



STATE TRAPPING REPORT CARD



| State | Leghold Traps Prohibited | Conibear Traps Prohibited | Snares Prohibited | Trapper Report Required | 24 Hr/Daily Trap Check Land sets | 24 Hr/Daily Trap Check Water Sets | Trap ID Required | Trapper Education Required | Non-target Animals Recorded | Bobcat Trapping Prohibited | Otter trapping prohibited | Grade |
|-------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| AL | X | X | X | + | + | X | + | + | X | X | X | C- |
| AK | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | F |
| AZ* | X* | X* | + | + | + | + | + | + | X | X | + | B |
| AR | X | X | X | X | + | X | + | X | X | X | X | D |
| CA* | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | X | X | + | B+ |
| CO* | + | + | + | X | + | + | X | X | X | X | + | C+ |
| CT | X | X | + | X | + | + | + | + | X | + | X | C+ |
| DE | X | X | + | X | + | + | + | X* | X | + | X | C |
| FL* | + | + | X | X | + | + | X | X | X | X | X | C- |
| GA | X | X | X | + | + | + | + | X | X | X | X | C- |
| HI | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | A- |
| ID | X | X | X | + | X | X | + | X | X* | X | X | D |
| IL | X | X | X | X | + | + | + | + | X | + | X | C |
| IN | X | X | X | X | + | + | X | X | X | + | + | C- |
| IA | X | X | X | X | + | X | + | X | X | X | X | D |
| KS | X | X | X | X | + | + | + | + | X | X | + | C |
| KY | X | X | X | X | + | + | + | X | X | X | X | D+ |
| LA | X | X | X | X | + | + | X | X | X | X | X | D |
| ME | X | X | X | X | + | X | + | + | X | X | X | D+ |
| MD | X | X | X | X | + | X | X | + | X | + | X | D+ |
| MA* | + | + | + | X | + | + | + | + | X | X | X | B |
| MI | X | X | X | X | X | X | + | X | X | X | X | D- |
| MN | X | X | X | X | X | X | + | X | X | X | X | D- |
| MS | X | X | X | + | X | X | + | X | X | X | X | D |
| MO | X | X | X | X | + | + | + | X | X | X | X | D+ |
| MT | X | X | X | X | X | X | + | X | X | X | X | D- |
| NE | X | X | X | X | + | X | + | X | X | X | + | D+ |
| NV | X | X | X | + | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | D- |
| NH | X | X | X | + | + | + | + | + | X | X | X | C |
| NJ | + | X | X | X | + | + | + | + | X | + | X | C+ |
| NM | X | X | X | + | + | + | + | X | X | X | + | C |
| NY | X | X | + | X | + | + | + | + | X | X | X | C- |
| NC | X | X | X* | X | + | X | + | X | X | X | X | D |
| ND | X | X | X | X | X | X | + | X | X | X | + | D |
| OH | X | X | X | X | + | + | + | + | X | + | X | C |
| OK | X | X* | + | X | + | + | + | X | X | X | X | C- |
| OR | X | X | X | + | X | X | + | + | X* | X | X | D+ |
| PA | X | X | X | X | X | X | + | + | X | X | + | D+ |
| RI | + | X | + | + | + | + | + | X | X | + | + | B- |
| SC | X | X | + | + | + | + | + | X | X | X | X | C- |
| SD | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | + | D- |
| TN | X | X | X | X | X | X | + | X | X | X | X | D- |
| TX | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | F |
| UT | X | X | X | X | X | X | + | + | X | X | + | D+ |

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|------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| VT | X | X | + | + | + | +* | + | + | X | X | X | C+ |
| VA | X | X | X | X | + | + | + | X | X | X | X | D+ |
| WA* | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | X | X | X | B |
| WV | X | X | X | X | + | + | + | + | X | X | + | C |
| WI | X | X | X | + | + | X | + | + | + | X | X | C |
| WY | X | X | X | X | X | X | + | X | + | X | + | D+ |

Key: + “yes” or positive policy X “no” or negative policy

Leghold Traps: The most commonly used trap in the United States by commercial and recreational fur trappers, these traps are inherently indiscriminate and will trap any unsuspecting animal who steps into the trap jaws, including companion animals, threatened and endangered species, and even humans. Animals captured in leghold traps endure fractures, ripped tendons, edema, blood loss, amputations, tooth and mouth damage (from chewing and biting at the trap), and starvation. Some animals will even chew or twist their limbs off in order to escape.

Snares: Simple in design and vicious in action, a snare is generally made of light wire cable looped through a locking device or of small nylon cord tied so that it will tighten as the animal pulls against it. The more a snared animal struggles, the tighter the noose becomes; the tighter the noose, the greater the animal's struggle and suffering. The body snare also may be used as an underwater drowning set for capturing and killing beavers and other aquatic animals. The body snare is designed to kill the animal by strangulation, drowning and/or crushing of vital organs. However, snares do not discriminate among victims and will capture any animal around any body part.

Conibear Traps: Consisting of two metal rectangles hinged together midway on the long side to open and close like scissors, the Conibear trap poses a serious hazard to companion animals and non-targeted wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. Despite years of research, there have been no significant advances in reducing non-targeted captures. Because they frequently are used in water, one of the primary causes of death for animals trapped in water such as beaver or otter is via drowning. The American Veterinary Medical Association has deemed drowning as an unacceptable method of euthanasia.

Trapper Report: Very few states tightly monitor the number of animals trapped each year and most do not require trappers to report the number or species of animals they kill, but may conduct voluntary surveys that tend to have very low response rates from which state wildlife agencies then “guess estimate” the total numbers of animals trapped each year. Mandatory trapper reports can provide a more accurate estimate of the number and type of species killed annually. It is important to point out, however, that no matter how accurate kill data or “harvest reports” are, they do not reflect population trends. Regardless, wildlife agencies frequently use harvest reports to estimate populations and to set annual bag limits and trapping seasons in lieu of conducting scientifically valid population assessments.

In addition, some states rely on voluntary or mandatory “fur dealer/buyer reports” to estimate annual trap kill totals. These reports have little correlation to the actual number of animals trapped since these reports only record the number of pelts purchased within the state. Out-of-state sales and pelts unsold are not recorded.

24 Hour /Daily Trap Check: Animals caught in traps for several days may starve, dehydrate, be attacked by other animals, or mangle their mouths and limbs in futile efforts to free themselves. Trappers also catch non-

targeted animals including deer, birds, squirrels, endangered species, cats and dogs; these animals have a much better chance of survival if traps are checked at least once every 24 hours.

Trap ID: While most state agencies lack the enforcement personnel necessary to ensure compliance with state trapping regulations, requiring that traps are affixed with owner identification helps law enforcement identify individuals who are setting traps in violation of state regulations. Trap IDs also aid in identifying individuals responsible for setting traps that have killed or injured companion animals, people or protected wildlife.

Trapper Education: Mandatory trapper education courses can help ensure that trappers understand and are aware of trapping regulations. Education courses can also provide instruction for avoiding and dealing with non-targeted catches, including companion animals and threatened and endangered species. In addition, education courses can provide information on less-cruel methods of killing trapped animals. However, few states require or offer trapper education courses. As a result, most trappers learn “in the field” by “trial and error” at the expense of the animals.

Non-targeted Animals: Most states do not require trappers to report non-targeted animals trapped, thereby cloaking the cumulative impacts and danger of trapping on wildlife, companion animals and communities. In lieu of available state collected data, Born Free USA maintains a database tracking incidents across the country that involve companion animals and threatened and endangered species. This data is collected via news reports or submitted directly to Born Free USA by veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators and residents who have encountered a trapping situation firsthand. Reports are submitted at www.bornfreeusa.org/trappingreport

Bobcat and Otter Trapping: Otter and bobcat are listed on Appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), a category designating species who are threatened or at risk of becoming so if traded heavily. Trapping can severely impact species who cannot naturally compensate for externally caused population reductions. Sensitive species include bobcat, river otter, wolverine, lynx, fisher, marten and kit fox.

Wildlife management practiced by state agencies is strongly dictated by economics. When pelt prices rise, pressure on furbearers increases and, in some situations, the size of the furbearer population can fluctuate depending on its perceived economic worth. Historically, basing management on economics rather than science has depleted populations of some species and created unnatural increases in others. Otter and bobcat trapping was specifically included in this evaluation because these species are native to most states, are sensitive species whose trade is of international concern, and are trapped primarily or solely for recreational or commercial purposes.

Notes:

WA* Leghold traps, Conibear traps and snares are prohibited for the capture of mammals for recreation or commerce in fur. Conibear traps in water, padded leghold traps or a non-strangling type of foot snare can be used with a special permit for protecting human health and safety and wildlife conflicts (not to exceed 30 days, and a non-lethal control tool must be attempted first), protection of threatened and endangered species, and for use in “legitimate wildlife research” (excluding Conibear traps).

SC* The Department may issue special depredation permits to allow the use of snares in water to target beavers.

RI* Leghold traps are allowed with a special permit from the director of the Department of Environmental Management.

OR* The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife estimated that it would take 140 hours of field staff time to search 24 offices for records and compile data, at a cost of \$3,920.00. This indicates that, while data may be collected, it is not readily available for evaluation or consideration by the Department or the public. For comparison, Wisconsin was able to provide non-targeted trapping data at no cost and Wyoming was able to provide the information for just \$10.

OK* Trappers can obtain a 30-day permit to use Conibear traps in water targeting beavers.

NC* Snares may be used in water to target beavers.

NY* Traps must be checked every 24 hours; however, there are several area and species exceptions that allow traps to be checked every 48 hours.

MA* A state ballot initiative in 1996 banned body-gripping traps. Special permits may be issued to use Conibear traps for certain types of wildlife damage.

ID* Trappers are required to report only dead, non-targeted species (non-targeted species found alive are to be released, but need not be reported).

HI* There is no recreational trapping in Hawaii. However, traps and snares have been used for certain types of wildlife damage.

FL* Leghold traps may be used only by permit from the executive director of the commission.

DE* Persons born after Jan. 1, 1978, are required to take a trapper education course prior to obtaining a trapping permit. Persons over age 65 and residents who live on more than 20 acres do not need a permit to trap nor are they required to take, a trapper education course.

CO* A state ballot initiative in 1996 banned body-gripping traps. The ban effectively covers recreational and commercial fur trapping. Exemptions exist for control of wildlife damage to commercial crops and livestock on private land, to protect public health and safety, and for bona fide scientific research. Leghold traps used for these purposes must be padded when set on land.

CA* A state ballot initiative in 1998 banned the use of body-gripping traps for commercial and recreational trapping. Leghold traps, Conibear traps and snares can be used for nuisance wildlife control and human health and safety.

AZ* All body-gripping traps and snares are prohibited on public land as a result of a ballot initiative passed in 1994. Body-gripping traps are allowed on private land. Snares are not permitted, except those not designed to kill for purpose of scientific research, sport falconry or relocation.

VT* Body-gripping traps set under ice need only be checked once every three days.

Dear MISS PETERSON:

Hello. I would like to leave a comment regarding the hunting of Mountain Lions in South Dakota.

- ① All Mountain Lion hunting should be stopped, until we know the health of the Lion breeding population in South Dakota, and the health of the populations in neighboring states expected to provide dispersing Lions in to South Dakota.
 - ② Allowing out of state hunters will over exploit an extremely limited natural resource.
 - ③ Hounding has been banned in two thirds of the United States. This is an archaic and cruel practice for both wild animals and dogs; And it should be banned in South Dakota as well.
- Thank you in advance for your valuable time and attention to This very important matter.

Sincerely
Amir Niknam
AMIR NIKNAM

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
Oct 1st, 2015

Department of Game, Fish, and Parks,
Foss Building, 523 East Capitol,
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

PHAS Cougar letter # 1

Dear Commissioners,

We want to thank Secretary Helper for creating a Tribal Liaison and appointing Ron Skates to that position. This action is long overdue and it wonderful that GFP has finally created this position.

We object to the SD Lion season parameters and have done so for years; we have sent letters in to all hearings since 2005 and testified at all but one hearing in the last 10 years. This is an important issue to us. We want the Black Hills cougars managed as a source population. We want lions to be recovered on the prairie, especially on tribal lands, if the tribes want the recovery.

We object and have repeatedly objected to your cougar season for many reasons:

1. We desire to know cougars exist on the land - both in the Black Hills and on the prairies of SD. We want to "wildlife watch", see tracks and just know that they are there. We believe your aggressive season seriously reduces lions in Black Hills and your goal seems to be to eradicate lions on the prairie.
2. We are concerned about the cruelty to kittens when moms die and with the creation of orphaned and undertrained sub-adults, that may become "conflict" lions.
3. We believe the danger from cougars is exaggerated and that cougar opponents promote and exploit people's fear of cougars; a fear not supported by facts.
4. We want the Department to seriously review the new cougar research out of Washington State that challenges the assumptions that heavy hunting of lions reduces lion conflicts with human/livestock. We want answers from SDGFP about how this research in NW coast applies to SD and Wyoming Black Hills. We need more information on cougar-human conflicts and if these conflicts are increasing or decreasing with time and how this relates to the Black Hills aggressive harvest.
5. We believe that wild predators deserve a fair share of the harvest of wild ungulate prey. We object to killing predators to maximize hunter harvest of "prey" animals

6. We want you to give equal weight to concerns of wildlife enthusiasts who value cougars - we want the same respect you give to "hunter/fishers" and large agricultural producers. A licensee fee is not a donation. With their license fees, hunter/fishers purchase a thing of value from public -- access to take wildlife from the land. Wildlife is owned by all SD citizens. Also much of the Black Hills is federal land and belongs to all American citizens -- it does not belong to a few large agricultural producers. However Native Americans claim it also, with the moral claim of broken treaties and theft. At any rate, the Black Hills that supports most of our lion population is substantially public land. So this is about a public resource grown substantially on public land.

Specific Objections/Requests for 2015-2017 Seasons

We thank you for the fifteen lion reduction in Black Hills harvest "cap", but believe this "cap" is irrelevant, cosmetic or disingenuous, as it is unrealistically high. Hunters have not reached your "caps" for the last 3 years. We believe your staff does not expect them to kill all 60 lions.

You set the "caps" way above what can be harvested, thus the "brake" you place on the season is actually the season length. Several years ago the Commission proposed "caps" on bobcat harvests. But as we understood it, the staff felt too uncertain about population levels, so wanted the "brake" to be the length of the bobcat season. Which is what you chose.

You need to reduce the "cap" at least to 43 lions (last harvest) or as Cougar Rewilding suggests in their letter -- 14% of population, the value suggested by Wielgus. SD GFP has not shown us a chart with the estimate of the lion population after the 2014-2015 hunt, so we can't calculate what 14% of today's population would be.

We object to the 60 lion harvest "cap" as too aggressive, especially as it is being set for two years. We question the uncertainty of the population estimates and lack of transparency -- at the very least, you do not share the anticipated 2017 lion population levels with the public, if you even have created an estimate. We object to a 2-year season, especially given lack of transparency with respect to the anticipated kill levels and anticipated populations at end of seasons.

A. We object to licenses being sold to any out-of-state folks, especially for only \$121 dollars each. We especially object to out-of-state hunters being allowed to hunt on the prairie unit, which means, they can hunt with hounds. The approval of hound hunting was – controversial. It was allegedly so livestock producers could be appeased. Please don't make this controversial decision worse by allowing out-of-state hunters to increase the number of hound-hunters.

B. We object to Commission's January 2015 approval of hound hunt on the prairie -- which allows such hound hunt for 365 days of the year on private land and on some public lands. We request that you repeal this recent rule change.

C. We object to extension of the SD Mountain Lion Management Plan for 2 more years. Why? So many of SDGFP's assumptions and goals that we object to are made policy in this Plan.

D. We have seen some new Lion Populations. Several tribes believe they have seen the recent creation of resident or breeding mountain lion populations. This is a changed circumstance for some tribes since 2010-15 Mt. Lion Management Plan was adopted. SDGFP new Secretary Hepler has appointed a tribal liaison. We look forward to a new future of much improved GFP

consultation with tribes.

Once you are satisfied with the information you receive from tribes, we believe you will determine the 2010-2015 Plan is outdated, with its assumptions of no habitat, no breeding and no resident lions on the prairie. We believe that Tribal authority to manage for lions will change your perception that property owners in the prairie don't want lions. We believe that National Forest, BLM, USFWS, NPS and State School Lands in the western part of SD challenge the assumption that the concern in prairie is just about private lands.

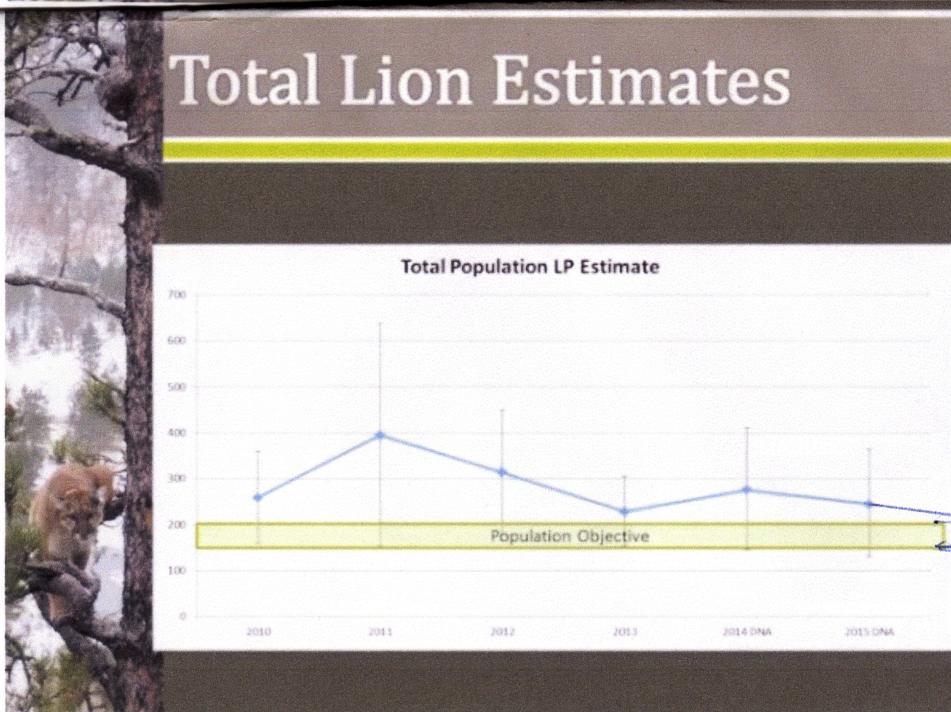
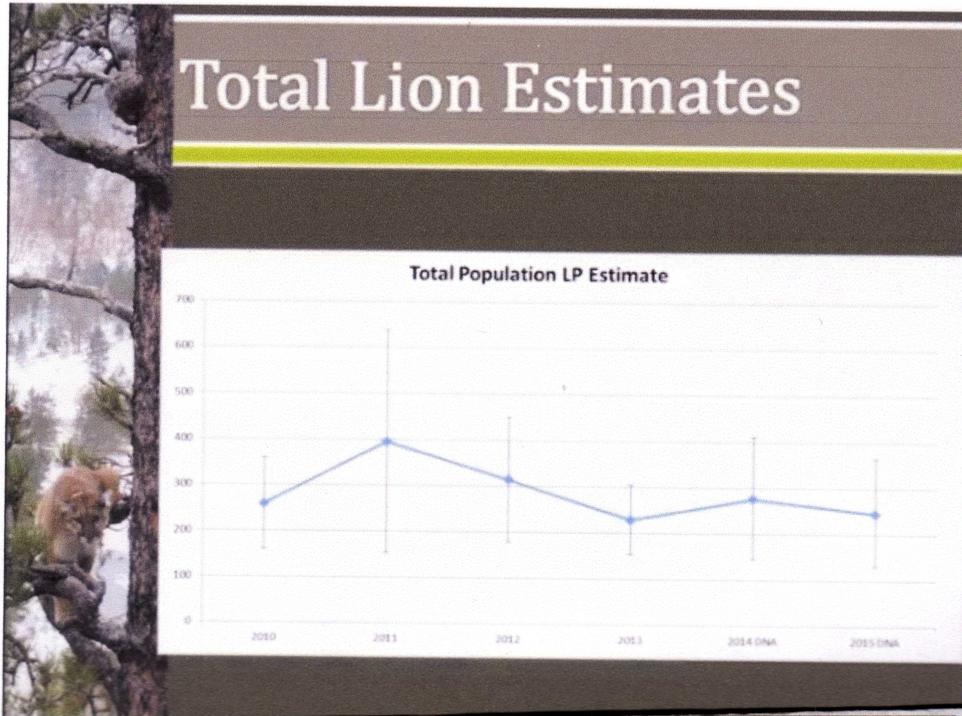
We also want the Black Hills to continue to be a source population for Nebraska's small lion populations. We believe these populations are connected to SD tribal lion populations.

E. We object to the 365-day, unlimited season on the Prairie Unit. We once again ask you to break the prairie unit up into geographic subsets to allow for different management objectives in different parts of prairie unit. This could allow aggressive cougar hunting in some areas and reduced or no hunting in other prairie areas. We believe that the boundaries of Black Hills lion habitat are too small and that areas with breeding lions around BHs are currently inappropriately excluded from the Black Hills unit. We also hope for management buffers outside reservations for cooperation of GFP with tribes on lion management. We want connectivity corridors to small disjunct populations.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Hilding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society



You can see. That's our population objective that we have as our population objective that we have listed in our management plan. That's from 150 to 200. Obviously, the bulk of our estimates are still above that. Our 95%

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
Oct 1st, 2015

Department of Game, Fish, and Parks,
Foss Building, 523 East Capitol,
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Cougar Comment letter # 2

Dear Commissioners

We attach a visual aid to this letter we will use during our testimony today.

In attached document, we have taken your staff's "Total Population LP Estimate" chart (from August Commission Meeting) and continued the population line out towards the end of the season in 2017. It shows population dropping below 150 lions.

The last date point on this chart (2015), really refers to Christmas 2014. So the last season used to determine this population trend was the 2013-2014 season, where you had a higher harvest and higher cap than is currently proposed.

We suggest if you continue the tradition of -- setting not realistic caps, that are way above what you believe the hunters can catch, you may end up in 2017, with less than 150 lions and be outside your 2010-2015 goals.

As the majority of people in your poll (2010-2015 Plan) wanted no change in the population levels and a minority wanted slight change, we do not see how a harvest that drops lions below 150 is consistent with either the Plan's objections or the public poll.

The small text sentence below the last chart is from a transcription of the August staff presentation.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hilding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Nancy Hilding

1 attachment

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW:
Date: Monday, October 05, 2015 8:44:46 AM

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

From: Jerod Lutter [<mailto:lutterwaterproofing@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 6:04 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject:

Jerod Lutter Belle Fourche SD. I support not changing the bobcat season from the previous two years

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Comment provided for the Nov 2015 meeting wrt: GFP Commission Proposes Increases for State Parks and Boating Fees
Date: Monday, October 05, 2015 2:38:02 PM

From: Tinsley, Todd L CAPT USN CENSEALSWCC [mailto:Todd.Tinsley@navsoc.socom.mil]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 2:31 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Comment provided for the Nov 2015 meeting wrt: GFP Commission Proposes Increases for State Parks and Boating Fees

Dear South Dakota GFP Commission,

Please accept the following comments in response to the proposed increases for State Parks and Boating Fees as stated in the October 5, 2015 GFP News.

As a long time South Dakota resident currently residing outside of the state serving on active duty in the Navy, I am not opposed to reasonable fees nor proposed increases that help maintain the high quality recreational opportunities provided throughout the state. The GFP does an amazing job developing, maintaining and marketing the many outdoor leisure programs, facilities and areas - I am very proud to say I am from South Dakota and personally look forward to every chance I can return home and partake of the many GFP provided recreational opportunities. I do, however, take exception to the comparison made in the following paragraph from the GFP News cited:

"The proposed Custer State Park week long pass is comparable to similar fees charged today at Rocky Mountain National Park (\$20), Theodore Roosevelt National Park (\$20), Yellowstone National Park (\$30) and Grand Teton National Park (\$30). Custer State Park is an iconic destination park and hosts many of the same out of state guests that frequent these National Parks."

The National Park System has a graduated/adjusted fee structure that includes reduced or "fee-less" costs to select demographic populations like senior citizens, disabled persons and the military. If the National Park System is the standard being used to measure cost basis, I recommend the Commission consider adopting a similar modified fee structure for the South Dakota State Parks and Recreation venues. This would be consistent with the comparisons made in the paragraph above as well as be in line with the limited participation enjoyed by our senior citizens, disabled persons and military populations. I suspect that many in these same demographic populations have limited funds available to spend on recreation as well. Making the fee structure more appealing may entice them to spend a bigger portion of their limited disposable income to partake of these wonderful recreational opportunities and support the South Dakota GFP initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration and time. Again, I am extremely proud to call myself a South Dakota resident and actively encourage everyone I know to visit our wonderful state to see its beauty, diversity and meet the finest people in our nation.

V/R, TT

CAPT Todd L. Tinsley
Commanding Officer
Center for SEAL and SWCC
Home email: varockgym@gmail.com
330 I Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118
757-803-3032

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population
Date: Friday, October 02, 2015 2:23:16 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 2:04 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Oct 2, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Ashlee Pray
18 McMaster St
Deadwood, SD 57732-9704
ashlee.pray@gmail.com

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: GFP Commission Proposes Increases for State Parks and Boating Fees
Date: Monday, October 05, 2015 2:37:13 PM

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

From: dakotawholesale.com, ted
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 1:30 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: GFP Commission Proposes Increases for State Parks and Boating Fees

Dear Commission:

As a life-long businessman as well as South Dakota sportsman, I understand increased costs associated with maintaining facilities and operations.

I like the idea of increasing fees where there is a service provided directly to the user, (Telephone reservations should have a charge, but why only \$9.90 for non-residents and \$2.00 for residents? The airlines charge \$15-\$25 for a phone reservation vs. on-line.) Don't make this complicated, charge \$10.00 or \$15.00 for phone reservations period.

I am not a boat owner, but I question raising the licensing fees of resident South Dakotans, who already pay plenty of fees and gas taxes to South Dakota.

Why not raise the non-resident fishing license fees? For that matter, why not raise the non-resident hunting fees too?

These people pay thousands of dollars in travel expenses, hunting lodge fees, etc., etc., etc.....I do not for a minute believe that they will cancel coming to the greatest pheasant hunting place in the world because their license costs another \$25 or \$50 dollars. These people pay \$300-\$400 per day to hunt pheasants, on top of their travel expenses.

Why do the "Shooting Preserve" non-resident licenses cost less than the standard non-resident license? This reeks of special favors and back door dealings.

Make the non-resident small game license the same for everyone, whether they use them or not. (I would propose raising the fee to \$125 for a Nonresident Small Game License. (10-days, (2) 5-day periods.

The same fee structure should be implemented for non-resident fishing licenses.... why have a one-day period even an option?

I can't believe that GF&P can even process a one-day fishing license for \$16.00

When I go to Canada fishing, I pay for the privilege. When I go to Montana to hunt elk, I pay for the privilege.

When I travel throughout our beautiful state, I see many South Dakota resident sportsmen and women who are hunting and fishing with older equipment and limited budgets.....when I see non-resident sportsmen and women utilizing our fantastic resources, I see newer, top-of-the-line equipment.

Lets do what we can to keep the cost of resident hunting and fishing to a minimum.

When I go to Montana or Wyoming to hunt elk , I go there because it is some of the best elk hunting in the world, not because the price of their non-resident license is a few dollars cheaper than another state. When people come to South Dakota to hunt or fish, they do so for the same reason.

Thank you for your time.

Yours truly,

Ted Swenson
26640 484th ave.
Brandon, SD 57005

605-351-9305

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Lion Hunting
Date: Friday, October 02, 2015 8:07:01 AM

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

From: Ron Laughlin [<mailto:ronlaughlin@rchs61.org>]
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 6:29 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Lion Hunting

Hello,

Just read in newspaper about non-resident lion hunting. Would like to express my approval for allowing this to go forward. Yes, i believe allowing non-residents to hunt lion here, is a good idea, and hope it becomes.

Thanking you,

Ron Laughlin
3114 Wonderland Drive
Rapid City, SD 57702

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: NO nonresident Lion Tags
Date: Thursday, October 01, 2015 3:57:52 PM

From: Andy Ellis [mailto:sillera94@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 3:37 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: NO nonresident Lion Tags

Hello my name is Andy Ellis and I live in Brookings SD. We South Dakotans have very few hunting privileges left that are exclusive to residents only. Why do we have to open every darn door to non residents? Our lion season should be left alone. Commercialization of our resident hunting privileges is happening more and more every year. If the game commission wants to let nonresidents push out more residents then they should let nonresidents have a seat on the commission, seems fare. It seems like the commission can be swayed by private outside entities that push farther into residents' quality of hunting. More private land is being leased every year by nonresidents OR residents who guide nonresidents. Close the door on these NEW nonresident tags, we have plenty of pressure as it is, DON'T add to the problem.

I hope you listen to residents and not the dollars of the nonresidents as I think they seem more important than us at times. I don't want to seem aggressive but the nonresidents are clearly putting a lot of pressure on the commission to allow more and more licenses/tags each year and we residents MUST push back and stand our ground. If we don't, all you will see is more out of state plates over utilizing our resources. Thanks for your time, AE.

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Non-resident hunting of mountain lions
Date: Thursday, October 01, 2015 10:30:30 AM

From: Leon Fenhaus [mailto:l.fenhaus@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 9:17 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Non-resident hunting of mountain lions

Commissioners:

The current management of mountain lion hunting in the Black Hills has been successful in controlling the population and providing a quality hunting experience. The addition of non-resident hunters will increase the number of hunters and hunting pressure and dilute the experience for all hunters. The increase in hunters will also negatively impact the other big game populations during the time of the year they need to conserve their resources for the winter and reproduction. Lion hunting is the newest big game hunting opportunity in SD and residents are far from exhausting their interest. It is for these reasons I oppose expanding lion hunting to non-residents. I strongly encourage you to do the same.

Leon Fenhaus
Rapid City, SD

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Non-resident Mountain Lion Licences
Date: Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:53:21 AM

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

From: Lindsay Wollmann [<mailto:lindsaywollmann@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 6:01 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Non-resident Mountain Lion Licences

GF&P Commissioners,

I urge you to vote against issuing mountain lion licenses to non-residents. The mountain lion population in South Dakota is too small to support non-resident hunters, along with SD residents. Mountain lions are a trophy animal and the opportunity to hunt them should be reserved for residents.

Lindsay Wollmann
Brookings, SD

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Opitz Lake
Date: Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:35:04 AM

From: venturecomm.net, mdunn@venturecomm.net
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:55 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Opitz Lake

We feel that the fishing restrictions on Opitz Lake should be kept as they are now in place. It is a small lake and we feel it will be "fished out" in a very short time.

Sincerely,
Mike and Mary Dunn
PO Box 55
Eden, SD 57232

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Bobcat season
Date: Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:53:07 AM

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

From: Imac [<mailto:drdmrmef@gwtc.net>]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 4:56 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Proposed Bobcat season

Dear SD Game, Fish and Parks Commissioners:

I support the current Bobcat season being proposed by the SD Game, Fish and Parks.

Donald L. Massa, DDS
28148 18 Cutacross Rd
Edgemont, SD 57735

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed changes to mountain lion hunting policies
Date: Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:52:47 AM

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

From: Valerie D. Face [<mailto:vdf@juno.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 2:09 AM
To: Cooper, John; Peterson, Cathy; Dennert, Paul H.; Jensen, Barry; Jensen, Gary; Phillips, W. Scott; Sather, Duane; Spies, Jim; GFP Wild Info
Subject: Proposed changes to mountain lion hunting policies

Dear Commissioners,

I am not a resident of South Dakota, but I wanted to comment on your proposed changes to mountain lion hunting policies because I deeply appreciate mountain lions and the crucial role they play, as apex predators, to keep ecosystems in balance.

While reducing the mountain lion hunt quota is a step in the right direction, and I approve of it, it would be better to stop all mountain lion hunting until the health of the breeding population in South Dakota, and the health of the populations in neighboring states (sources of mountain lions dispersing into South Dakota), is known.

I am very troubled by the proposals to authorize the issuance of nonresident mountain lion hunting licenses and establish those licenses at a fee of \$121. \$121 is a paltry sum for an affluent, out-of-state hunter, and it is alarming to think of what is truly being given away for that fee. Commercializing and incentivizing the killing of South Dakota mountain lions will likely lead to their rapid over-exploitation. A handful of guides and hunting ranches may profit, but South Dakota residents and local hunters will have less say in what happens to these iconic cats and the ecosystems that they keep healthy. Nonresident hunters will not have to live with the consequences of their actions; local hunters will be more likely to support South Dakota's goals for healthy long-term breeding populations.

Finally, please do not allow the inhumane practice of hunting mountain lions with hounds. It is cruel to the cat being hunted and it endangers the hounds as well as any mountain lion kittens that may be hidden in the area. Hounding has been banned in two-thirds of the United States for good reason, and I urge you to ban it in South Dakota as well.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,
Valerie D. Face
Santa Clara, CA

~*~*~*~

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"
- from "The Summer Day" by Mary Oliver
<http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/133.html>

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed increase for Resident Boat Registration Fees
Date: Monday, October 05, 2015 12:58:56 PM

From: dakotalab7@yahoo.com [mailto:dakotalab7@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 11:52 AM
To: SDGFPINFO
Subject: Proposed increase for Resident Boat Registration Fees

Dear Sirs:

I am **totally opposed** to any increase in Resident Boat Registration fees. The residents of South Dakota **Should Not** have to pay more money to fish South Dakota waters. The Non-residents, especially Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska are Not paying enough to fish South Dakota waters. I have notice that nonresidents fishermen especially on Eastern South Dakota lakes such as Dry Lake, Lake Thompson, Indian Springs and Lake Poinsett **out number the residents Fisherman by 20-30%**. I further note that most (if not all) of the border waters in South Dakota are infested with invasive species ie: Zebra Mussels, curly pond weed, European Rudd and others. This was probably cause by Nonresidents.

Increasing the Resident Boat Registration fee does not and will not cleanup the problems the nonresident have caused.

I also know that **Nonresidents monies** provide **33% of SDGFP operating capital** whereas **Residents only provide 20%** . The Non resident consumptive users, both Hunting and Fishing need to pay more.

Thank you,
Earl E. Nelson
26981 Elmen Place,
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Purposed Resident Boat Registration Fees
Date: Monday, October 05, 2015 2:37:28 PM

From: dakotalab7@yahoo.com [mailto:dakotalab7@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 2:20 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Purposed Resident Boat Registration Fees

Dear Sirs:

I am **totally opposed** to any increase in Resident Boat Registration fees. The residents of South Dakota **Should Not** have to pay more money to fish South Dakota waters. The Non-residents, especially Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska are Not paying enough to fish South Dakota waters. I have notice that nonresidents fishermen especially on Eastern South Dakota lakes such as Dry Lake, Lake Thompson, Indian Springs and Lake Poinsett **out number the residents Fisherman by 20-30%**. I further note that most (if not all) of the border waters in South Dakota are infested with invasive species ie: Zebra Mussels, curly pond weed, European Rudd and others. This was probably cause by Nonresidents.

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Thank you,
Earl E. Nelson
26981 Elmen Place,
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Registration fees
Date: Monday, October 05, 2015 10:13:14 AM

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

From: grizzly adams [<mailto:grizadams@live.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 8:58 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Registration fees

To whom it may concern,

KELO tv is reporting that you are asking for higher registration fees for boats. I think we should start having nonresidents buy a boating tag. This should create enough money to leave the resident fee where it is. It's only fair that all users shoulder the burden of patrolling and maintaining our resources.

I snowmobile in a few western states that require non residents to purchase tags for their snowmobiles. I would also ask that you do the same in South Dakota. I don't feel that it would have a negative impact on tourism numbers, and again would boost revenue so that the expense of creating, maintaining, and patrolling the trails doesn't fall only on the residents.

Jesse Koerner
Sent from my iPad

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: Spink county waterfowl
Date: Friday, October 02, 2015 10:34:48 AM

From: Ron Wren [mailto:ron.wren@redfieldcmh.org]
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 10:32 AM
To: SDGFPINFO; Matt Owens, MD
Subject: Spink county waterfowl

Do not allow Spink county to give up its waterfowl to commercial operations. Commercial pheasant opportunities have severely limited upland hunting to the residents of Spink county. By increasing waterfowl licenses to nonresidents the access and opportunity for resident hunters will continue to diminish. Hunter recruitment is dwindling. And is associated with lack of access and negative interactions with landowners. Spink county pheasant hunting has gone the way of the aristocratic huntsman of Europe. Do not allow the very limited waterfowl hunting opportunities in Spink county follow suit. FYI Spink county has NO land in the SDGFP Walk In Program. This is by in large due to commercial hunting.

I would also ask the commission to implement a mandatory, outfitter and guide license for anybody associated with Fee Hunting. These dollars would more than cover the extra license fees from Nonresident waterfowl hunters.

Sincerely,

Ron Wren