

Public Comments

Bighorn Sheep Season

Jim Simbeck

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose both hunting for Big Horn Sheep and Mt. Goats. I is ridiculous to hunt for sport animals the state brought to the hills to bring natural fauna to our beautiful hills. Just to decide later to hunt for them for sport. Should have never Introduced them to our home. It is sad enough all of the East and West coast people are destroying our hills. What's next in town hunting for deer?

Jim Simbeck

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose both hunting for Big Horn Sheep and Mt. Goats. I is ridiculous to hunt for sport animals the state brought to the hills to bring natural fauna to our beautiful hills. Just to decide later to hunt for them for sport. Should have never Introduced them to our home. It is sad enough all of the East and West coast people are destroying our hills. What's next in town hunting for deer?

Diane Hallock

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Paula Von Weller

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The take of one bighorn sheep, which equates to nothing more than a trophy hunt, will most certainly spawn increased interest by hunters moving forward. The small population of sheep in Deadwood is not large enough to sustain a hunting season. Not to mention that the sheep are so habituated to being around cars and the public that killing one of them would literally be like walking up and plucking a candy bar off a shelf at the gas station. This is not hunting. These are in town animals. Shooting an animal in town seems like a safety issue as well. As a resident of Deadwood, I strongly oppose a bighorn hunt. Instead, let's educate visitors about these majestic animals as they are most certainly a spectacle for visitors and locals alike.

Mountain Goat Action Plan/Season

Diane Hallock

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Mountain Lion Hunting Season

Kristie Leptien

Huron SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Annette Hof

Crooks SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Annette Hof

Crooks SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Katelin Harrison

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Mary Schumacher

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is cruel. With this you are allowing the dogs to chase the mountain lion until it is exhausted, with few trees on the prairie, where can this animal go? Where is the sport in this type of "hunting"?

Kerma Cox

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not vote to expand hunting mountain lions in any capacity

Rita Greslin

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have no objections to a Mountain Lion season if the population of lions supports it but object to hunting with dogs. Thats not a fair hunt.

Brad Tisdall

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Deb Ellis

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is extremely cruel. OPPOSE THIS

Rebecca Cooper

Summerset SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Melissa Jerred

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hound hunting is an inhumane, cruel & unsporting, outdated practice. This is NOT hunting.

Alexandra Szameit

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hound hunting is cruel and inhumane. Hunting lactating females leaves babies starving. Hunting with rifles for pest control is one thing, but there is no decent reason to hunt any animal with hounds. PLEASE don't allow this.

Terri Pepper

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The practice is inhumane, especially on the prairie!

Gara Stadlman

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Dogs cannot be used while hunting any other wildlife besides birds to scout and retrieve them. Why is it acceptable to use a dog for mountain lion hunting? If you want to hunt Mt lion, they should hunt like they are hunting deer. And what happens if the dog gets attacked and or killed? How fair is that to the dog. I am all for hunting, but I don't like the idea of hunting Mountain Lion at all. Most people do just for the trophy and not the meat. Hunting is to feed your family, not hang a dead carcass on your wall. I oppose and feel it is very inhumane for both lion and dogs

David Banker

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jana Haecherl

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Public lands belong to ALL of us, not just a small group of special interest trophy hunters. Expanding these practices makes survival even harder for South Dakota's already vulnerable wildlife. The vast majority of South Dakotans hound hunting of mountain lions. Hound hunting is a cruel & unsporting practice where hunting dogs chase an animal until it's too exhausted to run, allowing a hunter to shoot it at close range. When dogs catch them before a hunter arrives, lions can be mauled, kittens killed, and hunting dogs seriously injured.

in eastern South Dakota. The lack of trees can make these encounters even more violent, as there is no place for the lion to escape the dogs until the hunter can shoot it. To make things even worse, This harms the greater ecosystem and makes human-lion encounters more frequent as young lions wander and get into trouble near homes without a mother.

Alexey Egorov

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am strongly oppose to the Mountain Lion Hunting Season proposal modifications. Public lands belong to all residents of SD, not only to bloodthirsty trophy hunters. We need healthy ecosystems in South Dakota, which include native predators, not devastated lands. GFP's policy is incompetent and short-sighted. It is not management. It is destruction of wildlife. Shame.

Debra Carson

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Mountain lions (as well as other, natural predators) are essential to keep their normal prey population in check. If the are removed, the animals they prey on can over populate. This is happened time and time again.

Alisa Fonder

Sisseton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We are taking over their habitat and we need to back off.

Cindy Peterson

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the hunting of mountain lions and especially with the cruel addition of hunting with hounds. It is a disgusting sport and does not give the mountain lions any chance of surviving the hunt...it is a slaughter rather than fair hunting.

Peggy Mann

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Stop the madness please.

Susanne Carter

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

There is no thrill to the hunt if the animal is shot after being exhausted by being chased by dogs.

Jeannette Thomas

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

There are so many other no lethal options to protect humans/live stock from mountain lions. Our encroachment on to their land has caused the problem. Killing them is not the answer!

Julaine Hurst

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please stop this.

Tiffany Carlson

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Real hunters do not use there animals as a weapon! Dangerous to the dogs and cruel and unfair to the cats. Not to mention whatever else they corner and kill in the process.

Patricia Jenkins

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

G Grider

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

G Grider

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

G Grider

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Courtney Novak

Whitewood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I did agree with allowing people to kill the mountain lions in our area in the first place. Allowing pack dogs to hunt them and kill them in more areas is a no for me. They are a big part of our environmental circle of life and we need to stop encroaching on their homes and not allow more killing

Louise McGannon

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I sincerely oppose this hunting season. The cruelty of hunting with hounds and why, why do we need mountain lion hunting. Nature know best, not humans.

Please leave the lions alone.

Katie Cozine

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please to not expand opportunities for cruel hunting practices.

Thank you

Karen Collins

Denver CO

Position: oppose

Comment:

Public lands are for everyone to enjoy. Public lands should not become used only for trophy hunters. Hound hunting should NEVER be allowed all year round. Wildlife should not be under pressure year round. Not enough protection is included for lactating females. Open prairie hound hunting for mountain lions is inhumane and should NEVER be permitted. As a tax paying citizen, I oppose this proposed change on every aspect.

Heather Schiller

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Do not allow an increase to hound hunting. This is a cruel and inhumane practice that caters to trophy hunters. They don't care about managing the population. All they care about is their trophy and bragging rights while allowing the dogs and lions to suffer for their enjoyment. Be better than this.

Heidi Coatsworth

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Oppose hound hunting

Willow Burke

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a resident who has yet to see one of these majestic animals, I beg of you to put this to a stop. It's cruel.

Kelly Mehring

Columbus OH

Position: oppose

Comment:

EGREGIOUS RULE TO HOUND LIONS-INCLUDES LACTATING MAMAS HUNTED YEAR ROUND- This is abominable. I oppose all mountain lion hunting but this is shameful.

Diane Hallock

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Wendy Walker

Hot Springs SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Cynthia Cole

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Packs of dogs should not be able to be used, and lactating females should not be killed. There needs to be more thought into when and how this mountain lion season should be allowed or it should be stopped...

Hunting is supposed to be a sport that helps the population of animals stay down but not cruel, by shooting lactating mother's and allowing kittens to starve a horrible death, or packs of dogs tearing up young etc.

Make the rules so it is a gentleman's sport again, not a ruthless torture game.

Kim Howard Red Fox

Eagle Butte SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Terry Mitchell

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

It's not the animals fault us humans are what we are. This needs to be a relocate situation not a kill situation. We have plenty of Black Hills to share with the variety of wildlife we host. I realize the Richy Tich have mansions out there, but that should be well known knowledge of heart wildlife if build in Middle of hills, still not wildlife fault.

Please consider this... God will smile on you.

Cristin Holm

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Rita Greslin

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am not opposed to a Mt Lion hunting season if there are sufficient numbers of lions to support that. I AM opposed to Mt Lion hunting with dogs. That is an unfair hunt and there is no need for it. Mt Lions are attained just fine without using that method it's only for the enjoyment of the hunters.

Stefanie Schober

Cedar Park TX

Position: oppose

Comment:

This proposal serves no one but a few trophy hunters. Expanding these practices makes survival even harder for this already vulnerable wildlife. They are our wild neighbors and deserve our respect and protection! Especially in the prairie, there are no trees and these often violent encounters are unacceptably cruel as there is no place for the lion to escape the dogs and hunters have an unfair advantage. Furthermore, it is unacceptable to permit the killing of lactating females, compounding the suffering of one kill by allowing kittens to end up starving. Humans must do better.

Andrea Trejo

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not believe dogs should be used or lactating females should be shot as they are nursing kittens and it is a death sentence for them.

Lierin Cole

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Tina Poortmans

Ruisbroek (Puurs) AE

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Peggy Jakopak

Scotland SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I urge you to oppose expanding hound hunting on public lands. This proposal will lead to more mountain lions being killed and put further strain on an already vulnerable population. It is a cruel and irresponsible move that threatens the balance of our wildlife and will further stress all wildlife on our public lands."

Paulette Keller

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jean Matthesen

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

kittens left without mothers &/or killed!
trespassing on private land
cruelty to dogs
injured lions not found
lions generally not a food item
lions do not attack humans unless feeling
threat to them or their kittens
some disrespectful & just plain dumb hunters!

Teresa Hicks

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I urge you to oppose expanding hound hunting on public lands. This proposal will lead to more mountain lions being killed and put further strain on an already vulnerable population. It is a cruel and irresponsible move that threatens the balance of our wildlife and will further stress all wildlife on our public lands.

Debra Perkins

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

William Haeger

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The use of dogs should not be permitted, the only advantage of dogs is being able to ID the cat, if treed. however the lion population in the Black Hills would not be sustained if dogs are a tool for hunting. Also any reputable hunter would agree it takes away from the challenge of this hunt.

Barb Wright

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not expand mountain lion season. Using dogs is unnecessary and not a sport. There are already too many mountain lions killed in South Dakota.

Lisa Savonen

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the expansion of using even more tactics to hunt mountain lions. These are important predators necessary to these ecosystems, not to mention that hunting them could possibly orphan a cougar mother's kittens or cut a male's life short before they can even reproduce. I don't know why all of these regulations are now being lifted or being made to hunt them easier. Please live and let live.

Dawn Grey

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I urge you to oppose expanding hound hunting on public lands. This proposal will lead to more mountain lions being killed and put further strain on an already vulnerable population. It is a cruel and irresponsible move that threatens the balance of our wildlife and will further stress all wildlife on our public lands.

Linda Palzkill

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

It's obvious that if you have to use dogs to find the mountain lions then there must not be that many left in the hills. I miss my lions. I live in the hills and HAD a female which hung around the house. Every year she would bring her kittens by so that we could see them. Haven't seen them in years. So sad.

Victoria Greenlee

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not allow hunting dogs to chase down mountain lions. This is unsustainable and inhumane!

Shari Kosel

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I urge you to oppose expanding hound hunting on public lands. This proposal will lead to more mountain lions being killed and put further strain on an already vulnerable population. It is a cruel and irresponsible move that threatens the balance of our wildlife and will further stress all wildlife on our public lands.

Please also consider the hounds that could be maimed, mauled or killed because of the stress put on these mountain lions. No animal deserves this.

Susie Taylor

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Oppose hound hunting for mountain lions. Cruel!

Kathleen Jones

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

South Dakota's mountain lion population is already over hunted. By increasing the number of hound hunts, we would also endanger many non-target species. It would also be unsustainable.

Jeffrey Palzkill

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Our property borders the forest service and the “hunters” we’ve been seeing are merely driving around with their rifles sticking out the window so adding dogs to the supposed “hunters” is sort of silly. Get the true hunters out who know the terrain, take the time to track and learn their quarry’s patterns, and then additional assistance is not needed to be successful.

Susan Vogt

Loveland OH

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is not a sport.

Sheryl Nieman

Parker SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Do not let dogs loose on wildlife and cause havoc in the hills.

Ronda Avila

Mint Hill SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This proposed change is unacceptable. Public lands belong to ALL of us, not just a small group of special interest trophy hunters. Expanding these practices makes survival even harder for South Dakota’s already vulnerable wildlife. The vast majority of South Dakotans DO NOT support hound hunting – and we must speak up.

Connie Ryan

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not believe allowing hunting dogs to be part of mountain lion hunting is necessary or advisable (for the sake of all the animals). If a hunter isn't capable of tracking a mountain lion without dogs treeing it or cornering it for an easy shot, then I don't feel they should be out there.

Glennis Torpey

Black Hawk SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose increase of mountain lion hunting.

Tirza Eden

Saint Charles IL

Position: oppose

Comment:

We should not try to justify this level of cruelty and unfairness in any sport. It's bad enough to allow hunting of these beautiful animals but its a whole different story when you start allowing a pack of dogs to do the hunting for you. Our country should focus on being a good role model for others, not one that encourages such violence for no good reason.

Teri Vaughan

Jefferson SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Teri Vaughan

Jefferson SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Amy Cerwick

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Kami Kuhle

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Cynthia Foos

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Keren Giovengo

Brunswick GA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the proposed seasonal modifications (use of dogs). Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Mary Shabbott

Arkadelphia AR

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hound hunting is nothing but sadistic torture inflicted on vulnerable wildlife for the trophy hunter's kicks. These trophy hunters do NOT own our public lands and our wildlife is not for their walls, floors or bragging at the local bar. To even consider allowing this already struggling population to be chased down on prairies where there are fewer trees is sickening and wrong.

My husband and I have booked RV sites in your state for August to see the natural landscape and wildlife. This tourist will not coming and spending tourist dollars if you pass this and cave in to these trophy hunters. Please vote NO to this.

Jean Serrato

Los Gatos CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

They are important yo our eco system

Rhonda Dern

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hunting lions with hounds goes against the American Model of Wildlife Conservation. It is not fair chase . It is not for food for families. It is for a sport a trophy . Lions care for their cubs for over a year. Most Lions killed are mothers whose cubs die in their dens or moms with yearlings who aren't prepared to hunt on their own. Hounding is a blood sport is unethical and barbaric. I grew up in SD and graduated from the USD. My family were hunters and would be disgusted with this archaic killing to be allowed.
Rhonda Dern

Joan Dennis

Setaucket NY

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is incredibly cruel. Please stop it. B

Debora Goebel

Omaha NE

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do NOT expand hound hunting of mountain lions. What a barbaric way to slaughter lions. Please evolve, South Dakota, and consider the proven ways to COEXIST non-lethally with our wild world. Stop the endless massacre AND disgusting hound hunting.

Julie Baxa

Cedar Rapids IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Marcia Mueller

Spokane WA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hound hunting is not a sport. It is animal cruelty no better than dog fighting or fox hunting. It should not be allowed anywhere.

Wildlife is supposed to belong to We the People and held in trust by the government. Therefore, we should all have a voice in the fate of the animals. But now a special interest group--hunters--are allowed to abuse and destroy the animals. They are the ones listened to by fish and game departments.

It's time to give the rest of us a voice, and we have a simple message--hound hunting should not be expanded. It should be banned.

Linda Good Buffalo

Valentine NE

Position: oppose

Comment:

The mountain lions have been here long before us! They deserve to be protected and then they contribute to our ecosystem! Leave them alone!!

Roger Sherman

Whitefish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is not hunting dogs do all the work.

Jeff Nelson

Taylorville UT

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

John Chamberlain

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I urge you to oppose expanding hound dog hunting on public lands. The proposal will lead to more Mountain Lions being killed and put further strain on an already vulnerable population. It is a

cruel and irresponsible move that threatens the balance of our wildlife and will further stress All wildlife on our public lands.

Kim Elkins

El Paso TX

Position: oppose

Comment:

AS LONG AS THIS IS LEGAL IN SOUTH DAKOTA, MY FAMILY, FRUENDS & I WILL NEVER SET FOOT IN SD GIR BUDUNESS IR TOURISM! Hounding Trophy Hunters are part of an extremely dangerous & inhumane, do-called sport. It's dangerous for the dogs who have no choice & cruel to the wildlife they pursue. This should NOT Be allowed in private or public lands. STOP, JUST STOP.

George (Les) Heiserman

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose hound hunting. It's cruel and shouldn't be allowed.

Malina Haak

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I vehemently urge you to oppose expanding hound hunting on public lands. This proposal will lead to more mountain lions being killed and put further strain on an already vulnerable population. It is a cruel and irresponsible move that threatens the balance of our wildlife and will further stress all wildlife on our public lands. Wild animals need more help, and our protection, now more than ever.

Patricia Logan

Palm City FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

Public lands belong to all of us! Not just a special group of TROPHY HUNTERS. Hound hunting is especially cruel!!

Patricia Logan

Palm City FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

Public lands belong to all of us! Not just a special group of TROPHY HUNTERS. Hound hunting is especially cruel!!

Ashley Waldorf

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I urge you to oppose expanding hound hunting on public lands. This proposal will lead to more mountain lions being killed and put further strain on an already vulnerable population. It is a cruel and irresponsible move that threatens the balance of our wildlife and will further stress all wildlife on our public lands.

Donna Handley

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Joann Mckendry

Sicklerville NJ

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Debra Mucci

Middletown NY

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please stop the senseless mountain loin hunts! I SAY HUNT THE HUNTER INSTEAD.

Julie Anderson

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hound hunters should not get access to more hunting. This amendment would open more public land for unethical and cruel killing of mountain lions, even lactating ones. SD GFP's catering to this special interest group is also unethical and therefore this amendment should not be passed.

Lorraine Finazzo

Six Mile SC

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hound hunting of wildlife is a barbaric 'sport' and should not be permitted in a civilized society. When will we understand that killing for fun is cruel and unnecessary?

Wolfgang & Kathleen Schmidt

Nemo Sd SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We do NOT support hunting mountain lions with hounds. This is a safety issue for the landowners living next to public land. We do not need this kind of chaos and disruption going on in the national forest next to the many residents who try to live here in peace. Please listen to the majority of people who oppose this issue.

Linda Hendrix

New Richmond WI

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose expanding mountain lion hounding in So Dakota. It's a huge problem in Wi . It's barbaric and unacceptable in this modern world!

Lavina Staab

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is cruel and inhumane. It certainly is NOT hunting. A pack of dogs runs an animal until it cannot move (& the prairie has no trees of hiding) and then a "hunter" walks up and kills an exhausted, traumatized animal.

I urge you to reject this proposal and prioritize responsible, humane wildlife management practices.

Thank you.

Gail Collins

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Pleeeassssse do not expand the mountain lion hunting season. Don't allow mountain lion hunting at all if you ask me. When populations get down so low that we have to stop and start extra hunting seasons or licenses it seems ridiculous to me. I know people will say their population will get to high if we don't hunt them down. To that I say that Mother Nature handled the problem of over population with illnbbbhhnjbesses and deaths without our help. I hate hunting but people will never ever give it up I know. We'll keep having to count our animals to see where we stand in proportion to their so important stats. Leave them alone for a minute. See how they do without our interference for a change. Do not lengthen the hunt, please? Thank you.

Gail Collins

Karen Moore

Chelmsford MA

Position: oppose

Comment:

The reasons are clear. Wildlife is at a breaking point between habitat loss, changing climate and the devastation it brings and we continue to experience, hunting, poaching, accidental deaths, disease.... I strongly oppose this extension.

Jennifer Haskell

Dell Rapids SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing to Oppose the expansion of Mountain Lion hunting, particularly hound hunting. This practice causes immense stress and suffering—not just for the intended targets, but for many other species as well. Beyond direct harm to individual animals, hounding disrupts ecosystems because packs of hunting dogs create a “landscape of fear.” Wildlife are constantly on edge, disrupting natural behaviors and migrations. Uncontrolled packs of dogs chasing wildlife across large areas will affect their normal behaviors, causing countless species to abandon habitat which particularly harms ground-nesting birds. Gone are the days of well managed hounds having been replaced by radio collars and GPS, often the hunters are not even near their dogs and have no control over their actions.

Hounded animals experience extreme stress, which can affect reproduction rates and territorial behavior, leading to broader ecological consequences. Hound hunting has a huge impact on deer populations and deeply affects fawn survival. Hound hunting is not selective. Packs of dogs chase any animal they come across, including non-target and potentially protected species such as the Black Footed Ferret, this is a real possibility if Hound hunting is allowed outside of the Black Hills area onto the open prairie. Not to mention if hounds are improperly trained and indiscriminate, there is a real risk of transmission of rabies from other animals such as

skunk or racoon. In addition, the level of unregulated, relentless pursuit brought on by hound hunting is not sustainable or humane nor is it ethical nor scientifically justified.

With a lack of ability to properly assess population, adding more accessibility to hunt lions only increases the stress on the environment and wildlife but also risks maintaining target numbers. Mountain Lions have low reproductive rates and this proposed and largely unregulated Hound hunting will impact these rates. In addition, human caused killing carnivores can increase conflict; by removing mature, established cougars it disrupts ecosystems and can lead to more human-wildlife conflicts. Also, potentially orphan kittens as hounding can lead mother cats away from their young, and with no protected breeding and raising young timeframes, these kittens and mothers become even more at-risk particularly if a hunter fails to identify a lactating female.

Hound hunting doesn't help deer populations. Science shows that factors like habitat loss and climate change have a far greater impact on deer numbers than carnivore populations.

Hound hunting provides little revenue. The financial contribution of cougar hunting is minimal compared to the damage it causes to South Dakota's wildlife and ecosystems. While hound hunting should be banned altogether it is is blatantly apparent from the science and supporting evidence that it should not be expanded. Thank you for your time and attention to opposing this expansion.

Ann Naber

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please don't change the mountain lion policy. The lands belong to everyone, not just a few.

Rene Hersey

Toluca Lake CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I vehemently oppose expanding hunting season/more hunting areas and allowing up to 40 females killed in a year anywhere! In my life I've not seen such aggressive pursuit of an umbrella species so critical to ecological balance in an area already hostile to Lions for lack of camouflage, trees, escape routes. All the science tells us how important female/male lions are as umbrella species and there's no way hunters can always see that females are or are not lactating nor can they always determine if kittens have spots and how close kittens who are hiding near by are to their mothers. Sunrise and Sunset are key times for movement of wildlife and your hunting and hounding is far to lenient allowing 1/2 hour before and after sunrise/subset. And adult males should not be killed as they keep territories in balance and when you remove adult males the younger less experienced yearling or dispersing lions may replace them and not have their skills to survive. Your landscape is naked of anything resembling fair chase & thus hounding cats is particularly a brutal sport. I travel to WY and MT annually, and the Dakotas are on my list to visit but I won't spend money in a state where destructive sports hunting is decimating the small population of Lions trying to survive in that difficult landscape. These are our public lands, they should not become playgrounds to kill essential species such as Mountain Lions. Most of Americans and Dakotans object to hound hunting of already struggling wildlife. Please use a preservation approach to what few Mountain Lions are living in your state.

Thank you for reading my concerns.

Sara Parker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm writing about the proposed changes to the Mountain Lion Hunting Season (Chapter 41:06:61). As a lifelong resident of South Dakota, I urge you to oppose the expansion of hound hunting in our state.

Hound hunting is unsporting and inhumane. It subjects mountain lions to prolonged chases until they are too exhausted to run. When dogs catch their prey before the hunter arrives, the situation becomes even more brutal - lions can be mauled, kittens killed, and dogs injured.

This practice is particularly cruel on the prairie, where the lack of trees and natural cover leaves mountain lions with no means of escape. These prolonged, violent encounters make survival even harder for South Dakota's already vulnerable wildlife.

To make matters worse, it appears that hunters are only prohibited from killing lactating females in Custer State Park.

Beyond the ethical concerns, expanded hound hunting raises serious public safety and private property issues. Packs of dogs can chase animals for miles, often far beyond a hunter's control. These dogs do not recognize property boundaries, leading to conflicts with landowners and risks to livestock, pets and other wildlife.

Public lands belong to all South Dakotans, not just a small group of trophy hunters. This proposal prioritizes special interests over responsible wildlife management, ethical hunting practices and public safety.

I urge you to reject this expansion and instead support science-based wildlife management policies that reflect the values of the vast majority of South Dakotans.

Doris Respects Nothing

Manderson SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

SDGFP is in violation of Federal Consultation rules with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and cannot assume responsibility on Tribal Reservation Jurisdictions

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have repeated tried to attach a formal comment letter in opposition to hound hunting on public land on the Prairie Unit. It was a 3 page PDF file and your system fails to upload it. I tried this several times before midnight and several times after midnight and I am giving up and will call you all tomorrow.. Your system was broken tonight.

Nancy Hilding for Prairie Hills Audubon Society

Paula Von Weller

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose changes to or the expansion of hound hunting lions.

Hound hunting is not fair chase.

When lions are threatened they climb trees. They are not designed for long chases.

Hound hunting is far more effective than boot hunting which will lessen opportunities for boot hunters.

Hound hunting has the potential to stress females with kittens, as well as separate them from their kittens, endangering the health of both.

Mountain lions are an iconic species that provide essential ecosystem services to South Dakota.

Other

Joseph Counselor

Burke SD

Position: other

Comment:

I am trying to buy my State Park permit, but everything I click on takes me to Non-Resident permits. Why can't I buy Resident Park permits online?

Bob Brandt

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like to propose a change to the late season cow elk seasons in H3, currently the unit is divided into 2 units, north or south of 18-mile road and early and late December, 2 weeks for each season. The cows group up and tend to congregate on one side of the dividing line. My proposal would be to split it into 4 one-week seasons, but would allow hunting in all of H3. I had a tag for the late season last year on the north side and the elk were grouped up on the south side. The only cows I saw were near the fire tower on Elk Mountain, and were on the SD side for only one day, Montana has one-week seasons in January and February for cow elk north of Yellowstone and it seems to work fine for them. I had permission to hunt on 6 different ranches, including Ned Westphals, Spring Valley Ranch, Ned has land on both sides of the border and he had about 50 cows on his south ranch, but only had 2 hunters there and he would have loved to reduce that herd. Thank you for considering my proposal.

Heidi Coatsworth

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Oppose allowing hound hunting of mountain lions or other animals. Cruel and unsportsmanlike.

Leslie Hladysz

Keystone SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I would like to express my outrage to two white signs in Custer State Park found on the # 4 Trail. I would ask you to remove these white signs and replace them with a brown or tan sign. These signs say "leaving Custer State Park," and are misleading. One is placed within feet of an appropriate sign reading "Entering Black Elk Wilderness". The other is on the entry to Trail # 3 and makes no sense at all. Both trails do not blend with the natural aspect of the park. As signage conditions increase for some reason in the wilderness and park I ask you to consider the necessity, aesthetics, and goal of the sign..if it is to help lost hikers neither of these accomplish this.

Debra Elofson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I urge you to oppose expanding hound hunting on public lands. This proposal will lead to more mountain lions being killed and put further strain on an already vulnerable population. It is a cruel and irresponsible move that threatens the balance of our wildlife and will further stress all wildlife on our public lands.

Julie Doerr

Wagner SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No reason for dogs to be used to hunt Mountain Lions so that a spineless, pussy hunter can walk up and shoot it. What sport is that? People like that are horrible and that's not a sportsman's sport..

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk, SD

Position: other

Comment:

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
phas.wsd@rapidnet.com,

Dear SDGFP Commission,

On the SDGFP Commission Agenda you list River Otter Action Plan as an Action or Informational Item. We are not sure if this means you plan to finalize an action plan for northern river otters or propose creating or releasing a draft action plan.

If it is your plan to finalize a plan, we would object to this. There was no mention of a River Otter Action Plan in the March minutes. There is no draft River Otter Action Plan on your web page for management plans. The April 2025 Commission book is not yet published.

We very much wish that GFP will design and fund a project to reintroduce river otter to western SD and that objective would be in any action plan you write.

Thanks,
Nancy Hilding

Prairie Elk Hunting Season

Shaun Grassel

Reliance SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Doris Respects Nothing

Manderson SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

According to the McGirth case, State of South Dakota is illegally making administrative rules with input from the Oglala Sioux Tribe within the proposed Bennett County and Jackson County areas.

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
phas.wsd@rapidnet.com
March 30th, 2025

Dear Game, Fish and Parks Commission,

At your March meeting, we listened to the comments of 5 wildlife staff and one attorney of Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe & Oglala Sioux Tribe in opposition to expanding the area of the PRE-WRA Prairie Elk hunting unit to overlap their reservations. We found their arguments convincing. We support and endorse their positions and requests.

We are concerned over the United States past adverse history with tribes - wars & conquest, years of broken treaties, the Allotment Acts and loss of tribal lands, shrinking of Reservation areas and discrimination against tribal peoples.

We join with tribes in fear that, extending the WRA Prairie Elk hunting unit to overlap reservations will result in disproportionate harvest of the reservations' share of elk by non-tribal hunters. We also fear that it will result in trespass onto tribal lands by non-tribal members and also their hunting in "Indian Country" without tribal licenses. We believe elk have cultural significance to tribes, and GFP should respect that.

We are disturbed that at least one tribe claimed you did not give them advance notice and thus did not comply with your MOU with the tribe. Also pursuant to SDCL 1-54-5 "Consultation with tribal government regarding state programs" - you have a statutory duty to consult with tribes when your actions would effect tribal people on reservations (<https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/1-54-5>).

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe did not testify at the March 2025 meeting. We hope you have complied with SDCL 1-54-5 and consulted with them.

Perhaps you can work with Tribes to come to some sort of negotiated settlement of this dispute, however until that happens, we oppose the expansion of the WRA Prairie Elk hunting unit to overlap the West River reservations.

Sincerely,
Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

Paula Von Weller

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Proposed season conflicts with tribal wishes.