

Nancy Hilding
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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 & 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

Existing rule:

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:

(7) In Custer State Park, a person using dogs shall attempt to harvest the first legal mountain lion the person has a reasonable opportunity to harvest, except under the condition in which the lion pursued shows obvious signs of lactation;

Change Requested (added text is underlined)

Add a new section:

(8) A person using dogs to hunt mountain lions may not harvest a female showing obvious signs of lactation

Once you insert a new section after section 7, to the rule's list of sections, the numbers of existing sections (8), (9), (10) and (11) will need to be changed.

STATEMENT OF REASONS

You allow hound hunting on the prairie and may allow it in the Black Hills Fire Protection District at your next Commission meeting. Your existing rule seems to prohibit killing of treed lactating females, but only in Custer State Park. This change would apply the restriction to the prairie unit now and also to the Black Hills Fire Protection District outside of Custer State Park, if you ever allow hound hunting there in the future.

Killing of mothers who are lactating, orphans their kittens and the kittens will die. This is animal cruelty.

Several tribes – Oglala and Rosebud Sioux Tribes have breeding populations of lions and hunting seasons. Because SDGFP does not manage the prairie for sustained lion population, that does not mean the tribes don't. You should be protecting lactating females everywhere.

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