

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission  
January 15-16, 2015

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the RedRossa Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners John Cooper, Cathy Peterson, Barry Jensen, Jim Spies, Gary Jensen, W. Scott Phillips, and H. Paul Dennert were present and Duane Sather participated by conference phone. The public, staff, and media numbered approximately forty.

**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION**

**Approve minutes of the December 2014 meeting**

Chairman Cooper called for additions or corrections to the December meeting and Commissioner Dennert pointed out the need for the word "no" on page 198.

Dennert made the motion to approve the December 11-12, 2014, minutes as corrected. Peterson seconds the motion and motion carried unanimously.

**Additional Salary Days**

Cooper requested two salary days for National Wild Turkey Federation Convention in Mitchell, Dennert requested one for the non-resident waterfowl work group, Gary Jensen requested one for the non-resident waterfowl work group and three for the WAFWA Conference, Peterson requested one for interviews and selection of Department Secretary, and Scott Phillips requested three for the WAFWA Conference.

Motion by Spies with second by Barry Jensen TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS AS REQUESTED. Motion carried unanimously.

**Election of Officers**

Chairman Cooper indicated he would accept nominations for Vice Chairman of the Commission. Gary Jensen nominated Cathy Peterson and made the motion that NOMINATIONS CEASE AND TO ELECT CATHY PETERSON AS VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2015. Spies seconds the motion and motion carried unanimously.

Peterson nominated Cooper as Chairman for 2015 and made the motion NOMINATIONS CEASE AND TO ELECT JOHN COOPER AS CHAIRMAN FOR 2015. Gary Jensen seconds the motion and motion carried unanimously.

**License List Requests**

Director Chris Petersen presented a license list request from the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitor Bureau for 4,000 non-resident hunters and 4,000 non-resident anglers to be used in a direct mailing to promote hunting and fishing in the Pierre area. This is a waived fee request.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Dennert TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FOR THE PIERRE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CONVENTION AND VISITOR BUREAU AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Petersen presented a license list request from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for approximately 1,500 elk license applicants from Sioux Falls and the surrounding area to mail invitations to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Game Banquet in March. This is a reduced fee request.

Petersen presented a request from the South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. for a list of all archery license holders for deer, elk, and antelope to be used for promoting their gatherings, fun shoots, and annual convention. This is a reduced fee request.

Director Petersen presented a request from South Dakota Wildlife Federation Camo-Coalition for a list of 15,000 of the 2014 resident fishing license holders to send a letter sharing their Legislative activities and to solicit membership. This is a reduced fee request.

Motion by Spies with second by Gary Jensen TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUESTS FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION, THE SOUTH DAKOTA BOWHUNTERS, INC., AND THE SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION CAMO-COALITION AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Petersen presented a license list request from Rock Communications on behalf of Scheels Sports for a list of 5,000 fishing license holders to be used in a direct mailing. This is a full fee request.

Motion by Dennert with second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM ROCK COMMUNICATIONS AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Department sponsored Legislation**

Director Hofer presented SB 50 which is the bonding bill for \$11 million of improvements at Custer State Park (CSP) and \$500,000 for production of a film to be used in the new CSP Visitor Center. Hofer outlined how the bond will be repaid if passed by the 2015 Legislature. Director Petersen shared information on the bonding process and that the use of general funds will help acquire low bond rates when other state entities have projects that will require bonds as a funding source.

Director Leif presented and gave background information on SB 49 for the transfer of Department owned railway right-of-way to the City of Deadwood; SB 48 to is require lights on personal watercraft same as other boats and watercraft; HB 1054 will establish consistent fur dealer record keeping and inspection requirements for resident and non-resident fur dealers; and HB 1053 is to repeal or revise and clean up some outdated statutes.

Director Hofer stated that Representative Werner introduced a bill to allow the use of bullheads as a bait fish; and the Governor has included a \$1.5 million special appropriation in the FY15 Budget for the Conservation Fund established from the Pheasant Habitat Work Group recommendations.

## OPEN FORUM

Steve Nelson of Pierre showed photos of geese at the elevator corn pile in Pierre and believes these geese would be out in the country for hunters and stated that Capitol Lake also holds geese from hunters and he would like to something done. Nelson shared that the kids hunt is scheduled for this weekend and thanked the Department for efforts to make this hunt happen.

## PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 1:56 p.m. and concluded at 2:42 p.m. The minutes of the Public Hearing follow the minutes of the regular meeting.

## FINALIZATION

### **Use of hounds for mountain lion hunting outside the Black Hills 41:06:61**

Director Tony Leif presented the Department's recommended changes to the proposal to allow dogs to be used for mountain lion hunting outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District as petitioned from Brad Tisdall. The Commission accepted the petition and proposed the change at the December 2014 meeting. Leif indicated the Department supported the petition be accepted as a proposal; and that the Department would bring recommend changes at this time. Leif stated that these recommended changes are within the scope of the proposal and public hearing notice.

Chief Kirschenmann shared the process on how the recommendations were developed which included consideration of trespass issues, private land and landowner considerations, the checkerboard of private and public land ownership, and use of dogs when hunting bobcats and the bobcat season dates.

Kirschenmann read and explained number five of the modified recommendation indicating that Walk-In-Areas are land held in private ownership and that permission from the landowner would be required to pursue a lion using dogs.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Dennert TO INCLUDE THE WORDS "YEAR ROUND" IN RECOMMENDED CHANGE (5) TO CLARIFY THE SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

**Modify 41:06:61:06. Application requirements -- License and season restrictions -- Special conditions -- Carcass check-in procedures.** The following requirements, restrictions, special conditions, and procedures apply to all applications for license and to all licenses issued under this chapter:

- (1) Only residents of the state may apply for a license;
- (2) No person may harvest more than one mountain lion in a season;
- (3) No person may harvest or attempt to harvest a mountain lion with a spotted coat (kitten) or any mountain lion accompanying another mountain lion;
- (4) ~~Except those specified hunting intervals in Custer State Park that allow the use of dogs,~~ No person may hunt mountain lions with the aid of dogs, traps, or bait;
- (5) The use of dogs to hunt mountain lions is only allowed during those specified hunting intervals in Custer State Park that allow for the use of dogs and year round outside of the Black Hills Fire

Protection District on private land with permission of the landowner or lessee. However, a pursuit of a mountain lion by dogs that originates on private land may cross over or culminate on property owned by the Office of School and Public Lands or the United States Bureau of Land Management other than the Fort Meade Recreation Area.

~~(5)~~(6) No person may release dogs on tracks indicating multiple mountain lions traveling together;

(7) In Custer State Park, A a person using dogs shall attempt to harvest the first legal mountain lion they have a reasonable opportunity to harvest, except under the condition where the lion pursued shows obvious signs of lactation;

(8) Licensed hunters must accompany the dog handler when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt thereafter until the hunt is completed.

~~(7)~~(9) A person may use any firearm, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow established by statute or administrative rule as legal implements for the taking of deer;

~~(8)~~(10) Wind Cave National Park, Jewell Cave National Park, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial are closed to mountain lion hunting; and

~~(9)~~(11) All mountain lions harvested must be presented to a department representative within 24 hours of harvest for inspection.

Motion by Dennert with second by Phillips TO AMEND THE PROPOSAL AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND MODIFIED (above). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Phillips with second by Barry Jensen TO ADOPT CHANGES TO THE MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING SEASON 41:06:61 AS AMENDED. Roll call vote: Dennert-yes; Barry Jensen-yes; Gary Jensen-no; Peterson-yes; Phillips-yes; Sather-yes; Spies-no; Cooper-no. Motion carried with five yes votes and three no votes.

## **PROPOSALS**

### **2015 Hunting Season Dates**

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented the 2015 season dates for Commission consideration. The season dates were provided in the same format as used in the Hunting Handbook. The start dates are listed according to current rule and the waterfowl dates are within the current federal framework. The Department had no recommended changes. No action was required and no action taken.

### **Public Lands - Charles Mix County**

Parks Assistant Director Bob Schneider presented a recommended change to Use of Parks and Public Lands to expand the area within North Point Recreation Area in Charles Mix County that is restricted to shotgun and archery hunting. A map showed the current restricted area and the requested change that comes from residential expansion and the development of a private-owned campground adjacent to the park. The recommendation comes from the Parks Division, the Wildlife Division, and the Law Enforcement staff for public safety reasons.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Barry Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO USE OF PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Public Waters - Butte County**

Schneider presented two recommended changes to public water zoning at Rocky Point Recreation Area. The first will adjust the “no wake zones” at the boat ramps and the second is the designating of a “public swimming zone.”

Motion by Peterson with second by Phillips TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO PUBLIC WATER ZONING AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Special Buck Licenses**

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented Special Buck Licenses for 2015 with no recommended changes. Background on the process used to determine the numbers of licenses was provided by Kirschenmann. The number of 2015 West River Special Buck licenses for residents and non-residents are 500 each; and the 2015 resident East River Special Buck licenses were reduced to 556 according to current rule. No action was required and no action was taken.

## **Refuges**

Chief Kirschenmann presented a recommended change to remove the Cottonwood Lake State Waterfowl Refuge designation in Sully County and open the area to waterfowl hunting. Adjacent landowners and the local sportsmen and women had no opposition with this change.

Motion by Peterson with second by Dennert TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO REMOVE COTTONWOOD LAKE STATE WATERFOWL REFUGE AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Boat transportation requirements and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)**

Chief John Lott presented recommended changes to clarify and assist with efforts to minimize or slow the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in South Dakota waters as recently seen in the Angostura Reservoir and Lewis and Clark Lake. The changes include the reducing or minimizing the transfer of water that may contain invasive plant or aquatic species between water bodies by requiring drain plugs and related devices to be open or removed from boats during transportation with exceptions.

Assistant Director Arden Petersen outlined the need to educate and communicate with the public about these changes; this may include enforcement with a warning and this will be an opportunity to educate the public. Fines will need to be established by the court system.

1. Modify **41:10:04 “Aquatic Nuisance Species.”** to change all references of aquatic nuisance species to aquatic invasive species.
2. Modify **41:10:04:01. “List of aquatic nuisance species.”** to remove a redundant “and” and to add Common Reed, *Phragmites australis*, to the list of aquatic invasive plants.
3. Modify **41:10:04:03. “Watercraft restrictions.”** to allow law enforcement officers to require the removal of vegetation and all aquatic invasive species from a boat, and to require that all drain plugs and related devices be opened or removed from all boats when being transported with exceptions for entering and exiting the water, emergency response

vehicles, and boats and livewells while on lands owned, leased, controlled, or managed by the department or other government entity adjacent to the water.

4. Add **41:10:04:05. “Aquatic invasive species containment waters.”** This rule will give the secretary the authority to declare a waterbody an aquatic invasive species containment water, describes the conditions that would necessitate this action, and outline department responsibilities.
5. Add **41:10:04:06. “Water transport restrictions.”** This rule will prohibit the transportation of water and aquatic bait from a water access area or adjacent land owned, leased, controlled or managed by the department.
  - a. Provide an exception for tanks or containers:
    - i. used as part of research and management activities
    - ii. storing potable drinking water, beverages or food intended for human consumption or a component of a marine sanitary system
    - iii. used by those authorized by the Department to commercially harvest and/ or transport bait or fish in accordance with that license
  - b. Allow up to five gallons of vegetation free water to be possessed for transport of bait and fish away from waters not considered aquatic invasive species containment waters.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Spies TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion continued about the efforts of Aquatic Invasive Species that include the problems Minnesota and Wyoming are seeing and the information on their websites; the impact of boaters from neighboring states on South Dakota waters; water quality concerns; boat inspections; impacts on fish and waterfowl; stakeholders and their concerns; and AFWA and WAFWA resources.

Motion by Jensen with second by Spies TO FORMALLY REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT AND STAFF TO LEAD THE WAY AND STUDY AIS ISSUES AND TO INCLUDE OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO DEVELOP A WORKABLE AIS MANAGEMENT PLAN (SIMILAR TO WMI DIRECTION FOR BIG GAME MANAGEMENT) AND PROVIDE AN UPDATE AT THE MARCH MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

On Friday morning, Spies commented on the great job of placing AIS signs at boat ramps and suggested signs be posted at bait stations, gas stations, and car washes that are consistent with signs at the boat ramps as a reminder to anglers about AIS concerns.

## **DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **Lewis and Clark Marina RFP**

Concession Manager Sean Blanchette and Lewis and Clark Recreation Area Regional Supervisor Jeff VanMeeteren introduced Chris and Karen Donlin, Russ Marsh, and Heath Denny. Blanchette stated one proposal was received from Chris Donlin in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Lewis and Clark Marina. The

proposal met all requirements in the RFP including financing commitment, personal experience and resume, required financial statements, restaurant-operator solicitation plan, and customer service philosophy as well as supporting documents.

Chris Donlin, owner of Donlin Marina at Pickstown, shared his family's history in the Pickstown area as well as his background as owner-operator of his boat sales and service business. Donlin expressed his enthusiasm for Lewis and Clark Marina and feels that his service background will fit well at the Marina. Donlin agreed with the Department on a plan to identify and retain a qualified vendor to run the restaurant.

Blanchette presented and discussed the draft lease which included terms agreed to in addition to those advertised in the RFP which included a higher Repair and Maintenance percentage and a Personal Property replacement reserve that was not required. Additional changes included a requirement for a boat tow service; due dates for C-store improvements; service storage yard clean up and new fencing; gas dock renovations including fuel pump upgrades and courtesy fingers; required customer service survey; modified valuation process of intangible items and the liquor license at the end of the lease; and the development of a restaurant operator solicitation plan that includes a contingency operation plan for the restaurant should an operator not be identified for 2015.

Sean Blanchette indicated that Commercial State Bank has provided full written commitment for the financing of the entire purchase amount. The bank agrees to the terms of a Collateral Assignment with the Department. However, in order to meet bank criteria, an updated appraisal is required as the 2013 fall appraisal is more than a year old. The appraisal is anticipated to be complete in roughly four weeks with closing to take place as soon as possible thereafter.

Blanchette presented Resolution 15-01 for Commission consideration which would accept Donlin's proposal; approve the proposed lease agreement with Donlin; and authorize Parks Director Hofer to execute the lease with Donlin upon finalization of financing and closing of the sale of the marina assets. Blanchette recommended Commission approval of Resolution 15-01.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Peterson TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 15-01 AS PRESENTED (Appendix A). Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Cooper introduced Kelly Hepler and his wife Carol to the Commission. Kelly Hepler was recently appointed by Governor Dugaard as the Game, Fish, and Parks Department Secretary. Hepler indicated he has been visiting Pierre this week and is comfortable being back in South Dakota. He will return in March and looks forward to the next Commission meeting.

Chairman Cooper called a recess at 5 p.m. to resume at 8 a.m. the next morning. The meeting resumed at 8 a.m. on Friday, January 16, at the same location. Commissioners Cooper, Peterson, Barry Jensen, Spies, Gary Jensen, Phillips, and Dennert were present. Sather did not join the meeting by conference phone. Approximately thirty public, staff, and media were present.

### **Cedar Shores Stabilization Project**

Director Doug Hofer indicated the Cedar Shores stabilization project was a \$10 million project involving several partners and funding sources. Assistant Director Al Nedved gave a PowerPoint Presentation showing construction progress of the two main components: the first being the resort and marina soil stabilization project: and, the second is the road stabilization project being administered by South Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT). Currently, the resort/marina stabilization project is 87% complete with substantial completion expected about January 16. The road stabilization is 64% complete and will resume in the fall of 2015 when water levels recede. The Marina did remain open during the summer although congested at times with construction and equipment. All indicators are showing a successful project as the fall draw down of water is showing minimal soil movement. The 2015 remaining work includes site work, repairs to the parking lot, replace the marina bulkheads, stabilization of the access road, and reconstruction, grading, sodding, and repair of the north marina shoreline.

### **Custer State Park Building Committees**

Director Hofer provided a handout of the Custer State Park Visitor Center that will be used advertised later this month for contractors to build the structure. Hofer indicated the building committee unanimously selected the design which includes the guaranteed maximum price to build.

Hofer indicated a new building committee is needed for the improvements proposed in the CSP Resort Master Plan and the amendment to the concession agreement the Commission approved last month. Senate Bill 50 provides the authority for the Department to bond \$11.5 million for these projects and has been introduced to the 2015 Legislature. The design and construction of these projects will require hiring an architect and Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) to provide a guaranteed maximum price (GMP). In order to meet the schedule for bond repayment, the Department has begun soliciting proposals for architectural and CMR services. Selection of an architect and CMR will require Building Committee approval. The Department plans to have selections ready upon Legislative approval of SB 50 and the FY16 Budget so that final design can be determined for fall of 2015 construction. The revenue-producing components of the plan are critical for 2016 bond repayment schedule.

Chairman Cooper appointed W. Scott Phillips as the GFP Commission representative on the Custer State Park Bond Building Committee.

### **Parks Revenue and Visitation Report**

Director Hofer indicated the 2014 camping calendar year set a new record with 290,279 camping units. The 2014 calendar year revenue was up 10.4% with visitation up slightly at .3%.

### **Miscellaneous**

Assistant Director Schneider stated that USD developed a leadership program for the Parks Division that consists of a 40-hour program to be completed over a two-year timeframe. The leadership program will accommodate thirty staff from the district, regional, and Pierre offices. There are three goals of the training: leadership in public

service, building relationships, and leading large groups of people within government agencies.

## **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

### **Elk Management Plan**

Chief Kirschenmann shared that a schedule change was made to the approval of the Elk Management Plan due to the South Dakota Stock Growers request for additional time to comment. The public comment period was extended to February 6 moving the final draft revisions to the end of February. Chad Switzer outlined additional public outreach and comments received. Kirschenmann outlined a plan for contingency licenses, revisions to the final plan, and the timeline of distribution to the Commission before the March meeting.

### **Black Hills angler opinion survey results**

Dr. Cindy Longmire presented the objectives, sample design, methods, and results of responses to the 2014 Black Hills Angler Opinion Survey. Longmire reported the respondent demographics, importance of fishing in the Black Hills, and the preferred species factors for their fishing experience. Results included their importance of their experience and their satisfaction while fishing on large reservoirs, small ponds, streams, and catch-and-release areas as well as items needing improvement.

### **Sub-plans for Black Hills streams and reservoirs**

Greg Simpson and Jake Davis outlined how the management sub-plans fit under the Statewide Management Plan; how they fit together with the objectives and strategies of the Statewide Plan; and then into operations. Simpson talked about the Black Hills Reservoirs and Davis shared about the streams. They outlined considerations which included updating publications, access, operation changes, public demand or angler desires, management options, stream management index, watersheds, hatchery support, and timeline of public comment before Commission consideration.

### **Fish stocking 101**

Dave Lucchesi gave a PowerPoint Presentation on fish stocking indicating this is the most popular management activity because of the immediate effect it can have on a lake. Additional information included hatchery locations, the use of rearing ponds, trap and transfer activities, public perception of stocking, fish hatchery production for 2013 by species and types of stocking, and the evaluation of stocking efforts.

### **Lake Oahe fishery update**

Mark Fincel provided an update using a Power Point Presentation with results of the survey of open water and near shore prey fish, survey of walleye using gillnets, and creel catch and harvest surveys on Lake Oahe. The summary indicated high warm water prey fish are abundant; improved cold water prey fish; increase growth and condition of walleye; and an increased abundance of walleye less than fifteen inches.

Finsel provided similar information for Lake Sharpe indicating prey fish is abundant, walleye population is down and their condition is rated as stable. Angling pressure on Lake Sharpe is above average with catch and harvest rates remaining average for Lake Sharpe.

### **Habitat team efforts and accomplishments**

Paul Coughlin presented a PowerPoint Presentation about the South Dakota Habitat Forever Habitat Specialist program. GFP has limited resources for habitat management and that includes human resources. Habitat Forever provides specialist teams and with their efforts, contribute greatly to increased and improved habitat on Department properties.

Matt O'Connor from Pheasants Forever indicated the Habitat Forever program provides four specialists in South Dakota. The duties of the Habitat Specialists were outlined using photos that included food plots and the varieties of plantings used on the food plots; photos of tree removal, prescribed fire burns, and noxious weed control all used to improve habitat conditions. Duties also include fencing and signing projects to help define boundaries to assist sportsmen. O'Connor stated that communication between GFP staff and Habitat Forever Specialists is outstanding and that it makes this program a success.

### **Non-resident waterfowl working group update**

Director Leif indicated the December 29, 2014, meeting of the non-resident waterfowl work group was attended by all participants. The most important item discussed was a Charter indicating the responsibilities of the work group. The work group was formed at the direction of the Senate Ag Committee during the 2014 Legislative Session. Leif indicated the work group was comfortable with the Charter thus realizing they are simply an advisory group. They saw two PowerPoint Presentations that the Commission will see at a future meeting. The presentations outlined changes made in state statues that led to the transfer of authority to the GFP Commission. The work group began discussion of alternatives that included the use of a flow chart showing the current license allocation system. Consolidation and simplification of rules for licenses will be considered. The development of regulations using the Wildlife Commission Rule Development process is important as the Department desires staff be engaged with the working group for development of the recommendations. Comments will be received from the public with the use of email, the GFP Website, and written letters can be sent to the Pierre office. Leif indicated it will be a challenge to develop recommendations for Commission consideration that will be acceptable to all the interested constituents and provided a possible timeline.

Representative Dick Werner stated he was optimistic and encouraged after the first meeting. Ducks, geese, and access are the big issues for the work group.

### **DOW Annual Report**

Director Leif handed out the Division of Wildlife 2014 Annual and 2014 Private Lands Habitat and Access Reports. These reports were developed and created by staff and will be used during the Legislative session to assist staff and Legislators in

understanding the Division of Wildlife. The reports are posted on the GFP Website. The 2015 Fishing Handbook was handed out as well.

### **License Sales Report**

Chief Scott Simpson presented the 2014 Resident Year-end Sales Report indicating the fishing license sales increased and remain strong. The Migratory Bird Certificate sales show a third year of increased sales. Deer license sales were down as expected due to the decreased number of license available; however, all licenses including antlerless tags were sold. While antelope and elk licenses remained steady the turkey license sales showed a slight decrease.

Simpson indicated the 2014 non-resident license sales for pheasant hunting showed a five-percent increase over 2013. The non-resident fishing licenses were strong and big game licenses were lower as expected due to fewer licenses available.

The 2014 Fiscal License Sales Totals information showed the actual revenue of \$27,455,134, almost \$2 million lower that the projected revenue, and yet above the revised estimate of revenue for 2014.

### **Miscellaneous updates**

Chairman Cooper requested consideration of a Governance meeting possibly with the June meeting.

Motion by Phillips with second by Peterson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Hofer, Acting Secretary

Appendix A

**RESOLUTION 15 - 01**

WHEREAS, in accordance with ARSD 41:13, the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission (Commission) has authorized the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (Department) to issue and advertise a prospectus for the lease and operation of the Lewis and Clark Marina concession located within Lewis and Clark Recreation Area;

WHEREAS, the Department received one proposal in response to the aforementioned prospectus from Mr. Chris Donlin of Pickstown, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the Department has determined that the proposal submitted by Mr. Donlin meets the prospectus criteria and draft lease minimum requirements set forth by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, Commercial State Bank of Wagner, South Dakota, has provided a written commitment to Mr. Donlin for financing of the full purchase amount of the Lewis and Clark Marina assets; and

WHEREAS, the finalization of the loan is contingent upon the bank obtaining an updated appraisal of the assets utilized in conjunction of Lewis and Clark Marina as well as the execution of a Collateral Assignment to which the Department would be a signatory; and

WHEREAS, the Department desires to accept the proposal and enter in to a concession lease agreement with Mr. Donlin for the operation of Lewis and Clark Marina for a term of ten years provided that all remaining financing contingencies are met and the sale and transfer of the Lewis and Clark Marina assets from current owner Russell Marsh to Christopher Donlin is finalized; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby accept the proposal received from Christopher Donlin to provide marina, retail, service, restaurant, and other concession services at Lewis and Clark Recreation Area; and further, approves the proposed Concession Agreement and authorizes and directs Parks and Recreation Director Douglas Hofer to execute the same upon finalization of the financing and consummation of the sale and transfer of the Lewis and Clark Marina assets to Christopher Donlin.

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission  
January 15, 2015

Public Hearing Officer Scott Simpson began the public hearing at 1:56 p.m. at the RedRossa Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Simpson indicated the item listed under Finalization regarding the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting outside the Black Hills is now open to public testimony. Brad Tisdall petitioned the proposed rule change prior to the December 2014 meeting. The Commission accepted the petition at the December 2014 meeting. All written and email comments have been provided to the Commission and are included in the minutes.

**Use of hounds for mountain lion hunting outside the Black Hills**

Oral testimony:

Brad Tisdall stated he submitted the petition to the Commission in order get to this point of the rule making process. Tisdall supports the change because it is a good tool for landowners and the South Dakota Houndsmen Association (SDHA). Tisdall stated that the SDHA is not interested in a wide-open hound season in the Black Hills and that this is not a stepping stool for hound hunting in the Black Hills. He stated because the Department is not interested in managing lions outside the Black Hills; then let the landowner decide how to manage lions on their land.

Curtis Foster of Britton, SD, asked for support to use hounds outside the Black Hills.

Reed VanDevoort of Piedmont, SD, stated he is a rancher, a member of SD Houndsmen Association, and a member of the Montana Houndsmen Association. He shared that eight years ago he had fresh weaned calves and they broke out of a corral and took out five fences; he lost two calves and repaired the fence and with lack of peace of mind as to what was spooking the calves. VanDervoort stated that two years later he had the same situation and lost one calf and another with a broken shoulder. The calves were out on county road and a car hit one. In both incidents, there were lion tracks nearby and this is a concern to west river ranchers. Lions just walking by will spook the cattle and landowners want Commission assistance to determine how to harvest the lions.

John Hauger of Deadwood, SD, said he opposes this whole thing and has been watching for lion tracks and is hunting and seeing no lions. Hauger referenced #3 of finalization and believes GFP has the resources to manage the lions, and does not want dogs loose to hunt lions. Dogs are not necessary to hunt lions.

Silvia Christen of Rapid City, SD, of the SD Stock Growers Association, and representing ranchers across the state, stated that generally the Association supports the use of dogs to hunt lions especially when killing or spooking livestock. This is a good tool to assist ranchers and appreciates the permission basis for hunting on private land as outlined in the rule. Hunting dogs can sometimes spook livestock when hunting wildlife other than lions. This proposal addresses the issue of hunting on public lands with dogs; it is a good middle ground to assist ranchers and producers.

Ross Rohde of Rapid, SD, stated he fully supports the use of hounds on private land outside the Black Hills. This is a good law for landowners as it is their land and a

way to address a problem cat. It is very difficult to track a cat without snow and a dog would assist with it. This is a good rule and trespassing is not a real issue here.

Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD, representing the PHAS, also submitted a letter. Hilding stated they want GFP to limit this on public lands and wants to talk to the hound hunters present today as well. Hilding reference the SD Management Plan and believes there is no documentation that lions do not establish populations on tribal lands and the need to table this proposal and direct staff to communicate with tribes. Communication is poor between the tribes and the GFP on mountain lions.

Senator Betty Olson of Prairie City, SD, indicated she sponsored the mountain lion legislation last year which passed the House and stalled in the Senate and lost. She likes the original proposal as presented in December on the GFP Website and does not like the current finalization sheet and read item (5) on finalization sheet. She wants hounds to be used on the public land in her area.

Representative Betty Olson stated she wanted the public lands statement removed from the recommended changes and to leave it as presented initially on the website or she may have to bring a bill to the Legislature; especially if passed in current finalization form. Discussion ensued regarding documented problems in the northwestern corner of the state, current incidents, and that Representative Olson stated she believes lions are a danger to her and her family.

Chris Hesla of Pierre, SD, representing the SD Wildlife Federation testified that they opposed original proposal but with the change of public land they now support it.

Paul Lepitso of Pierre, SD, represented the President of the South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America and read a letter from League stating their opposition to the proposal.

Mike Ferris of Pierre, SD, testified that he is opposed to all of this and a mountain lion is a trophy hunt and that he also submitted a letter. He indicated that GFP has a dog that will hunt lions and that it takes a short time to locate the lion. He stated he is opposed to killing kittens and the people safety is important; and no one in SD has been hurt or killed by lions but have with dogs. There is no sport of hunting a lion in tree that can go nowhere and then shoot it. He believes there is no need to kill lion not hurting livestock or people and that lions travel miles and roam a long ways.

The public hearing concluded at 2:42 p.m.

#### Written testimony:

Jim and Teresa Hale of White Owl, SD, emailed: "We support dog use for lion hunting. We are concerned ranchers."

Charles Spring of Union Center, SD, emailed: "I am in favor of using dogs to hunt mountain lions in all of SD except for Black Hills Fire Protection District. I hope this is a year round season."

Jennifer Langager of New Underwood, SD, emailed: "I live in rural western South Dakota; I am in complete favor of using dogs for the purpose of hunting mountain lions."

Donald Hofer of Miller, SD, emailed: "...I strongly feel that dogs should be allowed while hunting mountain lions in our state of South Dakota. Please consider the use of dogs."

Judy, Bill, Casey, and Carl Gifford of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "We support dog use for lion hunts outside the hills."

Beth Haivala of Rapid City, SD, emailed, "...Allowing hunting with dogs would ensure that balance and create some safety benefits to peoples and other animals."

Randy W. Ellis, of Piedmont, SD, emailed, "I am writing to you to add my voice and vote to the proposal allowing hunters to use dogs in the pursuit of mountain lions in the state of South Dakota."

Willie Hasart of Saint Lawrence, SD, emailed: "I vote for dogs to be used in Hunting Mt. Lions in SD."

Forrest H. Cain of Whitewood, SD, emailed: "I am sending this email in regards to the pending issue of allowing hounds for lion hunting outside the hills here in South Dakota. I can't think of any good reason why this measure would not be passed...I fully endorse the use of hounds for hunting mountain lions in this state."

Adamk Karrels of Sturgis, SD, emailed: "...I feel this would be a beneficial addition to SD lion hunting. This would be a great tool for ranchers...I feel that this option deserves consideration and would benefit, not only the State, but the Rancher, as well."

Bob Bertolotto of Sturgis, SD, emailed: "I just want to state my support for using dogs for lion hunting in SD..."

Ross Rohde of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...I am in favor of the use of dogs on private land for tracking mountain lions..."

Travis Theel of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...I believe by allowing the use of dogs outside of the Black Hills, we as avid hunters/conservationists could help keep the prairie mountain lion numbers down..."

Christopher Alan Wells of Custer, SD, emailed: "I would like to express my strong support for the legalizing the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting in South Dakota."

Penny Maldonado of The Cougar Fund emailed: "I ask you to please reinforce that SDGFP responds to "facts" when they make their decisions. In this case there do not seem to be any facts to support the use of hounds."

Randy Meyer of Oacoma, SD, emailed: "I support hunting mt lions with dogs in the state of South Dakota..."

Kathleen Tagher of Sonoma, CA, emailed: "There is no justification for this expansion of hound hunting..."

Kalli Vasknetz of Sturgis, SD, emailed: "I support the use of dogs for hunting in South Dakota."

Ron Merwin of Piedmont, SD, emailed: "I am in support of using dogs to hunt mountain lions..."

Nicole Edmonds, of Prescott Valley, AZ, emailed: "I oppose South Dakota hound hunts for mountain lions..."

Mark C. Carstensen of Sturgis, SD, emailed: "I am writing in support of the Commissioners to vote in favor of allowing hunting dogs with hunting mountain lions..."

Robert Dennis of Red Owl, SD, emailed: "I am writing to express my support for the proposal to allow the use of hounds in hunting mountain lions outside the Black Hills...Please vote yes on this proposal."

Mike Sneesby of Lead, SD, emailed: "I'm writing this email in favor of letting dogs be allowed to chase mountain lions both on the prairie and in the Black Hills Forest District..."

John Simpson, of Pierre, SD, emailed: "I oppose the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting outside the Black Hills..."

Teri Kinsley of Murdo, SD, emailed: "I support the mountain lion hunting with dogs."

Paul Sheets of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...please consider the use of hounds to harvest mountain lions outside the BH Forest District..."

James H. Shaw, Jr. and Jodene Shaw of White Owl, SD, emailed: "...we support the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting outside of the Black Hills..."

Adrian M. Forrette of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...But let's be forthright about something: Isn't Brad Tisdale, with his petition, asking the state to sponsor torture and environmental terrorism?..."

Jacqui Kouf of Brookings, SD, emailed: "Hunting these cats like this is gross on many levels. This is not a management solution..."

Larry Nelson of Buffalo, SD, emailed: "I support using dogs to hunt mountain lions, as long as permission has been given by all private land owners in the area to be hunted...I also support hunting with dogs during the lion hunting seasons."

Darci Adams of Hartford, SD, submitted a letter from The Humane Society and stated in here email: "opposing the proposal to expand hound hunting of mountain lions statewide, specifically all areas outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District."

Randy Hallock of Sturgis, SD, emailed, "I for one need to be counted on authorizing hound hunting for mountain lions on a state wide basis."

Cathleen A. Plaza of Spearfish, SD emailed: "...I am opposed to this proposal..."

Clark Blake of Belle Fourche, SD, emailed: "I am a rancher in southwest Harding County and have been having problems with a lion or lions spooking my livestock...I would ask you to let us use dogs to try to get these cats. We need to be able to use them on both private and public lands on a year round basis."

Clark Blake of Belle Fourche, SD, emailed: "...This is my second comment on this proposal...Please pass this proposal without any amendments."

Clay Baumung of Pierre, SD, emailed several reasons indicating that he opposes the use of dogs and hound hunting of wild animals.

Jan Zinkl of Denver, CO, emailed: "I was upset to hear that you are considering continuing the practice of using hounds to hunt mountain lions...Please stop it."

Gary Renner of Spearfish, SD, emailed: "...I am very much against this..."

Dean A. Hyde of Pierre, SD, emailed: "I oppose the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions..."

Bruce Blair of Piedmont, SD, emailed: "...I am writing this note in favor of using dogs to hunt lions on private property..."

Holly Blumer of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I am totally against the use of using a dog to hunt for mountain lions..."

Wade Yost of Ree Heights, SD, emailed: "...As a rancher myself, I strongly support this..."

Wade Musick of Mitchell, SD, emailed: "I would like to express my support of the amendment to allow the use of dogs to be used to hunt Mt lions year round in all areas of the state located outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District..."

David Utter of Piedmont, SD, emailed: "I am writing in support of the rule change...I would like to be able to hunt lions with dogs outside of the Black Hills."

Cathy Sotherland of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: "Please do not consider hunting lions with hounds! No at all sporting!"

Lynn Allan Hetlet of Oral, SD, emailed: "I am opposed to allowing year-round mountain lion hunting in SD..."

Rolf Kraft of Martin, SD, emailed: "I would only allow hounds to hunt lions if normal hunting does not provide adequate population control. Hound hunting compromises fair chase."

Kevin J. Hansen of Zell, SD, emailed: "...to voice my support for the use of hounds while hunting mountain lions..."

Rem and Marla McGeorge of Ree Heights, SD, emailed: "...hope you will consider allowing hounds to be used for mountain lion hunting..."

Neal R. McIntyre of Winfred, SD, emailed: "...I concur with the petition to use hounds for hunting."

Mike Brant of Piedmont, SD, emailed: "I think dogs should be allowed in mountain lion hunts in all parts of South Dakota..."

Nick Haase of Whitewood, SD emailed: "Using dogs to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota should be allowed because other states do..."

Tom Schmitz of Deadwood, SD, emailed: "I am writing to ask that you deny the petition to allow expanded use of hounds in hunting mountain lions in SD..."

Jim Scull of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I believe this proposal has merit and should be passed...I don't see the down side of allowing sportsman this opportunity. I encourage you to give it a try; I believe it would work out just fine."

Leonard Wood of Pringle, SD, emailed: "People should be able to hunt with hounds both inside and outside the Black Hills..."

Jason Krick of Highmore, SD, emailed: "I support hunting mountain lions with dogs."

Dana C. De Witt of Yankton, SD, emailed: "I support the use of hounds outside the park to control mountain lion populations..."

Dr. Bob Woerman of Brandon, SD, emailed: "The use of hounds when hunting cougars or mountain lions gives the hunter a significant advantage compared to how cougars have been hunted in the past. Success rate of cougar hunting should be much greater. Escape by the cougar will be much less compared to how they are currently hunted. If hounds will be used to hunt cougars than cougar permits must be significantly reduced or the current population will be decimated. South Dakota will not have a cougar population to hunt. It seems the current cougar population is about correct based on reports of cougars visiting out of place locations as compared to a few years ago. South Dakota must currently have a reduced manageable cougar population."

Robin Snow of Renner, SD, emailed: "I am against the use of hounds for general mountain lion hunting outside of the Black Hills, with exceptions allowed in the case of a cat that presents a danger to livestock or humans."

Alan Dale Lekness of Sisseton, SD, emailed: "I would like to see dogs used for mountain lion hunting outside of the Black Hills and in Eastern South Dakota for residents only."

Arlin Stratmeyer of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "Thank you for the opportunity to express support for the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions outside the Black Hills...Please vote in favor of this proposal."

Randy Schafer of Madison, SD, emailed: "I do support hunting lions with hounds outside the Black Hills."

Justin Deutsch of Langford, SD, emailed: "I believe hounds should be used everywhere including the Black Hills..."

Katie Day of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I urge you not to expand the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions in the prairie..."

Steve Bulle of Keystone, SD, emailed: "I am writing to express my support for the Proposal to allow the use of hounds in hunting mountain lions outside the Black Hills..."

Carol Layton of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...I am opposed to the proposal of hunting lions with dogs, and am asking you to think carefully about your decision."

Jil Jennewein of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "Please do not allow out-of-state[rs] to kill our mountain lions by tracking them down, hunting them down, with a pack of dogs year around...I am against this!"

Debbie Stangle of Box Elder, SD, emailed: "...I don't claim to be either pro or anti-hunting, but in inhabited areas where there is obvious mountain lion activity there should be an allowance to use dogs to hunt mountain lions or at least help encourage them to move along into a more remote area."

Joan Fox of Tuscon, AZ, emailed: "Please do not allow this killing spree of God's beautiful beloved creatures."

Renee D. Alford of Escondido, CA, emailed: "...Please discontinue using hounds to hunt the lions in South Dakota..."

Nancy Barker of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: "Please vote down the proposal to allow mountain lions to be hunted down with packs of hounds year round or otherwise!..."

Lynn and Gardner Gray of Pringle, SD, emailed: "Please do not allow hounds for hunting mountain lions in South Dakota..."

Gwen E. Kaneshiro of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: "...I strongly object to this unfair and inhumane method of hunting as well as opening lion hunting to year round status. Please do not allow this to happen."

Helen McGinnis of Harman, WV, emailed: "To me, hound hunting is morally repugnant. But others disagree. I suggest a compromise. A contact list of hound hunters desiring to hunt lions on the SD Prairie could be maintained. If a professional determines that a lion has depredated livestock, the hound hunters could be notified and allowed to remove the offending lion. It is possible that the chase could get out of control, but that's not likely because there are so few lions on the Prairie, and not a single instance of livestock depredation has been confirmed there."

Wila Kent of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: "Please so (do) not use dogs to hunt mountain lions. I do not think it is a fair survivalist fight for the mountain lions."

Lon Sharp of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: "...I oppose the use of hounds in hunting lions in South Dakota because of the huge negative possibilities of lions crossing onto private property."

Wayne Patterson of Sturgis, SD, emailed: "...I am writing this email to inform you of my support of the legalizing of dog use on private property outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District..."

Suzan Nolan of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...register me as an opponent of this barbaric idea."

Kym Waugh of Denver, CO, emailed: "The killing of mountain lions is despicable but to allow "hound hunting" is beyond the pale..."

Denise Maher of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...There is no need to allow hunters with hounds on private property...No hounds please!"

Damon Ausmann of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I am firmly opposed to the proposal to allow hounds hunting for mountain lions..."

Julie Anderson of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...Please reject this proposal for allowing hound hunting in prairie areas of South Dakota."

Jeb E. Bordewyk of Black Hawk, SD, emailed: "Allow the use of dogs outside the Black Hills National Forest for lion hunting, please."

Lori Tetreault of Whitewood, SD, emailed: "I am adamantly against dogs being used to hunt mountain lions!..."

Melisa Rohm of Pittsburg, PA, emailed: "I am against expanded hound hunting of cougars..."

Jamie Fettig of Belle Fourche, SD, emailed: "I support hunting lions with dogs in South Dakota."

Dwayne Ice of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I would like to express my support to a mountain lion season that would allow the use of dogs..."

Mitra Sabet of Atlanta, GA, emailed: "Please support: No hound hunting in the prairie region..."

Heath Hallum of Stonebluff, OK, emailed: "...I just cannot understand why an department of wildlife would allow hunters to use dogs to kill such an important part of the ecosystem..."

Heather Rider of Santa Fe, NM, emailed: "No hounding hunting. Please consider stopping this archaic function. It benefits on one. Animals deserve more respect."

Julie Pommer of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "Cougar Hunt. Please!! Let's keep SD natural, with wildlife. Nothing good has come of these hunts before..."

Patti Celovsky of Jackson, WY, emailed: "...Hound hunting is preposterous..."

Larry Beezley of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I strongly oppose using packs of dogs to pursue or hunt mountain lions...Please do not allow prairie hunting with dog packs."

Roberta Rotherham of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I believe this is a very cruel way to hunt..."

Marina Salazar of New York City, NY, emailed: "There is no justification for this expansion of hound hunting..."

Janette Herlinger of Wuppertal, Germany, emailed: "I was just informed about you considering whether to expand hound hunting to the Prairie Region in South Dakota...There is no justification for this expansion of hound hunting..."

Alissa Cohen of Scottsdale, AZ, emailed: "I am writing to you to beg you to not allow the expansion of hound hunting to the Prairie Region...I urge you to do the right thing here and never expand hound hunting..."

Deb Reis of Wilson, WY, emailed: "There is no justification for the expansion of hound hunting..."

Melissa McKibben of Centennial, CO, emailed: "Please, No Hound Hunting in the Prairie Region!..."

David Stadler of Seattle, WA, emailed: "I am writing to respectfully urge you not to allow hunting of mountain lions in the Prairie Region..."

Juliet Lamont of Berkeley, CA, emailed: "Please ban hound hunting!..."

Tara Vermillion of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "Please do not expand the hound hunting..."

Todd Ulmer of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, emailed: "I am writing to urge you to not approve hound hunting in the prairie regions of Cougars..."

Louise McGannon of Mitchell, SD, emailed: "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..."

Dr. Tom Huhnerkoch of Lead, SD, emailed: "...The dog issue is so complex and if you give an inch now soon they will want all hunting with dogs; that fact is inevitable."

Douglas "George" Prisbe of Lead, SD, emailed: "...Please do not approve the use of dogs in the killing of mountain lions."

James Gingras of Piedmont, SD, emailed: "...My hope is that you allow the use of dogs to track mt. lions."

Mr. Lynn Namminga of Deadwood, SD, emailed: "Shooting animals that run up a tree to get away from a dog is not hunting...Please don't allow this sorry practice to be legitimized."

Shari Crouch Kosel of Lead, SD, emailed: "I am adamantly opposed to hunting lions with the use of dogs..."

Carol Lauck of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "Please do not allow dogs in the hunting of mountain lions..."

Chad Blair of Vale, SD, emailed: "As a land owner in Meade County, I would like to voice my support of using dogs to hunt lions in South Dakota..."

Lucinda Schuft of Hot Spring, SD, emailed: "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..."

Aaron Thurber of Ellendale, ND, emailed: "I would like to express support for the use of hounds while hunting mountain lions in South Dakota..."

Ryan Cordell of Camp Crook, SD, emailed: "...I encourage you to allow the use of hounds on all lands, both public and private, outside the Black Hills Fire Protection Zone..."

Denise Peterson of Kentwood, MI, emailed: "Please do not expand hound hunting in the Prairie Region or anywhere in South Dakota..."

Jean Matthesen of Custer, SD, emailed: "absolutely do not allow using dogs for mountain lion hunting..."

Kisha Burgardt of Wichita, KS, emailed: "Please take time from your day to imagine being chased to your death for no reason. Hound hunting is so very cruel and since we are all well aware of this it would be very kind of you to follow what you know is ethical and appropriate..."

Stephanie Jochum-Natt of Salt Lake City, UT, emailed: "I am writing to express my disappointment and opposition to your proposal to increase hound hunting of cougars in your state..."

Tara Ashmore of West Yellowstone, MT, emailed: "There is no justification for this expansion of hound hunting..."

Joanne White of New York City, NY, emailed: "I am writing to ask you to stop all Hound Hunting of Cougars in South Dakota..."

Megan Tenney of Billings, MT, emailed: "I'm a concerned citizen who wishes to speak my mind about the killing of mountain lions. Please let the natural course of nature take place. Please don't allow the treeing of hounds and killing..."

Stephanie Farac of Novato, CA, emailed: "No hound hunting of cougars..."

Jeannie Wiggins of Berea, OH, emailed: "Stop the mountain lion hunt."

Dawn Freidel of Corsica, SD, emailed: "I am sending this to voice my opposition to the use of hounds in hunting mountain lions..."

Paul Steiger of Sturgis, SD, emailed: "I live in Meade County. I am very much in favor of hunting mountain lion using dogs."

Mickie Hortness of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I am writing to you today to voice my opposition to the use of hounds in mountain lion hunting..."

Dr. John W. Laudre' of Idyllwild, CA, emailed: "...I am writing you at this time to express my disapproval of the proposal to allow the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions in the prairie areas of South Dakota..."

Sara Parker of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "...I strongly oppose the use of dogs in hunting mountain lions..."

Joseph M. Kosel of Lead, SD, emailed: "I vehemently oppose the proposal to allow dogs in mountain lion hunting on the prairie."

Kim Sargent Forgey of Pierre, SD, emailed: "...I do not oppose the hunting of mountain lions. I think it should be allowed, regulated, and monitored..."

Marlene Haivala of Piedmont, SD, emailed: "I feel that hunters hunting mountain lions should be able to use dogs...Please vote for the use of dogs."

Evelyn Provell of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I strongly oppose allowing hunting dogs to track mountain lions..."

Phil and Linda VanDervoort of Piedmont, SD, emailed: "...We feel the ability to allow lion hunters using dogs on our property could help us protect our stock, especially freshly weaned calves."

Casey Ellerton of Custer, SD, emailed: "I am in strong support of the use of hounds for lions on private lands."

Shanon Ellerton of Custer, SD, emailed: "I would very much like to see the use of hounds for hunting lions on private land."

Rudy Niewenhuis of Corsica, SD, emailed: "I am 100% in favor of the use of hounds to pursue mountain lions..."

Judy Love of Custer, SD, emailed: "Please do not allow the hunting of mountain lions with hounds on the Prairie Unit..."

Zach Delange of Corsica, SD, emailed: "I think it is a good idea to hunt them with hounds because we keep seeing them around the land we have cattle on by Pickstown and Platte..."

Dorothy O'Connor of Lead, SD, emailed: "I strongly oppose the use of dogs in hunting mountain lions..."

Patty Jenkins of Brandon, SD, emailed: "I oppose the use of Dogs to hunt Mountain Lions..."

Cody Weyer of Howes, SD, emailed: "I'm for hunting lions with dogs."

Aaron Brewer of Pierre, SD, emailed: "I'm sending this email in support of the use of dogs while hunting Mt lions..."

Clint Oedekoven of Sturgis, SD, emailed: "Would like to see a season for lion hunting with dogs on private land."

Rick Hanson of Spearfish, SD, emailed: "I believe that the use of dogs for hunting mountain lions, outside the Black Hills is a good idea..."

Anya Mueller of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...I am opposed to using dogs in hunting process."

Jeff and Jodi Sleep of Spearfish, SD, emailed: "We are writing in support of the use of dogs in hunting mountain lions outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District..."

Kyle Brown of Sturgis, SD, emailed: "I have a ranch east of I90, I think the use of dogs over here to hunt should be allowed..."

Shane Niewenhuis of Corsica, SD, emailed: "I hear you are asking for input on hunting lions with dogs. I am in favor of it..."

Mike, Kim, Hunter, Drake, Reed, and Gage Lindberg of Keystone, SD, emailed: "We are in full support of hunting mountain lions with dogs outside the Black Hills..."

Riley Niewenhuis of Corsica, SD, emailed: "...I believe we should be able to pursue the lion with hounds to take care of the problem..."

Chris Meland of Sturgis, SD, emailed: "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."

Curt Wood of Sturgis, SD, emailed: "Please allow dogs to hunt lions in the Black Hills, the elk population is dwindling!"

Jamie Al-Haj of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...I strongly oppose allowing dogs to hunt mountain lions..."

Ethan Ernest of Winner, SD, emailed: "I would like to express my feeling on the use of hounds to hunt lions outside of the Black Hills. Using hounds is unarguably the best and safest way to hunt lions..."

Patricia and John Fink of Hills City, SD, emailed: "...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."

Deeb Pageler of Sisseton, SD, emailed: "Please let me take this time to show my support of the use of dogs on lion hunting outside the hills..."

Beth Stewart of Silver Spring, MD, emailed: "There is no justification for the expansion of hound hunting as there have been no confirmed depredation of pets or livestock by Cougars outside the Black Hills area..."

Carmel Severson of Pembroke Pines, FL, emailed: "I am writing to state my opposition to the use of Hounds to Hunt Cougars..."

Martin H. Meyer of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: "...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!..."

Kathryn Hess of Nemo, SD, emailed: "I have written protesting using dogs to hunt mountain lions..."

Brenda Manning of Pierre, SD, emailed: "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!”

Kyle Manning of Pierre, SD, emailed: “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.”

Brad Tisdall, President of SDHA, emailed: “I would like the commission to approve the use of dogs to hunt Mt. Lion outside the Black Hills 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. SDHA is not in favor of an 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”

Connie Feekes of Rapid City, SD, emailed: “I am writing to express my opposition to allowing hounds to be used during mountain lion hunting...”

Larry Bowden of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: “...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.”

David R. Love of Custer, SD, emailed: “...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...”

Lula Red Cloud of Hermosa, SD, emailed: “I am opposed to the use of hounds for hunting mountain Lions year round. Please do not allow this.”

Gary Finn of Sturgis, SD, emailed: “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...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...”

Dawn Wipf of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: “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...”

Nancy Gregory of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: “Please leave the lions alone! No dogs-no seasons...”

Chris Albert of Lebanon Junction, KY, emailed: “...I urge you NOT to expand the hunting of mountain lions with hounds...”

Guy Ferris of Pierre, SD, emailed: “Opposed to use of dogs to hunt Mt. lions.”

Mark Trask of Wasta, SD, emailed: “I ranch in Meade and Pennington counties in western South Dakota. I have personal lost horses to lion depredation. I fully support the use of hounds to hunt lions.”

Evan Anderson of Wasta, SD, emailed: “I support the idea of being able to hunt lions with hounds on the prairie!”

Jack Kuhl of Pierre, SD, called to state that he is opposed to using dogs to hunt mountain lions.”

Fred Foland of Midland, SD, emailed: “I support lion hunting with hounds on the prairie.”

Alan Fisher of Sanibel, FL, emailed: "No hound hunting, please."

Daniel F. Derrick, Jr., of Custer, SD, emailed: "...Please deny the petitioners their proposal to expand the use of hounds in hunting mountain lions in South Dakota..."

Olga Gamarnyk of Vinnista, UK, emailed: "I am writing to ask you NOT to expand Hound Hunting of Cougars in South Dakota..."

Eliot Kammerer of Piedmont, SD, wrote: "I am a rancher in southern Meade County and I am in favor of hunting mountain lions with dogs..."

Charlotte Petrick of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...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..."

Mitzi Frank of Sharon Center, OH, emailed: "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...There is no reason to allow this to happen."

Susan Braunstein of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "Please do not expand hound hunting in South Dakota..."

Kathy Robles of Winfield Park, NJ, emailed: "I am against this rule change..."

Nancy Hilding, President, of Prairie Hills Audubon Society, emailed an eight-page letter supporting her oral public testimony.

Ruth Fletcher Gage of Valdese, NC, emailed: "...please do NOT expand Hound Hunting of Cougars in South Dakota..."

Elizabeth Beach of Salt Lake City, UT, emailed: "...All decisions made must be made off of facts and not fear, please consider other predator conflict resolution before you move forward with the expansion."

Bob H. Miller of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "I am fundamentally opposed to the idea of lion hunting by using hounds..."

Tom Eastburn of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: "I am opposed to dogs being used to hunt lions..."

Jan Humphrey of Hill City, SD, emailed: "No, I am opposed to this type of hunting..."

Dennis Sharkey of Ft. Pierre, SD, called stating he is 100% against the use of dogs to hunt lions."

Ron Pray of Deadwood, SD, wrote a letter stating: "I urge you to set aside the narrow special interest of hound hunter. Having hounds chase a lion up a tree where the hunter takes an easy shot is not a sport..."

Sam Hunter of Newcastle, WY, wrote a letter stating: "I would like to vote yes on the use of hounds on the proposal..."

Jeff Laughlin of Lead, SD, emailed: "I do not support hound hunting lions on the prairie..."

Shannon Secrest of Buffalo, SD, emailed: "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..."

Jonna Massey of Pierre, SD, emailed: "I am VERY opposed to expanding the use of dogs to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota."

Rocky Niewenhuis of Corsica, SD, emailed: "I am in support of mountain lion hunting in SD state wide with dogs (hounds)..."

Chris Wells of Custer, SD, emailed: "I'd like to show my strong support for the use of hounds in all hunting including mountain lions..."

Lacey Boxley of Pierre, SD, emailed: "...Please do NOT expand the hunting of mountain lions with hounds/dogs to the prairie."

Bill Radany of Murrieta, CA, emailed: "Stop the expanded cougar hunt."

Jeff Meyers of Phoenix, AZ, emailed: "...Please do not expand hound hunting in the Prairie Region of your beautiful state."

Christina Wheat of Shoreline, WA, emailed: "Please don't allow hunting of cougars in the Prairie Region..."

Ashley Secrest of Buffalo, SD, emailed: "...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..."

Brigitte James of Upland, CA, emailed: "I am dismayed to learn you are considering expanding your hound hunting policies to larger land areas..."

Christopher Spatz, President of Cougar Rewilding Foundation, of Rosendale, NY emailed: "...There is no need for expanding hound hunting mountain lions. I urge you not to extend mountain lion hound hunting to the prairie units."

Heather Nearman of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "...I am not against hunting if it's done for the right reasons...I do not want to come from a state that is easily swayed by outside influence...It would be extremely unfortunate if outside influence wins over the voice of the people from the state..."

Penelope Maldonado, Managing Director of The Cougar Fund wrote a three-page letter requesting "the Commission to reject the rule change to allow hound hunting on the prairie" with stated reasons."

Mark Webmore of Vermillion, SD, emailed: "...Please do not expand hound hunting here..."

Jayme Ste Marie of Green Bay, WI, emailed: "I'm writing to ask that you not expand hound hunting with the state of South Dakota...Please oppose the expansion of hound hunting and allow this beautiful creature to live!"

Gena Parkhurst of Rapid City, SD, emailed: "...I am against the proposed rule change that would allow hound hunting..."

Barbara Frady Scranton of Lincoln, NE, emailed: "This is very disturbing and cruel. Anyone who support[s] this should be arrested, charged, and prosecuted for animal cruelty."

Jeannette Leinweber of Monte Rio, Ca, emailed: "I am writing to ask you NOT to expand Hound Hunting of Cougars in South Dakota..."

Susan Munkelnbeck of Tucson, AZ, emailed: "I am totally against the rule change you are considering which would all hound hunting!"

Juli Ames-Curtis of Custer, SD, emailed: "Please do not vote to allow cougar hunting with hounds in the prairies of SD..."

Keith Kuttler of San Diego, CA, emailed: "Against!"

Respectfully submitted,

Acting Secretary, Douglas Hofer