy change is a lose-lose all the way around.

We do not belong to those who, though not hunters, are against all hunting. We understand and accept that there are legitimate reasons for hunting, even on occasion a mountain lion (e.g. rabid infection). However, we are against mountain lion hunting because that avocation does not fit into the legitimate realm of hunting to support a need. In bringing meat to an individual family's table, or to sustain a small population such as a neighborhood, clan or tribe can be readily seen as an acceptable aspect of hunting. Mountain lion hunting, however, does not fit that understanding of a sustainable need. It has never been demonstrated by the GF&P, the Legislature, or any society of hunters that mountain lion hunting is a necessity. While mountain lion hunting may have been deemed a "sport," in order to remain so it must remain within the confines of the original designation. The use of hounds exacerbates problems in mountain lion wildlife management; indeed, the use of hounds mindlessly expands the definition of "hunting" and "sport" in ways that will leave little or no hope in "managing" the mountain lion population of South Dakota. It would seem, by the serious consideration of the proposal under discussion, that the objective of GF&P and its advisory board is to completely annihilate any and all mountain lions anywhere in the State. If so, this policy change will speed the process exponentially! Yet, we cannot believe that the GF&P and its constituency (in this case) would be so crass as to pursue this issue to its ultimate conclusion.

I speak for my wife, as well as myself, when I emphatically ask that you deny with neither caveat nor proviso the petition and proposal to expand mountain lion hunting through the use of hounds - on the prairie or anywhere else in the state of South Dakota. Thank you for reading this and considering our objections.

Respectfully,
Daniel F. Derrick, Jr.
Custer, SD 57730

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Re[2]: hounds

From: Ольга [mailto:olgamir2@mail.ru]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 12:57 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Re[2]: hounds

Olga Gamarnyk
Vinnitsa, Ukraine

From: Ольга [mailto:olgamir2@mail.ru]
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 7:36 AM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject:

I am writing to ask you NOT to expand Hound Hunting of Cougars in South Dakota. There are several reasons why you should not do this:

1. It is your job, as public servants, to look at the whole picture and decide not what is in the best interest of everybody, not just a few hunters. You can either move South Dakota into the future, protecting it's wildlife and it's land for the entire public (including tourists) to enjoy or you can destroy any possibility of that to serve the narrow needs of one interest group.
2. Recreational hound hunting is not conflict management. It is a cruel practice that reflects badly on the way people perceive South Dakota.
3. Non-lethal deterrents and other conflict prevention measures are always better in addressing conflict proactively. They are better for the parties involved, the surrounding environment and for the public perception.
4. Departmental Policies should be based on fact, not fear, if the integrity of the Commission is to be maintained. There is no justification for this expansion of hound hunting, as there have been no confirmed depredations by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area.
5. Expanding the rule to include hound hunting is redundant as there is an existing policy of aggressive response to potential conflict by the SDGFP.

The SDGFP has always denied the presence of Cougar breeding populations in the Prairie Region because of marginal or inhospitable habitat; but lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in a territory that cannot support them. It is for this reason that you should conduct further research to support your position that there is no possibility of resident lions and breeding on the prairie.

You are lucky enough to have a few remaining Cougars in South Dakota and you should be honored to protect their best interests. It is vital to the survival of this cornerstone American species that you take your responsibility of wildlife management seriously. If you make the wrong decision now, there may not be an opportunity to correct it in the future.

So, please do NOT expand Hound Hunting of Cougars in South Dakota. Thank you for taking the time to address these concerns.

1-12-15

RECEIVED

JAN 20 2015

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

To whom it may concern:

I am a rancher in southern Meade County and I am in favor of hunting mountain lions with dogs. We know we have more cats out here than we actually see. I think it would be a good option to help control the big cats.

Thank you,

Eliot Kammerer

Eliot Kammerer
22050 Elk Vale Rd
Piedmont, SD 57769

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: RE: Use of dogs in Mt. Lion hunting

From: Shasta [<mailto:sdshasta@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 19, 2015 4:53 PM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: Re: RE: Use of dogs in Mt. Lion hunting

Thank you - Rapid City -Charlotte 'Charlie' Petrick

Black Hills Rescue Transport

From: Shasta [<mailto:sdshasta@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 12:59 PM

To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpj@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

Subject: Use of dogs in Mt. Lion hunting

Dear members of the commission:

I am not a tree-hugging, PETA supporting radical. I am a resident of South Dakota and I am a hunter. I have hunted mountain lions.

Using dogs to pursue any wildlife eliminates the fair chase doctrine endorsed by ethical hunters, regardless of the hunting area. The potential for problems is great- pets, livestock, wildlife being maimed or killed by a pack of hunting dogs; dogs pay no attention to No Hunting or No Trespassing signs; dogs don't know if wildlife they are chasing have dependent young that could be abandoned out of the mother's fear & exhaustion after a lengthy chase.

Hunting dogs are very often not in sight of the hunters. Even well-trained dogs, handled by experts, are not always under control, as evidenced by the recent killing of mountain lion kittens by dogs used by GF&P trappers.

Who is pushing to have hound hunting introduced? Are these houndsmen outfitters & guides who are trying to turn hunting into a more profitable venture? These dogs are not retrievers, as used in bird hunting. If this measure is approved, what is next? Canned 'hunts' à la Bless the Beasts & the Children? Will we be leading the animals to the 'hunters' to be shot? While that type of herd culling is a real & necessary part of life, it cannot be called hunting.

It is a fact that livestock owners occasionally lose stock to mountain lion depredation. Game, Fish, & Parks is capable of handling these occurrences. There is no need to use depredation as an excuse to create a new money-making 'sport' that will benefit few and harm many.

This is a dangerous step that, if passed, would make it easier next time to further compromise ethics. South Dakota has a rich tradition of hunting, passed down through generations. Please, let's keep this tradition untarnished.

Thank you for taking my input into consideration. *Charlotte "Charlie" Petrick Black Hills Rescue Transport*
[find us on Facebook!](#)

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound hunting

From: mitzi frank [mailto:frankmitzi@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 2:17 AM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: Re: Hound hunting

Sharon Center, Ohio

From: mitzi frank [mailto:frankmitzi@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 6:11 AM

To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

Subject: Hound hunting

- There is **no** justification for this expansion of hound hunting, as there have been **no confirmed depredations** by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area.

-Expanding the rule to include hound hunting is redundant as there is an existing policy of aggressive response to potential conflict by SDGFP. Recreational hound hunting is not conflict management.

There is no reason to allow this to happen....

Thank You,

Mitzi Frank

Ascher, Debra

From: Susan Braunstein <SBraunstein@rcplib.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 9:54 AM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; lcoop@aol.com;
barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony;
GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: hound hunting in South Dakota

To Whom It May Concern: Please do not expand hound hunting in South Dakota. It is so unnecessary and cruel. Thank you for your time.

Susan Braunstein
5696 Gemini Street
Rapid City, SD 57703
393-2132 – susanb53@yahoo.com

Ascher, Debra

From: Kathy Robles <delphyne49@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 10:34 AM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Hound hunting

I am against this rule change. There is no justification for this expansion of hound hunting as there have been no confirmed depredations my mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area.

Just leave them alone to live in Nature as Nature intended.

~Kathy Robles
58C Wavecrest Avenue
Winfield Park NJ 07036

Ascher, Debra

From: Tom Eastburn <eastburn@gwtc.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 10:48 AM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: I am opposed to dogs being used to hunt lions

I am opposed to dogs being used to hunt lions. Please rethink this horrible plan.

Tom Eastburn
605-745-7338
2204 Spring Ave
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Ascher, Debra

From: Jan Humphrey <plazykranch@hughes.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 12:28 PM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Dogs for Lion hunting

NO, I am opposed to this type of hunting. Don't allow hunters to be lazy. It's bad enough that I have to pick up their trash in my woods and fields.

Jan Humphrey
Hill City, SD

Ascher, Debra

From: crblake@sdplains.com
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 8:55 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mountain Lion Proposal

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposal to allow dogs to hunt mountain lions outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District. This is my second comment on this proposal, the first was submitted before I was aware you were going to amend this proposal to restrict the use of dogs on public lands. If the commission adds this amendment it kills the intent of the proposal. I live five miles from Montana where dogs are allowed for lion hunting, forty five miles from Wyoming where dogs are allowed, and thirty miles from North Dakota where dogs are allowed. Where my ranch is located we have frequent mountain traffic thru it, one was taken on my ranch a few years ago by a licensed hunter, and there are members of this commission who remember what a fiasco that turned out to be. My ranch is bordered on the south by BLM and South Dakota School and Public Lands, and on the north by Custer National Forest. This is where lions spend most of their time and where they could be found and taken with dogs. Currently it is legal to hunt bobcats on these public lands and dogs can also be used to hunt birds on these public lands. Why would you want to make different rules for lions? This looks like an attempt to make more rules to try to get people in trouble. I also suspect this is a first step to ban the use of dogs to hunt bobcats. Please pass this proposal without any amendments.

Thank You

Clark Blake

10523 Collins Rd.

Belle Fourche, S.D. 57717

Dennis Sharkey, Ft. Pierre, SD called 1/15/15 10:55 a.m.

Using dogs to hunt lions, he is 100% against this.

RECEIVED

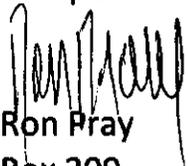
JAN 15 2015

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

Date: January 12, 2015
To: South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commissioners
From: Ron Pray
Box 200
Deadwood, SD 57732
605-580-5231

RE: Hound Hunting of Mountain Lions

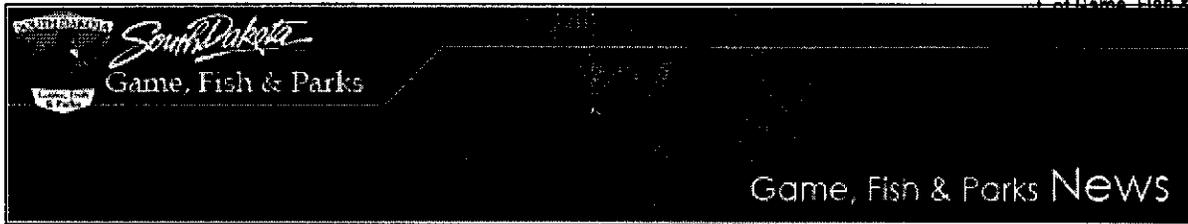
I urge you to set aside the narrow special interest of hound hunters. Having hounds chase a lion up a tree where the hunter takes an easy shot is not a sport. This places an unfair advantage with the hunter and it is unnecessary because the traditional foot hunt has an adequate harvest. The hounds, especially if not trained well, will kill mountain lion kittens, which is not a desired outcome. I hope your decisions are based on science, reliable data, and collective research. Mountain Lions are beneficial to the ecosystem. A balanced approach to hunting is important for preservation of this magnificent predator.



Ron Pray
Box 200
Deadwood, SD 57732
605-580-5231

RECEIVED

JAN 15 2015



The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission will hold their monthly meeting in Pierre at the RedRossa Convention Center on January 15-16, 2015.

The Commission will take action on a proposal on the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting outside of the Black Hills as a result of an outside petition.

Written comments on the above proposal can be sent to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501, or emailed to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be included in the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CST on January 15 and have your full name and city of residence. –

The public hearing will begin at 2 p.m. CST on Thursday, January 15.

For more information or to view the agenda for this meeting, please visit:
<http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/default.aspx>.

I would like to vote yes on the use of hounds on the proposal above.

mailing address Sam Hunter
10212 Redbird Canyon Rd.
Newcastle Wyo 82701

I live in Custer County

I also like to know how to get a petition re hounds in the Black Hills.

Thanks
Sam Hunter

Ascher, Debra

From: jlaughlin bhssc.tie.net
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 8:15 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: hound hunting

I do not support hound hunting lions on the prairie. Please consider the consequences, the intrusions and the fair chase ethic. Thanks for your consideration,

Jeff Laughlin
Lead,SD

Ascher, Debra

From: Ashley Secrest <secrest@sdplains.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 8:35 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mountain Lion Comment

Shannon Secrest

Buffalo, SD

If the decision is made to hunt mountain lions with dogs outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District, it needs to be written such that hunting both private and public lands is allowed equally. The area in which I live in is scattered with BLM and State land. A law that has stipulations regarding hunting on non-deeded land is just asking for someone to get in trouble.

Ascher, Debra

From: Susan Braunstein <SBraunstein@rcplib.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 9:54 AM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; lcoop@aol.com;
barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony;
GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: hound hunting in South Dakota

To Whom It May Concern: Please do not expand hound hunting in South Dakota. It is so unnecessary and cruel. Thank you for your time.

Susan Braunstein
5696 Gemini Street
Rapid City, SD 57703
393-2132 – susanb53@yahoo.com

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mt Lion hunting in SD

From: Rocky Niewenhuis [<mailto:rocky.niewenhuis@fbfs.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 10:07 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mt Lion hunting in SD

I am in support of mountain Lion hunting in SD state wide with with dogs(hounds)
I look at other states in the mid west and know there are several others that have it that way.
I am an avid outdoorsmen and support the hunting of mt lions with dogs in SD state wide.

Sincerely

Rocky Niewenhuis
Corsica SD

Ascher, Debra

From: Chris Wells <wells.bells5@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 9:37 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Hound opinion corrected

I'd like to show my strong support for the use of hounds in all hunting including mountain lions. The use of hounds is the only form of hunting that doesn't always result in the killing of an animal. Hounds allow hunters to be the purest form of a conservationist. Hound hunters have the ability to determine age, sex, and size of an animal which prevents kittens and females from being killed. If you ask any true houndsman they will tell you it is not about the kill, we find our excitement in the chase. Being able to watch the dogs that we have trained and worked with so hard. Hounds and hunting with hounds is a great tradition and I hope I will be able to pass this tradition on to my kids. Whether it be private land, public land, or national forest I believe hounds should be allowed. I know wyoming allows hounds but \$362 dollars is ridiculous for an out of state tag, but I will keep taking my business to wyoming and support a program who truly has the hunter as a priority. My name is Chris wells I live in custer, SD.

Ascher, Debra

From: Lacey Boxley <lboxley@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 10:15 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Hound Hunting of Mountain Lions

GF& P Commission:

I have rescued and nursed back to health animals my entire life. I am so passionate about their welfare and well being that I even started my own rescue, Hopeless to Homes Animal Rescue. I cannot express enough how opposed I am to the expansion of hunting mountain lions with hounds/dogs on the prairie.

I envision that every time a pack of these hounds/dogs chase after a mountain lion on the plains that the hounds/dogs will be severely hurt or killed. Then what will happen to them? Will they be shot as the owner does not want to pay the expensive veterinarian bill to get them the medical care they deserve? Will they be dumped at the vet's office to be put down or put into rescue like pit bulls and pit bull mixes are? The rescues are overflowing with dogs. Will they just be left to lie in pain and eaten by coyotes on the prairie? Will they be placed in trash bags and thrown away like many pit bulls are?

How does the act of "fair chase" enter into this equation? You have a cat with no place to hide or run to. You have a pack of dogs pitted against this large cat with razor-like claws and sharp teeth. These encounters on the prairie can only have one outcome - injury and death!

Please do NOT expand the hunting of mountain lions with hounds/dogs to the prairie.

Sincerely,

Lacey Boxley
833 S. Grant
Pierre, SD 57501
605-222-3251

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: FW: NO hound hunting in the Prairie Region.

From: Christina Wheat [<mailto:christinawheat3@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 10:41 PM

To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.ienses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

Subject: NO hound hunting in the Prairie Region.

Please don't allow hunting of cougars in the Prairie Region. The practice seems inhumane and often leaves kittens orphaned as they wait for their mom's return.

Thanks,
Christina Wheat of Shoreline, WA.

Ascher, Debra

From: Ashley Secrest <rodeogurl_87@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 8:58 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mountain Lion Comment

Ashley Secrest
Buffalo, SD

There is no point in changing the law to allow the use of dogs for lion hunting outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District if there is going to be a bunch of fine print and stipulations as to where it is and isn't legal to hunt with dogs. I live in an area where there is small tracts of BLM, FS and State land peppered amongst the deeded land--having rules that dictates where you can and can't hunt with dogs would just be asking for honest people to get in trouble. Dogs and lions know no legal property boundaries so the chances of accidentally ending up on a piece of public land is pretty likely. Seems to me that having rules like that would be making it too easy to make honest hunters in to criminals.

I am all in favor of being able to use dogs, but only if ALL the area outside of the fire protection district is open to it. If you're going to make public land off limits then there is no point in making the law unless you're looking for ways to get people in trouble. I am a rancher in southern Harding County and whenever we have had trouble with large predators amongst our livestock it always seems that the predator disappears into public land only to cause problems again later.

Dennis Sharkey, Ft. Pierre, SD called 1/15/15 10:55 a.m.
Using dogs to hunt lions, he is 100% against this.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound hunting

From: Brigitte James [<mailto:bjames1222@verizon.net>]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 9:53 AM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: RE: Hound hunting

I am in Upland, California

From: Brigitte James [<mailto:bjames1222@verizon.net>]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 8:14 AM

To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

Subject: Hound hunting

Dear Sirs,

I am dismayed to learn you are considering expanding your hound hunting policies to larger land areas.

I find no basis in fact that livestock and humans are at risk. The science and the data do not support this proposal.

Do not give into fear and stick to facts, and science. Plus, there are non-lethal deterrents that can be put into place.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Respectfully,

Brigitte James

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: No mountain lion hound hunting

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

From: cspatz [mailto:spatzcat61@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 8:02 AM

To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hp@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

Subject: No mountain lion hound hunting

Good morning,

There is no record of mountain lion livestock depredation in South Dakota. There is no record of a mountain lion attacking on a person in South Dakota, nor anywhere east of the Rockies for 165 years.

Washington State University research has found that indiscriminate hunting of mountain lions increases the potential for human/mountain lion conflict. Washington State has amended its mountain lion hunting policy in response to this research.

Hound hunting mountain lions, without hunter education, can indiscriminately target nursing females.

There is no need for extending hound hunting mountain lions.

I urge you not to extend mountain lion hound hunting to the praise units.

Sincerely,

Christopher Spatz
President
Cougar Rewilding Foundation
Rosendale, NY
845-658-2233

Ascher, Debra

From: Heather Nearman <nearheat@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 9:23 AM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Mt Lions and Hound Hunting

I wanted to express my opinion about adding Hounds to hunting Mt Lions. First I guess I am confused as to why this would be a good thing?? I'm not sure I fully understand how this truly benefits anyone? I do not hunt, but I am not against hunting if it's done for the RIGHT reasons. Putting Hounds, Mt Lions, other animals, etc in potential danger is not my idea of what hunting should be about. I do not want to come from a state that is easily swayed by outside influence. I suspect the majority of people wanting this past are NOT from SD. It would be extremely unfortunate if outside influence wins over the voice of the people from the state. If this law is changed, I pray the outcome is not what I fear and if one Hound is harmed.... I pray we keep the sport in the hunt and not allow such tactics to ruin it!

Heather Nearman
Sioux Falls, SD



Board of Directors
Marc Bekoff, Ph.D.
H. Webb Blesley
Patricio Robles Gil
Dr. Jane Goodall, Ph.D., DBE
Rick Hopkins, Ph.D.
Robert W. Koons
Cara Blesley Lowe
Thomas D. Mangelsen, Ph.D.
Corinne R. Rutledge

January 14, 2015

To: Members of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission
Acting Secretary Hofer
Wildlife Division Director Leif

Greetings,

I would like to preface my comments by recognizing the courteous and professional reception I have always received from members of your staff.

Thank you for considering our sincere request for the *Commission to reject the rule change to allow hound hunting on the prairie* for the following reasons.

Situation

The Black Hills Fire Protection District (BHFPD) is home to an isolated population of mountain lions. According to the 2010-2015 South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan (SDMLMP), this is the population that you manage for the purposes of providing a sustainable 'recreational opportunity' for hunters. The SDMLMP acknowledges that dispersal of both males and females into the Prairie Region does occur.

Problem

The presence of mountain lions on the prairie has led to fearfulness on the part of agricultural producers.

The question I urge you to consider is:

"Does the staff of South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (SDGFP) have an existing policy that deals successfully with the fear of depredation by mountain lions and have they been successful in implementing this policy?"

The first test of whether this question can be answered positively is whether there have been any confirmed depredations and the answer is a resounding NO! *There have never been confirmed depredations of pets or livestock, or negative encounters with people on the Prairie.*



The second test is the availability of SDGFP to respond to reports of mountain lions in the area. SDGFP is available 24/7 and 365 days per year. They have an experienced and professional houndsman who can respond with wildlife personnel, in keeping with your commitment to *"managing mountain lions in accordance with biologically sound principles"* (sic. SDMLMP 2010). The SDGFP response team can investigate and mitigate threatening situations at any time.

SDGFP already has an exceptionally thorough track record for mountain lion removal. The dearth of public land has prevented your staff from successful relocation attempts and they have consistently responded to public safety concerns with rapid and uncompromised permanent removals.

The absence of confirmed depredations or attacks confirms the effectiveness of the current policy and response history of the SDGFP.

Further points for your consideration:

- Please do not make such an important decision until the new Secretary of the SDGFP has assumed his position.
- Hound hunting is only effective if tracks are fresh, visible and confirmed to be mountain lion. This requires a speedy response, a high level of experience and ideally, snow cover.
- Is using amateur hound enthusiasts (who may be employed and cannot leave at a moment's notice) a better option for conflict management than your own professional and experienced staff?
- Hound hunters traditionally advocate for sustainable populations of mountain lions to allow them to continue and pass on their sporting heritage. SDGFP states it does not intend to manage for a sustainable mountain lion population on the Prairie, so the presence of hound hunters is incompatible with that intention.
- Allowing hound hunters to 'practice' on dispersing mountain lions because SDGFP does not intend to research or manage them is neither ethical nor representative of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (which advises against "wasteful and frivolous killing").
- Hounds, as are any pack of dogs, are extremely disruptive to livestock. The nature of the chase opens up the possibility of trespass, collateral losses of domestic animals, native wild prey (especially during fawning), and property damage.



- The original year-round opportunity to boot hunt on the Prairie was largely in response to fear of the widespread presence of cougars. The extremely low number of management removals in addition to the low hunter harvest is evidence that the fear that generated the Prairie hunt was largely unfounded. *To further affirm an unsubstantiated fear by allowing hound hunting is unjustified.*
- Conflict prevention and non-lethal deterrents are the very best methods of encouraging the public to be responsible for their own safety and that of their families, pets and livestock. The Prairie will continue to receive dispersing lions and may even host one or two that eke out an existence for longer periods of time. Aggressive removal to mitigate fear is not a solution. It is just killing one lion at a time and it is a stumbling block to the idea of safe coexistence. People will only tolerate lions and benefit from the presence of this keystone species if they know HOW to live with lions on the landscape. Further expanding the ways in which lions may be killed defeats all the progressive educational and philosophical ideologies that you so wisely included in the SDMLMP.

In conclusion, I thank you once again for reading the comments of The Cougar Fund. We are a national non-profit organization committed to education, advocacy and best available science. We provide science-based information; only knowledge will result in tolerance for the iconic mountain lion and its contribution to enhanced ecological diversity. Our advocacy efforts are focused on questioning the scientific validity of killing apex predators by random culling (sport hunting of cougars). Hound hunting is controversial and undesirable because it fails to adhere to the fair chase ethic ascribed to by the American hunter. Public safety is a goal that can be achieved by practices that go beyond the gun.

Please accept these remarks with the same respect with which they have been submitted.

Sincerely,

Penelope Maldonado
Managing Director
307-733-0797
penny@cougarfund.org

Ascher, Debra

From: Mark Wetmore <mwetmore@iw.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 7:08 PM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Opposed to cougar hunting with dogs

I grew up in South Dakota, hunting in my youth, and live in Vermillion today. I love my state and its culture of individualism, freedom and fair play. And I love its outdoors and its wildlife.

Please do not expand hound hunting here. As far as I know, there are no confirmed problems with lions outside of the Hills; and procedures are in place for GF&P to deal with problems if they do arise.

Hound hunting is a blunt, cruel instrument that I suspect is being championed by a small group interested in the 'sport.' I know someone locally who killed a lion bow hunting in Wyoming. Wow. But know how he did it? People treed the cat with dogs and kept it up the tree for three days, so he could drive out and kill it.

I'll bet if we opened the door a crack, as we already have with hounds, there would quickly be a group making a case for legalized cock fighting in the state.

South Dakota's wonderful, but we need to temper the rougher inclinations of some of our citizens occasionally.

Mark Wetmore
Vermillion, SD

Ascher, Debra

From: Janyne Ste Marie <jstemarie@new.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:37 PM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jicoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Please don't allow hound hunting in South Dakota

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to ask that you not expand hound hunting with the state of South Dakota. It's such a cruel practice! Chasing a cougar up a tree or over a cliff, to be shot like a fish in a barrel! Cougars are magnificent animals whose numbers are shrinking every year. Please oppose the expansion of hound hunting and allow this beautiful creature to live!

Janyne Ste Marie
Green Bay, WI

Ascher, Debra

From: Gena Parkhurst <gmp66@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 10:30 PM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Comment re: hound hunting in prairie region

Dear SDGFP,

I wish to comment on the topic of hound hunting in the prairie region in South Dakota. SDGFP has always denied the presence of breeding populations in the prairie region because of marginal or inhospitable habitat. Lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in territory that cannot support them. SDGFP must conduct further research to support their position that there is no possibility of resident lions and breeding on the prairie.

I am against the proposed rule change that would allow hound hunting. Thank you for allowing the public to comment.

Gena Parkhurst
PO Box 1914
Rapid City SD 57709

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: No hound hunting

From: bscranton [mailto:bscranton@neb.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 1:10 AM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: RE: No hound hunting

----- Original message -----

From: bscranton
Date: 01/15/2015 1:03 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: gary.jensen@state.sd.us, jim.spies@state.sd.us, duane.sather@state.sd.us, wscott.phillips@state.sd.us, jlcoop11@aol.com, barryj@gwtc.net, hpd@nvc.net, cathy.peterson@state.sd.us, jeff.vonk@state.sd.us, doug.hofer@state.sd.us, tony.leif@state.sd.us, wildinfo@state.sd.us, gfpadminrules@state.sd.us
Subject: No hound hunting

This is very disturbing and cruel. Anyone who support this should be arrested, charged, and prosecuted for animal cruelty.

Barbara Frady Scranton
Lincoln, Nebraska

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: No to hound hunt on Cougars in the Prairie

From: Jeanette Leinweber [<mailto:leinweberjf@aol.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 4:34 AM

To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

Subject: No to hound hunt on Cougars in the Prairie

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to ask you NOT to expand Hound Hunting of Cougars in South Dakota. There are several reasons why you should not do this:

1. It is your job, as public servants, to look at the whole picture and decide not what is in the best interest of everybody, not just a few hunters. You can either move South Dakota into the future, protecting it's wildlife and it's land for the entire public (including tourists) to enjoy or you can destroy any possibility of that to serve the narrow needs of one interest group.
2. Recreational hound hunting is not conflict management. It is a cruel practice that reflects badly on the way people perceive South Dakota.
3. Non-lethal deterrents and other conflict prevention measures are always better in addressing conflict proactively. They are better for the parties involved, the surrounding environment and for the public perception.
4. Departmental Policies should be based on fact, not fear, if the integrity of the Commission is to be maintained. There is no justification for this expansion of hound hunting, as there have been no confirmed depredations by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area.
5. Expanding the rule to include hound hunting is redundant as there is an existing policy of aggressive response to potential conflict by the SDGFP.

The SDGFP has always denied the presence of Cougar breeding populations in the Prairie Region because of marginal or inhospitable habitat; but lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in a territory that cannot support them. It is for this reason that you should conduct further research to support your position that there is no possibility of resident lions and breeding on the prairie.

You are lucky enough to have a few remaining Cougars in South Dakota and you should be honored to protect their best interests. It is vital to the survival of this cornerstone American species that you take your responsibility of wildlife management seriously. If you make the wrong decision now, there may not be an opportunity to correct it in the future.

So, please do NOT expand Hound Hunting of Cougars in South Dakota. Thank you for taking the time to address these concerns.

Thank You very much,
Jeanette Leinweber
Monte Rio, CA

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Rule Change

Thank you for your notice. I live in Tucson, Arizona.

From: Susan Munkelnbeck [<mailto:susanmunks@comcast.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 3:29 PM
To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jicoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Rule Change

I am totally against the rule change you are considering which would allow hound hunting!

Susan Munkelnbeck

Ascher, Debra

From: Mtsagemessage <mtsagemessage@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 8:54 AM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Cougar hunting with hounds

Please do not vote to allow cougar hunting with hounds in the prairies of SD. This is an inhumane and non sports like way of hunting mountain lions.

There has not been reported livestock kills by Cougars. Opening the hunting season more without all the scientific facts is just reaction and not sound government.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Juli Ames-Curtis
Custer, SD

Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: FW: No Hound Hunting

Thank you for your email.

Mitra Sabet

I

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

> From: m [<mailto:msabet@bellsouth.net>]

> Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 4:16 PM

> To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott;

> gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net;

> hp@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

> Subject: No Hound Hunting

>

>

> Please support: No hound hunting in the prairie region. Thank you for all that you do for these Apex animals as they have also the right to survive.

>

>

> Sincerely,

> Mitra Sabet

I live in Atlanta, Georgia. Thanks again

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Cougars

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

From: Heath Hallum [<mailto:heathhallum@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 9:30 AM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: Re: Cougars

Stonebluff Oklahoma

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Heath Hallum [<mailto:heathhallum@hotmail.com>]

> Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 8:15 AM

> To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

> Subject: Cougars

>

> I have been following the decline of cougar populations for many years now. Running across this article online really hit a nerve. I just cannot understand why any department of wildlife would allow hunters to use dogs to kill such an important part of the ecosystem. Cougars cause very minimal damage to livestock, almost immeasurable in fact. They pose almost zero threat to humans as far as attack goes. So why are we at war? Do hunters really have that much power over your decisions?

>

> I am not an anti by no means and understand ungulate management but predators do not need this kind of control. They regulate their numbers quite nicely and take care of any environment they choose to inhabit.

>

> Please hear me and the few others that try and speak for these magnificent creatures. We are their only voice.

>

> Sincerely concerned

> Heath Hallum

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: No hound hunting

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

From: Heather [<mailto:riderfit@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:06 PM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: Re: No hound hunting

Last name is Rider

Santa Fe

New Mexico. Thank you

Heather Rider

> -----Original Message-----

> **From:** Heather [<mailto:riderfit@yahoo.com>]

> **Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2015 7:06 PM

> **To:** Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

> **Subject:** No hound hunting

>

>

> Please consider stopping this archaic function. It benefits no one. Animals deserve more respect

>

> Thank you

>

> Heather Rider

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Cougar hunt

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

From: Julie Pommer [<mailto:juliepommer@icloud.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 6:32 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Re: Cougar hunt

Julie Pommer
3211 W. Bitterroot St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57108
Julie Pommer

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Julie Pommer [<mailto:juliepommer@icloud.com>]
> Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 4:57 PM
> To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net;
hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony
> Subject: Cougar hunt

>

> Please!!! Let's keep SD natural, with wildlife. Nothing good has come of these hunts before, leaving mothers injured, Cubs orphaned. Let's leave Mother Nature alone. It's the best way to be a good steward of God's land and creatures.
> There's plenty of hunting of deer and pheasant and nobody is going to eat cougar!
> Need to control the population? It's called birth control or sterilization.

>

> Sent from my iPhone
> Julie Pommer

>

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Barbaric hound hunting should never be allowed under any circumstances...
There are many proven Non-Lethal preventative measures to address potential conflict

I am writing from Jackson, WY. I expect that my comments will be fully considered as I am a citizen of the USA. The public lands which fall under jurisdiction of the States are to be managed under the Public Trust Doctrine - I am a member of the public & expect that our collective public lands will not be a place of torture and abuse to wildlife or other animals/people. Please enter my full comment in it's entirety as written below.

Thank you for your consideration

Patti

> -----Original Message-----

> From: patti celovsky [<mailto:patti.celovsky@gmail.com>]

> Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 7:39 PM

> To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpj@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

> Subject: Barbaric hound hunting should never be allowed under any circumstances.... There are many proven Non-Lethal preventative measures to address potential conflict

>

> Please consider there should be No Hound Hunting in the Prairie Region...or anywhere else. It is a barbaric and unnecessary evil that only serves a minor population of individuals out for self-serving purposes. We are a compassionate society and far more advanced in our non-lethal methods for deterring conflict. Hound hunting is preposterous and only serves to entertain those amongst us with compromised values.

> Consider the following:

>

> - There is no justification for this expansion of hound hunting, as there have been no confirmed depredations by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area.

>

> - Departmental Policies MUST be based on fact, not fear if the integrity of the Commission is to be maintained.

>

> - SDGFP has always denied the presence of breeding populations in the Prairie Region because of marginal or inhospitable habitat. Lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in territory that cannot support them.

>

> - Fear of conflict should be addressed proactively by non-lethal deterrents and other conflict prevention measures.

Ascher, Debra

From: L. Beezley <beez@rushmore.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 5:04 PM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Hunting mountain lions with dogs No!

I strongly oppose using packs of dogs to pursue or hunt mountain lions. Pursuing a top level predator with dogs is, I believe, cruel and unnecessary for fair chase.

I am a hunter, gun owner, and also live with both a dog and a cat. Both species are admired in our household.

One of the wonderful things about living in South Dakota is that we have some remaining wildness, although it is gradually being developed and is disappearing. Mountain lions and other specialized predators are a bit of wildness, and are one indicator of a healthy ecosystem. A few lions in our state should be a source of pride, rather than cause for alarm. Our population is under control.

Please do not allow prairie hunting with dog packs. Thank you.

Larry Beezley
910 Saint Charles Street
Rapid City SD 57701
605.716.2175

 This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain lion hunting with hounds

From: Ryan Cordell <ryan_cordell@hotmail.com>
Date: January 14, 2015, 11:01:36 PM CST
To: "doug.hofer@state.sd.us" <doug.hofer@state.sd.us>
Subject: Mountain lion hunting with hounds

Hi Doug, I'm writing in regards to the upcoming decision to allow mountain lion hunting with hounds on lands outside the Black Hills Fire Protection Zone. I encourage you to allow the use of hounds on all lands, both public and private, outside the Black Hills. I feel that this is the common sense solution. Just as the small parcels of private ground that are interspersed among the Black Hills make it difficult to ensure dogs would always be on Forest Service land, the many pieces of state, BLM, and Forest Service land that are scattered around the rest of the state would make it nearly impossible to hunt with hounds and know for certain that they would not go onto a piece of public ground. Another reason I believe hounds should be allowed anywhere outside the Black Hills, is that they are already used to hunt bobcats, what difference does it make what kind of cat they are chasing? If already short handed game wardens had to try to monitor who is chasing what kind of cat, where they've been, and where might they go, that would be just adding to their already overwhelming list of duties.

I would like to thank you for considering these points that I've presented and use them to make a practical, common sense decision.

Ryan Cordell
Camp Crook, SD

Sent from my iPad

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: FW: Mountain lion hound hunting

From: dmrdrotherham [<mailto:dmrdrotherham@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:33 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: RE: FW: Mountain lion hound hunting

Sioux Falls, SD

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

From: dmrdrotherham [<mailto:dmrdrotherham@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 2:35 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mountain lion hound hunting

I believe this is a very cruel way to hunt Futhermore, why does anyone need a mountain lion? You can't eat it! Trophy hunter? Yes, I believe that we need to maintain a safe population but the bottom line is SD will profit greatly if we allow this! Great for the state but deadly for the mountain lion. We are loosing many animals to extinction, for once let's SEE the forest before the trees! Thank you. Roberta Rotherham

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

RECEIVED

JAN 15 2015

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

January 11, 2015

Game, Fish and Parks Commission
523 East Capital
Pierre, South Dakota

To the Commissioners of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks:

The petition to allow the use of dogs in the hunting of mountain lions comes as no surprise.

The proponents of killing mountain lions in the name of sport have demonstrated themselves to be loud and effective – not to mention selfish.

The commission has not only been ignoring the science surrounding mountain lions, but has been willing to give greater credence to the hunting lobby than the rest of the general public who oppose this senseless killing.

As I hope you all are aware – even though you seem to be deaf and blind – there is a significant segment of the public opposed to the hunting - for “sport” - of mountain lions. This public voice will only become magnified should the commission allow the use of dogs. Once stories become public of dogs being hurt or killed – and this is inevitable - you will have a mess on your hands. There are a hell of a lot of dog lovers out here! Be reasonable.

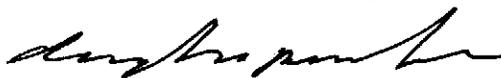
Furthermore, please ask yourselves, where is the “sport” in this? Shooting a treed or cornered tired lion does not seem very “sportsmanlike” to me.

I strongly oppose this mountain lion season and I vehemently oppose the idea of taking advantage of dogs as part of this inhumane and blood thirsty killing.

You are sending a very bad message and creating a poor example to our children. Force is not the answer. Violence is not the answer. Killing is not the answer. There are other solutions than this for dealing with the issue (I resist calling it a problem) of mountain lions.

Please do not approve the use of dogs in the killing of mountain lions.

Sincerely,



Douglas “George” Prisbe
21671 Hanna Road
Lead South Dakota

Ascher, Debra

From: yahoo.com, A123james
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 7:38 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Using dogs for public and hunter safety

James Gingras
7211 Elk Creek Rd
Piedmont, SD 57769

It is a fact of life that the mt. lion population must b thinned in areas with humans and livestock. When this is necessary it is very dangerous. Every precaution should b available to protect those individuals willing to take this on. They are doing the general public a service by maintaining a safe buffer in these areas. My hope is that you allow the use of dogs to track mt. lions.

Thank You

James Gingras

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: FW:

From: Lynn Namminga [<mailto:bigdutch1@outlook.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 2:31 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

Shooting animals that run up a tree to get away from a dog is NOT hunting. It is "killing for fun." This practice is obscene and should be banned outright. Only a sociopath would find killing a animal like that. PLEASE don't allow this sorry practice to be legitimized.

Mr. Lynn Namminga
Deadwood, S.D. 57732

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: against hunting lions with dogs

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

From: Shari Kosel SDFACT [<mailto:shari@sdfact.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 2:45 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: against hunting lions with dogs

South Dakota GF&P Commission:

I am adamantly opposed to hunting lions with the use of dogs.

Often these dogs are mauled, severely injured, run to exhaustion or killed while pursuing their target. This is not sport, this is cruelty.

The South Dakota legislature voted against this very same thing last year for a reason. Please do not go over the will of the people for a request from a few.

Shari Crouch Kosel
Deer Mountain
Lead, South Dakota

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hunting with dogs

From: carol@rap.midco.net [<mailto:carol@rap.midco.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 3:43 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hunting with dogs

Dear GF&P Commission,

Please do not allow dogs in the hunting of mountain lions. Last year the quota was not even met. Please do not allow hunters with dogs to kill what is left in the Black Hills. The kittens for sure won't stand a chance.

Carol Lauck

Rapid City SD 57702

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Dogs for lion hunting

From: Chad Blair [<mailto:chadblairangus@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 1:58 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Dogs for lion hunting

To whom it may concern:

As a land owner in Meade county I would like to voice my support of using dogs to hunt lions in south Dakota. I believe this will help control the lion population and aid in the coexistence if livestock and mountain lions.

Chad Blair

Vale South Dakota

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Mountain Lion hunting with hounds

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Lucinda Schuft [<mailto:limschuft@hotmail.com>]

> Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 1:26 PM

> To: GFP Wild Info

> Subject: Mountain Lion hunting with hounds

>

> I am not opposed to this type of hunting in general, but you are letting it be done in the wrong area of the state. Seriously, the Black Hills Fire Protection Area makes the most sense because there are areas to tree the lions. I feel that if this is being brought in, it must replace or add on to the existing hunting. The reason is this, if folks can see the lion, they can then decide if it is one that should be taken or not. I think the numbers of lions being allowed to be shot could be reduced and it would be better for the management.

>

> So - allowing it in the Black Hills

>

> Reduce the number of lions being taken each season.

>

> That is my thoughts on this issue.

>

> Lucinda Schuft, Hot Springs, SD

Ascher, Debra

From: Aaron Thurber <aaronthurber@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 1:38 PM
To: GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: I support hound hunting

I would like to express support FOR the use of hounds while hunting mountain lions in South Dakota.

It is an excellent way to allow for selective harvest of specific animals/sexes/ages.

It also is excellent sport for both the dogs and the humans. There is no proven harm to the allowance of hound hunting.

Aaron Thurber
709 2nd Street North
Ellendale, ND 58436

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound Hunting in South Dakota

From: L. McGannon [mailto:l.mcgannon@ymail.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 8:17 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hound Hunting in South Dakota

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to give you my opinion on your proposal of allowing hound hunting in our state. I am strongly opposed to it. I am hoping you will reconsider this proposal. So many reasons why this is wrong on every level, but I am listing a few major reasons. Please protect wildlife and not hunters and farmer's interests.

Studies have shown that with high levels of lion hunting the opposite occurs: both complaints and livestock losses increase dramatically in the year that follows because heavy hunting on a mountain lion population destabilizes it. When the older members are killed off, young male lions immigrate in and take their place. These young lions are unskilled hunters. They are more likely to cause complaints and livestock depredations.

Killing lions to satisfy landowners will not work. Because dogs cannot recognize boundary lines, property owners are disturbed by trespassing packs of dogs onto their private property. Packs of dogs disturb not only people, livestock, and family dogs but also other wildlife. Dog packs on private property are a major source of conflict.

South Dakota's severe quotas and unlimited hunting on our tiny mountain lion population is not responsible wildlife management. Wildlife are required to be managed for all of the people, not just some of them. I believe this has been proven many times, just look at the elk issue you've had.

To protect breeding females and their dependent kittens, several states have adopted hunter education programs. This is an excellent way to conserve and protect breeding females and prevent cruel kitten orphaning. See: <http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/MountainLion.aspx>. Rather than expand hounding hunting opportunities, GFP should adopt similar programs.

This was defeated last year and it needs to be defeated again this year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Louise McGannon
Mitchell, South Dakota