

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
nhilshat@rapidnet.com
605-787-6466

Nancy Hilding
6300 West Elm
Black Hawk, SD 57718,
nhilding@rapidnet.com

September 4th, 2023

Game, Fish and Parks Commission
Joe Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
C/o Jon Kotilnek - Jon.Kotilnek@state.sd.us

Dear Commissioners,

PETITION FOR RULEMAKING Submitted pursuant to SDCL 1-26-13.

Nancy Hilding and Prairie Hills Audubon Society of Western SD submit this petition. Nancy Hilding is a resident of Meade County, SD. Prairie Hills Audubon Society is a non-profit corporation registered in SD and as such is a person by SD law and Supreme Court decisions.

RULE TO BE AMENDED – Mountain Lion Hunting

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:

Changes Requested

Add these new sections to **41:06:61:06**:

13) Hunters using hounds must report to GFP any injuries to hounds from fights with lions & approximately where & when such injury is believed to have occurred.

14) Hunters using hounds must report any injury to mountain lion from hounds, if mountain lion escaped & approximately where & when such injury is believed to have occurred.

Amend this existing section:

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

Change requested (amendment text is underlined)

(6) No person may release dogs on tracks indicating multiple mountain lions traveling together and must cease any chase of a family group of lions (mother with kittens), and report any evidence of family group of lions having been chased & location of chase.

STATEMENT OF REASONS

There is a concern for humane treatment of hounds used in hunting – that the hound can be hurt in a fight with a mountain lion. We should have the data on how frequently that happens. There is also a concern for wounding of lions and that wounded lions are at risk of becoming conflict lions and may need to be removed. The possibility of a wounded lion should be disclosed by hound hunters to SD GFP for public safety reasons.

Hound hunters are not allowed to follow the tracks of multiple lions traveling together (“No person may release dogs on tracks indicating multiple mountain lions traveling together”), however, as hounds may run in front of hunters, they may pick up a family group before the hunter notices or if it is in the summer and ground is dry, they may not see the tracks before they see the family. We should know when and where this occurs, especially in extreme weather conditions such as cold or deep snow or hot dry summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hilding" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nancy Hilding

President Prairie Hills Audubon Society

For the Society and myself as an individual