

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: FW:

From: Lynn Namminga [mailto:bigdutch1@outlook.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 2:31 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

Shooting animals that run up a tree to get away from a dog is NOT hunting. It is "killing for fun." This practice is obscene and should be banned outright. Only a sociopath would find killing a animal like that. PLEASE don't allow this sorry practice to be legitimized.

Mr. Lynn Namminga
Deadwood, S.D. 57732

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: against hunting lions with dogs

-----Original Message-----

From: Shari Kosel SDFACT [<mailto:shari@sdfact.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 2:45 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: against hunting lions with dogs

South Dakota GF&P Commission:

I am adamantly opposed to hunting lions with the use of dogs.

Often these dogs are mauled, severely injured, run to exhaustion or killed while pursuing their target. This is not sport, this is cruelty.

The South Dakota legislature voted against this very same thing last year for a reason. Please do not go over the will of the people for a request from a few.

Shari Crouch Kosel
Deer Mountain
Lead, South Dakota

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hunting with dogs

From: carol@rap.midco.net [<mailto:carol@rap.midco.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 3:43 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hunting with dogs

Dear GF&P Commission,

Please do not allow dogs in the hunting of mountain lions. Last year the quota was not even met. Please do not allow hunters with dogs to kill what is left in the Black Hills. The kittens for sure won't stand a chance.

Carol Lauck

Rapid City SD 57702

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Dogs for lion hunting

From: Chad Blair [<mailto:chadblairangus@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 1:58 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Dogs for lion hunting

To whom it may concern:

As a land owner in Meade county I would like to voice my support of using dogs to hunt lions in south Dakota. I believe this will help control the lion population and aid in the coexistence if livestock and mountain lions.

Chad Blair

Vale South Dakota

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Mountain Lion hunting with hounds

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Lucinda Schuft [<mailto:lmschuft@hotmail.com>]

> Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 1:26 PM

> To: GFP Wild Info

> Subject: Mountain Lion hunting with hounds

>

> I am not opposed to this type of hunting in general, but you are letting it be done in the wrong area of the state. Seriously, the Black Hills Fire Protection Area makes the most sense because there are areas to tree the lions. I feel that if this is being brought in, it must replace or add on to the existing hunting. The reason is this, if folks can see the lion, they can then decide if it is one that should be taken or not. I think the numbers of lions being allowed to be shot could be reduced and it would be better for the management.

>

> So - allowing it in the Black Hills

>

> Reduce the number of lions being taken each season.

>

> That is my thoughts on this issue.

>

> Lucinda Schuft, Hot Springs, SD

Ascher, Debra

From: Aaron Thurber <aaronthurber@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 1:38 PM
To: GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: I support hound hunting

I would like to express support FOR the use of hounds while hunting mountain lions in South Dakota.

It is an excellent way to allow for selective harvest of specific animals/sexes/ages.

It also is excellent sport for both the dogs and the humans. There is no proven harm to the allowance of hound hunting.

Aaron Thurber
709 2nd Street North
Ellendale, ND 58436

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound Hunting in South Dakota

From: L. McGannon [<mailto:l.mcannon@ymail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 8:17 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hound Hunting in South Dakota

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to give you my opinion on your proposal of allowing hound hunting in our state. I am strongly opposed to it. I am hoping you will reconsider this proposal. So many reasons why this is wrong on every level, but I am listing a few major reasons. Please protect wildlife and not hunters and farmer's interests.

Studies have shown that with high levels of lion hunting the opposite occurs: both complaints and livestock losses increase dramatically in the year that follows because heavy hunting on a mountain lion population destabilizes it. When the older members are killed off, young male lions immigrate in and take their place. These young lions are unskilled hunters. They are more likely to cause complaints and livestock depredations.

Killing lions to satisfy landowners will not work. Because dogs cannot recognize boundary lines, property owners are disturbed by trespassing packs of dogs onto their private property. Packs of dogs disturb not only people, livestock, and family dogs but also other wildlife. Dog packs on private property are a major source of conflict.

South Dakota's severe quotas and unlimited hunting on our tiny mountain lion population is not responsible wildlife management. Wildlife are required to be managed for all of the people, not just some of them. I believe this has been proven many times, just look at the elk issue you've had.

To protect breeding females and their dependent kittens, several states have adopted hunter education programs. This is an excellent way to conserve and protect breeding females and prevent cruel kitten orphaning. See: <http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/MountainLion.aspx>. Rather than expand hounding hunting opportunities, GFP should adopt similar programs.

This was defeated last year and it needs to be defeated again this year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Louise McGannon
Mitchell, South Dakota

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: NO hound hunting in the Prairie Region

From: Salazar, Marina [<mailto:MSalazar@milbank.com>]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 3:37 PM

To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; 'gary.jenses@state.sd.us'; 'jlcoop11@aol.com'; 'barryj@gwtc.net'; 'hpd@nvc.net'; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

Subject: NO hound hunting in the Prairie Region

Dear Madams and Messrs,

- There is **no** justification for this expansion of hound hunting, as there have been **no confirmed depredations** by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area.
- Departmental Policies **MUST** be based on **fact**, not **fear** if the integrity of the Commission is to be maintained.
- SDGFP has always denied the presence of breeding populations in the Prairie Region because of marginal or inhospitable habitat. Lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in territory that cannot support them.
- Fear of conflict should be addressed proactively by non-lethal deterrents and other conflict prevention measures.

Respectfully,
Marina Salazar
New York City

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: NO hound hunting in the Prairie Region

From: Janette Herlinger [<mailto:janette.herlinger@arcor.de>]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 3:53 PM

To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

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Dear Sirs,

I was just informed about you considering whether to expand hound hunting to the Prairie Region in South Dakota.

I learned from The Cougar Fund, that

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- Fear of conflict should be addressed proactively by non-lethal deterrents and other conflict prevention measures.

and kindly ask you to decide **NOT** to expand hound hunting in this area.

Thank you.

Janette
Wuppertal, Germany

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Do Not Expand Hound Hunting to The Prairie Region

From: Alissa Cohen [<mailto:azliss@cox.net>]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 4:44 PM

To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

Subject: Do Not Expand Hound Hunting to The Prairie Region

To all South Dakota Commissioners:

I am writing to you to beg you to not allow the expansion of hound hunting to the Prairie Region. There is no justification for this expansion of hound hunting, as there have been no confirmed depredations by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area. Departmental Policies MUST be based on fact, not fear if the integrity of the Commission is to be maintained.

SDGFP has always denied the presence of breeding populations in the Prairie Region because of marginal or inhospitable habitats. Lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in territory that cannot support them. Fear of conflict should be addressed proactively by non-lethal measures.

I'm not sure if you have all seen how horrible Hound Hunting is but it is a particularly horrible thing to do to an animal as beautiful and necessary to an ecosystem as a mountain lion. The hounds chase the cougars until they are totally exhausted and perhaps far away from their kittens, they take refuge in a tree or cave or are driven off the edge of a cliff. Most cougars are shot from as little as ten feet away as they stare helpless, unable to escape.

I urge you to do the right thing here and never expand hound hunting. It's time for these barbaric methods to go away. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alissa Cohen
Scottsdale, AZ

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Cougars

-----Original Message-----

From: Debbie Reis [<mailto:cowgirl@fuse.net>]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 5:18 PM

To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpj@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

Subject: Cougars

Dear Ladies and Gentleman,

There is no justification for the expansion of hound hunting...Example... no confirmed depredations by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area... Use facts not fear when making your decision. There are so many of us who enjoy seeing mountain lions and watching our wildlife...this seems like senseless killing to me!

Thank you for your consideration!

Deb Reis

Wilson, Wyoming

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Please, No Hound Hunting in the Prairie Region!

-----Original Message-----

From: Melissa McKibben [<mailto:kibby@graphex.com>]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 11:16 PM

To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hp@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

Subject: Please, No Hound Hunting in the Prairie Region!

There is no scientific basis or justification for it. Nothing backs up the Houndsman Association's claim that mountain lions are becoming a nuisance or significant depredation source for livestock.

Thank you.

Melissa McKibben
Centennial, CO

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: No hound hunting in the Prairie Region

-----Original Message-----

From: David Stalder [mailto:david_stalder@yahoo.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 12:00 AM

To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

Subject: No hound hunting in the Prairie Region

Dear South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission:

I am writing to respectfully urge you not to allow hunting of mountain lions in the Prairie Region.

There is no justification for the expansion of hound hunting, as there have been no confirmed depredations by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area.

Departmental Policies must be based on fact, not on fear, if the integrity of the Commission is to be maintained.

The SDGFP has always denied the presence of breeding populations in the Prairie Region because of marginal or inhospitable habitat. Lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in territory that cannot support them.

Fear of conflict should be addressed proactively by non-lethal deterrents and other conflict prevention measures.

Thank you for listening.

David Stalder
Seattle, WA

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Please ban hound hunting!

-----Original Message-----

From: JULIET LAMONT [<mailto:graywaggle@mac.com>]

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 12:16 AM

To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; ilcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

Subject: Please ban hound hunting!

Hound hunting is cruel and cowardly. There is no place for this kind of cruelty in a civilized society, whatever one's views about hunting in general. I urge you to ban hound hunting of Pumas and other predators, entirely.

Sincerely,
Juliet Lamont
Berkeley CA

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Do not expand Mountain Lion hunting to the prairie lands

From: Tara Vermillion [<mailto:tarav13@gmail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 6:40 PM

To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

Subject: Do not expand Mountain Lion hunting to the prairie lands

Please do not expand the hound hunting. This is a cruel practice and as a state we need to work harder to find better ways of controlling this issue among other issues in this state. Animal cruelty is a major problem in our area and we need to get it under control but we can't be hypocritical by committing this offense and then charging others. The time is now to make changes.

Thank you for listening.

Tara Vermillion

Sioux Falls SD

Animal Rights proclaimed advocate

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: No Hound Hunting

-----Original Message-----

From: ulmer@usexportdirect.com [mailto:ulmer@usexportdirect.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 8:07 AM

To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony

Subject: No Hound Hunting

Dear Commissioner

I am writing to urge you to not approve hound hunting in the prairie regions of Cougars. These lions represent part of our countries natural heritage. We continue to kill off our predators out of fear and for sport as we have done for 100s of years now. So much has already been lost. I pray you will be part of future conservation solutions and not part of the killing off of these great and mystical predators that are so vital to the balance of our natural world. Please find ways to preserve these animals and be a state that stands up for them not one determined to manage through extermination.

Wishing you the best in your decision to make the correct choice.

Sincerely

Todd Ulmer

Ft Lauderdale, Fl 33304

January 12, 2015

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2015

Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks
Pierre, SD 57501

Mr. Hofer:

You will never make this person happy; she will always want something from you. What really bothers me is that the legislature and GFP allows her to act and say the thing she does. We here are so very tired of her rants weekly in the Pioneer.

At the first meeting ever in the Hilton in Rapid, Kintigh said no dogs. SD had learned from other states and our land mass was too small and human congested. The dog issue is so complex and if you give an inch now soon they will want all hunting with dogs; that fact is inevitable.

Liability, trespass, dogs hurt or killed, kittens killed [already killed by your own dogs], sympathetic people killing dogs, non target animals killed or injured or killed, you, I fear will open a can of worms with many more undesirable consequences. Betty talks about WY and MT using dogs. Nearly all states do, as you know, yet she can't realize that those states have thousands of cats, we don't and never will.

I think it is a total shame that someone with such a vendetta can make such an impact of your agency. If I had funding, I would take her and the papers on since it is obvious the media is complicit with her and her mindset and propagate the fear, frenzy and hatred to the masses.

Have a great day, Dr. Tom *Fuhrerkoeh*
Lead, SD

Ascher, Debra

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- Departmental Policies **MUST** be based on **fact**, not opinion. The Commission is to be maintained.
- SDGFP has always denied the presence of breeding populations in the Prairie Region because of marginal or inhospitable habitat. Lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in territory that cannot support them.
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Wishing you the best in your decision to make the correct choice.

Sincerely
Todd Ulmer
Ft Lauderdale, Fl 33304

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society (PHAS),
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
nhilshat@rapidnet.com
605-787-6779
January 15th, 2015

SD Game, Fish and Parks Commission
523 E. Capitol Ave.,
Pierre, SD 57501

Objection To Hound Hunting In Prairie

PHAS Comment Letter # 2 - Prairie Lions and Hound Hunting - 1/15/15 Hearing

Dear Commissioners,

Prairie Hills Audubon Society (PHAS) has repeatedly objected to your existing, unlimited and yearlong Prairie Unit hunt unit. We still object to the existing Prairie Hunt. We now also object to the proposed addition to the Prairie Unit -- of hound hunting.

We request that the Commission delay the decision on the hound hunt till it's March meeting and in the interim ask the staff to review new evidence available from tribes, of resident and breeding populations on tribal lands in the "prairie unit"

Black Hills Fire Protection District is Improper Boundary for a Cougar Prairie Unit.

We believe that GFP's division of the Black Hills at the Fire Protection District may not properly define the edge of the Black Hills cougar breeding population, we believe this population may extend into the hogback and low hills that surround the Black Hills, south of the Cheyenne River and north of I-90 and may also include the Cheyenne River and Belle Fourche River where they are about 15 or 18 miles of the Black Hills. Thus the Prairie Unit as currently defined, improperly includes only part of the Black Hills area habitat. Individual lions may have-home ranges spanning both areas, bridging your boundaries. Also lions may have home ranges within the 15-mile wide strip embracing the foothills and ecotone around the Black Hills.

Reservation Resident Population Evidence

The lions have no clue where state or tribal boundaries are.

We believe that Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe has convincing evidence of a resident lion on their lands. Also, the Yankton Sioux tribe has convincing evidence of cougar breeding on their lands.

Nebraska has female cougars confirmed at Pine Ridge, Niobrara Breaks/River Valley and land near Scottsbluff (Wildcat Hills). Evidence of breeding exists at Nebraska Pine Ridge via kittens. The Pine Ridge of Nebraska connects to the Pine Ridge of SD and Wyoming.

In Niobrara Breaks/River Valley, DNA analysis demonstrates genetic relationship between resident animals. Two females likely have a parent/offspring relationship, and a large, fully mature 115 lb male was likely the father. Trail camera data indicates resident animal behavior. Keya Paha Creek reaches back from the Niobrara through Todd and Tripp counties up into the

Rosebud Reservation, and the Niobrara River merges with the Missouri River below where lions have been killed in SD.

Oglala Sioux Tribe had a two and half year old female collared at Pine Ridge Reservation in March 2013 and near it, were tracks likely belonging to an adult male. However the female eventually left the reservation. Oglala Sioux Tribe in 2014 went so far as to create a boot and a hound hunt season on its reservation

For Rosebud area, a hunter killed a 3-year old female with past evidence of lactation, in Mellette County near the Rosebud Reservation northern Boundary. Rosebud Sioux Tribe has had past credible sightings of females with kittens. Both Pine Ridge and Rosebud have areas with conifer habitat. In Yankton Reservation area there are 29 miles of river front, with bluffs, trees valleys creeks: a very rough territory that is heavily wooded. Todd, Mellette, Tripp and Gregory counties seem to have a high concentration of records of dead females and adult males and sit above the Niobrara River, which has breeding in Nebraska. Please look at the charts and maps of mortalities, that we have sent mid day on Wednesday.

Custer National Forest

Custer National Forest straddles the border of SD & Montana. We see a cluster of adult male mortalities, with a Slim Buttes female on or near the SD side of Custer National Forest units. Habitat and population in this area need to be seen in concert with Montana's Custer National Forest Units. In the mid 1990s Custer National Forest employees saw a female with kittens on Slim Buttes Unit.

We identify several areas of interest and hope you will look for them on the map. These are:

- 1) Habitat in the Custer National Forest (CNF) Area in NW SD, which must be seen in connection with habitat in Montana,
- 2) Habitat in the lands along the Belle Fourche River north of the Black Hills, moving down through the hogback to I-90 between Wyoming Border & Rapid City,
- 3) Habitat in the River Breaks of the Cheyenne River in conjunction with some uplands south of the Cheyenne River,
- 4) Habitat in the Pine Ridge area of SD, which must be seen in connection with habitat in Nebraska,
- 5) Habitat on the Rosebud Reservation,
- 6) Habitat in Missouri River Breaks on the east and west side of the Missouri River in the SE corner of the State, which includes at least parts of Tripp, Gregory & Charles Mix County

SD Mountain Lion Plan Quotes

SD Mountain Lion Plan 2010-2015 at page 16 says:

"Dispersal of mountain lions onto the prairies of South Dakota is well documented with both male and female lions leaving the Black Hills (Thompson 2009)... However, to date there has been no documentation of any lions establishing home ranges on the prairie. Due to land ownership on the prairie and limited available habitat preferred by mountain lions, SDGFP currently does not intend to manage for a sustainable population outside of the Black Hills ecosystem." (*emphasis added*)

However the SD Mountain Lion Plan at page 16 also says:

"Recommendations for future hunting seasons will be based upon the most recent biological data for mountain lions, population estimates of other game animal

populations, harvest statistics, and public opinion. In addition, mountain lion harvest models which consider mountain lion population estimates, harvest quotas, and other biological information will be used to assist in developing future hunting season strategies" *(emphasis added)*

We believe the Native American tribes of SD have some information that GFP may not have been aware of and that the wildlife biologists at the tribes have proven that both residential lions exist and that some females are breeding. The dead 3 year old Mellette County female, with history of lactation, coupled with past credible, but not confirmed sightings of females with kittens at Rosebud, should require thorough investigation by SDGFP in partnership with Rosebud Sioux Tribe -- this is an area of checkerboard jurisdiction.

We believe that the 2010-2015 Management Plan's decision -- to not manage for cougars on the prairie, is based on and tiered to outdated information and assumptions. There is proof of resident and breeding lions on tribal lands: the research and data collected by our state's tribal wildlife departments. Cougar populations have been recovering on Reservations lands when no hunting has been allowed.

Black Hills "Near Vicinity" Breeding.

As we mentioned before, the boundary of the Black Hills Fire Protection District improperly slices off mountain lion habitat. There is proven breeding in this area, via GFP mortality records. SD GFP defines a kitten as 1 year old or younger. There are 3 dead kittens that meet that definition in this "near vicinity" area: kittens at Oral, Fairburn and Sturgis. There are also 2 dead kittens that were killed crossing I-90. There are 5 young cougars in the prairie unit that could be kittens, if kittens are defined as animals that have not yet left mom, then 4 of the "near vicinity" dead lions are of an age where they could be either independent or dependent.

The boundary is improperly drawn and the "prairie" unit includes excellent forest and hilly habitat linked to the sides of the Black Hills. These lions may not be dispersing but actually staying in their home ranges and territories.

Kittens/Subadults on the "prairie"

Six young lions with estimated age between 8 months-1.5 years have been killed on prairie, including a young male lion found dead on the Rosebud Reservation & estimated by Rosebud Sioux Tribe Game Fish and Parks to be a year old, but GFP aged it at two years old. Twelve dead kittens/sub-adults with age estimated at 1.5 years have been documented on the Prairie. Depending on which benchmark you use, these 8-18 month old young lions could be "kittens". "Cougar Management Guidelines" (2005) on page 40 says: "Young become independent at 10-18 months but may continue to associate with their mothers or siblings for several weeks". Jenks (of SDSU) in his book; "Managing cougars in North America." (2011) on page 24 says: "Young remain with the female anywhere from 10 to 33 months of age but generally become independent at 13-18 months." SDGFP considers lions one year or younger to be kittens.

231 Square Mile Areas of Habitat in The Prairie

So we have proof of breeding in SD "prairie" unit. Are the suitable habitat areas of sufficient size and quality, to eventually support a breeding population -- at least two females successfully breeding?

Various State Agencies in the Northern Plains may use quotes found in Fecske's work to estimate the minimum land area that can support cougars. Fecske's conclusions are tiered to Beier's research in California.

Beier was working in a mountain range in California that was surrounded and isolated by urban development and highways. Some people selectively rely on some of his estimates (via Fecske), that are meant for isolated populations and ignore or unaware of his estimates for small populations that are not isolated. Below is a quote from Beier (1993) on not isolated populations:

"If a wildlife movement corridor is available to allow immigration of up to three males and one female per decade, an area as small as 600-1600 km² (depending on the demographics of a particular population) can support a cougar population without significant extinction risk in 100 years. Doubtless higher levels of immigration would allow even smaller areas to support cougars. Thus, in areas where isolation or fragmentation of a cougar population appears imminent, protection and enhancement of any remaining corridor is valuable." (*Emphasis added*)

For folks not used to metric measurement: 600 square kilometers is 231 square miles and 1600 square kilometers 617.8 square miles. 15.19 squared equals 231 and 24.8 squared equals 617.8. Thus a square box with fifteen-mile sides describes a 600 km² area.

We attach an informal file called "Connectivity concerns", which is our informal attempt to quote some relevant sections of various documents on viability in small populations and connectivity. Smaller habitat areas could support breeding lions, if the connectivity corridors are protected and genetic exchange insured. We will also attach the cited article by Beier.

When looking at habitat in the prairie of SD, additional connected habitat may be out-of-state -- we may need to consider habitat in Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana. Additional habitat may be within tribal jurisdiction or a mixed checkerboard of tribal/non-tribal jurisdiction.

We believe these many areas we have pointed out, all have the 231 square miles of habitat, but what they don't have is secure connectivity with a stable source population. That is thanks to SD's 365 day of the year, prairie hunt, which is about to get worse.

Adaptive Management

Is the promise of adaptive management on page 16 of the Plan honest? SDGFP should not proceed with the hound hunting on the prairie unit till it investigates further the new information about resident lions and breeding on the prairie.

Pine Ridge Lions

The Pine Ridge ecosystem is a three state habitat that exists in Wyoming, Nebraska and SD. It is insufficient to see the Pine Ridge area in SD as separate and independent from the Nebraska Pine Ridge. Nebraska believed its Pine Ridge population was large enough to support a recreational hunt and that habitat is directly connected to habitat in SD. Why can't SD GFP see this as a breeding population located in three states: South Dakota, Nebraska?

Tribal/State Consultation/Cooperation

For a hunter to legally hunt lions on tribal land in the reservation or other land under tribal jurisdiction, a hunter would need tribal permits, but many reservations don't allow hunting of lions. To our knowledge only Pine Ridge Reservation has a mountain lion hunting season (established in 2014). Standing Rock, Rosebud, Lower Brule, Cheyenne River, Flandreau Santee and Yankton Sioux Tribe don't allow hunting of cougars. We were not able to get a hold of Crow Creek and Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe this week.

Due to the Allotment Act and other subsequent Acts, settlement of reservation lands by Caucasians occurred. Settlement was followed by the Supreme Court's removal of areas from the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations (counties removed: Bennet, Mellette, Gregory, Tripp

and part of Lyman). There is a checkerboard of tribal and non-tribal ownership and mixed jurisdictions within and around some reservations. Hound hunting in the checkerboard, may result in both trespass and actual violation of tribal hunting laws. However tribal officers can't arrest non-tribal violators, merely confiscate property and evict.

SD has a law that State Agencies shall consult with tribes, when deciding on the prairie hound hunt, GFP should consult with tribes about their wishes in zone where lion home ranges overlap both jurisdictions and should consider tribal wishes when making choices about appropriate seasons and methods:

SDCL 1-54-5. "Consultation with tribal government regarding state programs. It is the policy of the state to consult with a tribal government regarding the conduct of state and local government programs which have the potential of affecting tribal members on the reservation. This section litigation or otherwise.

http://legis.sd.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=1-54-5

Lion home ranges are large and may overlap both tribal & state hunting jurisdictions. Male lions in SD & Wyoming have an average home range of about 641.1 square kilometers (about 400 square miles) (Dan Thompson - 2009 PhD Thesis, page 116). A square box bordered with 20 miles sides, creates 400 square mile area. Females have smaller home ranges.

Other Concerns That Cause Us to Question a "Hound Hunt"

Effectiveness of Hunting Methods

Hunting with dogs is a much more efficient way of catching a mountain lion than the "boot hunt." If hound hunting is allowed, the hound hunters will get more lions & get them sooner than the "boot hunters"; thus different sort of cougar hunters have competing interests. That competition may affect GFP relative allocation of areas to "boot" vs. "hound hunt". With a "boot hunt" on the prairie, a lion has a better hope to escape, but a dedicated hound hunter is more likely to find and kill it. Hunting lions with hounds, is not considered "fair chase", by many, and thus raises ethical questions.

Cruelty & Trespass & Livestock

During hound hunting, dogs will be released to chase the frightened cougars, across all types of terrain. The dogs pursue the cougars to the point of exhaustion until the animal climbs a tree to escape the baying hounds. The cruelty issue of hounds chasing and killing kittens, or of moms and dependent kittens being separated by hounds, is relevant to SD's prairie. Lions give birth year round, so you can't design a mountain lions season to prevent killing of mothers with dependent cubs. HSUS provides discussion of cruelty issue:

http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/hound_hunting/facts/hounding_fact_sheet.html#.UvKzlvYnsyE

Hound hunting, especially if hounds are not actively supervised and controlled by a person traveling with them, may result in trespass & harassment of livestock & pets. A justification offered by some for hound hunting on prairie, is to protect prairie livestock. GFP staff John Kanta, has told us "We have not had any confirmed attacks on livestock on the prairie."

Weilgus and Washington State Research.

Research in Washington state, shows that over aggressive recreational hunting will result in more "conflict lions"; the theory for this is that stable competent adults are replaced by less well trained young hunters. If you have a lion on that land that is not causing problems, why risk replacing him/her with one that will?

PHAS's REQUEST

We wish for the unlimited and yearlong "boot hunt" season in the Prairie to be closed or severely reduced in length and area of application, while SDGFP cooperates with tribes to learn more about existing and possible breeding populations in SD prairie. We want SDGFP to re-evaluate the shape and boundaries of the "prairie unit".

At the very least such a yearlong season (either "boot" or "hound") should not apply to the areas that could host breeding lions, such as those identified at the top of the letter. At least these areas should be excised from a prairie unit and connectivity areas to and from the Black Hills and Nebraska's Pine Ridge and Niobrara breaks be maintained and protected.

OTHER MITIGATION

You may not wish to give us what we request at this point (stop or reduce existing & proposed prairie hunt) and chose instead to proceed with approving a prairie hound season if so, some other mitigation ideas are offered:

Plan Revision:

Please make PHAS's questions about existing and potential "prairie" breeding populations, a major part of the revision of the 2010-2015 Mountain Lion Plan and aggressively pursue consultation with tribes on lion issues. We believe a buffer zone of 20 miles should encircle all reservations and within that circle, aggressive attempts at consultation, information exchange and cooperation between state and tribes should be pursued.

Divide Prairie Unit into Districts:

Please identify all prairie units that are or could host cougar breeding and if they are on or include tribal lands consult with the tribes. Corridors between stable source populations and small, disjunct populations should be identified and protected, including those linking to Nebraska. We believe SD and Nebraska lion populations likely supply lions to each other across the border. Please split the prairie up in to lion districts such as you have with deer. The area most needing to be removed is the area within the 15-mile vicinity of Black Hills. It needs to be merged with the Black Hills Unit or have its' own unit.

Quotas

While some trained hound hunters may be somewhat able to identify female sex, they have no incentive to spare a female, when invited by landowner to hunt specifically for purpose of killing that female or whenever the lions in area are few. GFP has been erroneously claiming, there is no breeding on the prairie and no resident lions. We call your bluff. Establish a quota: if a female is killed, by hound or boot hunter -- then the season closes. Thus please consider a quota of one female per year on the prairie. You claim no breeding -- thus if the hounds or the hunters kill a kitten, consider a rule, that the "boot" and "hound hunt" closes immediately - if your 5 year old Plan is correct and no prairie breeding, what is the harm?.

Time of year for Prairie Hound Hunt

The existing hound hunting rule prohibits hound hunters from chasing after a lion if there is a trail of two lions traveling together. We have proven there are kittens on the prairie unit. Thus if this "two lions together" protection is to have any meaning, the hound hunt needs to be restricted to times when snow likely. SD also choses to have the mountain lion season in Jan-March to reduce orphaning of dependent kittens, we have proven breeding on the prairie, thus if hound hunt overlaps any area with proven or suspected breeding, insure the hound hunt is in Jan-March like in the Black Hills or Jan-Feb. like at Pine Ridge Reservation.

"Problem" Lion Hunters

Another potential compromise is to allow more recreational hound hunters to be "on call" to help with SDGFP's "removal" efforts. If SDGFP confirms a "problem" mountain lion, exists in conflict with livestock or people and GFP would normally hire a hound hunter to remove the lion, perhaps SD GFP could provide training/certification to increase the number of hound hunters in the pool for such work.

Training of hound hunters

Provide training program for hound hunters, especially in ability to ID sex of treed lions

Electronic collars with shock functions?

Having electronic GPS type collars with shock capability to bring dogs back, may help reduce trespass issues or reduce lost/abandoned dog issues and should be considered. We do wonder however if it will result in more hounds chasing wildlife & domestic animals without direct supervision and thus result in increased animal cruelty issues. So this option may provide both benefit and harm, but it is something to research, and consider requiring.

Training of landowners in non-violent cougar management

SD should develop training & education materials in non-lethal deterrents and other cougar-human conflict prevention/mitigation measures.

Cost of License & Registration of HoundHunters

The hound hunter is much more likely to get a lion than a 'boot hunter', so you should charge more. For example Pine Ridge Sioux Tribe now charges \$30 for a "boot hunt" license for a tribal member and \$100 for others. The price for a hound-hunting license is \$250 for a tribal member and \$500 for anybody else. Hound hunters should be registered with you, and some rules and fines should exist for insuring responsible care of their dogs.

Privatization of wildlife resource

As the alleged reason for this hound hunt, is to help ranchers with "problem" lions, this hunting opportunity should never facilitate money making recreational ventures. The only people, who should be allowed to hunt under this prairiehound-hunting rule, should be the landowner and/or the hounds man or hounds woman.

Private Land vs. Public land

As the alleged reason for this hound hunt is to help ranchers with "problem" lions, this hunting opportunity should not occur on public land, including state school lands.

=====

Please remember we are totally opposed to this rule, but offered the above "compromise/mitigation" points in case you are going to pass something forward over our objection.

=====

NOTES ON ATTACHMENTS

We provide 4 attachments
The first is Nebraska Game and Park's

1) "Summary of Proposed Mountain Lion Regulations for the July Commission Meeting "

This is a two-page discussion, from when Nebraska was considering it's 2014 hound hunting season. This shows how they split off two non-hunting areas that had incipient breeding and separated those from the Prairie and Pine Ridge units. It also shows that Nebraska only allowed a 3 month hound hunt on its' Prairie Unit. Nebraska did not allow hunting the next year in 2015 -- why? Too many lions died from multiple causes in 2014, for populations to continue to support hunting in 2015. Thus Nebraska overreached in its first cougar-hunting season.

2) We also attach a spreadsheet of lions that died crossing I-90, which includes a few kittens and fully adult animals (not just sub-adults).

3) We attach an article by Beier

"Determining Minimum Habitat Areas and Habitat Corridors for Cougars" Paul Beier*
Department of Forestry and Resource Management, University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720, U.S.A., Conservation Biology, Volume 7, No. 1, March 1993

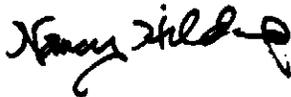
4) We attach a document with select quotes from Beier and others discussing requirements for small populations of lions.

Review of Earlier Attachments:

Earlier today we sent a cover letter with 4 attachments, which contained two spreadsheets -- one showing mortality of lions in the near vicinity of the Black Hills and other showing lion mortalities at a greater distance. We included 2 maps of the approximate locations of these dead lions from those spread sheets.

Please study these maps and especially look at dead female lions. Since Sept 2000, SDGFP lion mortality data shows 17 wild female lions & 1 declawed female lion dead on the prairie unit. One 1.5-year old female got all the way to Howard, SD before it was killed.

Sincerely,



Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
For Self and Society

4 Attachments

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound Hunting of Cougars

From: cngage@aol.com [mailto:cngage@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 8:16 PM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: Re: Hound Hunting of Cougars

Thank you for contacting me. I live in both Valdese, North Carolina and Santa Monica, California, as does my husband, Christos Gage.

Ruth Fletcher Gage

From: cngage@aol.com [mailto:cngage@aol.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:33 PM

To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@qwtc.net; hpj@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

Subject: Hound Hunting of Cougars

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to ask you NOT to expand Hound Hunting of Cougars in South Dakota. There are several reasons why you should not do this:

1. It is your job, as public servants, to look at the whole picture and decide not what is in the best interest of everybody, not just a few hunters. You can either move South Dakota into the future, protecting it's wildlife and it's land for the entire public (including tourists) to enjoy or you can destroy any possibility of that to serve the narrow needs of one interest group.
2. Recreational hound hunting is not conflict management. It is a cruel practice that reflects badly on the way people perceive South Dakota.
3. Non-lethal deterrents and other conflict prevention measures are always better in addressing conflict proactively. They are better for the parties involved, the surrounding environment and for the public perception.
4. Departmental Policies should be based on fact, not fear, if the integrity of the Commission is to be maintained. There is no justification for this expansion of hound hunting, as there have been no confirmed depredations by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area.
5. Expanding the rule to include hound hunting is redundant as there is an existing policy of aggressive response to potential conflict by the SDGFP.

The SDGFP has always denied the presence of Cougar breeding populations in the Prairie Region because of marginal or inhospitable habitat; but lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in a territory that cannot support them. It is for this reason that you should conduct further research to support your position that there is no possibility of resident lions and breeding on the prairie.

You are lucky enough to have a few remaining Cougars in South Dakota and you should be honored to protect their best interests. It is vital to the survival of this cornerstone American species that you take your responsibility of wildlife management seriously. If you make the wrong decision now, there may not be an opportunity to correct it in the future.

So, please do NOT expand Hound Hunting of Cougars in South Dakota. Thank you for taking the time to address these concerns.

Sincerely, Ruth Fletcher Gage and Christos Gage

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Expansion of Hound Hunting

-----Original Message-----

From: lizzibeach@yahoo.com [mailto:lizzibeach@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 7:07 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Re: Expansion of Hound Hunting

Hi Debra,

Elizabeth Beach
Salt Lake City, UT

Raised in Gillette/Sundance Wyoming

Kind Regards,
Elizabeth

> -----Original Message-----

> From: lizzibeach@yahoo.com [mailto:lizzibeach@yahoo.com]
> Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 10:25 PM
> To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net;
Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
> Subject: Expansion of Hound Hunting

>

> Hello All,

>

> As a concerned citizen I would like to express my concerns into the expansion of hound hunting.

>

> SDGF has always denied the presence of breeding populations in the Prairie Region because of marginal or inhospitable habitat. Lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in territory that cannot support them. SDGFP's must conduct further research to support their position that there is no possibility of resident lions and breeding on the prairie.

>

> All decisions made must be made off of facts and not fear, please consider other predator conflict resolution before you move forward with the expansion.

>

> Regards,
> Elizabeth

Ascher, Debra

From: Bob <bobhbobh@rushmore.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:24 PM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com;
barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony;
GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: mountain lion hunting

To whom it may concern :

I am fundamentally opposed to the idea of lion hunting by using hounds.

It is comparable to Trout Haven, no sport involved just an easy way to decimate a majestic animal
for the sake of what ? protecting the overpopulation of deer ? or just generating revenue.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Bob H Miller

Pennington County

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound Hunting in South Dakota

From: dpetersonphoto [<mailto:dpetersonphoto@outlook.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 3:49 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: RE: Hound Hunting in South Dakota

My city/state is as follows:

Kentwood, Michigan

Regards,
Denise Peterson

From: dpetersonphoto [<mailto:dpetersonphoto@outlook.com>]
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 12:06 PM
To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.ienses@state.sd.us; ilcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony
Subject: Hound Hunting in South Dakota

To whom it may concern,

Please do not expand hound hunting in the Prairie Region or anywhere in South Dakota. Evidence suggests that increased hunting actually leads to more predator-human conflicts. The elimination of some of these cats, especially the older males, upsets a hierarchy which, when left intact, helps to keep younger cats away from livestock by teaching them what their natural prey is. When older cats are taken out of the population, the younger, "uneducated" cats that don't know any better turn to easier prey. There are other, more effective means to reducing conflict.

Thanks,
Denise

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Using dogs for hunting mountain lions

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry and Jean Matthesen [mailto:ljmatt@gwtc.net]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:33 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Using dogs for hunting mountain lions

ABSOLUTELY DO NOT ALLOW USING DOGS FOR MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING!!!!!!!!!!

THE HUNTER ALREADY HAS TOO MANY ADVANTAGES!!!!!!!!

Jean Matthesen

Custer, SD 57730

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: RE: Cougar hound hunting

From: kishaburgardt@yahoo.com [<mailto:kishaburgardt@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:48 PM

To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jicoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

Subject: Cougar hound hunting

To whom it may concern:

Please take time from your day to imagine being chased to your death for no reason. Hound hunting is so very cruel and since we are all well aware of this it would be very kind of you to follow what you know is ethical and appropriate. Everyone is thankful for a man who cares about nature and wildlife.

Let the cougars be cougars and the dogs be someone's loveable pet.

With high regard,

Kisha Burgardt M.S.
Wichita, KS

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: expanding Cougar Hound Hunting

From: Stephanie Jochumnatt-Natt [<mailto:lyonkeepergirl@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 6:54 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Re: expanding Cougar Hound Hunting

Hi I am in Salt Lake City Utah

Stephanie Jochum-Natt
Sent from my iPhone

From: Stephanie Jochum-Natt [<mailto:lyonkeepergirl@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:17 PM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: expanding Cougar Hound Hunting

Dear State Officials,

I am writing to express my disappointment and opposition to your proposal to increase hound-hunting of cougars in your state. I believe you are not consulting scientific facts on the cougar populations or depredation reports in your state. This smells very badly of special interest groups vying for your votes.

Please do the right thing. Your wildlife is the nation's wildlife.

There is **no** justification for this expansion of hound hunting, as there have been **no confirmed depredations** by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area.

-Expanding the rule to include hound hunting is redundant as there is an existing policy of aggressive response to potential conflict by SDGFP. Recreational hound hunting is not conflict management.

- Departmental Policies **MUST** be based on **fact**, not **fear** if the integrity of the Commission is to be maintained.

- SDGFP has always denied the presence of breeding populations in the Prairie Region because of marginal or inhospitable habitat. Lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in territory that cannot support them. SDGFP's must conduct further research to support their position that there is no possibility of resident lions and breeding on the prairie.

- Fear of conflict should be addressed proactively by non-lethal deterrents and other conflict prevention measures.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: No hound hunting

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephanie [<mailto:sfarac13@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 6:12 PM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: Re: No hound hunting

Stephanie Farac

Novato ca

> -----Original Message-----

> **From:** Stephanie [<mailto:sfarac13@gmail.com>]

> **Sent:** Thursday, January 15, 2015 2:37 AM

> **To:** Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

> **Subject:** No hound hunting

>

> No hound hunting of cougars. Animal abuse!

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: NO hound hunting

From: Tara Ashmore [mailto:tara.ashmore@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 11:28 AM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Re: NO hound hunting

West Yellowstone, MT

From: Tara Ashmore [mailto:tara.ashmore@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:21 PM
To: Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: NO hound hunting

There is **no** justification for this expansion of hound hunting, as there have been **no confirmed depredations** by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area. Expanding the rule to include hound hunting is redundant as there is an existing policy of aggressive response to potential conflict by SDGFP. Recreational hound hunting is not conflict management. Departmental Policies **MUST** be based on **fact**, not **fear** if the integrity of the Commission is to be maintained. SDGFP has always denied the presence of breeding populations in the Prairie Region because of marginal or inhospitable habitat. Lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in territory that cannot support them. SDGFP's must conduct further research to support their position that there is no possibility of resident lions and breeding on the prairie. Fear of conflict should be addressed **proactively** by non-lethal deterrents and other conflict prevention measures.

Tara Ashmore

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: hound hunting of Cougars in South Dakota

From: Joanne White [mailto:Joanne.White@ad4log.nl]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 6:49 AM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: RE: hound hunting of Cougars in South Dakota

Debra,

I'm from New York.

Kind regards
Joanne

From: Joanne White [mailto:Joanne.White@ad4log.nl]
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 6:29 AM
Cc: barri@gwtc.net; hpd@nvs.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: RE: hound hunting of Cougars in South Dakota

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to ask you to stop all Hound Hunting of Cougars in South Dakota. There are several reasons why you should do this:

1. It is your job, as public servants, to look at the whole picture and decide not what is in the best interest of everybody, not just a few hunters. You can either move South Dakota into the future, protecting it's wildlife and it's land for the entire public (including tourists) to enjoy or you can destroy any possibility of that to serve the narrow needs of one interest group.
2. Recreational hound hunting is not conflict management. It is a cruel practice that reflects badly on the way people perceive South Dakota.
3. Non-lethal deterrents and other conflict prevention measures are always better in addressing conflict proactively. They are better for the parties involved, the surrounding environment and for the public perception.
4. Departmental Policies should be based on fact, not fear, if the integrity of the Commission is to be maintained. There is no justification for this expansion of hound hunting, as there have been no confirmed depredations by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area.
5. Expanding the rule to include hound hunting is redundant as there is an existing policy of aggressive response to potential conflict by the SDGFP.

The SDGFP has always denied the presence of Cougar breeding populations in the Prairie Region because of marginal or inhospitable habitat; but lions naturally disperse from their source populations and spend little time in a territory that cannot support them. It is for this reason that you should conduct further research to support your position that there is no possibility of resident lions and breeding on the prairie.

You are lucky enough to have a few remaining Cougars in South Dakota and you should be honored to protect their best interests. It is vital to the survival of this cornerstone American species that you take your responsibility of wildlife management seriously. If you make the wrong decision now, there may not be an opportunity to correct it in the future.

So, please do NOT expand Hound Hunting of Cougars in South Dakota. Thank you for taking the time to address these concerns.

Kind regards
Joanne White

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: please

From: Megan Tenney [mailto:threefreespirits308@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 10:01 AM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: Re: please

Sure! My folks are both from Wessington Springs, SD and I'm now located in Billings, MT. thanks!!!!

From: Megan Tenney [mailto:threefreespirits308@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:35 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: please

hello I'm a concerned citizen who wishes to speak my mind about the killing of mountain lions. Please let the natural course of nature take place. Please don't allow the treeing of hounds and killing. Our world regulates itself and the hostile things we as humans do only create hardship on all. People love to kill and that is why they want the law to pass. Please think twice before signing and letting it continue! thank you for your time! Megan Tenney

Ascher, Debra

From: veraellerton <ellerton@gwtc.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:37 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Lion Hunting with Dogs

We own land by Oral SD. We raise livestock and other than barn cats disappearing have not lost any to mountain lions yet. Everyone we know has a farm dog. Perhaps, if hunted with dogs, lions would develop a respect for them and stay away from homes and yards. We do support hunting with dogs.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Stop the mountain lion hunt.

From: armwig@aol.com [<mailto:armwig@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 3:59 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Re: Stop the mountain lion hunt.

Berea, Ohio

-----Original Message-----

From: Ascher, Debra <Debra.Ascher@state.sd.us>
To: 'armwig@aol.com' <armwig@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, Jan 14, 2015 4:39 pm
Subject: FW: Stop the mountain lion hunt.

Jeannie Wiggins,

In order to include your comment below in the public hearing, please reply with your city and state.

From: Jeannie Wiggins [<mailto:armwig@aol.com>]
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 8:07 AM
To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jicoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony
Subject: Stop the mountain lion hunt.

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: FW:

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Dawn Freidel [<mailto:freideldawn@gmail.com>]

> Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 10:44 PM

> To: GFP Wild Info

> Subject:

>

> I am sending this to voice my opposition to the use of hounds in hunting mountain lions. It's barbaric and a no win for both the dogs and the lions! How can you even call it hunting? The cat doesn't have a prayer.

>

> Signed,

> Dawn Freidel

Corsica, SD

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: FW:

From: Sheila Steiger [<mailto:pashst84@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:36 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

I live in Meade county. I am very much in favor of hunting mountain lion using dogs.

Paul steiger, Sturgis, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Lion hunting

From: mickie hortness [<mailto:mhortness@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 5:25 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Lion hunting

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you today to voice my opposition to the use of hounds in mountain lion hunting. This is not sporting; this is not hunting. This is using dogs to chase an animal until it is so exhausted that it takes refuge in a tree, only to then be shot down. Perhaps the fact that hunters have failed to kill their quota of lions for the last two years has influenced the desire to now have dogs involved in an effort to make it easier for the "hunter". Again, this is not hunting. Not to mention the fact that these dogs are also put in harms way.

Thank you,
Mickie Hortness, Rapid City, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW:

From: John Laundre [<mailto:launjohn@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 10:03 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject:

Dear Commission members,

I am a mountain lion biologist who has studied mountain lions for over 30 years. I am writing you at this time to express my disapproval of the proposal to allow the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions in the prairie areas of South Dakota. In my opinion, these animals should not be hunted at all as they 1) are an essential link to the dispersal of mountain lions to historic unoccupied range to the east, 2) these dispersing animals do not pose a threat to humans, regardless of the false concerns expressed by politicians. Children in South Dakota face a greater threat of injury and death from organized school sports yet we do not hear these politicians proposing banning these activities, 3) mountain lions are essential to ecosystem health and regardless of whether they are in the Black Hills or on the Prairie, should not be killed at the level you have set, 4) your handling of the mountain lions in your state, both in the Hills and prairie violate the norms set down by the North American Model for wildlife conservation, which should be guided by sound science not by unfounded fear and political favoritism.

In my opinion, the wildlife commission of South Dakota has clearly demonstrated that it lacks the understanding, the knowledge, and the ability to soundly manage mountain lions in both the Black Hills and the Prairie and, as per the North American Model, their management should be left up to the people, all of them, of the state. What you, the Commission, and the Game, Fish and Parks Department are doing regarding mountain lions in your state is scientifically and morally wrong.

Dr. John W. Laundré
Research Biologist
25317 Franklin Dr.
Idyllwild, CA 92549

Sent from Windows Mail

Ascher, Debra

From: Sara Parker <sara.parker@perceptivemedia.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 3:47 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Use of Hounds for Mountain Lion Hunting

I'm writing regarding item number 6 on your January meeting agenda, the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting. I strongly OPPOSE the use of dogs in hunting mountain lions. It is very dangerous for the dogs, who are often mauled or severely injured when chasing the lion. This is not sport, it is animal cruelty.

Sara Parker
2905 East 33rd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
605-376-9073

Ascher, Debra

From: Joseph M. Kosel <jkosel@johnskosellaw.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 3:57 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mountain Lion Hunting with Dogs

I vehemently oppose the proposal to allow dogs in mountain lion hunting on the prairie.

Joseph M. Kosel
203 W. Main St.
Lead, SD 57754
website: www.johnskosellaw.com
Phone: 605-717-2889
FAX: 605-717-0590

email: jkosel@johnskosellaw.com

Ascher, Debra

From: Kim Forgey <kimnicole3@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 4:20 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: proposal to allow hunting mountain lions with dogs

I am writing to express my concerns as a landowner, livestock owner and person that rescues and rehomes unwanted and abused dogs.

First, it is my understanding that if a hunter has a special permit, they may use a dog to help with their mountain lion hunt. It is also my understanding that dogs on a leash maybe used to help track injured game. I do not have a problem with either of these things.

However, to change the law to allow any hunter a pack of dogs to hunt mountain lions wherever they can, I completely disagree with.

As a landowner, I do not want packs of dogs trespassing, causing their owner to trespass on my property. If we have a mountain lion on our property, we will have someone take care of it, on our property.

As a livestock owner, using packs of dogs to chase mountain lions will get them to areas they may not normally travel. This may cause their traffic patterns to change and bring them into our pastures and yard. We have dogs, and having loose packs running around would not have good results traveling onto our property. Dogs cannot read "no trespassing" signs.

As a person that rescues unwanted and abused dogs, and surrenders. Backyard breeders are bad enough already and the cause of many of the dogs we have to find homes for. Breeding dogs for this so called "sport" will lead to many more unwanted dogs, dogs that do not perform how they want, or dogs that become vicious, even packs of dogs that chase the wrong things, perhaps even children.

I do not oppose the hunting of mountain lions. I think it should be allowed, regulated and monitored. I think a landowner has a right to protect their property and livestock. But opening up the can of worms that is pack hunting, is going too far.

**Kim Sargent Forgey
Pierre**

Ascher, Debra

From: Mhaivala <mhaivala@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 5:08 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mountain lion hunting

I Feel that hunters hunting mountain lions should be able to use dogs. Wy and MT both allow Hunter to use dogs. I am a rancher and live close the hills so I don't know when the lion might move in on my cattle or horses.

Please vote for the use of dogs.

Marlene Haivala
3139 220th Street
Piedmont, SD 57769

Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

From: Evelyn <prov@rushmore.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 6:08 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mountain Lion Hunt

I strongly oppose allowing hunting dogs to track mountain lions. This is cruel and unnecessary. A hunter should have the skill to track a lion and bag it fairly. This is a "hunting" season not a prescribed or mandated kill.

Thank you for your consideration:

Evelyn Provell
910 St. Charles St.
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-716-2175



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

Ascher, Debra

From: Phil and Linda VanDervoort <elkcreek5@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 6:14 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Use of Dogs to Hunt Lions

Depart. of Game, Fish, and Parks:

As ranchers and landowners in South Dakota, we support the proposed amendment that would allow the use of dogs to hunt mountain lions year round outside of the Black Hills.

We feel the ability to allow lion hunters using dogs on our property could help us protect our stock, especially freshly weaned calves.

Phil and Linda VanDervoort
Piedmont, SD

Ascher, Debra

From: casey ellerton <cellerton@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 7:36 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Lion hunting with hounds

I am in strong support of the use of hounds for lions on private land. This could be a very good thing for landowners, GFP, and hunters. Casey Ellerton, Custer SD

Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

From: casey ellerton <cellerton@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 7:39 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Lion hunting

I would very much like to see the use of hounds for hunting lions on private land. Shanon Ellerton. Custer, SD

Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

From: Rudy Niewenhuis <rudyniewenhuis@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 7:46 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mt Lion hunting

SD GFP,

My name is Rudy Niewenhuis from Corsica, SD. I am 100% in favor of the use of hounds to pursue mountain lion. Being in the livestock industry, and being a father of small children, I feel using hounds to pursue these cats is critical to being able to protect my livestock and children. The flatland of South Dakota is not normal habitat for mountain lion, nor should it be. Mountain lion inhabiting the flatlands is an effect of overpopulation. There needs to be action taken to protect livestock in these areas, and the use of hounds to humanely harvest mountain lions on the flatlands is a good start. I sincerely hope that the state has open eyes to this situation, and takes action.

Best regards,
Rudy Niewenhuis
Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

From: Rachel Crawford <rachelallycecrawford@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 7:49 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Dogs & Mountain Lion Hunting

Greetings to The South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Commission.

I am writing to ask the commission to please not allow hounds to be used in the hunting of mountain lions. Dogs can be extremely injured when hunting big cats, and recently a dog being used destroyed an entire den of kittens. Allowing this to take place would be cruel. South Dakota is a beautiful land and it would be in our best interest to protect both our wildlife from unjust treatment and our beloved pets from harm.

Thank you for your time and I hope to see a vote against allowing hounds to hunt lions!

Rachel Crawford

Ascher, Debra

From: djlove@gwtc.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 7:54 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Hound hunting of lions in the Prairie Unit

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not allow the hunting of mountain lions with hounds on the Prairie Unit. There is absolutely no need for it since the threat to either people or livestock posed by mountain lions is almost negligible. It is time to put an end to this so-called sport, which results in the savage death of the hunted animals and, sometimes of hounds as well, and brutalizes the people who partake in it.

Judy Love

12166 Silver Star Dr.

Custer, SD 57730

Ascher, Debra

From: Zach Delange <zdelange4@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 7:57 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Hounds

This is Zach Delange I think its a good idea to hunt them with hounds because we keep seeing them around the land we have cattle on by pickstown and Platte.. I live near Corsica SD and I think it would be very good...

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: hound hunts

From: Rhonda Dern [<mailto:rhondadern@me.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:17 PM

To: GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

Subject: hound hunts

Dear sirs,

I grew up in South Dakota. It is my homeland. I went to the University of South Dakota and have been an RN for 40 years.

I live at 7600 feet in Colorado.

Our environment thrives when we have natural predators such as mountain lions to keep our deer and elk populations in check.

When you kill mountain lions you are not caring for the eco system of the earth.

This is a plea from me to you to not allow this hunt. There is a reason God put every creature on earth and it breaks my heart that you don't understand this.

yours truly,

Rhonda Dern RN MSN

Ascher, Debra

From: Dot O'Connor <dotoc3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:46 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mountain lion debate

I strongly oppose the use of dogs in hunting mountain lions. It's very dangerous for the dogs, who are often mauled or severely injured when chasing the lion.

This is not a sport, it's cruelty.

Dorothy O'Connor

Lead, SD

Ascher, Debra

From: dpjenkins@alliancecom.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:58 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Oppose the use of dogs to hunt Mountain Lions!

I oppose the use of Dogs to hunt Mountain Lions. If the two legged man can't find the sport interesting enough to hunt them on his or her own they should stay home. Dogs don't deserve the danger this puts them in.

Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,
Patty Jenkins
Brandon, SD

Ascher, Debra

From: Cody Weyer <cdhunts@gwtc.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:07 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Use of dogs for lion hunting

I'm for hunting lions with dogs.
Cody Weyer
18626 old Marcus road
Howes, SD 57748

Ascher, Debra

From: brewer_trucking <brewer_trucking@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:55 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Lions

Hi my name is Aaron Brewer from pierre, SD. I'm sending this email in support of the use of dogs while hunting Mt lions. I believe it will not hurt nor damage the population of lions anymore then how they been hunting them in the past, it will also bring more money to the state as you will see increase of hunters. I do not believe it is inhumane to use dogs as a hunting tactic, as 99% of dogs will end up treeing the lion anyways. I am in favor of allowing it and the benefits it will bring not only to the hunter but South Dakota as well, plus it will keep many hunters in the state rather then buying out of state tags. Thanks for the opportunity of the dog use for it gives me desire to purchase a tag that I probably wouldn't have and I believe many others feel the same way.
Aaron Brewer

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 5 ACTIVE™, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Ascher, Debra

From: gmail.com, coedekoven
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 10:28 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: hunting lions with dogs

Would like to see a season for lion hunting with dogs on private land.
clint oedekoven sturgis sd

Ascher, Debra

From: Rick Hanson <wapiti_24@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 10:50 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Cc: wapiti_24@hotmail.com
Subject: Using dogs to hunt mountain lions

Dear SD Game Commision,

I believe that the use of dogs for hunting mountain lions, outside the Black Hills is a good idea. This can only help the relationship between the GFP and the landowners who are worried about there livestock. Plus these are mostly private lands where permission would be needed to hunt.

I also believe it would be a great oppportunity for the dog handlers to show the state of South Dakota how useful dogs would be in the hunting of mountain lions in SD.

Thank you for your time,
Rick Hanson
Spearfish, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound Hunting Opinion

From: Anya [<mailto:anyaolverson@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:45 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Re: Hound Hunting Opinion

Rapid City, SD

Sent from my iPad

From: Anya Olverson [<mailto:anyaolverson@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 8:06 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Hound Hunting Opinion

Hi,

I am writing to voice my opinion on the petition by SD GF&P that has lead the department to propose an expansion in the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions on the prairie.

I feel like hound hunting is unsportsmanlike and has no place in wildlife management plans.

Hunters and guides use packs of radio-collared trailing hounds to pursue mountain lions until the exhausted, frightened animals seek refuge in a tree, or combat the hounds on the ground. I feel this is not how nature intended a hunting to be.

Hounding results in injuries or death to both mountain lions and hounds and makes kittens vulnerable to mauling, orphaning, and death. However if some South Dakotans prefer this method of hunting, it is currently allowed on a limited basis within Custer State Park.

South Dakota's severe quotas *and* unlimited hunting on our tiny mountain lion population is not responsible wildlife management. Wildlife are required to be managed for all of the people, not just some of them.

I have grown up around hunting my whole life and have many family members who hunt, I am not opposed to that.

I am opposed to using dogs in the hunting process.

Thank you,
Anya Mueller

Ascher, Debra

From: J Sleep <j.sleep@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:00 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mountain Lion hunting with dogs

Dear commissioners,

We are writing in support of the use of dogs in hunting mountain lions outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District. This would be a great tool in preventing a lion population being established on the plains. As livestock producers running stock on the prairie, we have lion interaction periodically and this seems like an efficient way to manage that.

Jeff and Jodi Sleep
Ranchers
Spearfish, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Support for dogs

-----Original Message-----

From: Kyle Brown [mailto:kyle_brown25@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 10:30 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Support for dogs

My name is Kyle brown I have a ranch east of i90 I think the use of dogs over here to hunt should be allowed it is all private ground over here anyhow should have a little more freedom on our own place.

Sturgis, SD

Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW:

-----Original Message-----

From: Shane [<mailto:shaneniewenhuis@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:09 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

My name is Shane niewenhuis from Corsica sd. I hear you are asking for input on hunting lions with dogs. I am in favor of it. Instead of me going out of state to do my hunting I could depend my money here. Thanks Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 8:04 AM
To: Kiel, Emily
Subject: FW:

From: Mike and Kim Lindberg [<mailto:lindberglabs@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 10:54 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject:

We are in full support of hunting mountain lions with dogs outside the Black Hills. We live in the Black Hills and have witnessed the damage caused by over protecting these animals in the hills. It is completely unnecessary to continue this poor management onto the prairie! This would allow a more effective way to manage these animals, not just pamper the politics our commissioners are noted for!

Mike Lindberg
Kim Lindberg
Hunter Lindberg
Drake Lindberg
Reed Lindberg
Gage Lindberg
Keystone SD