

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Hepler, Kelly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 6:05 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public comments about Mountain Lion season setting  
**Attachments:** SD 2015 on Letterhead with date.pdf; ATT00001.htm; Logo.EMAIL.tiff; ATT00002.htm  
**Categories:** Commission

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Penny Maldonado <[penny@cougarfund.org](mailto:penny@cougarfund.org)>  
**Date:** September 30, 2015 at 5:10:09 PM CDT  
**To:** "Hepler, Kelly" <[Kelly.Hepler@state.sd.us](mailto:Kelly.Hepler@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject:** **Public comments about Mountain Lion season setting**

Dear Secretary Hepler,

Congratulations on your appointment. I very much hope we can open up positive lines of communication in the future. I understand you are interested in looking at ways to expand your revenue base by embracing a more diverse constituency. This is a subject which many states are tackling and it has been my privilege to observe and participate in their early exploration of possibilities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want to investigate ideas for engaging non-hunting constituents and their interests.

In the mean time, please accept the attached organizational comments for tomorrows Commission meeting.

Respectfully,  
Penny

Penny Maldonado  
Managing Director  
The Cougar Fund  
(307)733-0797  
[penny@cougarfund.org](mailto:penny@cougarfund.org)

"Civility is not a sign of weakness"  
John F.Kennedy

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:51 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comments about Mountain Lion Season for October 1st meeting  
**Attachments:** SD 2015 on Letterhead with date.pdf; Logo.EMAIL.tiff

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Penny Maldonado [<mailto:penny@cougarfund.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:00 PM  
**To:** Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; [jlcoop11@aol.com](mailto:jlcoop11@aol.com); [barryj@gwtc.net](mailto:barryj@gwtc.net); [hpd@nvc.net](mailto:hpd@nvc.net); Peterson, Cathy; [jeff.vonk@state.sd.us](mailto:jeff.vonk@state.sd.us); Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules; Kanta, John  
**Subject:** Public Comments about Mountain Lion Season for October 1st meeting

Please accept the attached comments on 2016 mountain lion season setting.

Penny Maldonado  
Managing Director  
The Cougar Fund  
(307)733-0797  
[penny@cougarfund.org](mailto:penny@cougarfund.org)

"Civility is not a sign of weakness"  
John F.Kennedy



Board of Directors  
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Robert W. Koons  
Cara Blesley Lowe  
Thomas D. Mangelsen, Ph.D.  
Corinne R. Rutledge  
John E. Swallow

Dear Commissioners,

September 30, 2015

Please accept the comments of The Cougar Fund as you deliberate the proposals for the 2016 Mountain Lion season and the future of the mountain lion population you have worked so hard to recover.

We have enjoyed informative and productive communication with your staff in the past. This has entailed working to identify strong areas of common ground and respectfully sharing perspectives on other issues, where our ability to agree has been challenged. We very much hope that the Commission will view this letter in that same spirit!

The contents of the proposal indicate that you will be addressing some very significant changes for this season. Please consider these points as you strive to make your decision.

#### **Harvest Mortality Limit Reduction**

First, please accept our thanks for considering a harvest reduction. We know the proposal recommends a reduced limit as the best way to protect South Dakota's mountain lions. There has been concern from biologists, advocates, and hunters, alike, that in preceding years, mortality limits have been strikingly higher than harvest results. Might it appear that a limit set far above what the harvest has been is like having no limit at all? We have confidence that neither the Commission, nor the staff, want to approve what could essentially be perceived as an unlimited season.

*We appreciate your efforts to reduce harvest mortality. We respectfully ask you to consider a lower mortality limit and commit to closely monitoring and reviewing the season's harvest so that you can respond swiftly if it indicates that the pressure on lions continues to be too high.*

#### **Out-of-State Mountain Lion Hunting Opportunity**

***We recommend that the Commissioners firmly reject adding out-of-state mountain lion hunting opportunity for the following reasons:***

- Lowering the mortality limit is a positive response to harvest trends. By rejecting out-of-state hunting you will unify support from in state, for science-based



Board of Directors  
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management. Added competition from out-of-state hunters at a time of decreased mortality limits increases pressure on South Dakota constituents. The majority of South Dakota's hunters want to maintain or even increase current mountain lion populations.

([https://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/docs/surveyreports/PublicSurvey\\_MtLion.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/docs/surveyreports/PublicSurvey_MtLion.pdf)).

- Out-of-state hunting fosters commercial expectations that can exert political rather than scientific influence on the decision making process in the future.
- *Significant* changes to policy were made just this year, when the Commission approved the use of hounds on the Prairie Unit for year-round, unlimited hunting. *Please consider averting further rapid and significant change by not allowing out-of-state hunting of mountain lions.*

### **Mountain Lion Management Plan and Biennial Season Setting**

We realize that the South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan was due this year. When your staff is able to give their undivided attention to this very important review, we will be anxious to participate via the state's policies for public comment and insight. We encourage you to look for a document based on current best science, rather than on speed of production.

*In this regard, we strongly urge you to delay the proposal for biennial season setting until the Plan has been reviewed and approved.*

Commissioners, thank you once again for the privilege of sharing our comments with you. Please receive them in the respectful manner in which they have been submitted, and take them into consideration as you decide the future of South Dakota's mountain lions.

Sincerely,

Penelope Maldonado  
Managing Director  
307-733-0797  
[penny@cougarfund.org](mailto:penny@cougarfund.org)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Commission Comments 2015  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:51:41 AM

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

From: Dr Tom Huhnerkoch [<mailto:tomccats@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:48 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Cc: GFP Admin Rules  
Subject: Commission Comments 2015

Sept 30, 2015

Dear Current GFP Commission:

For 15 years I have tried to help realize some sound yet compassionate 'management' for SD cougars.

Last year, when malcontents from the ranching community influenced the decision to allow dogs in the hunt and killing of cougars year around, seemed to set a new low, even for GFP. That assumption was short lived now that some ill informed folks decided to allow non-resident killers to invade SD lands.

I thought I had seen everything but alas, the only vile ruling left to be prescribed against one of the most important animals on Earth is to allow dogs inside the Black Hills fire protection district. Sadly that move will probably become reality

Although these predators perform invaluable service to our environment for some insane reason they are killed for the narcissistic whims of a very few humans.

If indeed the slaughter must for some political purpose continue the only intelligent management decisions would be to: maintain the restriction against non-resident hunting, by law reclassify the Puma as 'trophy game' (as does Wyoming), set the tag fee at or near \$500.00 (thus giving the cat its due), use a lotto license system as done with large elk, remove the year around rule change and finally do your diligence and begin studying and monitoring all SD lands as would be the true measure of a competent Management Plan!

Dr.Tom Huhnerkoch  
Lead, SD 57754

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:52:19 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 11:25 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 30, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Miss Trish Scripser  
228 Franklin St  
Rapid City, SD 57701-3740  
[trishs519@yahoo.com](mailto:trishs519@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mountain Lion Season  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:52:01 AM

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**From:** Julie [mailto:signsofhope@rap.midco.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:48 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Mountain Lion Season

To: GF&P Commissioners

I am opposed to the mountain lion hunting season for the the following reasons:

1. Allowing out of state licensees to hunt with hounds on the prairie unit.
2. Allowing the use of hounds anywhere.
3. Allowing hunting in Custer State Park – this is a state owned park and as it is part of my park, I do not want hound hunting of mountain lions where they are not causing any problems.
4. People who do not want to see mountain lion hunting in South Dakota have no voice, despite attending meetings and voicing input on the subject.
5. Allowing Betty Olson to set the GF&P policy on hunting lions.
6. Research suggests killing mountain lions doesn't resolve conflicts with human populations.
7. This season allows the killing of kittens either by being on the prairie or by abandonment of a mother who is killed.
8. There is no talk on a quota as to when this killing will stop.
9. This is being marketed to hunters as trophy hunting, especially out of state hunters.
10. The GF&P cave in to special interest groups.
11. Mountain Lions have no place to safely roam and will be shot on site if someone complains.

It is my sincere hope that people who oppose this season will be given a voice and a new season will not be allowed, as the number of lions killed every year is declining.

Thank You for your time,

Julie Anderson  
845 Virginia Lane  
Rapid City, SD  
57701

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: mountain lions  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:53:23 AM

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**From:** Wendy Luedke [mailto:wendymloedke@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 11:57 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** mountain lions

I am AGAINST the mountain lion hunting in South Dakota. Trophy hunting should not be legal.

**Please:**

1. Lower the quota
2. Do not allow out of State hunters to hunt mountain lions
3. Do not allow dogs when hunting mountain lions or any other animal

Wendy Luedke  
11293 Riviera Court  
Lead, SD 57754

**Wendy M. Luedke**

**"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." -Albert Einstein**

**"When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts." - Dalai Lama**

**"I believe if Dante were alive today and rewriting the 'Inferno' that the lowest places in hell would be reserved for those who commit cruelty to our animals and our children." -U.S. Attorney George Beck**

**"I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of the whole human being." -Abraham Lincoln**

**"Compassion for animals is intimately connected with goodness of character; and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man."-Schopenhauer**

**"Not to hurt our humble brethren, the animals, is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission: to be of service to them whenever they require it. If you have people who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity you will have people who will deal likewise with other people." -St. Francis Assi**

**"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." -George Orwell**

**"To be a vegetarian is to disagree - to disagree with the course of things today... starvation, cruelty - we must make a statement against these things. Vegetarianism is my statement. And I think it is a strong one." -Isaac Bashevis Singer**

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: NO Non-Resident Mountain Lion Licenses, etc  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:50:52 AM

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**From:** Boyd [mailto:[abpc@brookings.net](mailto:abpc@brookings.net)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 7:30 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** NO Non-Resident Mountain Lion Licenses, etc

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you NOT to allow Non-Residents to hunt mountain lions in SD. Hunting opportunities for SD residents are becoming increasingly more difficult. If non-residents are allowed to obtain mountain lion licenses in SD they will only compete with our current resident mountain lion hunters. I do not hunt mountain lions but can attest to how our resident opportunities are getting more limited.

During this year's youth waterfowl season, I tried to obtain permission for my 12 year old son to hunt waterfowl on private land. I was denied by 66% of the landowners I asked with at least one denying me because they were saving the spot for non-resident waterfowl hunters the following weekend. If we are to maintain our hunting heritage in SD, we need to afford hunting opportunities for our residents and youth. By allowing non-residents to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota, you will assuredly have a negative impact on our resident hunters for years to come.

Thank you for your time,

Boyd Schulz  
1312 Pheasant Run Rd  
Brookings, SD 57006

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Non Resident mt lion tags  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:51:12 AM

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**From:** George Bogenschutz [mailto:mtnmach@itctel.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:23 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Non Resident mt lion tags

Dear Commissioners,

As there has been no indication that South Dakotans have not been able to harvest sufficient Mt Lions under the current regulations to meet GF&P harvest goals I see no need to open the season to non residents at this time. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
George Bogenschutz  
Nunda, SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Nonresident Waterfowl Proposal October 1 Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 3:07:57 PM

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**From:** Paulson, Eric  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 2:33 PM  
**To:** Hepler, Kelly  
**Cc:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Nonresident Waterfowl Proposal October 1 Meeting

Good Afternoon,

My name is Eric Paulson and I live in Pierre, SD. I was notified that Mr. Barrie is petitioning for the Commission to reconsider its decision on the Nonresident waterfowl issue resolved earlier this past summer. This, to me, appears to be a last ditch attempt in 2015 for Mr. Barrie to increase licenses in South Dakota. He has strategically avoided petitioning the Commission in August for the petition to be heard at the Aberdeen meeting, the region where he has a majority of the opposition, and proposes his petition in the Spearfish meeting on the opposite side of the state. To me this is his effort to minimize the resistance at the meeting so that he can try and sway you all's decision. This is a huge slap in the face to the process that took place between about March through July where the commission made sure meetings were on both sides of the state to ensure all voices were heard and both the opposition of the increase and those for the increase were given equal participation opportunities.

Mr. Barrie had his chance to voice his opinions along with anyone else this past spring and summer and a decision was made by the commission. In fact, one could argue he had even more of a chance than your average citizen since he not only commented on his own behalf but was also placed on the Nonresident Waterfowl Work Group. Mr. Barrie's group's, the SD Opportunity Group, sole purpose is to raise money for their group's members' businesses and special interests. They do not take into account the quality of hunting currently available to both resident and nonresident hunters and the detrimental impacts increased licenses could have!

I would urge you to stick with what was ultimately decided earlier this past summer and leave the debate on nonresident license allocation and increases for next year and deny Mr. Barrie's petition. It's too late for the changes to take effect for this year anyway as the nonresident application deadline has passed and the season started. For the sake of due process to those opposed to Mr. Barrie's viewpoints, I would ask that any decisions varying from the one decided just a few short months ago be handled next spring and summer similar to this past year.

I sincerely appreciate you taking time to read my email and fully support the original decision from this past summer of 2015 and encourage you to deny the petition by Mr. Barrie that will be before you in October.

Thank you,

Eric Paulson  
Pierre, SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please Vote NO  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 3:07:11 PM  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Deb Springman [mailto:[dernhart@hotmail.com](mailto:dernhart@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 2:48 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Please Vote NO  
**Importance:** High

Dear GF&P Commissioners:

Please vote NO to the issuing of 250 non-resident mountain lion hunting licenses. Our state's population of mountain lions is not out of control. We can keep the number of mountain lions down with the resident licenses we issue. If we need to issue more licenses, then do so for the residents of South Dakota. Please do not commercialize this animal, by allowing non-residents to hunt it. Thank You for listening.

Sincerely,

Deb Springman  
Brookings Wildlife Federation Member

**From:** [Hepler, Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Nonresident Waterfowl Proposal October 1 Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 2:35:14 PM

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Paulson, Eric" <[Eric.Paulson@state.sd.us](mailto:Eric.Paulson@state.sd.us)>  
**Date:** September 30, 2015 at 2:32:58 PM CDT  
**To:** "Hepler, Kelly" <[Kelly.Hepler@state.sd.us](mailto:Kelly.Hepler@state.sd.us)>  
**Cc:** GFP Wild Info <[WildInfo@state.sd.us](mailto:WildInfo@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject: Nonresident Waterfowl Proposal October 1 Meeting**

Good Afternoon,

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Thank you,

Eric Paulson  
Pierre, SD