
Heide Drolc

Piedmont SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please leave the Spearfish Canyon heard alone. We enjoy then tremendously and don't believe that the monies earned is worth the loss of theses beautiful creatures that bring so much excitement and joy to everyone who travels the canyon. Thank you

Mountain Lion Hunting Season

Jane Staples

Central City S.D SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We moved into there land . Leave them be don't kill them

Anna Ball

Piedmont SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Enough is enough. I have lived in the Hills for 30 years and with hiking, mountain biking and running I have NEVER seen a lion. Just stop.

Missy John

Montrose SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Shannon Zopp

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Collin Duprel

Vale SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jim Hagen

Britton SD

Position: support

Comment:

Makes sense to be able to start a track on public ground.

Taylor Custis

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

Support hound use 100%.

Cody Johnson

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support MORE hunting rights on "public" land. Even with hounds. It's public. Hound hunters should have the same rights as everyone else.

Tate Wells

Prairie City SD

Position: support

Comment:

As a South Dakota Houndsman, I am in favor of the verbiage change to the rules, starting a track on public land. This is a great opportunity for Houndsman.

Jeffrey Krolkowski

Winner SD

Position: support

Comment:

I believe this is important not only to be just to our use of public lands but also I see it as necessary in the very near future for controlling a population that is rising fast outside the fire district. I know this because I personally have seen the population of lions moving east from the hills now as far as the Missouri River . And I mean

breeding populations.

Jeremy Wells

Sturgis SD

Position: support

Comment:

I strongly support the use of hounds on public lands and to be able to start the track there as well

Cody Schultz

Tulare SD

Position: support

Comment:

Management with hounds is very understand rated. Being able to judge what you're shooting with the control of hounds is the best method! Being able to start a track with hounds on public would be a huge step in the right direction. Next is to open a hounds season in the black hills!

Sherri Vig

Vale SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Corey Jonas

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Michael Buckingham

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose allowing dogs outside of the BH Fire Protection District for hunting Mt. Lions. Keep it to CSP

Justin Sherwood

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds on public land for the pursuit of mountain lions. Public lands should be open to those who want to use this space to recreate in all forms of hunting where seasons are in place.

I further more support the use of hounds within in the fire protection district. Not only is use of hounds the most effective tool to properly manage the species, this land should also be open to other forms of take where seasons are already in place.

Stacey Sherwood

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Tel Koan

Buffalo SD

Position: support

Comment:

Let us use hounds ANYWHERE outside the fire district so we can get a better control on the population, while also a better selective harvest taking the time to judge a treed cat.

Bret Robertson

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

Allow the use of starting a track on public ground, not having to start on private first!

Christian Hagen

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support houndsmen being allowed to utilize public lands that they pay just as much for as any other sportsmen.

Kim Stroppel

Box Elder SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Think they should be able to start on gov land

Zane Lewis

Fort Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Mike Rogers

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Zaine Wood

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Patrick Weimer

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the changes proposed by the department for lion season changes. Our public land should be use by the public and and not land locked for the use by a very small group of individuals.

Renee Lefthand

Freeman SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Renee Lefthand

Freeman SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Trisha Rasmussen

Summerset SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Denise Maher

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not support use of hounds for hunting. Too much private land is intermingled with public land. As a property with horses and livestock, backed up to forest land, I do NOT want hounds chasing a big cat across my property. Private land owners have rights.

Alexey Egorov

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Leave animals alone. Let them live their lives on their land. Go shoot at a shooting range or at clay pigeons. Shame to GFP.

Samantha Slocum

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Leisa Bailey

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

An outdated barbaric way to hunt.
I oppose.

Susan Schlichenmayer

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Patricia Winter

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Public lands belong to ALL of us not just a few trophy hunters! Expanding these practices makes survival even harder for our SD already vulnerable wildlife! I DO NOT support mounting lion hunting period!!! Vote it DOWN!!

Ann Tweedy

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not authorize mountain lion hunting with dogs. This is cruel and inhumane to dogs and lions. It will also interfere with boot hunting. It is not supported by sound science. Has the mountain lion population been studied to demonstrate that there are too many? There is a grave danger of disrupting the ecological balance by engaging in this activity. It is archaic to simply view wildlife as the enemy that must be exterminated.

Janine Love

Temecula CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Too much room is already given-NO MORE!!!

Louise McGannon

9999 SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose this bill. We do not need more mountain lion hunting. They are an important piece of our ecosystem and humans shoot and do not understand how nature works. It is obvious that we don't. Otherwise

towns wouldn't be overrun with deer. You are killing the predators. The public already laments about deer, killing more mountain lions will compound the problem.

Nancy Evans

Lincoln SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Stop this cruelty!!

Kathy Gerash

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Instead of expanding the area for this cruel and completely unnecessary activity to encourage a minority percentage of the SD pop with "hunting licenses" you should protect the wildlife remaining in beautiful South Dakota for the other 75% ++ of the pop to enjoy knowing that wildlife may live without cruel torture endorsed by the state. This is 2025, can we please move towards protection of our natural resources for the benefit of everyone? Blowing the brains out of a creature made helpless by virtue of a rubberstamp by the state and probably in front of children dressed in their new hunting gear does not make a guy or girl tough, just makes them fakes.

Amy Carr

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Cruel. Unnecessary. Counter-productive .

Amy Carr

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Cruel unnecessary counter-productive

Paula Pillatzki

Labolt SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Kelly Harmett

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a former wildlife biologist who believes hunting is an important tool for managing wildlife to express my strong opposition to the use of hounds for hunting mountain lions in South Dakota. Allowing this practice poses significant ethical, ecological, and public safety concerns that outweigh any perceived benefits.

1. Ethical Concerns

Hound hunting is widely regarded as an inhumane and unnecessary method of pursuit. It subjects mountain lions to extreme stress and exhaustion, often leading to prolonged chases that can result in injury or even death from overheating and exertion. Additionally, dependent kittens can be orphaned, drastically reducing their chances of survival.

2. Ecological Balance and Conservation

Mountain lions play a critical role in maintaining the health of South Dakota's ecosystems by regulating prey populations, such as deer. Overharvesting these apex predators can lead to an imbalance in the natural food chain, causing unintended consequences for other wildlife species. South Dakota's mountain lion population is already limited, and excessive hunting—especially with hounds—risks pushing the species toward unsustainable levels.

3. Public Safety and Landowner Concerns

The use of hounds in mountain lion hunting increases the likelihood of conflicts between hunters, private landowners, and the general public. Dogs may trespass onto private property, disrupting livestock, disturbing other wildlife, and creating unnecessary risks. Furthermore, pursuing a cornered or distressed mountain lion increases the chance of dangerous encounters, not only for hunters but also for non-hunters who may be recreating in the area.

4. Fair Chase and Sportsmanship

Using hounds to pursue mountain lions removes the principles of fair chase, which are fundamental to ethical hunting. Unlike traditional spot-and-stalk methods, hound hunting gives hunters an unfair advantage by exhausting the animal until it is too weak to escape, which is not in line with responsible wildlife management or ethical hunting traditions.

Given these concerns, I strongly urge South Dakota policymakers and wildlife officials to reject any proposals allowing hound hunting of mountain lions. Sustainable wildlife management should be based on science, ethics, and respect for the natural balance of our ecosystems, rather than on controversial and inhumane hunting methods.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Andrea Parker

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is a cruel and unacceptable practice. Please don't allow it to expand even further than it already has.

Peggy Mann

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Strongly oppose.
They need protection.

Debra Taylor

Denver CO

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose hunting of any predators! Nature designed them to control diseases! I am a prion diseases researcher and killing predators got you all the CWD.

Nastaran Rahnema

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

My name is Nastaran Rahnema, I am a documentary filmmaker and have been following the situation of the hunting mountain lions. I am opposed to this cruel and unethical behaviour that a small group of people and their wrong activity are doing for money making. This is a public land and it is discussing seeing hounding and any other forms of destroying our environment and the wildlife, it is embarrassing from an international perspective how badly the wildlife is protected. These animals are a part of the ecosystem and are crucial to maintaining our healthy ecosystem. Please stop!

Jennifer Haskell

Dell Rapids SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

There is no data or current science that shows cougars are adversely affecting ungulate populations in South Dakota. There is; however, plenty of science showing that hunting cougars negatively affects cougar population dynamics. This same science shows that cougar hunting increases the likelihood of conflict with livestock, pets and people. The science is also clear that cougar populations are self regulated by territorial defense, i.e. they regulate themselves.

By extending trophy hunting there becomes more risk to both cougars and the dogs (which I am vehemently opposed to hunting with dogs). Hunters cannot guarantee lions don't have cubs (reference the science regarding conflict if a mother cougar is killed and kittens are left abandoned).

This is a horrible idea in general but an even worse one to extend the season. Please oppose this action.
Reference: Dr Mark Elbroch - Cougar Biologist

Carolyn Larson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This practice is cruel and barbaric to both the lions and dogs, especially on the prairie where there are no trees or other means for the lions to escape. It is not sport. Public lands and wildlife belong to all of us, not just a few trophy hunters. A Majority of South Dakotans oppose hound hunting. What do we teach our children ? Be Kind. Please Be Kind.

Lori Hubert

Elkton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not allow mountain lion hunting with hounds. How do you expect the lions to get away? There are fewer trees for them to climb up, no really good way to get away. Do we really need "blood money" to hunt these animals?? I would believe it to be a danger to the hounds also . If the were to corner a big cat the dogs could get hurt. If a person wants to hunt them, it's my belief it should be done with dogs. A hunter can track on their own with out dogs!

Sue Hayes

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Dean Parker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to item number 11 on your March meeting agenda — the proposal to expand the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting. Hound hunting is a cruel and unsporting practice. Using dogs to chase mountain lions down to exhaustion is cruel to the lion and unsafe for the dogs. Hound hunting on the prairie is especially dangerous – fewer trees can make encounters especially violent, as there is no place for the lion to escape the dogs until the hunter can shoot it. Public lands belong to all of us, not just a small special interest group. Please vote against expanding hound hunting opportunities in our state.

Sara Parker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a lifelong resident of South Dakota, I'm writing to strongly oppose the Mountain Lion Hunting Season proposal, which would allow for increased use of dogs for hunting mountain lions in our state.

Hound hunting is an inhumane and dangerous practice. It not only results in the injury and death of the wild animal, but often puts the dogs at serious risk. Mountain lions are run to the point of exhaustion — and if they're unable to escape by climbing a tree, any of the animals involved can be mauled or killed.

Hound hunting on the prairie is especially dangerous — with fewer trees and natural cover, mountain lions have nowhere to escape. This can lead to prolonged, violent encounters where the animal is cornered and attacked by dogs until the hunter arrives to shoot it.

Beyond the cruelty, this practice also raises serious public safety and private property concerns. Packs of dogs can chase animals for miles, often far beyond their handler's control. These dogs don't recognize property boundaries or "No Trespassing" signs, creating conflicts for landowners and threats to other animals.

Please don't let the agenda of a small special interest group dictate the policy towards our wildlife. South Dakota wildlife and public lands belong to all South Dakotans to enjoy, not just a select few.

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

Amy Cerwick

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Oppose! This is disgusting and inhumane! Absolutely awful for dogs and the cats alike. Hunters should be ashamed! Lets do better South Dakota!

Julie Anderson

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hound hunters are not entitled to more land to hunt mountain lions, most especially on our public lands, which belong to everyone. Public lands on the prairie are especially vulnerable to violent confrontations between dog packs and mountain lions due to lack of trees and make this amendment unacceptable.

Dustin Wiseman

Bryant SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm in support of mt lion hunting. I'm opposed to expanding the use of dogs. I think it should be fair chase/luck. I appreciate the training efforts that people put into their hunting dogs. In the case of pheasant hunting for example...dogs help find and retrieve the birds, but this does not affect those who hunt pheasant without dogs. Any area that hounds are allowed for mt lion hunting, would destroy the chances for someone like me hunting

without dogs. IF the mt lion population needs to be reduced and the current season isn't getting it done, maybe have a short window, late in the season that dogs are allowed. That would still give the hunters without dogs a chance to fill a tag.

John Buxton

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Story Warren

Bend OR

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Other

Robert Eddy

Spearfish SD

Position: other

Comment:

I encourage the commission to establish a license allocation formula for the Special Buck tags. Currently, it is a content Resident 500 Any and 500 Whitetail, Non-Resident 500 Any and 500 Whitetail. This number does not account for population fluctuations and disregards wildlife management practices. Allocations should be based on percentage of tags allowed to general public (WR & ER). Thank you!

Jon Olson

Madison SD

Position: other

Comment:

I'm not sure when deer management plan is set to expire, I believe, there are somethings that must be addressed regardless.

- 1) no reason for a person to have 4 any deer tags. 2 is enough.
- 2) manage mule deer as trophy species like sheep and elk. NR will not be allowed to take mule deer on public land any weapon.
- 3) make all land touching missouri river a limited access unit for archery.
- 4) CNF will be either 500 res & 125 NR or 400 res & 100 NR
Not the BS you snuck in last year of 400 res & 125 NR.

Jon Olson
Madison

Terry Roper
Rapid City SD
Position: other

Comment:

I feel it is discriminatory not being able to apply for all deer licenses on the first drawing and then it is the luck of the draw whether you achieve a license or not. Last year I did not draw any rifle deer licenses. Because of your laws you are being discriminatory and limiting hunters opportunities.

Terry Roper
Rapid City SD
Position: other

Comment:

Why are landowners getting the first opportunity for Elk licenses out of the pool. That is discriminatory. They should have to apply the same time as everyone else. Because you own land and have elk on your property so many days of the year you get preference? It is very similar to all the pay hunting. The public land is overcrowded, and it seems hunting is becoming nothing but a rich person's opportunity.

William Ball
Tyndall SD
Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the expansion of hounding in any form

Georgiaann Ball
Tyndall SD
Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the expansion of hounding in any form