
Susan Sanders

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I learned this summer that you are not going to charge people to enter part of the new shooting range east of Rapid City. If someone wants to use it, they should have to pay for an entrance pass to support the costs of the facility, just like everyone who drives through Custer State Park.

Aaron Rogers

Huron SD

Position: support

Comment:

The preference points for residents should also see the same increase as non residents

Tate Gulliker

Tea SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Worst time to raise prices when people already cannot afford groceries. I hunt for meat to feed my family of 6. Please do not raise fees for residents. Cut out the unnecessary spending like the worthless website that never works to buy licenses, shooting range that is not needed and the bounty program. Poorly managed money has led to the need for a price hike and why aren't you looking at better budgeting. Please do not raise these fees.

Paul Lepisto

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please see the attached comments in support of this proposal.

Attachment 13292

Stetson Lippert

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Mountain Lion Action Plan

Joshua Rosenau

Lake Forest Park WA

Attachment 13019

Position: other

Comment:

August 16, 2024

Stephanie Rissler, Chair

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

221 Lake Ridge Drive

Wentworth, SD 57075

RE: Mountain Lion Action Plan

Dear Chair Rissler and members of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission,

We write to you on behalf of our South Dakota members with comments on the draft Mountain Lion Action Plan for 2024-2028. While there is much in this plan to praise, we also feel that there is room for improvement.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) prepared this plan with input from a stakeholder group which was weighted heavily toward hunting groups and livestock owners. There was limited input from conservationists or from scientists outside the department. The Mountain Lion Foundation requested a chance to participate in that meeting, but the request was declined. That group ultimately did not recommend reducing the population target for mountain lions, nor increasing the harvest limits. We are pleased that these recommendations to maintain the status quo are reflected in the current draft of the Action Plan.

While the current rate at which mountain lions are killed by hunters is higher than we would recommend, and higher than is necessary for the ecology of mountain lions (which do not require hunting to maintain their population), the decision to hold hunting steady is a recognition that the current hunting regime is at the limit of what the comparatively new mountain lion population in South Dakota can sustain, and that in order for mountain lions to recover the population that was extirpated by excessive hunting in the 19th and early 20th centuries, it is necessary not to further increase hunting. Mountain lions have slowly spread east into the Dakotas and Nebraska in the last decades, and there is a strong desire to see mountain lions recover further east in those states, and indeed throughout the eastern United States. Current policy in South Dakota unfortunately does not protect mountain lions outside of the Black Hills, a policy which necessarily limits the natural spread of that population.

Discussing those areas outside the Black Hills, the Action Plan notes that there is no population objective for populations in the prairie, in part due to the lack of substantial population surveys of those areas. The Action Plan notes that "these areas are managed primarily to abate potential livestock losses on private property while at the same time to provide recreational hunting opportunity." We would suggest that developing scientific surveys of the prairie populations would be a valuable contribution to the scientific literature, documenting the behavior and ecology of the species as it recolonizes former territory. It would also allow development of management objectives that reflect the ecological benefits mountain lions provide, and not merely address the risk of livestock conflict. We urge that such research be added as an objective in the action plan.

The Action Plan correctly observes "To help minimize [livestock] conflicts when possible, GFP must ensure that mountain lion populations are managed proactively and that management goals are being met." Minimizing conflict is an important goal and one that SDGFP can play a critical role with. Research throughout the range of mountain lions shows, consistently across states and multiple independent studies, that increased hunting does not reduce conflict. Indeed, multiple research groups independently find that hunting tends to increase conflict with livestock. There are several proposed reasons for this phenomenon, rooted in the biology of the species. While it is a somewhat counterintuitive finding, it is important to emphasize that the intuitive believe that killing mountain lions reduces conflict is not borne out by empirical study. We urge that management goals for mountain lions reflect the best available science and not rely on the hunting of mountain lions as a mechanism for addressing conflict. Instead, management should emphasize the use of nonlethal deterrents, especially livestock guardian dogs, adequate fencing, and well-designed enclosures for livestock, and a combination of public education and landowner outreach to ensure that livestock owners understand the tools available to help them and their livestock live safely and confidently alongside these native carnivores as the species recovers its population.

The Action Plan notes that SDGFP is pursuing exactly that course. It explains: "Furthermore, GFP is currently working on an informational brochure which demonstrates successful techniques used to protect chicken and other domestic animals from mountain lions." The Mountain Lion Foundation has worked with state fish and wildlife agencies in several states to develop exactly such brochures, and it would be our pleasure to collaborate with SDGFP as well, or to share our experience in writing and distributing those educational materials. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance in those valuable efforts.

We also reiterate longstanding areas of concern with mountain lion management in South Dakota. The Action Plan Objective 2 sets out the goal to "manage mountain lion populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs." Maximizing human killing of

mountain lions is not ecologically necessary, and as discussed above, poses a real risk of increasing conflict and potentially harming ungulate populations. As apex carnivores, mountain lions do not require hunting to maintain stable populations in balance with their prey. Research throughout the West has shown that increased hunting does not benefit deer or elk populations. Because of their territorial behavior, killing established resident lions can cause local populations of mountain lions to actually increase, placing further pressure on prey populations temporarily. Those overhunted populations can also be more prone to conflict with livestock, as they tend to be dominated by younger, inexperienced male mountain lions. Numerous studies show that this is the most conflict-prone demographic. Reducing objectives for human killing of mountain lions would benefit this ecologically-sensitive species, and could bring benefits for hunters and livestock owners.

In this vein, we also have concerns about part b of Objective 2, which sets a goal to “maximize hunting opportunity for hunters with dogs” in the Custer State Park unit. Hound hunting poses risks to other wildlife, livestock, and pets. Hounds travel across park boundaries, and can become distracted by pets or livestock on the property they are trespassing on and can attack or injure park visitors, pets, or livestock. In addition, hound teams that encounter a female who is caring for young are more likely to kill the cubs or to drive the mother far from her family, making it harder for hunters to avoid orphaning those cubs. When a pack of GPS-collared hounds are set to chase a mountain lion, the chances of a kill on that hunt is higher than for a boot hunt. This higher killing efficiency is particularly challenging for a small and recovering population like South Dakota’s. Prioritizing boot hunting would do more to protect park visitors, neighbors, and wildlife in the park.

Instead of managing primarily with the goal of maximizing hunting today, we urge the Commission to set a goal of long-term recovery of mountain lions throughout South Dakota, and the health and stability of the metapopulation of mountain lions throughout the Plains states. South Dakota’s population is essential to the future recovery of mountain lions in states further east, and its mountain lions disperse to and sustain the genetics of surrounding states including North Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana, and is in turn sustained by immigration of mountain lions from those states. The killing of lions in South Dakota affects all those states. Managing with an eye toward overall stability would, as emphasized above, require further study of the prairie populations outside the Black Hills. It would also require coordination with Tribal governments to monitor the number of mountain lions killed by all hunters and all responses to conflict within South Dakota’s borders. And it would require the state to consider dispersal corridors and highway crossings to ensure the ready movement of mountain lions between population in and around South Dakota. Restoring the statewide range of mountain lions, and allowing the species to recover in neighboring states as well, would have ecological and social benefits, discussed above. While we would hope the state would consider the wisdom of this choice, we note that this recovered population could also allow greater hunter opportunity throughout the state than would be possible with a population limited to the Black Hills.

Sincerely,

Joshua Rosenau
Director of Policy and Advocacy
(916) 442-2666 ext. 107
jrosenau@mountainlion.org

Bret Robertson

Box Elder SD

Position: other

Comment:

How many years has it been since the quota been met for mountain lions? There is a quota set for a reason, that there is that select # of cats that could be taken that wouldn’t deplete the population to not have a future season! Why is there not a lottery draw for a month long season or so at the end of BH forest district season for houndsman to help meet the quota?

Patrick Weimer

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the amended changes to the current mountain lion action plan with the use of a reduced population objective this will likely have a large positive effect on our deer, elk, turkey, and mountain goat numbers that have drastically dropped in the last several years. I appreciate the efforts brought forth by the commission and their continued efforts in this matter.

Andy Jackson

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

In my opinion, the only complaints about lower deer and elk numbers are coming from the trophy 'big buck and monster bull elk' hunters. If these hunters had to harvest a doe or cow, a good portion of them most likely wouldn't buy a SD tag. As stated, lion numbers are down. Appears to me mother nature and the current system are working!

Ryan Strand

Wagner SD

Position: support

Comment:

Population needs to be reduced. Deer, turkeys and Elk could use some predator control.

Jeremy Nedved

Plankinton SD

Position: support

Comment:

I elk, deer, bobcat (with my beloved hounds) and in the last few yrs the amount of bobcat tracks we used to see has went to maybe one every three days and the amount of lion has went to 5 or 6. Exact opposite as it used to be.

Nathan Kress

Whitewood SD

Position: support

Comment:

I think the implementation of other hunting tactics in the Hills such as hounds would benefit the over whelming majority of hunters. My self and many others would like to see the lion and predator population decreased in the hills. Not whipped out but significantly decreased to benefit the deer, elk, sheep, and mountain goat populations.

Jan Wood

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

Houndhunting is the most efficient and safe way to hunt lion. Treeing a lion and identifying gender will keep the population robust, as females and adolescent lions can be left alive.

Caleb Schroth

Buffalo Gap SD

Position: support

Comment:

Have been seeing alot of lions on trail cameras and in person plus one that is hanging around the town of buffalo gap. I believe using hounds will allow a more precise kill of bigger lions or easier to kill them in areas they are causing problems

Christopher Burrows

Gilman City MO

Position: support

Comment:

This will bring more revenue to the state and help the deer and elk herds tremendously. Hunters will be able to harvest target mountain lions that aren't nursing cubs this way. It will also allow houndsmen to get out and do what they love to do while helping control the mountain lion population. I hope you all consider allowing the use of hounds. Thank you.

Ed Vance

Posey CA

Position: support

Comment:

Any animal that will kill humans for food , NEEDS TO BE CONTROLLED! Take a look at California, and the number of Mountain Lion attacks and deaths to humans. During the bounty years there were no attacks at all.

Andrew Bressler

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Lions are at a healthy population size. Introducing house is only going to add more poaching opportunities. As an avid and successful boot hunter myself I see no need for a change in population. This world is just getting to [REDACTED] lazy and money hungry. Washington and Oregon have shut down dog seasons long ago and added more boot opportunities And have been extremely successful. In their efforts. The hills have far too many roads and access for it to even be a "fair chase" for the lion. When you tree a cat within 20 min of dumping the box how is that fair chase to the lion?

Brandon Pearson

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like to see a reduction of lions in the area for multiple reasons but most importantly to increase herd numbers in deer and elk for more hunting opportunities and less predation on ranchers beef herds. I've been seeing a steady increase in sitings year after year and they are spreading further out into prairie lands now. We need to minimize the lion numbers and they should be able to be hunted by dogs and open the season during general rifle season so more people could have a better opportunity of filling a lion tag when they're out deer or elk hunting.

Craig Canard

Marshall VA

Position: support

Comment:

I support lion hunting with hounds. Been a long time houndsman. I'm moving to the area and would like to have a pack of hounds to hunt lion. Thanks.

Bill Tatom

Zahl ND

Position: support

Comment:

I believe in conservation, population control on a species that has grown out of control. However I don't believe in over kill, killing females with kittens and young lions with spots.

Tate Wells

Prairie City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the mountain line action plan in the reduce population objective. I am a South Dakota Houndsman and this will give great opportunity for everyone. As Houndsman we would eventually like to see the use of Hounds in the Black Hills and public lands of South Dakota. One of our goals is to preserve hound hunting and teach and grow our youth and give them the opportunity to hunt with Hounds in the Black Hills and public lands. Moving forward if there is ever an opportunity, I would be more than willing to be part of a stakeholders meeting and work towards a plan that works for everyone.

Jeremy Longland

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

What about all the guys who can't afford dogs also what about all the private land how do u keep your dogs off others land when they chase lions

Leslie Soring

Whitewood SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the decrease population action plan, particularly the use of hounds in the FPD of the Black Hills. The impact the current population is having on wildlife and livestock is definitely something to be concerned about. Mountain lion sightings in heavily populated areas has also significantly increased over the last few years and is becoming a major safety concern. If mountain lions become less afraid of humans and continue to feel comfortable killing livestock and wandering into town, it's only a matter of time before they harm someone. If we don't do something to better manage the population then more serious issue will arise. It is unfortunate that their habitat is shrinking and not something that they have caused. But it is happening so our conservation efforts need to adapt to this. My sister lost a 3 week old colt to a mountain lion in Whitewood last spring. He was extremely well bred and worth about \$10,000. He was big for his age, strong, and loved to run. She will also have to put the mare down soon due to the injuries she sustained in her attempts to protect her foal. It was a devastating loss for my sister and her business. Not to mention the emotional pain it caused her and her young family. This was not the first time this cat had killed a horse. It had taken a neighbor's pony just a few weeks prior but this was not publicized, nor was the cat dealt with. It was a big female and her 2 adolescent cubs captured on cameras. No one in particular is at fault but it serves as an example as to why the way we manage the mountain lion population is in need of reform.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts,
Leslie Soring
Whitewood, SD resident

Ted Stacey Stacey

Aldrich MN

Position: support

Comment:

Let the people manage the population before the lions become brazen enough to kill a hiker or a child

B.T. Pickens

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the 150 - 250 mountain lion population objective proposed by the Commission. The new objective will reduce depredation of the deer and elk population and add additional opportunities for hunters.

Christian Hagen

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support Commissioner Theel's proposal to reduce the population of Mountain Lions in the BHFPD. I think this is a sound decision that reflects a biological and social need to maintain a lower number of lions. I also support the use of hounds to pursue and hunt Mountain Lions within the BHFPD. Hunting with hounds is a humane and efficient way to properly manage the Mountain Lion population while giving our resident houndsmen a seat at the table to enjoy their method of hunting! I believe a lower number of Lions will also help our struggling turkey, deer, and elk populations. Thank you

Raymond Tibbs

Ft. Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds to control Mt. Lion population.

Casey Ellerton

Custer SD

Position: support

Comment:

Strongly support the use of hounds in black hills.

Stacey Baertsch

Helena SD

Position: support

Comment:

The only truly effective way to manage mountain populations is through the use of hound hunting. Animal's can be identified for sex and maturity when treed, harvesting can be evaluated. In some situations it may be appropriate to harvest females if there is a high population of lions in a given area. Quotas would need to be established and monitored closely.

In addition to help control populations this also opens opportunities for hunters to harvest a magnificent predator. Having a season is a win for everyone, including the deer hunters who are seeing a reduction in deer population.

Mark Oster

Buffalo SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jeramy Amiotte

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds to manage mountain lion populations throughout the state of South Dakota. Particularly in the Black Hills and surrounding areas where Mt lion populations (in my opinion) have gotten to high. The use of hounds allows us to meet quota numbers with better control over what animals are harvested. Once an animal is treed you are able to study it, and determine sex and a better idea of age. At that point only mature targeted animals will be harvested. Any others can be left to continue to grow. Leaving a hunter with still a great experience, and many pictures. It seems that all of our herds and flocks continue to have numbers issues. A great way to help that is predator control. From raccoon to my lion all of our predators need to be controlled. I'm not asking for them to be eradicated. They simply just need controlled the way that all of our big game is.

Jasmine Sborov

Reva SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in support of the reduced population objective and the use of Hounds to help manage that.

Emily Jerde

Reva SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds to track and hunt mountain lions in order to keep these amazing predators in their natural habitat, away from school zones and small pets. It would avoid the event of needing to euthanize a lion due to harming humans. Creating safety for mountain lions and humans alike.

Brody Oldfield

Summerset SD

Position: other

Comment:

The state needs to not let donors make the rules for hunters. There is no reason there shouldn't be a separate season for hounds in the black hills. I don't think they should have free rain the entire season but a two to three week hound season would benefit other animal population.

Shanon Vasknetz

Sturgis SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Noah Dickson

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

Use of hounds to help reduce the population of mountain lions

Sam Stoddard

Norris SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support the use of hounds in any and every management plan.

Kyle Wilen

Bryant SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like the opportunity to harvest mountain lion in South Dakota. This initiative would provide me with better opportunities to harvest a mature male lion.

Raine Tapani

Hayti SD

Position: support

Comment:

This initiative would help others to harvest a mature male

Henry Casteel

Vale SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Marcy Barber

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Elida Benson

Montrose SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hound dogs for mountain lion hunting/tracking

Brian Webb

Reva SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Bret Mattice

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in support of a mountain lion action plan that manages current population objectives through regulated means, while providing increased opportunity for hound hunting. The success of mountain lion boot hunters has been declining for several years with harvest quotas not being met. The addition of a limited draw hound hunting structure in the Black Hills (similar to that of CSP) would be a successful way to allow additional take of mountain lions in the Black Hills while reaching set quotas. The use of hounds also allows for more selective take of lions which can be beneficial to wildlife managers. A structure that provides opportunity to both hound and boot hunters will increase participation in lion hunting in South Dakota while better managing lions in the Black Hills.

Jeffrey Krolikowski

Winner SD

Position: support

Comment:

I believe the use of hounds is the only way to control population. Truly the only way to fill any quota could even be female or male quota. Also could just have a pursuit season that will keep lions away from towns.

Shane Ryals

Palermo ND

Position: support

Comment:

Decreasing the mountain lion population objective would benefit deer and elk herds, decrease livestock depredation, and could provide hound hunting opportunities. Hound hunting mountain lion is the best method to achieving healthy populations.

Robert Quickstad

Whitewood SD

Position: support

Comment:

It only makes sense that if the lion population is going to be selectively controlled and maintained that the use of hounds should be approved.

Craig Bartling

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

You used to see many turkeys when in the hills. Now you don't see hardly any. I think the reason why could be the mountain lion population. Also I have been told the deer population is way down. This is why the gfp has closed the antlerless deer season in parts of the black hills.

Brian Lundquist

Deadwood SD

Position: support

Comment:

Cut License's #

Martin Hunt

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Reading the plan I see no reason to reduce the population goal of Mountain Lions. Let nature control the population. I would vote to stop the hunting of Mountain Lions completely and for sure the use of dogs should not be allowed for hunting. As mentioned in the study Mt Lions are very seclusive and of very little risk to humans. I would also believe livestock loss would be pretty rare. Thank You

Jason Wurst

Sutherland NE

Position: other

Comment:

I would like to see some nonresident opportunity added to this plan even if it is a small number of draw tags. I think this would be a great way for nonresidents to come explore South Dakota's beautiful landscape and spend some money in your state.

Nellie Duprel

Newell SD

Position: support

Comment:

I've typed something up numerous times, but haven't quite found the right words. There is no "easy answer." Wildlife management is a tricky and fine line, but so dang important.

I completely respect wildlife. I was raised by a game warden in MN and saw the good and the struggles of managing populations.

But I've also experienced the heartache of "problem areas" where lions have plenty of natural food (turkeys, deer, etc.) but instead, killed my perfect and strong month old foal. They killed and ate him, and my mare got cut up bad trying to save her baby. The pain that mare went through physically and emotionally/mentally was awful. She will never be able to have another baby and will have to be put down soon (she ruined her leg kicking at the cat). For now, daily meds and frequent joint injections are helping her, but they are starting to not work enough and I'm not about letting animals suffer.

I'm not a vengeance hunter. I wanted that cat dead (trapper tried but couldn't get it), but I don't want all cats dead. I want her dead because she now has the taste for horse meat (confirmed lion kill) and is good at it.

I understand that nothing will ever "fix" wildlife wanting to eat livestock, but when there populations are growing, and habitat shirking, it's a deadly combination.

Lions are neat creatures. The loss of my foal still weighs heavily on me. The financial burden it added is awful, but watching my kids have to try and understand what happened, and watching my mare run/limp off scared at every noise and hang over the fence looking at the other babies (knowing she'll never have another and her time is coming) is a wound that just keeps breaking open.

I've raised foals (even mini horses and foals) in that area for years and never had an issue. I haven't stepped foot back down that road even, because one time of having an issue was too much.

John Zarycki

Brookings SD

Position: support

Comment:

Lion hunting season should be open year round in the hills just like the rest of the state. I feel it would allow more opportunity to hunt them.

Michael Richards

Madison SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Keith Fortin

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Michaela Carlson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I don't believe managing a large predatory species such as the mountain lion largely for hunting/recreational purposes is the correct move. I believe that the mountain lion population is likely fairly sustainable if the numbers are continuing to grow- they obviously haven't reached their carrying capacity for the environment yet and they are a species that was in SD long before you and I. I think that halving the number of individuals within the area is irresponsible as a wildlife management entity-- especially when all of the sources in your management plan are closer to 15-20+ years old. You need updated studies to prove that there is good reason to increase the number of removal before you do it.

Ryan Gruber

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Leave as-is. The current population goal and hunting opportunities are fine. We don't want additional "boot hunting opportunities" and the current population density is working just fine. I can assure you there's no shortage of deer. And yet other than on camera, I've never seen a mountain lion while hiking, hunting or otherwise...it's not like there ubiquitous.

Josh Moore

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Years ago I remember this state legislator talking about how wolves aren't cuddly and if we had any we should hunt them to extinction.

A myth of the old West is animals like big cats and wolves mostly prey on livestock.

Anyone with a basic knowledge of ecology knows that's a fallacy.

Animals aren't as dumb as we think they are. The wolves and cats figured long ago to avoid humans. We have guns and [REDACTED]

A century ago a slight argument could be made that they would prey on domestic sheep but that's no longer a major economy and even if it was easily mitigated. Donkeys and mules seemingly enough enjoy duking it out with the cats.

Cattle are social and even a lion wouldn't typically seek to have any conflict with a domestic bull.

Beyond that we have technology, 1880 was a very long time ago. Perpetuating this myth the natural ecosystem predators are harmful to human economic interest is patently false. There was incidents in Europe centuries upon centuries ago where wolves would prey on humans but a wild animal trying to kill a healthy adult human and eat them is about as likely as getting hit by lightning and winning the Powerball the same day. Bear attacks are still fairly common up north but they typically don't eat us. Oh wait the big reptiles occasionally try devouring us but the only humans mammals would be attack would be at greater risk from the range itself. Sure old sick or very young people are potentially targets but the range has a way with the weak.

Anyway sorry I digress

My cats aren't hurting nothing removing them paradoxically is bad for the range (do you like hitting 3 deer each year in your minivan?) and makes less look bad. We should leave the cats alone let them be a symbol of our state. I may they are very sacred to the various Sioux tribes. Each time you murder those cats it's Wounded Knee 6,11, & 87. You shouldn't do that. Those poor Indians have a hard enough way [REDACTED] it

Jeremy Nedved

Plankinton SD

Position: support

Comment:

lion tracks are becoming easier and easier to find in the southern hills. Bobcat tracks are becoming fewer and fewer. We notice this while out trying to find bobcat tracks with our hounds. The fact that houndsman have had zero opportunity to hunt lions in the Black Hills because of another faction hunting them is a little ridiculous and selfish. We are all sportsman and should be on the same team.

James Twamley

Parker SD

Position: support

Comment:

In addition to reducing the number of lions in the Black Hills, it would make more sense to have the Lion Tags available during the Elk and deer seasons in addition to their own season. For the past several years the quota of lion taken has not been achieved, so reducing the number of lions in the Black Hills will not be achieved.

Aaron Taylor

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The reduction of the mountain lion population is unnecessary and immoral. The lion population is an essential part of the ecosystem and something we should cherish and protect.

The fact that there has only been one documented human injury and zero fatalities in the last 150 years of our state, should be evidence enough that they pose no significant danger to the general population.

Leland Brokaw

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not support the expanded use of hounds to aid in the harvest of mountain lions in the Black Hills.

Bobbi Doerfler

Parker SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Attachment 13109

Jim Kranhold

Peever SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Relocate if feasible!

Mark Anderson

Brandon SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in support of reducing the numbers of mountain lions to 150 in the black hills.

Ron Miller

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Don't believe you are harvesting enough lions with your new plan. With the decline of turkeys and deer in the hills more lions should be removed. Other species of animals (such as porcupines and bobcats) have also been severely affected. Nice to have a few but you have too many lions!

Jayda Wells

Prairie City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am a South Dakota youth hound woman I support the use of Hounds to help the reduced population adjective. With the much needed reduction of lions in the black hills fire protection district I think there is a great opportunity for youth and others to capitalize on. I would like the opportunity to use Hounds in the Black Hills and public lands of South Dakota.

Michael Trier

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

300 is not too many. I live in Custer and I've never seen a lion. Ranchers need to be able to protect their livestock, but reducing the guideline will only reduce the opportunity for hunters to harvest one (after the initial reduction). The current lion population isn't significantly problematic. There is not a valid reason to reduce it. Personally, I'd prefer that the population be allowed to increase.

Aaron Buchholz

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

If there are opportunities for resident hunters in South Dakota to help harvest a Mountain Lion to help reduce the numbers of animals, please let me know if a season will be available. Thank you for your consideration.

Lyndon Bucher

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

I believe the Mountain Lion population should be reduced in SD

Julie Maliske

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I live in Rapid City city limits and have lost two cats to mountain Lions. The latest was about a year ago. I live half a mile from an elementary and middle school. A neighbor with three small children has had a mountain lion peeking in her windows. Clearly we need fewer of them. Thank you for your professionalism and expertise in understanding the problem.

Robert Brown

Custer SD

Position: other

Comment:

Being an avid hunter/trapper, I would like to see mountain lion license to used for either hunting or trapping. Most people do not have the time to get out and chase cats. days are shorter and usually dark when we get off work. I personally check traps between 4am-8am. I think it would increase the harvest each year. May not be enough but it's a start.

Kurt Krietlow

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have personally not seen evidence that the cat population is on the increase, if anything it is getting tougher to cut tracks in the areas i hunt. If it gets to the point where more need to be killed open season earlier, do not allow dogs!

Edyie Stika

Iowa City IA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I grew in the state of South Dakota and as an adult traveled back to the beloved Black Hills for 36 summers. Mountain Lions are beautiful animals and should left alone. If you continue to not respect the land or the animals that inhabit it as Chief Seattle once said "continue to contaminate your bed and you will one night suffocate in your own waste.

Mike Peterson

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

Yes, please cut the numbers!

John Culberson

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Lions kill deer. There are too many deer. SD ranks in the top 5 nationally in car deer accidents. If the Hills were segregated from that data we would be higher. Leave the lion population alone. Please start managing the deer population for the majority of SD people and not out of state trophy hunters.

Marvin Bouska

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

Obviously the lion population is out of control and there is no practical way to reduce it. The wt population in the BH is very low as a result. The plans look like a way to enhance CVs rather than manage game for the benefit of resident hunters. What is a "healthy environment"? In 1824 a healthy environment looked a lot different than today. Lions, wolves, grizzley bears and beaver etc were in abundance . Is it the goal of GFP to try to recreate that "healthy environment" in the 2024 urban forest that is currently the Black Hills? I would like to see a true operational definition of this term. I would like to see more wt and mule deer hunting opportunities rather than have a "sustainable" population of apex predators in our current urban forest. Deer tags are becoming scarcer and scarcer over the years. Hunting is becoming a sport for the elite only - e.g. the evolution of ranch permits decades ago to the present special buck permits that benefit commercial hunting at the expense of the SD resident. I would encourage you to consider this perspective in future plans, as I am not the only SD sportsman that feels this way. Thank you sincerely for your attention.

Gary Witt

Lead, SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I believe we have established the baseline for lions and do not wish to see it reduced further.

Charles Baldwin

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a resident of the Black Hills for 76 years and active outdoor user, I feel that the lion population in the Black Hills of 150 - 250 is too many. As the population has increased over the past 30/40 years, the population of deer, porcupines, and bobcats has decreased substantially. I think the reason we see so many deer and turkeys in the cities now is due to the threat from lions to these animals and they are driven into safe areas.

Dede Farrar

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I live in the Black Hills near Pactola Lake. I support management of the mountain lion population. The plan sounds sensible. Too many lions is no good. None is sad. I've seen mountain lions near my home. That's amazing but let's keep it under control. Thanks!

David Belmonte

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am not in favor of reducing the population any further.

Shari Kosel

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I don't know why you offer public comments because you never support the comments of hundreds of people versus a few. No research, pure speculation, and you change these rules.

I have been commenting since you implemented the first kill plan on lions and no matter how many people oppose, you pass it anyway. It's very discouraging when you live in the Black Hills and know the ecosystem, yet GFP doesn't listen to those that actually live in their environment.

Please DO NOT increase kill limits.

Carson Smith

Winner SD

Position: support

Comment:

Hunting mountain lions with hounds requires dedication, skill, and respect for the wilderness. It's a tradition that helps manage wildlife populations and ensures a balanced ecosystem.

Beth McIntyre

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not agree with decreasing the number of lions in this area. I am not sure who the reduction would benefit. Hunters???

Joseph Hall

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I see no science (game management) evidence that decreasing the lion population from current levels (200-300) to (150-200) is necessary. I submit that the carrying capacity is adequate for current lion populations. I feel there is a downside to reducing the population by decreasing the genetic diversity and health of our lions. We don't need to encourage a lion population such as that in Florida. South Dakota deserves more science and less politics. Respectfully submitted. Joseph E. Hall

Robert Eddy

Spearfish SD

Position: other

Comment:

I would encourage the mountain lion population be managed to an even lower number, 50-100 in the BH. The mule deer population in the Black Hills is struggling and the Bighorn sheep herds are having difficulty expanding. I do believe in having a Mountain Lion population that is thriving and manageable, but the current population is too high. Please consider lowering the objective. Thank you!

Ralph Tuschen

Hartford SD

Position: other

Comment:

As a sportsman and hunter if your going to increase the quota and give the dog hunters a chance to harvest lions inside the black hills you should also give us the chance to harvest mt lions by trapping

Andrew Ferris

Wall SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose allowing dogs first off. Second off the quota has not been met for several years due to weather. I recommend opening season 1 week earlier or closing 1 week later if you want more animals taken

Jenna Wells

Prairie City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the black hills

Dianna Torson

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We need more wildlife, not less. It is wrong to justify wildlife killing so hunters can have fun.

Justin Hammer

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a life long Black Hills resident and avid big game hunter I oppose the decrease in population objectives for Mountain Lions within the BHFPD. Deer and elk hunting opportunities in the Black Hills have never been better and there is no valid reason for decreasing our Mt Lion population. Every time I'm out deer or elk hunting I relish the opportunity to have an encounter with a Mt. Lion.

As someone who has also hunted Mountain Lions I enjoy the opportunity to potentially harvest one alone without the help of dogs. It appears to me our population is stable and at a healthy level. Decreasing the population objective will lead to less opportunities for interactions and a bigger push to open the entire Black Hills to hound hunting.

Keep things the same.

Cassie Zeimet

Pringle SD

Position: support

Comment:

I have lived here all my life and I am an avid hunter here and far. When I was a senior in high school, graduating in 2004, my Senior Writing class had to pick a current topic that was found in the newspaper, and I chose the topic of introducing the mountain lion season. It went over so well with all my research and interview with Blair Wait that I got a very high percentage on it of 102%. I learned a lot and follow the mountain lion situation with great interest still to this day. I can say I am 38 years old and have seen only 4 lions in my whole life; I've seen their tracks and scat and found kills but only have seen 4. I do think that the population is at a very healthy standpoint right now, but with issues to the public. I also think that we all have a common problem and that is of the big cats coming into town and close to our homes where we live with our families. I have never heard of (doesn't mean it hasn't happened) of a lion taking down livestock other than horses (probably because they look so much like elk). I have heard and seen coyotes take down livestock, even my own. I also have not heard of a lion attacking people in our area (and of course it probably is a matter time for that to happen). I believe in the hunting season full heartedly and support it 100%. I do believe there is room for change in the program. I feel that Option #2 is the best option:

1. With the unlimited permits that are issued in either season based or all year we NEED to allow dogs to be used in ALL areas. I truly believe that this will help with the lions coming into populated areas so much. Once they are hunted with dogs a few years then they will be less likely to enter populated areas that have dogs in them (which anymore seems to be most areas) as they'll hear the dog and think maybe they should steer clear and go back where they came from. I run a hotel in Keystone and right now there is a very large male lion wandering around town and with people feeding the deer it is a matter of time before something bad happens. Unfortunately, you can't fix stupid with towns people feeding the deer in their yard, in winter it is bound to happen with a mountain lion taking down a deer, someone's pet, or worse a small kid waiting for bus. Hunting with dogs just might put more fear in them to stay away and out of town and away from homes and people.
2. The only concern I do have with lowering the population is the fact that the lion is our number one predator that we have in the Hills. If we lower the population, could we be opening up more opportunity for the black bear and/or wolves to move in. We have all seen them. We all know they come through, how long they stick around...probably not too long but nonetheless is this something we should be considering as a potential future problem.

Dave Green

Deadwood SD

Position: other

Comment:

NO DOGS!!!! That is not sport!!!!

Sue Hayes

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Oppose ALL options on this plan.

Julie Hansen

Freeman SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Erik Tilton

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Tiffani Tilton

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not increase hunting on mountain lions. It is a small population already, and their habitat is being over run by humans which may make it seem there are more of them than there really is.

Paulette Callen

Aberdeen SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I was born and raised in SD, and I have long been sick and tired of the hunters and ranchers having the final say in wildlife issues. Mountain lions are America's CAT. We should protect them, not cull and control them for the benefit of humans who enjoy killing for killing's sake. And don't tell me there is any other reason. Subsistence hunters are few and far between. And cats don't kill healthy deer...they keep deer populations healthy. They don't prey on livestock if livestock are adequately protected. A mature cat will steer clear of protected livestock, while a younger cat will not. Science and research do not support your desire to reduce the cat population. Clearly you are just being controlled by the ranchers and hunters, and once again, this is my state too.

Kim Huhnerkoch

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I don't at this time you need to increasing hunting on the mountain lions, I am in the woods all the time and never really see signs of them. They are not a problem. Side note..... your OHV TRAFFIC is the PROBLEM, they are ruining the Black Hills trails !!!

David Reffner

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

i've been hunting the northern hills for around 25 yrs mostly deer, in the last 9 yrs i've been using trail cams and have captured allot of Lions on my cams, they are spread out for miles but there seems to be way too many cats and i know they take a toll on deer, i see cats all the time and i know some could be the same ones but i'm seeing all different size cats including small cats, just putting in my 2 cents, thanks...

Marianne Bentley

Nashville TN

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Tom Laffey
Belle Fourche SD
Position: support

Attachment 13157

Comment:

To GFP,

I would like to see a longer hunting season for mtn lions and the use of hounds to tree them.

I lived in Alaska for over 20 years and I know that importance of predator control, especially in rural areas.

I do not think game managements should be dictated by ballot initiatives.

Thank you,

Tom Laffey

Evelyn Horner
Belle Fourche SD
Position: other

Attachment 13158

Comment:

Dear

I think mountain lion save zoo Sioux Falls will be good.

Thank you,
Evelyn Horner

Write me. Let me know!

Heath Weavill

Attachment 13160

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The proposal of a reduction in the Mountain Lion population in the BHFPD goes directly against the "Mountain Lion Public Option Survey". The following is a direct statement made by Stephanie Buckley with the SDGFP. "Respondents were also asked whether they would prefer to see the mountain lion population in South Dakota decrease, stay the same or increase over the next five years in the following locations: Custer State Park [CSP], Black Hills Fire Protection District (excluding CSP) [BHFPD], and Statewide, outside of BHFPD (Buckley 2024). In CSP, 46% of hunters and 56% of residents wanted the population objective to stay about the same. In BHFPD, 46% of hunters wanted it to decrease to some degree, while 52% of residents wanted it to stay about the same. Statewide, 47% of hunters and 56% of residents wanted the population to stay about the same." I have attached a screenshot from her presentation of this material to the SDGFP Commission as well.

In the "Mountain Lion Population Status Update" shows that using the current Mountain Lion Action Plan and harvest methods are keeping the Current population management within objective, but that the population is showing a downward trend in recent years using this method. (https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/mountain_lion_status_report_2023.pdf).

Prepared by:

Andrew J. Lindbloom, Senior Big Game Biologist

Steven L. Griffin, Big Game Biologist

Lauren Wiechmann, Big Game Biologist

Byron Buckley, Senior Big Game Biologist

I strongly encourage the commission to look at the facts being provided by the states top Big Game Biologists and to listen to what the majority of South Dakota residents would like to see done with the Mountain Lion Population where residents "wanted the population to stay about the same."

Tania Taylor

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

1. Oppose hound hunting, especially on public land. Using dogs to chase animals down to exhaustion is cruel to the animal & dangerous for the dogs.
2. Remove "Modify and adopt hunting season structure as needed to minimize regulation complexity". In the past, they have used the goal of simple regulations to oppose changes to regulations designed to address animal cruelty issues.
3. Oppose unlimited harvest and year-long hunting on the prairie unit.
4. Remove "maximum" from "Manage mountain lion populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs."
5. Oppose reducing the population objective from 300-200 cougars to 250-150 cougars.

Dean Parker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm writing to provide feedback on the 2024-2028 South Dakota Mountain Lion Action Plan:

1. I strongly oppose hound hunting, particularly on public lands. Using dogs to chase animals down to exhaustion is cruel to the animal and dangerous for the dogs.
2. Remove the entire "Modify and adopt hunting season structure as needed to minimize regulation complexity" line from the plan.
3. I oppose an unlimited harvest and year-long hunting on the prairie unit.
4. Remove "maximum" from "Manage mountain lion populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs."
5. I also oppose reducing the population objective from 300-200 mountain lions to 250-150 mountain lions.

Thank you for taking the opinions of all South Dakotans into consideration when finalizing the Mountain Lion Action Management Plan.

Judy Love

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to hunting lions with hounds anywhere as well as to any increase in the number of lions that may be taken next season either in the Black Hills or in the prairie unit.

Dave Love

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Apparently as long as there is one mt. lion left and one hunter who wants it, you'll give in. And this is game management? Not too different from "Jew management" by the Nazis.

Scott Triggs

Rapid City, Sd SD

Position: other

Comment:

I oppose the use of bait or traps to be used to hunt Mt. Lions. I support the lower harvest numbers. Dan Casey is the owner of Double D Trophy Outfitters and has a major conflict of interest.

Beverly Taffee

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the hunting of mountain lions with dogs. It doesn't give the lion a fair chance.

James Hunt

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Dear GF&P,

Your proposed plan to decrease the mountain lion population is ridiculous. There is no need to reduce the population as they help to control the high deer population that we have. I would be in favor of moving them from a high population area to an area where there is less chance of human interaction.

On another note, I am absolutely opposed to baiting, trapping, or using dogs to tree lions so a hunter can shoot them out of a tree like fish in a barrel. That is not sportsmanship, but rather a cowardly way. I put that in the same category as using dogs to hunt coyotes. I would shoot the dogs if I saw this being done as that is not sportsmanship, but a purely inhumane.

I see you aren't interested in promoting sportsmanship, but are just greedy in wanting to take in more money. If you are worth your salt, you will leave the population limits alone. If not, then you have failed as an organization.

James Hunt

Rebecca Byrne

Custer SD

Position: other

Comment:

We live in Custer County near the city limits of Custer. I hate the thought of mountain lions being at our place and in our neighborhood as well as in the woods where we hike. Many neighbors have shown fear when discussing lions. We've seen them on our trail cameras at our home. We spend a lot of time outdoors hiking/hunting/walking etc. It would be great to have less lions in the area. I would support a lot lower numbers of lions in the Black Hills region. Allowing lion hunting during deer hunting would help lower numbers. Growing up on a farm makes me worry for livestock. I'm sure lions wreak havoc on livestock. Pets are at risk. People love their pets. Children are at risk. High lion numbers should not trump people, livestock, and pet safety. There are too many lions! Please recognize that some people that filled out your survey never leave their house or never hike in the woods. Their opinion of lions is misinformed. High lion numbers don't affect them until Fluffy disappears. Those of us who hike and hunt (as my husband does) in the woods would greatly prefer less chance of running across a lion while trying to enjoy the beauty of the Black Hills.

Dillon Grose

Hunter ND

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Brandon Squires

Waverly NY

Position: support

Comment:

The use of hounds to aid in a hunt for lions is more beneficial for all party's, a hunter can judge a lion more accurately and be able to pass on taking young cats or females, the use of hounds is just an all around better option for both taking and collecting data on the lions

Zaine Wood

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I'd like to see a boost in our elk population

Cody Johnson

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support lowering the population of mountain lions in the black hills. The only way to do it right is with hounds. Stop the killing of lactating females and kittens with electronic game calls and cell cameras, and start managing this population with ethical and traditional hunting methods.

Sarah Johnson

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support lowering the mountain lion population in the black hills. Boot hunters are not capable of properly managing lions. We must use hounds. The killing of baby lions must stop!!

Sara Parker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Attachment 13176

Steven David

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am a 71 year old and appreciate everything that the GF&P does for our wildlife, hunting and fishing in the state. I have seen a lot changes over all the years of hunting and fishing in my life. For me dogs are not the answer. I will not hunt with dogs and I understand that's my choice. But who wants to hunt with dogs running around and how would I even be able to compete with dogs. I would be in favor of working with mentor deer hunting to help with the deer population. Also maybe allow trappers to trap lions the rest of the year.

Wesley Olsen

Aladdin WY

Position: support

Comment:

It would ease pressure in WY
SD residents all have to go to WY to pursue lion. When a good part of the lions are crossing the state line anyway.

Hunter Bleck

Catawba WI

Position: support

Comment:

Let the use of hounds

Brenda Belmonte

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not feel that reducing the lion population is necessary or warranted. We need to understand that we live in their home, not the other way around.

I am NOT opposed to hunting. The limits are rarely, if ever, reached during the established season. Mountain Lions help keep the population of deer and other species in check. Population reduction could prove to be problematic if natural controls for deer, elk, and turkey population are unbalanced.

Richard Thorpe

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm against killing these beautiful creatures that have been here much longer than we have. They pose no real threat and should be left alone.

Jim Scherrer

Hill City SD

Position: other

Comment:

While I support the idea of reducing the total number of mountain lions in the Black Hills, I am adamantly opposed to the use of dogs! The fact that we have 20% of the Black Hills as privately owned property, it is not practical for dogs to be. Jason lions, running through fences and disturbing horses, cows, and other properties of private landowners.

In order to lower the number of lions in the Hills, my recommendation is to modify the hunting dates to begin on November 1st and proceed through January 31st until quotas are met. The month of November has thousands of hunters in the Black Hills and will accomplish two things. The first is increase opportunities for the siding and the subsequent harvesting of additional Lions, and secondly, significantly increase the number of licenses purchased for hunting mountain lions. Jim Scherrer

Ryan Flick

Hill City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Just allow any large game hunter holding another tag to purchase a cat tag for any open season. Still have the yearly quota but just give more time and season to fill.

Paula Von Weller

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a resident of Deadwood, South Dakota, I strongly oppose reducing the mountain lion population in the Black Hills. The Black Hills population is still recovering and sensitive to overhunting. Science should drive policy making, not the will of hunters who are just a small fraction of the stakeholders involved. Reducing the population target to allow for hound hunting, which is more effective than boot hunting, could devastate the population. Lions should be allowed to recover statewide before increasing hunting quotas or lowering the target population. Overhunting has also proven to increase conflict with humans and livestock.

Knowing that lions are part of the landscape here is part of the intrigue of the Black Hills. I have had many conversations with other local residents who admire lions and believe they belong on the landscape with us. Seeing signs of lions is really special and something I look for on my daily hike. I have been fortunate enough to see a lion and it was an experience I will never forget. Most people dream of seeing a lion in their natural habitat. They are amazing, beautiful animals.....more so alive than dead.

I hope that you will base your decisions on science and consider giving lions an opportunity to recover and continue doing their part on the landscape to ensure a healthy and balanced ecosystem.

Gavin Turbak

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Me and many others would really love to see more opportunities for Houndsman in the Black Hills.

Joshua Rosenau

Attachment 13186

Lake Forest Park WA

Position: oppose

Comment:

We strongly oppose the proposed reduction of population targets in the amended action plan. Please see the attached letter for detailed comments.

Carolyn Plotkin

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to lowering the limit to 150 to 250 because the predator / prey balance regulates itself and the deer population will increase.

Brian Walters

Three Springs PA

Position: support

Comment:

The use of hounds is the most effective way to control the population of lions.

Sheldon Domagala

Bowman ND

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds for aiding in a mountain lion hunt. The use of hounds is the only effective way to study a cat that has kittens and or is a female in the tree before harvest.

Jillian Murphy

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The plan to increase allowable hunts for mountain lions does not make ecological sense. It will lead to a higher number of orphaned and "unsupervised" young, ultimately posing a threat to humans, instead of having the intended effect. A better approach would be regulation of development and prevention of sprawl - something that I recognize is beyond the scope of GFP, but would be the only practical solution.

Arlene Pixley

Moorcroft WY

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Guy Kempthorne

Missoula MT

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Chris Morgan

Boukder MT

Position: support

Comment:

I support the reduced population objective and allowing the use of hounds to pursue mountain lions. Hound hunting has proven time and again to be the most conservation-minded tool when it comes to managing lion populations.

Tim Mckenrick

Boulder MT

Position: support

Comment:

Thank you for allowing us to comment on this issue. The best method for controlling lion populations is the use of hounds. The handler can discriminate on the size, sex and age of a treed lion and eliminate problem and adult animals.
Thank you for your time.

John Eckman

Greybull WY

Position: support

Comment:

I strongly support hounds hunting for lions in SD. Using hounds offers the ability to be selective on which animals will be harvested.

Jim Thompson

Madison SD

Position: other

Comment:

The use of hounds should be allowed throughout the Black Hills. It would allow hunters to pick larger, older males to harvest and allow female lions to survive to teach the younger cats how to hunt.

Dave Birkoski

Great Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds to keep mountain lions at a sustainable level.

John Bullion

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Currently we only allow spot and stalk and with that they shoot a lot of females and young cats. As a proponent of sustainable utilization, it's a terrible thing to see year after year. I would like to see this change to allow a healthier harvest of mature male lions and for us to see a more sustainable population without the major dispersal rates South Dakota has always been known to have. The use of hounds on all of our National Forest land will be beneficial.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Val Himle

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Wildlife is for everyone to enjoy. There should never be "trophy" hunting. Hound hunting should never be allowed! It is so cruel to chase an animal down to the point of exhaustion. And, then the dogs are also at risk. These souls do not deserve it!

Please remove "????????????? ?????? ?????????? ?????????????? ?????????????? ?????????????????????? ?????? ?????????????? ?????? ?????????????????????? ?????????????????????? ??????????????????????".

There should never be an unlimited harvest or year-long hunting.

Please remove "?????????????????" ?????????? "????????????????? ?????????????????? ?????????? ?? ?????????? ?????????????????????? ?????????? ?????????????????????? ?????????? ?????????????????????? ?????????? ??????????????????????"

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I oppose reducing cougar populations. They'll be eliminated faster than their growth rate. Babies will not learn proper hunting and will move into residential areas. I understand population control, but unnecessary hunting, hound hunting, trapping, baiting is cruel and undeserved.

They need to have their place on this earth, too. Humans are to be stewards of the earth, and we are failing at this.

The trophy hunters need to find another hobby! They are a disgrace.

Shane Ryals

Palermo ND

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Allen Lysdahl

Wadena MN

Position: support

Comment:

I believe the lower population levels proposed in the Mountain Lion Action Plan is a very sensible goal and the use of hounds in hunting is the most efficient means available to achieving that goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Lysdahl

Diane Holman

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

"As a South Dakota resident, I urge the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to reject the proposed reduction in mountain lion population objectives. Instead, focus on science-based conservation that protects mountain lions and maintains their essential role in healthy ecosystems. Minimizing hunting so as to maintain stable mountain lion social structures will reduce livestock conflicts. With only a few hundred left, mountain lions must be protected, not further endangered."

Charles Brackney

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing in opposition to the plan to lower the mountain lion population. I don't think this action should be taken to placate hunters. I don't find the reasons in support of this plan to be convincing. The population of mountain lions is already dangerously small and this is definitely a step in the wrong direction. Thank you. Charles Brackney, Sioux Falls

Ira Elenko

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Lorna Luther

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Julia Natvig

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I urge the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to reject the proposed reduction in mountain lion population objectives. Healthy mountain lion populations are important to ecosystem balance and control of rodents and other prey species. Please focus on science-based conservation that protects mountain lions and maintains their essential role in healthy ecosystems. Minimizing hunting so as to maintain stable mountain lion social structures will reduce livestock conflicts. With only a few hundred left, mountain lions must be protected, not further endangered."

James Cox

Brady MT

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support the use of hounds for the take of mountain lions and trapping of all predators. Predators are raising havoc all over the country and they need to be properly managed.

Nicole Bartscher

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I urge the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to reject the proposed reduction in mountain lion population objectives. Instead, focus on science-based conservation that protects mountain lions and maintains their essential role in healthy ecosystems. Minimizing hunting so as to maintain stable mountain lion social structures will reduce livestock conflicts. With only a few hundred left, mountain lions must be protected, not further endangered

Linda Palzkill

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I live in the black hills and miss my mountain lions. We use to have a female that hung around our subdivision and every year she would bring her cubs around so we could see them. She would walk up and down the sidewalk and keep the coyotes at bay. She was a beautiful animal but I haven't seen her in years. I know she was probably killed. Such a waste. Now there are so many deer because she's gone that the deer are either eating everything or starving. You should think of the consequences of not having lions before you allow anymore to be killed.

Martha Suarez

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

There is no reason to slaughter these mountain lions. Ecology over economics and politics, please.

Kim Tysdal

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I strongly urge Game, Fish and Parks commission to reject the proposed mountain lion reduction objectives. Instead, focus on science-based conservation that protects mountain lions and maintains their essential role in healthy ecosystems. Minimizing hunting so as to maintain stable mountain lion social structures will reduce livestock conflicts. With only a few hundred left, mountain lions must be protected, not further endangered.

Barbara Joyce

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Andreea Picioroaga

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please protect the mountain lions! And all critters/ animals in our state. We should be their guardians, not their oppressors. Do not put profit before them, nature and all animal souls.

John Chamberlain

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I urge the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission to reject the proposed reduction in mountain lion population objectives. Instead, focus on science-based conservation that protects mountain lions and maintains their essential role in healthy ecosystems. Minimizing hunting to maintain stable social structures for mountain lions will reduce livestock conflicts. Mountain lions must be protected, not further endangered, with only a few hundred of these beautiful creatures left. Mountain lions weren't brought here from China or India; they are Indigenous to this region, and we have a responsibility to protect their existence; the mountain lions have a right to live on the lands they were born on, a gift from Mother Nature.

Kim Redlin

Watertown SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We can't do the killing off

Barb Wright

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not increase the number of mountain lions to be killed. They should not be hunted at all. We build in their space and then kill them for being there. Makes no sense.

Julie Hansen

Freeman SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Pls do NOT increase the cougar hunting quotient. They are already scarce enough in the state; & have an important role in removing diseased deer; elk ect from the states herds; thus keeping them healthier. Thank you.

Jerri Johnson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I urge the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to reject the proposed reduction in mountain lion population objectives. Instead, focus on science-based conservation that protects mountain lions and maintains their essential role in healthy ecosystems. Minimizing hunting so as to maintain stable mountain lion social structures will reduce livestock conflicts. With only a few hundred left, mountain lions must be protected, not further endangered. Please stop any hunting of SD mountain lions.

James Tirey

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Brad Huffaker
Rocksprings WY
Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds

Christopher Brown
Fruitdale SD
Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Mike Jarding
Hot Springs SD
Position: support

Comment:

Now the plan is to maintain 250-350 Mt Lions in the BH. Data indicates one lion kills 1 deer per week, that is around 15,000-16,000 Black Hills deer a year. There is only around 3000 BH deer tags issued every year. Mt Lions are taking 5x more deer than hunters are. As a hunter I truly believe we need Mt Lions in the ecosystem, but this number is way too high. I totally support lowering the Mt Lion population and completely support using hounds.
Thank you

Preston Munk
Colman SD
Position: support

Comment:

There is no more effective way to manage and have the ability to harvest Mountain Lions than with hounds.

Greg Heier
Rapid City SD
Position: oppose

Comment:

Leave the Lion season and hunting quota as it currently is. I believe there are a proper amount of lions in the Hills to sustain population and not be destructive to other wildlife. Additionally, I am not in favor of using dogs to hunt unless we ever get to a point of over population, and then only just enough to balance the population.

Zane Tibbs

Fort Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I've been a hound hunter for 25 years. It's been a lot of work and a lot of fun to use hounds. When hunting big game like mountain lions I truly believe that there's no better way to do it. If the GFP wants a better managed lion population in the Black Hills by allowing hounds they won't be disappointed. It's been easy to see the success of the hound seasons in Custer State Park in the last ten years since the hound seasons were put in play. Especially on the elk population in the park. The same thing will happen in the general black hills if hound hunting is allowed and hopefully that leads to better populations of deer and elk and sheep which will give more hunting opportunities for those animals overall.

Chris Halleman

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The mountain lion hunting regulations should stay the way they are right now. I have had a lion tag the past few years, and I have not shot a lion by choice. If a person is willing to hunt, they can find lions. I have seen many lions in the past few years while hunting, but they just haven't been the lion I want. I would like to see the regulations stay as is.

Kevin Muilenburg

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I think allowing a certain amount of lions hunted with hounds is a great idea

James Weyh Jr

Watertown SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I feel, the mountain lion population is at acceptable levels and that using any type of dog to assist a hunter is not necessary. This not only will make Mountain lions more secluded and they will become harder to hunt on foot without dogs. They will be almost impossible to call in due to the increased pressure of being continually chased by dogs. Thank You.

Ronald Harrell

Rapid Citu SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not approve of lowering the population objective for Mt. LIONS

Shannon Ims

Clark SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support a plan to lower mountain lion populations in South Dakota, particularly the Black Hills. There's way too many. Too many reports of them in contact with humans. Too many taking wildlife and livestock.

I also support the use of hounds statewide, including the Black Hills.

Kyle Schulz

Philip SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not want to compete with hounds man when trying to hunt mountain lions in the hills.

If more harvest is needed why can't the season just be extended? Why do we need to add dogs and ultimately commercial hound hunting?

Will Littau

Winner SD

Position: support

Comment:

The mountain lion population needs to come down in the black hills.

Andrew Albers

Rapod City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please to not go through with this. We already have enough hunting opportunities disappearing in our state for people that hunt public land.

Mary Jassman

Belle Fourche SD

Position: other

Comment:

"As a South Dakota resident, I urge the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to reject the proposed reduction in mountain lion population objectives. Instead, focus on science-based conservation that protects mountain lions and maintains their essential role in healthy ecosystems. Minimizing hunting so as to maintain stable mountain lion social structures will reduce livestock conflicts. With only a few hundred left, mountain lions must be protected, not further endangered."

Richard Holso

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Joel Jorgensen

Lennox SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Stacey Sturma

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a SD resident, I urge the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to reject the proposed reduction in mountain lion population objectives. Instead, focus on science-based conservation that protects mountain lions and maintains their essential role in healthy ecosystems. Minimizing hunting so as to maintain stable mountain lion social structures will reduce livestock conflicts. With only a few hundred left, mountain lions must be protected, not further endangered.

Drew Sacrison

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

I'm just n favor of harvesting more lions also we need to harvest mature lion not lactating females and kittens.The big mature males are what need harvested and currently we kill more females than males.The use of hounds would allow selective harvest and the harvest of mature cats not the young starving cats that come to electronic calls.

Tyler Haddix

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am not a fan of reducing the population. Especially with the population trending down.

Becky Dwire

Wells NV

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Nathan Nichols

Dell Rapids SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not support any changes to the current plan for mountain lion population control.

Doug Kozak

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Patrick Veurink

Emery SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Surveys say numbers of cats are where they should be, why do we need to reduce population more and take away opportunities of all sportsmen to get out to chase them..Don't want outside influences to effect this, or if numbers do have to go down slightly to bring deer numbers back up. Could another special quota be set to have a season for cats during deer or elk(Oct/ Nov.) seasons like WY?

Sam Stoddard

Norris SD

Position: support

Comment:

I strongly support the use of hounds in any and all management plans

Fritz Hoppe

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Are there any photos or evidence by people telling far fetched stories of mountain lion coming in their home?

I have seen less and less cat tracks every year since 2019.

Urbanization of the Black Hills should not be a reason to decrease mountain lion population. That is simply the definition of greed.

If you live in cat country, keep your pets by your side, carry protection, and accept that you live in the woods with wild animals.

This proposal is not only founded on what appear to be mostly baseless claims, but it decreases hunter opportunity.

Hunter opportunities for big game are already extremely limited in South Dakota.

Let everyone have a fair chance to pursue one of the most challenging and rewarding big game animals in North America.

Darin Cooper

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the reduction in the amount of lions in the Black Hills, but I do not agree with allowing the use of hounds to lower the number. I strongly believe that starting the season earlier, like November 1st as the most effective way to reduce the numbers. Unlike other western national forested states, South Dakota has way more private property scattered through the Black Hills and the use of hounds will create a tremendous amount of issues with private landowners and will eventually give all types hunting a bad rap. The anti hunting groups put most of their focus on states that allow baiting, trapping and hound hunting, because that is the easiest way to get the general public to side with them.

Darell Lethcoe

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Why should people want to hunt more mountain lions especially with dogs. I've hunted with dogs down in FL and I've seen the carnage . If the hunters can't track the lions on there own then they shouldn't be called hunters using dogs to run the cat to a frothing mess is just cheating if they want to use dogs take there weapons and let there be even odds .

John Knapp

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

There is success in controlling numbers without the use of dogs. I believe that was the purpose of the hunting season to begin with. Sounds like it is already a successful strategy.

Joe Hawthorne

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm pro hound hunting, but not in the Black Hills. To many logging roads and to many people living in them who don't understand hunting with dogs. It's a start to and of all Mt lion hunting in the hills. It's also a very unique opportunity for just boot hunting, if you feel the need for the quota to be filled why not have a 10 day hound season after the normal bot hunter season is closed?

Craig Reeder

Laurel MT

Position: support

Comment:

I support the Mountain Lion Action Plan.

Coral Hart

Edgemont SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please stop killing these animals. We need mountain lions.

Jeff Johnson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

The use of dogs is a sound management tool to make sure pregnant, or current female cats with cubs, aren't harvested.

This being said, hounds-men should not be able to charge a fee to guide cat hunters on national forest property.

Chad Kiel

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the use of hounds in the black hills fire district. The cat population has been managed with boat hunting. The numbers show that. If you allow the use of hounds. These hunts will become trophy hunt. This will also cause conflict with hunters. If I'm on a cat track and some one drop hounds on it. I would definitely be very unhappy. Please do not screw up the already good thing we have out in the hills. The hound hunters are a very small group. Please rethink adding hound hunting in the fire district.

Scott Nielsen

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Steven Niles

Coon Rapids MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose lowering the population objective but I support opening up the methods of take on mountain lions. Hound hunting in particular allows for easier and more conclusive identification of the animal to be taken while at bay (by dogs) allowing hunters to take adult males and letting the females go to reproduce and properly rear their offspring with a healthy fear of humans having just been chased and cornered by people and their dogs. I also do not oppose trapping or baiting as they also allow for a better ID and a more responsible harvest as well. Hunting adult male lions opens up territory for young males that would otherwise disperse and are the most likely to make a nuisance of themselves thereby also reducing conflict. If the state of South Dakota does not require the utilization of the meat from a hunter-killed lion I believe that they should, as a hunter I believe in eating what I kill and I personally aspire to eat a lion that I harvest one day.

Payton Reynolds

Watertown SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I highly oppose this measure due to the fact that it would be a huge detriment to the avid boot hunters trying to compete with hounds in a small area like the black hills. I recently talked to Trenton Haffely, one of your biologists, and he stated as long as there are 200-300 lions in the hills there wouldn't be a need for a change. Hounds in the hills will be a pay to play and benefit very few hunters. \$28 mountain lion tag and a good attitude is all a guy needs and it would be heartbreaking to have that opportunity taken away. Highly opposed to this measure!

Thomas Undlin

Faulkton SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The use of dogs will ruin Mt. Lion hunting in the black hills. If you want to further reduce the population, either extend the season to when archery season starts for Deer, or make it open all year round. Adding dogs is a money game, and most people can't afford that. The area of the Black hills is too small to get away from people using dogs, so you might as well say goodbye to any traditional hunting that most people long for. Black hills is one of, if not the only, place you can hunt Mt. Lions and get away from the dog hunting. Please preserve the ethics and what we all should love. Hunting isn't just about killing. If you bring dogs into it, that is all its about. That's not what you want to teach our younger generations.

Kathy Ebsen

Creighton NE

Position: oppose

Comment:

So humans moving into once natural wild land is the lions fault?????? NEED to learn to co- exist!!!!!!

Ashley Waldorf

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is [REDACTED] Leave the mountain lions alone!

Kevin Perkins

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population.

Matt David

Harrisburg SD

Position: other

Comment:

I have been told that this is a push for the use of dogs in the hills. As someone who enjoys boot hunting, don't let our state be a sell out to commercial and guided hunting. It has ruined other types of hunting through the state by limiting the chances of the average middle class South Dakotan that can't afford guided hunts on private land. Don't let the hills become a financial decision. Take a stand for the average middle class hunter.

Jeff Strub

Madison SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ian Williams

Whitewood SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support this

Tamara Stands And Looks Back

Parmelee SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Need to figure out a solution, then murdering sacred animals in lands that are sacred to the Lakota people.

Jeremy Olesen

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Nichole Freilino

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of dogs for hunting mountain lions on public land in South Dakota for both residents and Non residents.

Ron Watson

Hot Springs SD

Position: other

Comment:

Please allow the use of dogs state wide (including the Black Hills). It really is the effective humane way. We also need to reduce even more total numbers of cats in the Black Hills. 50% of our mule fawns have been killed in the first 3 months of this summer. It's not coyotes either. We have resident lions, that kill too many deer and they are so difficult to hunt, it's frustrating. Too [REDACTED] many lions in my opinion.

Louise Mcgannon

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Wrong on so many levels! The method of the killing plus we need to leave nature alone, let it do what it is the best at. Man's interference disrupts the who ecosystem.

Leave wildlife alone.

Brody Weavill

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Attachment 13276

Dale Houser

Kimball SD

Position: support

Comment:

I'm for reducing the number of mountain lions in the black hills to help increase the deer and elk population numbers. I also support the use of dogs for mountain lion hunting in the black hills

Mike Martinz

Big Timber MT

Position: support

Comment:

Hounds are the most effective way to manage mountain lions.

Starla Graves

Whitewood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am not in favor of this plan, the system we have works just fine

Erin Olesen

Brandon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Howard Smith

Winner SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Steve Toepfer

Oacoma SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would support this if you start the season early (Nov 1). And give it two years to see if this has the needed effect. Perhaps letting big game hunters use their carcass and gut piles as bait stations.

Linda Thorpe

Garden Valley CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I visit Deadwood frequently to see my ex-husband, Steve Thorpe, and son, Richard who live at 66 Taylor Avenue in Deadwood. I believe that the wild population of mountain lions should not be hunted. Their numbers will be limited by the abundance of prey. They are magnificent animals and for many, the Black Hills are their home.

Jacob Gomez

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Additionally, a short hound season should be added to the bhfpd allowing only mature cats be harvested.

Austin Cooper

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

Leave it the way it is. If you want to meet the annual harvest quota, start the season earlier, like November 1st.

Kenny Danielson

Rapid City Sd SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I believe we have a healthy mountain lion population. They have an important role in our ecosystem so reducing they're numbers would reduce they're impact. This decision to reduce their numbers I strongly oppose. These decisions should be based off numbers and science and I don't believe that is what is happening.

Braidyn Buchholz

Hermosa SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Curtis Danielson

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Tanah Oestmann

Hermosa SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Bobbi Wells

Prairie City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in support of the reduction in mountain lion population in the BHFPD. Although difficult to track an accurate population, these are not caged animals and can travel great distances. That being said, when they are traveling into more human populated areas and choosing domesticated animals as prey, they need to be managed differently. As I support the reduction in population, I also support the use of hounds in the State of SD. Identifying a treed lion prior to decisions of dispatching it can male the population healthy and help deter cats from wanting to love into town.

Stian Efrainson

Bryant SD

Position: support

Comment:

Let dogs in the hills for mountain lion

Story Warren

Bend OR

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Attachment 13294

Stetson Lippert

Sturgis SD

Position: other

Comment:

I can tell you that your use of verbiage to describe an estimated population is "varied". There is nothing varied about the mountain lion population. The plan admits that it's difficult to estimate population. I will tell you that when you say your prediction of 200-300 cats in the hills is way off. There are trail cam pictures of 6 cats traveling in one pack, that's so destructive to the deer and Elk. As a hunter spending more time in the hills than any biologist I will tell you there are more cats that anyone wants to admit. They are the most destructive threat to our deer and elk populations but yet all these lobbyist are tying to protect them for some reason. Deer and elk tags generate more money and put more food on them table to even consider keeping mountain lions in the picture. Allow mountain lion hunting all year round in the hills, allow dogs, and have unlimited tags. You will Never remove these destructive predators from the hills because they are so elusive, but they need to be brought under control.

Steve Moses

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

WHT south dakota game and fish can █████ up a wet dream pull your head out of your █████. If you want more deer in the hills stop shooting the does that includes youth hunting

Shawn Larsen

Sturgis SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Linda Larsonbiers

Piedmont SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Mountain lions are an integral part of our ecosystem. Hunting them down with dogs is inhumane and reflects SD attitude towards hunting. It is revenue and not what is necessary to keep balance in nature

Theresa Shay

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

While all aspects must be considered of course, I am particularly opposed to any cruel hunting practices affecting these magnificent creatures.

Gavin Turbak

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am for hounds in the hills

Keith Trout

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I think the quota of lions is good the way it is.

Patrick Shay

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Nancy Hilding
Black Hawk, SD
Position: oppose

Attachment 13305

Comment:

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718

We attach our comments as a PDF file

Nancy Hilding
Black Hawk SD
Position: oppose

Comment:

Nancy Hilding
6300 West Elm
Black Hawk, SD 57718

Mountain lions are an apex predator and a keystone species. I want more of them not less. I absolutely object to the goal of maximizing hunting and minimizing the complexity of hunting regulations

Other

Colton Benson
Montrose SD
Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of dogs in the black hills fire district