

Public Comments

Aquatic Invasive Species

Paul Lepisto

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

On behalf of SD IWLA Division President Kelly Kistner I'm submitting the attached comments on the AIS proposal. We support the proposal but ask for it to be further amended to help protect the health of SD waters.

Mountain Lion Hunting Season

Rebecca Cooper

Summerset SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Oppose using dogs for hunting of mountain lions.

Emily Norman

Sisseton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Cathie Llamas

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Inhumanly strongly opposed to thus

Kim Smith

Hartford SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Our state has killed enough wildlife with its predator hunting and mountain lion hunting. The populations on these animals have decreased to the point you dont even see them out in the country. Sad that our state is diminishing our wildlife.

Anita Mason

Smithwick SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jeanie Gabert

Belle Fourche SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Lori Tetreault

Whitewood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

These beautiful animals should not be destroyed because hunter's seek them out inhumanely as trophies to satisfy their hunting egos. Please protect these God-given creatures!

John Fitzgerald

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Vaughn Boyf

Whitewoof SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Tiffany Carlson

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This season is meant for hunting. Hunting involves sport and game, not cornering and killing. Neither the lions or the dogs would benefit from this hunting practice. Cruelty is cruelty...it is not a sport.

Lj Dudley

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Laura Inman

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not think that allowing dogs to hunt mountain lions s necessary takes away from the sport of hunting them Endangers the dogs and kitten

Cynthia Herndon

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Andrea Parker

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Donna Watson

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Penny Nielsen

Plankinton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I feel we do not have a problem with the Mountain Lions we have in this state. They are not over populated and tend to leave people and livestock alone.

Sue Schwaneke

Rochford SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Should not allow the use of dogs.

Leslie Crowder

Box Elder SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to mountain lion hunting seasons, in particular any increase in hunting or especially hound hunting.

Carla Marshall

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposed the Mountain Lion Hunting Season. Stop killing predators that keep the other critters in check.

Denise Reed

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Penelope Maldonado

Jackson WY

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Mary Zimmerman

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Gf&p needs to stop serving hunters and start following the science which will serve all of us better and over the long term. Please shorten the season and lower the limit of female mt. lions killed.

Joe Kosel

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Mountain Lion Season Restrictions

Paula Von Weller

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am strongly opposed to the South Dakota Houndsmen Association's petition that would expand hound hunting of mountain lions throughout the state.

Jennifer Jenkins

Tucson AZ

Position: support

Comment:

Dear South Dakota Wildlife Management,

Please oppose the South Dakota Houndsmen Association's petition to expand hound hunting of mountain lions in South Dakota and to protect mountain lions from trophy hunting. This is a cruel practice and not only cruel, but will actually increase conflicts with humans over time. South Dakota has a small population of cougars left. This practice will continue to push this top predator to extinction. Doing this destroys our children's chance of enjoying the natural world and sends a message that short-term pleasure in blood sports is more important than anything else. In addition, this may bring short term profits to the state of South Dakota, in the long run, it will do the opposite. Killing off top line predators has proven to be detrimental to the environment which subsequently destroys the economy.

Sincerely,
Jen

Gwendolyn Oberholtzer

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please oppose the expansion of hound hunting of mountain lions in SD based on the estimated number of mature age lions remaining.

Catherine Cardozo

Sacramento CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please oppose the South Dakota Houndsmen Association's petition to expand hound hunting of mountain lions in South Dakota and to protect mountain lions from trophy hunting. Lions have a right to exist on this earth too.

Lucille Howey

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Penelope Maldonado

Jackson WY

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Mary Zimmerman

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Joe Kosel

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.



August 28, 2021

TO: South Dakota Game Fish & Parks Commission

FROM: South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SD FACT)

RE: Proposed 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons

Dear Chairman Olson, Director Kirschenmann and Members of the Commission,

SD FACT is opposed to the mountain lion hunting season as proposed. We share the concerns of our fellow opponents and their thorough citations to the science of this issue.

In our view, like the nest predator bounty program, GFP is focused more on recreation and profit than preservation of our unique, necessary predators. They are a collective state resource being wasted for unscientific reasons. The focus of debate at these meetings rarely touches upon community safety or the preservation of life under the board's stewardship. The simplistic and false equation of eradication of predators by man equals more pheasants or elk to kill by man is dangerously misguided and potentially fatal to our shared ecosystem.

The current commitment to eradication is pervasive in our GFP representation. We stand as South Dakotans who you also have the privilege and responsibility to represent. We recognize we all live amongst and entwined with the unique life of this area. We wish to express our deep desire that you see the lives of these fellow animals as deserving of respect beyond their value as human recreation.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the SD FACT Board of Directors,

Joe Kosel, Lead
Sara Parker, Sioux Falls
Shari Kosel, Lead

sdfact.org
11201 Juniper Court
Lead, SD 57754

August 28th 2021



Board of Directors
Marc Bekoff, Ph.D.
Patricio Robles Gil
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Ph.D.
Corinne R. Rutledge

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for taking the time to read the comments of The Cougar Fund on the South Dakota Mountain Lion season setting decision.

We have followed the monitoring and management policies of South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (SDGFP) closely since the inception of mountain lion hunting in 2005. We have always had excellent communication with your staff, who have responded to our questions promptly and respectfully. They have provided thorough explanations to our enquiries, and even though we have deep and fundamental differences, their professionalism has led to shared exploration of each other's perspectives.

We continue to be concerned about the high proportion of female lions that are taken. Killing of sub adult females that have not yet reached sexual maturity limit reproduction going forward. Killing mature females, which, as we know, will be either pregnant or have dependent young at side for up to 70% of their lives, increases the risk of either orphaning vulnerable kittens to starve or be predated, or emancipating older kittens that may find their way into conflict situations in order to survive. No other wild animal is hunted while with dependent young.

We watched the presentation to the commission and noted, during the question-and-answer session, that if the current female sub-quota of 40 is met for the next two-year cycle, then negative pressure would be put on the population. Please also consider the impact of stochastic events during these times of climate volatility and the prevalence of wildfire in addition to the harvest mortality limit.

Therefore, on behalf of our members in South Dakota, we respectfully ask that you please,

- reduce the female sub-quota
- do not expand hound hunting by continuation onto other lands and jurisdictions. Mountain lions once roamed all the lower 48 and just as South Dakota accommodated a successful recovery, other states to the east with suitable habitat will also be places that native species can return to.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Respectfully Submitted,

Penelope Maldonado
Executive Director, The Cougar Fund
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