

Kierl, Liz

From: info@gfp.sd.us
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 1:06 PM
To: Patrickweimer12@gmail.com
Cc: Kierl, Liz; Harrington, Nick
Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form

South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

Petition for Rule Change

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:

ID: 195

Petitioner Name: Patrick Weimer

Address: 828 East Grant Street
Spearfish, SD 57783

Email: Patrickweimer12@gmail.com

Phone: 605-641-0624

Rule Identification: The ability to use hounds to pursue Mountain Lion within the fire protection district and surrounding public lands.

Describe Change: Lion proposal • Trial Pursuit season for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 lion seasons dates to run in conjunction with the current lion season dates. • 100\$ pursuit permit. • Volunteer program with an application process working with gfp to get samples off lions caught. To remove the need to pay out of state houndsmen in the aid of current lion studies. • Open all public lands outside of fire protection district for lions to be hunted with hounds without the need to start on private land. • Game commission to revisit with the South Dakota Houndsmen Association again for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 lion seasons. To take harvest into consideration. 20% of harvest limit allocated as hound tags. • In order to protect the traditions that we are fighting for there will be no outfitters allowed to harvest lions for profit on any public land including national forest within the state of South Dakota. Post card studies at end of each season to count number of days hunted and lions treed total. For each pursuit season tag holder.

Reason for Change: South Dakota has a very abundant mountain lion population and as it continues to grow we are starting to see more and more lions venturing out of the forest into town then we have in previous years. I do believe that allowing a simple pursuit season with hounds this could very well curb that issue. By simply chasing a lion with hounds they learn to avoid human environments and tend to avoid areas with dogs such as neighborhoods and other urban environments that we have recently seen a lot of their activity in lately. Many western states already have a pursuit season already in place and have had great results with said seasons. Also with the pursuit season in place South Dakota Game and Fish could work closely with local houndsmen like many western states currently do in order to locate and tree lions for local studies. This would in turn eliminate the need to pay our tax dollars/tag and license profits to out of state houndsmen to come to South Dakota for said studies. In the event that the Trial Pursuit season takes place with minimal to no issues like I do believe it would. The game commission could reevaluate a harvest limit with 20% of the total lions able to be harvested allocated as hound tags for the continued seasons to come. A post card study could help give a better idea of total population within the fire protection district without the need of gfp to be in the field.