

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Dog use for hunting

From: Jim & Teresa Hale [mailto:jimhale@gwtc.net]

Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 11:16 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Dog use for hunting

To whom it may concern:

We support dog use for lion hunting.

We are concerned ranchers

Jim and Teresa Hale

White Owl, SD 57792

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hunting with dogs

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

From: & Claireen Spring, Charles

Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 9:03 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hunting with dogs

I am in favor of using dogs to hunt mountain lions in all of SD except for Black Hills Fire Protection District. I hop this is a year round season. Thank you

Charles Spring
Union Center, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Dogs for lion's in SD

From: qtquarterhorse [mailto:qtquarterhorse@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 1:29 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Dogs for lion's in SD

I live in rural western South Dakota I am in complete favor of using dogs for the purpose of hunting mountain lions.

Jennifer Langager
21893 Curlew road
New Underwood SD

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hunting Mountain Lions

From: Don & Shirley Hofer [<mailto:donhofer@hur.midco.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 11:53 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Re: Hunting Mountain Lions

I would like to express my thoughts in regards to Hunting Mountain Lions in the State of South Dakota.

I strongly feel that dogs should be allowed while hunting mountain lions in our state of South Dakota.

Please consider the use of dogs.

Thank you,

Donald Hofer

114 West 9th St.

Miller, SD 57362

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Dog use for Lion hunts outside the Hills

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

From: judy gifford

Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 9:20 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Dog use for Lion hunts outside the Hills

We support dog use for lion Hunts Outside the hills.

Thank you,

Judy Gifford, Bill Gifford, Casey Gifford, Carl Gifford Bjgifford5@live.com

Rapid City, SD

Sent from my iPad

Ascher, Debra

To: Beth bhshooters.com
Subject: FW: Lion hunting with dogs

From: Beth bhshooters.com
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2015 9:40 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Lion hunting with dogs

One of my favorite things to do is go for a run on the beautiful trails in the Black Hills National Forest. I always take my black lab/border collie mix dog with me where it's safe for her to run. I also take a handgun with me for protection against predators that could cause us harm (I have a permit to carry a concealed handgun). While I have never seen a mountain lion on these runs, I have seen them while I was driving to work. The fact that my dog is with me, I believe, is the main reason I have not seen any lions. Dogs and cats are natural enemies, so I believe the cats see us together and leave us alone.

There have been occasions where mountain lions have harmed and even killed family pets, some of them very close to where I live. But if mountain lion hunting with dogs were legalized in South Dakota, it makes sense to me that the lions would learn to stay away from dogs, including away from homes with dogs. My concern is mostly the safety of people and their pets, but I believe it could save money in the management of the cats required by the SDGF&P. That, of course, is my speculation as I don't know the extent the GF&P goes to in the management of lions.

I also come from a family that has raised livestock for generations. Lions are becoming more dangerous and killing more livestock. Increasing the number of lions harvested annually helps in maintaining the safety of these animals. SD produces livestock that supplies beef to many people. It is an important industry in SD, which we need to protect.

Management of mountain lions is important in keeping the natural balance. Allowing hunting with dogs would ensure that balance and create some safety benefits to people and other animals.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Beth Haivala

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain Lion Hunting with dogs proposal

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

From: Randy Ellis [<mailto:outpost2@midconetwork.com>]

Sent: Sunday, January 04, 2015 10:08 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion Hunting with dogs proposal

I am writing you to add my voice and vote to the proposal allowing hunters to use dogs in the pursuit of Mountain Lions in the state of South Dakota, both in the South Dakota Black Hills Fire District as well as the rest of the State. I am a land owner in the Piedmont , SD area since 1998. in this time I have watched the progression of the Mountain lion come from a isolated siting to a common occurrence. I have had numerous sets of cat tracks through out my property and they are increasing every year. I believe it's time to increased the reduction of the Lion, as we clearly have all witnessed the decline of our Elk and Deer Populations. It is only a matter of time before additional wild, farm, ranch and domestic animals are removed by the large numbers of cats, we simply have too many of them and allowing it to escalate makes very little sense. It puts the public at odds with the GF&P and that is not in our best interest. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this and adding my voice to the majority of people who want to see the use of dogs in Mountain Lion hunting.

Respectfully,

Randy W. Ellis, CFP

Sent from my iPad

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: dogs for lion hunting in S.D.

From: bhasart@hur.midco.net [mailto:bhasart@hur.midco.net]

Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 9:05 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: dogs for lion hunting in S.D.

I vote for dogs to be used in Hunting Mt. Lions in SD. Willie Hasart-P.O. Box 93 Saint Lawrence ,S.D. 57373.Hand Co.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: allow hounds for mountain lion hunting

From: Forrest Cain [<mailto:stickbow70@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 9:31 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: allow hounds for mountain lion hunting

I am sending this email in regards to the pending issue of allowing hounds for lion hunting outside the hills here in south Dakota. I cant think of any good reason why this measure would not be passed? the only thing I could imagine standing in the way of this extremely useful management tool would be the reaction of the anti-hunters most of whom don't reside in this state. If there is a better way of managing the gender and age of a lion before harvest I would like to know what it is. The use of hounds would not change the number of cats harvested but would definitely help steer the take in regards to the optimal male to female ration determined by the wildlife managers. I fully endorse the use of hounds for hunting mountain lions in this state.

sincerely

Forrest H. Cain
Research Biologist
Whitewood, South Dakota

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain Lion Hunting with Dogs

From: Adam Karrels [<mailto:adamkarrels@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 2:07 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion Hunting with Dogs

To whom it may concern:

My name is Adam Karrels. I am a 4th generation rancher east of Sturgis, SD. I have been informed that there is going to be a vote for a dog season for mountain lions outside the Black Hills. If this is true, I feel that this would be a beneficial addition to SD Lion Hunting. This would be a great tool for Ranchers. I have talked to many Ranchers, and if there was an option to use dogs for Lion hunting, most would embrace this addition. I know of several Ranchers in Wyoming outside of the Black Hills that have had problems with mountain lions. Those Ranchers brought in some hunters with dogs. They treed the Lions and in this process were able to evaluate the situation. Once treed, they could see clearly if the Lion was young/old, male/female. This helped in determining whether that Lion was indeed the problem or if there were multiple Lions in that area.

In closing, I feel that this option deserves consideration and would benefit, not only the State, but the Rancher, as well. Thanks for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Adam Karrels
Karrels Cattle Company
605-490-1701

Ascher, Debra

From: Bob Bertolotto <ucsturgis@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 8:15 PM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Lion hunting

I just want to state my support for using dogs for lion hunting in SD. This method has been and should be used in cases of problem lions especially. This method is appropriate to protect) our citizens personal property. I encourage and support the use of dogs for mountain lion hunting I believe it is not only manageable but needed. Thank you. Bob Bertolotto, Meade County Commissioner, Sturgis SD. This message is my opinion and not the position of Meade Co Government and should not regarded as such..

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Use of dogs on private land.

From: roscos@rushmore.com [mailto:roscos@rushmore.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 6:50 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Use of dogs on private land.

My name is Ross Rohde. As a former president of the South Dakota Houndsmen Assc. and the present treasurer I would like to let the commissioners know that I am in favor of the use of dogs on private land for tracking mountain lions. I think this would be a great tool for the land owners that need assistance in the removal of a problem cat or a cat that could potentially pose a threat on their land. Thanks for your consideration in this matter. Ross Rohde, Rapid City, SD.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain Lion Hunting with Dogs outside of the BH Fire Protection District

From: travis@dodgetowninc.com [mailto:travis@dodgetowninc.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 3:27 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion Hunting with Dogs outside of the BH Fire Protection District

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing you to express my concern with the mountain lion numbers not only in the Black Hills but on the prairie and edges of the Black Hills as well. Not surprisingly the numbers of mountain lions on the prairie seems to continue to increase year after year. Being that they are mostly young to middle age male cats being spotted on the prairie in my opinion adds to the lasting debate on the numbers of mountain lions in the Black Hills. They are getting run out of the hills by the dominant males, and I personally think that by using dogs in the Black Hills the prairie numbers would decrease because these young males would not be run out by the dominant Males.

But being that the use of dogs in the black hills fire protection district is unlikely in the near future, I believe by allowing the use of dogs outside of the black hills, we as avid hunters/ conservationists could help keep the prairie mountain lion numbers down before they elevate like the Black Hills population has. I know many landowners have lost calves and a variety of other livestock to mountain lions and believe this would by far be the best method of conservation to keep numbers in line. As of now there is no reason to protect the mountain lions on the prairie when we are already protecting the black hills population. The increasing numbers on the prairie can also devastate deer populations which takes away from a long lasting tradition of deer hunting in South Dakota as well as the potential SDGFP revenue from deer hunters.

By allowing dogs outside of the Black Hills we can keep the lion numbers in check as well as provide future oportunities to deer hunters and eliminate livestock loss.

Feel free to contact me with any questions!

Thanks,

Travis Theel
Rapid City, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain Lion Season

From: Chris Wells [mailto:wells.bells5@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 03, 2014 6:50 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion Season

Hello, My name is Christopher Alan Wells from Custer, SD. I would like to express my strong support for legalizing the use of hounds for Mountain Lion hunting in South Dakota. A hunter working behind hounds gets an opportunity to determine sex, age, and weight. A hunter "spot and stalking" or calling may only get a glimpse of a lion giving him/her very little time to assess the situation and decide if the lion is too small, etc. Hound hunting is a very old tradition in our country and I would love to pass my passion for dogs and hounds on to my children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Use of Hounds to hunt cougars outside Custer State Park

From: The Cougar Fund [<mailto:info@cougarfund.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 4:04 PM

To: SDGFINFO

Subject: Use of Hounds to hunt cougars outside Custer State Park

Dear Secretary Vonk,

The Cougar Fund is a national organization that seeks to protect mountain lions and other large carnivores through education, advocacy and the promotion of sound science.

I would like to start with a very sincere compliment about SDGFP. I have had interaction with various members of your staff over the past eighteen months. I would like to share with you that I have been treated with dignity and respect on every occasion. This is a sign of the professionalism that you must inspire as Secretary of SDGFP, and a sign that each staff member is an asset who positively represents your department.

As an advocacy organization we obviously do not agree on every matter, but our dialog has been productive because of the mutual respect we have enjoyed.

Thank you very much for adding the Gender and Age Educational Resource for hunters. We hope, as I am sure you do, that it will, in some small way, eliminate the mistaken harvest of kittens and females with dependent kittens.

My main reason for writing to you today is to urge you not to be swayed by political pressure in the matter of Representative Betty Olson's request to expand hound hunting. Mrs Olson has been quite clear in asserting that hound hunting is needed to prevent depredation losses in her region. However, the SDGFP Damage Management Report has **NO RECORD of CONFIRMED MOUNTAIN LION DEPREDATIONS for Butte, Perkins and Harding Counties.**

I appreciate the sincere desire of livestock growers to protect both their animals and their revenue. Methods of non-lethal deterrence are more important than ever, as mankind continues to encroach upon, and fragment wild habitat.

I ask you to please reinforce that SDGFP responds to 'facts' when they make their decisions. In this case there do not seem to be any facts to support the use of hounds.

Thank you for your kind attention to this request. Please feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of assistance.

Respectfully,

Penny Maldonado
Managing Director
The Cougar Fund
penny@cougarfund.org

Ascher, Debra

From: Randy Meyer <hazard029@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 8:42 PM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: support of lion hunting with dogs

I support hunting mt lions with dogs in the state of south Dakota I think it would help to not kill so many females my name is randy meyer and I live in oacoma south dakota

Ascher, Debra

From: info@norcalarts.com
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 10:47 AM
To: Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; hpd@nvc.net; Peterson, Cathy; Vonk, Jeff; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Hound Hunting of Cougars

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

Sincerely,

Kathleen Taugher

Sonoma, California

Ascher, Debra

From: hotmail.com, kalligirl76
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 3:55 PM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Hunting with dogs in South Dakota

I support the use of dogs for hunting in South Dakota.

Regards,
Kalli Vasknetz
1230 Shephard Street
Sturgis, SD 57785

Ascher, Debra

From: GFP Admin Rules
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 8:58 PM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Comment on : GFP 2014 December Proposals - 2015 January Finals

Name: ron merwin

Address: po box 195

City: piedmont

State: sd

Zip: 57769

Email: rmerwin@meadecounty.com

Phone:

Comment: I am in support of using dogs to hunt mountain lions. as the Meade county sheriff I see the damage caused by lions at times. I do not see a down side of using dogs to hunt lions. outside the national forest is all private land and would have a level of approval thru landowners permission. thus creating a personal choice. please support. Ron Merwin

Date: January 12, 2015
To: South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commissioners
From: Ron Pray
Box 200
Deadwood, SD 57732
605-580-5231

RE: Hound Hunting of Mountain Lions

I urge you to set aside the narrow special interest of hound hunters. Having hounds chase a lion up a tree where the hunter takes an easy shot is not a sport. This places an unfair advantage with the hunter and it is unnecessary because the traditional foot hunt has an adequate harvest. The hounds, especially if not trained well, will kill mountain lion kittens, which is not a desired outcome. I hope your decisions are based on science, reliable data, and collective research. Mountain Lions are beneficial to the ecosystem. A balanced approach to hunting is important for preservation of this magnificent predator.

Ron Pray
Box 200
Deadwood, SD 57732
605-580-5231

Ascher, Debra

From: Nicole and Timothy Edmonds <maroni6286@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 4:39 PM
To: GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Opposing South Dakota Hound Hunts for Mountain Lions

My name is Nicole Edmonds and my city of residence is Prescott Valley, Arizona. I oppose South Dakota Hound Hunts for Mountain Lions. Shooting a frightened and exhausted animal is not humane and it a cruel outdated sport.

I am asking that you vote "NO" on South Dakota Hound Hunts.

Hunting lions only increases conflicts.

Ranchers already have the legal ability to kill lions threatening their property.

Loose domestic dogs (like those used in hound hunting) cause more damage to livestock than wild predators.

Hounding has been banned in two-thirds of the United States. This is an archaic and cruel practice for both wild animals and domestic dogs and it should be banned in all States.

Nicole Edmonds

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hunting Mountain Lions with dogs

From: Mark Carstensen [<mailto:mcc4909051@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 12:53 PM

To: SDGFPINFO

Subject: Hunting Mountain Lions with dogs

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the Commissioners to vote in favor of allowing hunting dogs when hunting mountain lions. I think that it makes sense in such a strong property rights state and also for the fact that the number of lions seem to be growing a lot and we are even seeing interactions with them inside of towns and cities. Thank you for allowing the input.

Mark C. Carstensen
Sturgis SD 57785

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: hound hunting

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

From: rdennis@gwtc.net [mailto:rdennis@gwtc.net]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 1:01 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: hound hunting

I am writing to express my support for the Proposal to allow the use of hounds in hunting mountain lions outside the Black Hills. Extreme pressure from the anti lion hunting crowd, many of whom were from out of state, managed to get the proposed legislation defeated narrowly in the Senate last year, after it had been passed with overwhelming support in the House. Please do not allow a similar outcome this year. It is a sad state of affairs when folks from hundreds and thousands of miles away from South Dakota are able to dictate policies in South Dakota that do not directly affect them in any meaningful way. Their desire to have South Dakota be the breeding source population of mountain lions to recolonize much of the rest of the United States ignores the serious social and economic impacts of excessive predation on both wildlife and livestock in South Dakota. Please vote yes on this proposal.

Thank you.

Robert Dennis
Red Owl SD 57787

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: For Commission Input: Opposed to Hunting Mountain Lions with Dogs

From: Gail Ferris [<mailto:ferris39@centurylink.net>]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 2:17 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: For Commission Input: Opposed to Hunting Mountain Lions with Dogs

First I want to thank the Commission for all the great lion hunting in SD . *I hunted several years with no success but had great hunts..Have a bad back so no hunting in last 4 years. Lions are the greatest trophy in SD Hunting today. Just hope we aren't killing too many so we hurt hunting for the future!*

I'm very much opposed to dog hunting any lions in SD. These are my reasons:

1. Why should just a handful of people have a chance to kill lots of lions in the area east of the Hills. If they can hunt year round those hounds will kill young cubs at will!
2. Trespass will be bad, what do they do if the hounds go on someone's land and tree a cat, the hounds won't come back ,so someone trespasses to go get them.
3. They want this so it can become a big Dollar deal for people to come and shoot a lion \$1000 to \$5000. NO one will be allowed to hunt a lion there without big bucks!
4. What sport is there to shoot a lion out of a tree, that can't come down or get away in any way! It's fun to see, track, or call a lion, then be lucky enough to bag one, all in fair chase!
5. I hear that the lions are killing all the deer, well we must have a lot, of deer as several cities are shooting deer at night with a light. Some feed the deer to get them in to shoot , I feel that's very wrong!
6. I hear lions are such a danger to people, what about dogs-no lion has bit any one in SD. No lion has killed anyone in SD. Dogs bite lots of people every year, dogs killed a girl in SD this year, so do we hunt dogs instead of lions because they are a greater risk?
7. Dog hunters have lots of states to hunt in with large areas of public land they can hunt. They may not have as many lions per mile as SD, but that's because they are hunted with dogs all the time.

In conclusion: we have a great trophy hunt in SD and let's keep it that way. The people don't want dogs hunting lions anywhere in our state. I've spoken to lots of people about this and 2 out of about 50 were in favor and all the other people were against all dog hunting , even in Custer state Park. That should be stopped also!

For clarification on any of my concerns, or any other questions, please contact me. I would welcome the opportunity to visit further. Thank you!

Mike Ferris
Pierre, SD 57501

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain lion season

From: mike [mailto:sneez_98@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 3:01 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain lion season

Hello my name is mike Sneesby from lead, I'm writing this email in favor of letting dogs be allowed to chase mountain lions both on the prairie and in the black hills forest district. There is no way to control a population with these animals without dogs and being selective on what you shoot IE (kittens, young females). Why are we the only state bowing down to outside sources, and feeling the pressure from certain groups??? This needs to happen, they have fought the good fight and now it is time to surrender, let the dogs loose!!!! Thank you

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain Lions

From: John Simpson [<mailto:jrsimpson@pie.midco.net>]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 6:05 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lions

I oppose the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting outside the black hills:

Too great a chance of trespass

Would hounds chase bobcats?

Don't believe it's an ethical hunt.

Lions are too worthy and significant a trophy to deserve to be treed to be shot.

Severely limits average hunter for the chance to bag a lion.

Seems likely that a significant % of problem lions outside the hills are nearly as easily removed w/o hounds.

Pierre, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain lion hunting

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

From: Teri Kinsley [<mailto:terikinsley@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 10:23 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain lion hunting

I support mountain lion hunting with dogs.

Teri Kinsley

Murdo, SD 57559

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hounds for Lions outside BH Forest

Importance: High

From: Paul Sheets [<mailto:sheetsp@wescomm.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 9:14 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hounds for Lions outside BH Forest

Importance: High

SDGF&P Commission, please consider the use of hounds to harvest mountain lions outside the BH Forest District. Over just this recent year there has been several lions that have attack horses in the Rapid Valley area and have never been found. With the use of hounds we may be able to harvest/kill these lions that are never found until they strike again.

-VR-

Paul Sheets
Rapid City, SD 57703

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Supporting use of hounds for mountain lion hunting

From: gwtc.net, jjtsshaw

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 11:39 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Supporting use of hounds for mountain lion hunting

To: South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

As landowners in Meade County, SD, we support the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting outside of the Black Hills.

This fall of 2014, a mountain lion was sighted on our ranch at about 11:00 a.m. near our homes, barns and corrals. This was at a time that we had recently weaned our calves. We also have young children that play in this area. As landowners, we would appreciate the choice to have a mountain lion tracked by trained dogs and an experienced hunter.

We also see a mountain lion hunting season with the use of hounds as a great economic opportunity for our state.

Sincerely,
James H. Shaw, Jr.
Jodene Shaw
White Owl, South Dakota

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Re. petition to expand the use of hounds ...

From: Adrian M. Forrette [mailto:amforrette@rushmore.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 11:33 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Re. petition to expand the use of hounds ...

Dear Governor Dennis Daugaard, Secretary Kelly Hepler, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commissioners:

A recent proposal to expand the use of hunting mountain lions with hounds seems a betrayal of the dedicated professionals at the SDGF&P who are charged with the protection of wildlife. I know people pretty well. I am willing to bet that every professional at the SDGF&P was initially drawn to the Agency because he or she loves the outdoors and animals, because he or she loves freedom. (Almost a description of the noble mountain lion, itself.)

But let's be forthright about something: Isn't Brad Tisdale, with his petition, asking the state to sponsor torture and environmental terrorism?

Please find below a more expansive and guiding perspective to which reasonable people can aspire:

"We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals. Remote from universal nature, and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creature through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth."

Henry Beston, 1928
The Outermost House

Sincerely,
Adrian M. Forrette

119 So. Berry Pine Rd.
Rapid City, SD 57702

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain Lion Hunting

From: JacQui Kouf [mailto:pinkhairglue@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 11:55 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion Hunting

Hunting these cats like this is gross on many levels. This is not a management solution.

1. Studies show that with high levels of lion hunting the opposite occurs: both complaints and livestock losses increase dramatically in the year that follows because heavy hunting on a mountain lion population destabilizes it. When the older members are killed off, young male lions immigrate in and take their place. These young lions are unskilled hunters. They are more likely to cause complaints and livestock depredations.
2. Killing lions to satisfy landowners will not work. Because dogs cannot recognize boundary lines, property owners are disturbed by trespassing packs of dogs onto their private property. Packs of dogs disturb not only people, livestock, and family dogs but also other wildlife. Dog packs on private property are a major source of conflict.
3. South Dakota's severe quotas *and* unlimited hunting on our tiny mountain lion population is not responsible wildlife management. Wildlife are required to be managed for all of the people, not just some of them.
4. To protect breeding females and their dependent kittens, several states have adopted hunter education programs. This is an excellent way to conserve and protect breeding females and prevent cruel kitten orphaning.
See: <http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/MountainLion.aspx>. Rather than expand hounding hunting opportunities, GFP should adopt similar programs.

Thank you!

Jacqui Kouf

Brookings, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Using hounds to hunt mountain lions

From: Larry Nelson <linranch@sdplains.com>

Date: January 10, 2015, 10:15:35 AM CST

To: <wildinfo@state.sd.us>

Cc: <doug.hofer@state.sd.us>

Subject: Using hounds to hunt mountain lions

To the South Dakota Game Commission

I support using dogs to hunt mountain lions, as long as permission has been given by all private land owners in the area to be hunted. I raise sheep in Harding County and have years of experience dealing with fox and coyote predation. Every tool is needed to keep predation losses from causing economic harm to livestock producers. Many ranchers in my area have quit raising sheep because predation loss is simply too costly to continue. If lions begin killing livestock, using dogs looks to me like the fastest and most economical way to stop the problem. In northwest South Dakota, private, state, BLM and National Grasslands lands are all commingled in ranching operations. Therefore, to be effective, state and federal lands have to be open to lion hunting with dogs. I also support hunting with dogs during lion hunting seasons.

Larry Nelson
Buffalo, SD 57720

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Comment on proposal to expand hound hunting of mountain lions
Attachments: HSUS-SD-LionComments.pdf; PeeblesWielgus2013-pumaDepredations.pdf

From: Darci Adams [<mailto:dadams@humanesociety.org>]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 8:18 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Comment on proposal to expand hound hunting of mountain lions

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and our supporters in South Dakota, I submit the attached comments in opposition to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Park's proposal to expand hound hunting of mountain lions statewide, specifically all areas outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darci Adams
South Dakota State Director, State Affairs
dadams@humanesociety.org
PO Box 733 Hartford, SD 57033
t 605.595.4860

The Humane Society of the United States
2100 L Street NW Washington, DC 20037
humanesociety.org

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January 12, 2015

John Cooper, Chair
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission
523 East Capital Avenue, Pierre SD 57501
wildinfo@state.sd.us

Re: Proposal to Expand Hound Hunting of Mountain Lions Statewide

Dear Commissioner Cooper:

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our supporters in South Dakota, The HSUS submits the following comments in opposition to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Park's (GFP's) proposal to expand hound hunting of mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) statewide.

According to the best available science, none of GFP's stated goals (responding to landowner requests, preventing threats to landowners, and improving hunter-landowner relationships) can be achieved through sport hunting lions with packs of trailing hounds. In fact, studies show that with high levels of hunting the opposite occurs: both complaints and livestock losses increase dramatically in the year that follows. Furthermore, landowners are frequently disturbed by dog packs trespassing onto their private property, which can be a major source of conflict (see e.g., Hristienko and McDonald 2007).

The HSUS also remains concerned about the high rates of mountain lion offtake in South Dakota. The current course is simply unsustainable, and will have negative consequences not only for our state's fragile lion population, but contribute to the increase in complaints and livestock losses.

I. Mountain Lions Must be Conserved for all South Dakotans

South Dakota's mountain lions are an important component of our natural wild heritage, and deserve reasoned management so that their populations are conserved for future generations—including for all stakeholders (Jacobson et al. 2010, Nelson et al. 2011). Large-bodied carnivores such as mountain lions require adequate prey and freedom from the threat of human persecution in order to persist (Noss et al. 1996). But that freedom does not exist for lions in South Dakota.

South Dakota officials have instituted severe quotas (this season alone: 75 animals or 50 females, whichever comes first) on a tiny, nascent mountain lion population that numbers well under 250 individuals, and this number includes adults, subadults and kittens. On top of that, other sources of mortality are not counted towards the quota and the state permits unlimited, year-round killing outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District. In short, the level of offtake imposed on South Dakota's lion population is reckless, dangerous, irresponsible and a complete abdication of its duty to manage wildlife in the public's trust.

Because the major source of lion mortality comes from sport hunting (Cougar Management Guidelines 2005), we ask the GFP commission to take no action to expand hound hunting statewide. Instead, we encourage better stewardship of South Dakota's mountain lions by drastically reducing the quota after GFP makes a sound population estimate of its adult animals. Failure to take these steps will continue to increase complaints and livestock losses, the opposite goal the GFP seeks.

II. Sport Hunting Lions Increases Complaints and Livestock Losses

A Washington state study shows that as mountain lion complaints increased, wildlife officials lengthened seasons and increased bag limits to respond to what they believed was a rapidly growing mountain lion population. However, the public's perception of an increasing population and greater numbers of livestock depredations was actually a result of a declining female and increasing male population (Peebles et al. 2013, citing Lambert et al. 2006 and Robinson et al. 2008). Heavy hunting of lions caused compensatory immigration and emigration by young male lions, and resulted in no net change in the population (Ibid.).

Study authors found that the sport hunting of cougars to reduce complaints and livestock depredations had the opposite effect. Killing lions disrupts their social structure and increases both complaints and livestock depredations (Peebles et al. 2013). Peebles et al. (2013, p. 6) write:

... each additional cougar on the landscape increased the odds of a complaint of livestock depredation by about 5%. However, contrary to expectations, each additional cougar killed on the landscape increased the odds by about 50%, or an order of magnitude higher. By far, hunting of cougars had the greatest effects, but not as expected. Very heavy hunting (100% removal of resident adults in 1 year) increased the odds of complaints and depredations in year 2 by 150% to 340%.

The reason is because hunting disrupts lions' sex-age structure and tilts a population to one that is comprised of younger males, who are more likely to engage in livestock depredations than animals in stable, older population (Peebles et al. 2013).

Other researchers have found the same: sport hunting changes the demographics (sex and age) and density of a mountain lion population (Lambert et al. 2006, Stoner et al. 2006, Robinson et al. 2008, Cooley et al. 2009a, Cooley et al. 2009b). If the mountain lion in a home range is removed or killed, the vacancy likely will attract a younger, dispersing animal (Lambert et al. 2006).

Therefore, both South Dakota's drastic sport hunting coupled with indiscriminate predator-control programs can easily destabilize the mountain lion population, which leads to increased conflicts with humans and livestock (Lambert et al. 2006, Peebles et al. 2013).

III. Request for Revised Mountain Lion Management:

South Dakota can achieve better science-based management if it uses sound science to determine its mountain lion population size, develop a credible management plan, and protect breeding females and their kittens from orphaning and subsequent starvation.

Mountain lions generally occur in low densities because they are obligate carnivores, meaning it is essential for them to eat meat (not unlike domestic cats), and their food is patchily distributed (Logan and Sweanor 2001). In South Dakota, the climate is severe, arid, and can support few lions. Contrary to myth, South Dakota mountain lions are rare on the landscape because of their energetic needs and their unsocial nature. To ensure management that proactively protects and conserves lions, we suggest the GFP take the following steps:

a. Estimate lion populations. The most reliable method to derive lion populations is from radio-telemetry studies (Cougar Management Guidelines 2005, p. 44).

- The Cougar Management Guidelines (2005) provide this caution: *Density estimates from one study area can only be extrapolated cautiously to larger areas including regions or entire states because most researchers study cats where they are the most abundant (areas that are atypical), and in the best available lion habitats.* Extrapolation to larger areas fails to accommodate changes in vegetation, land use, topography, and management history (p. 47-8).
- Population trends must be determined using reliable methodologies; however, *sightings, depredation events, and kill levels are not reliable means to indexing a population* (Cougar Management Guidelines 2005, p. 48-50).
- Beausoleil et al. (2013) suggest that wildlife managers use a density of 1.7 lions/100 km² if managers cannot afford to conduct a marked, recapture study.

b. Set Sustainable Quotas Based upon Science. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists suggest a harvest of no more than 14% of the resident *adults* to avoid overkill of lions (Beausoleil et al. 2013). But after a ten-year study of hunting mountain lions on the Uncompahgre Plateau, Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists found that an offtake amount of 15% on that population resulted in a population decline, but shifting offtake to 11 to 12% caused a cessation of that decline (Logan 2014).

South Dakota must keep in mind that hunter mortality is additive to various forms of other mortality including intraspecific strife; prey-pursuit injuries; motor-vehicle collisions; predator control; poaching; and disease, and GFP needs to account for these additional mortality sources when setting hunting quotas (see: Beausoleil et al. 2013).

c. Protect breeding females and dependent kittens. Anderson and Lindzey (2005) write, “adult females provide the resiliency in a population that allows it to respond to loss of members” (p. 187). Breeding females must be conserved to protect the species. Several states have instituted mandatory hunter education courses so that hunters can reliably determine the sex of individuals to spare breeding females and prevent kitten orphaning and slow starvation. View the Colorado Parks and Wildlife program here: <http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/MountainLion.aspx>.

A female mountain lion is not sexually mature until she is between 27 and 29 months old (Cougar Management Guidelines 2005). They produce few kittens. A mother will give birth to approximately three kittens every two years (Cougar Management Guidelines 2005). Females spend between 12 and 24 months raising and provisioning for their kittens. Kittens are totally reliant upon their mother until they are at least six months old,¹ but may be wholly dependent for up to nine months and even beyond. In new research, biologists suggest that kittens up to 12 months of age are likely incapable of dispatching prey animals on their own (Elbroch and Quigley 2012).

Hunter harvest results not only in the death of a mother cat but has an additive effect of causing kitten orphaning and starvation and population reduction (Robinson et al. 2014). Contrary to popular perception, the killing of male cougars does not increase the survival of females or increase productivity on a population (Wielgus et al. 2014). Study results showed that hunting males caused an overall decline in the population through the loss of fecundity, the indirect loss of kittens and juveniles (through infanticide), and on females themselves (because they too have greater chance of being hunted) (Wielgus et al. 2014). To conserve mountain lions, the state must take action to conserve females. As the best available literature indicates, protecting females means taking a far more conservative approach to hunting lions. Keeping the age structure of the lion population older means more stability and less migration of younger, male lions. The results: better protections for landowners from livestock depredations and it will reduce complaints, the goal the GFP is trying to achieve.

IV. Conclusion:

The HSUS opposes the GFP’s proposal to expand hound hunting of mountain lions statewide because such actions will not achieve the state’s goal to placate landowners and livestock growers. According to the best available science, high levels of hunting increase complaints and livestock losses. Private landowners will be disturbed by dog packs trespassing onto their private property. The state’s high offtake rate of mountain lions in South Dakota is harmful to lions, to people and to livestock and must be remediated.

...

¹ “Kittens are generally able to climb to avoid dogs at about 3 months of age, but kittens orphaned when they are 6 months old have a less than 5% chance of survival, and most die from starvation” (Cougar Management Guidelines Working Group 2005), p. 78.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 605-595-4860 or dadams@humansociety.org.

Sincerely,

Darci Adams, South Dakota State Director

Attached and inserted into the administrative record:

The Peebles et al. (2013) study.

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Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: mountain lion

From: Randy Hallock [<mailto:rtl@knology.net>]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 3:59 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion

I for one need to be counted on authorizing hound hunting for mountain lions on a state wide basis.

Thanks,

Randy Hallock
605-490-1900 cell
rtl@knology.net

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Proposal to allow use of Hounds to hunt Mountain Lions

From: Cathleen [mailto:lildiamond_cf@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 8:46 PM

Cathleen A. Plaza, Spearfish, SD 57783

To Whom it May Concern,

I write to you in regards to the proposal to allow the use of hounds in hunting of Mountain Lion outside of the Black Hills. I am opposed to this proposal for the following reasons:

-The overall population of our state's Big Game cat is dwindling. This is evidenced by the fact that in the 2014 Mountain Lion season, the 75 big-cat kill limit fell short by 22 mountain lions by the close of the season with 53 taken. 39 cats were taken in 2013, short of the limit of 100. Years of consistent low harvest rates despite prime conditions speaks volumes about the population of Mountain Lion in the Black Hills, which directly translates to population rates throughout the state. (Source: SDGFP website; Rapid City journal article dated 4/2/14, retrieved from http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/hunters-miss-mountain-lion-kill-limit-despite-prime-conditions-thousands/article_6b35dda3-092b-5eb6-80df-3eb9e867a602.html)

-The high limit of females that are currently allowed to be harvested places severe pressure on the population. The use of hounds would only be beneficial to this problem if harvest numbers included severe restrictions on numbers of female lions being allowed and perhaps a minimum weight limit on harvested males.

-The widespread use of hounds hunting a population under pressure would wreck havoc on the genetic diversity of the South Dakota Mountain Lion population, as males migrate far distances to find a mate. If hounds are then used to track these males who are simply roaming through our prairies and grasslands, they will not be able to pass on their genes as readily. Instead, we would likely see a few males in the Hills as the sires of the young cubs, rather than a natural influx of new genes from other males.

-The idea of fair chase is integral to hunting. The use of hounds is not consistent, in terms of fair chase, in my mind. The use of lions will only increase harvest rates. The lion population, as it currently stands, cannot stand this increased pressure.

I implore South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks to evaluate the population as it currently stands after the current season ends in 2015. I hope that in seasons to come, the Mountain Lion quota will be reduced to help the population level off as numbers of lions living in South Dakota has been on the decline, as evidenced by the decreasing number of lions being harvested along with increasing numbers of non-hunting fatalities (vehicles, etc.).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input in this important matter. There is nothing more wild in our state than our resident Mountain Lions, and I for one want to keep sharing this beautiful state with a healthy Mountain Lion population that may be enjoyed for generations to come.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Yes, on hunting mountain lions with dogs

From: crblake@sdplains.com [mailto:crblake@sdplains.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 7:34 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Yes, on hunting mountain lions with dogs

I am a rancher in southwest Harding County and have been having problems with a lion or lions spooking my live stock. I have also been coming up short young livestock that I suspect is a lion killing and dragging them off as we can't find the carcasses. The lions are also taking a big toll on wildlife up here. I would ask you to let us use dogs to try to get these cats. We need to be able to use them on both private and public lands on a year round basis.

Thank You

Clark Blake
Belle Fourche, SD. 57717

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: No Hound Hunting

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

From: CLAY.BAUMUNG@forces.gc.ca [mailto:CLAY.BAUMUNG@forces.gc.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 1:25 PM

To: GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules

Subject: No Hound Hunting

- * Hunting lions only increases conflicts.
- * Ranchers already have the legal ability to kill lions threatening their property.
- * Loose domestic dogs (like those used in hound hunting) cause more damage to livestock than wild predators.
- * Hounding has been banned in two-thirds of the United States. This is an archaic and cruel practice for both wild animals and domestic dogs that should be banned in our state. But until that time, hunters wishing to use dogs to tree lions are still permitted to do so in Custer State Park.
- * Hound hunting guides make good money and are a very vocal group. But make no mistake, this is an archaic and cruel practice for both wild animals and domestic dogs that should be banned in our state.

Clay Baumung

Pierre, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound Hunting of Mountain Lions

From: Jan Zinkl [<mailto:sionilli33@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 2:02 PM

To: GFP Wild Info; Jan Zinkl

Subject: Hound Hunting of Mountain Lions

I was upset to hear that you are considering continuing the practice of using hounds to hunt mountain lions. This is an unecological practice, as the animals are chased and killed without regard for age or sex. In my mind, it is also immoral as the animals are not killed to be eaten - just as trophies. Another aspect of hound hunting is the potential danger to the dogs - something also to be considered. I realize that the guides for these hunts are well organized, however, in 2013, Colorado earned only \$167,000 in selling lion tags. I don't think it is that much of a money maker for South Dakota, either. Please stop it.

Thank you for your attention.

Jan Zinkl
Denver, CO 80224

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hunting with dogs

From: aol.com, <mailto:X19fiat@aol.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 1:54 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hunting with dogs

I read in the paper that a proposal has been made to hunt mountain lions with dogs. I am very much against this and I will explain why. I bought land in Wyoming for my son and I to hunt. It is in a subdivision of a large ranch with the smallest lot being 35 acres. I bought 66 acres. We have posted the land around the entire boundary. We had cat signs on our property and got him on a trail cam. We have been hunting with a call from a blind. One of our neighbors, 4 miles away, on this subdivision, gave a hunter with dogs permission to hunt. The entire subdivision is posted for land owners only hunting. They treed and killed 2 cats on my property. I have spent \$800 on tags and now have very little chance of getting a cat this year. Here is the problem. DOGS CANNOT READ "NO TRESPASSING" SIGNS. It is impossible for hunters to keep their dogs from trespassing on private property. And many dog hunters do not care if they trespass.

I realize that hunting with dogs is a fun sport, but they cannot trespass on private property. Even on public property they put other hunters at a great disadvantage. Maybe this could be reflected in the cost of the license. Or split the season with dog hunters for one month only.

Thanks for your consideration.

Gary Renner
1220 North Third Street
Spearfish, SD 57783
605-381-2808

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Proposed Use Of Hounds To Hunt Mountain Lions

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

From: Evelyn Hyde [mailto:dchhyde@pie.midco.net]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 2:49 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Proposed Use Of Hounds To Hunt Mountain Lions

Honorable Game Commission:

I OPPOSE the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions because:

- 1) The chase will encourage trespass.
- 2) Not every hunter has lion hounds; therefore, encouraging guided hunts.
- 3) Fair chase has always been the honorable method of hunting in South Dakota.
- 4) Hounds will also chase other wild game when the option presents itself.

Thanks For Considering My Beliefs,

Dean A. Hyde

Pierre, SD 57501

1-8-15

To whom it may concern

my name is Bruce Blair I own 4,000 acres of
Cross land 1 mile east of Tiffard off 1-90 exit 40
the ranch name is Black Hills Herford Ranch.

I am writing this note in favor of using dogs
to hunt lions on private property. just last month
after a fresh snow there was lion tracks through
my building site. It would be nice to be able
to call someone that have dogs to track the
the lion at that time.

Thanks for your time

Bruce Blair

RECEIVED

JAN 12 2015

Game, Fish & Parks
Pierre, SD 57501

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: hounds for hunting mountain lion

From: hgblumer@gmail.com [mailto:hgblumer@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 2:34 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: hounds for hunting mountain lion

I am totally against the use of using a dog to hunt for mountain lions. Number one the dog could get injured or killed, and the most important subject is that if someone wants to be a hunter than he/she should use their hunting skills and not cheat with using a dog to track down a mountain lion. They should have to track down the lion with what their skills are as a hunter.

We do not use dogs for TRACKING anything else I know of. We use dogs to fetch a pheasant/duck/goose etc but using a dog to TRACK shows that a hunter has no skills and only wants to kill/shoot animals and not have to work for it.

Please voice my opinion of this matter

Holly Blumer
Rapid City, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Hounds and lion hunting

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

From: Wade Yost [<mailto:tl.yost@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 9:04 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hounds and lion hunting

I am Wade Yost and I am sending a message in regards to the use of hounds and using them for hunting lions. As a rancher myself, I strongly support this. We are trying to make a living for our families and trying to raise beef for the public. Mountain lions are very detrimental to the beef cattle industry when they get into a group of new pairs or around a group of cattle. They can do a lot of damage in a very short amount of time. I hope that you guys take the ranchers and livestock into consideration when you are making your decision about whether or not to use dogs in the controlling of mountain lions outside of the hills.

Thanks for your help. My address is:

Wade Yost

Ree Heights, SD 57371

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: ARSD 41:06:61:06 Use of Hounds for Mt Lion Hunting outside of Black Hills Fire District

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

From: carcity@mitchelltelecom.net [mailto:carcity@mitchelltelecom.net]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 5:25 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: ARSD 41:06:61:06 Use of Hounds for Mt Lion Hunting outside of Black Hills Fire District

Dear Secretary of Game Fish & Parks,

I would like to express my support of the amendment to allow the use of dogs to be used to hunt Mt Lions year round in all areas of the state located outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

This would allow the land owners that encounter problem lions to take care of the problem with little effort. This would also eliminate all liability and administrative costs associated with dealing with such issues. In the wildlife damage report for 2014 the state received 36 calls, drove 9068 miles, 941 hours, and spent \$39,536 to deal with problem mt lion issues.

In addition, I would like to express my support for the use of dogs to hunt Mt lions state wide. Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, and New Mexico all allow the use of dogs to hunt Mt Lions. The reason they do is because it is the only method that is effective in controlling a booming population. I personally spend over \$10,000 per year to travel to other states that allow the use of dogs to hunt Mt Lions. I do this because of my love for the sport. South Dakota is really missing out on additional revenues because we do not allow the use of dogs.

I believe there should be a quota system as there is in place now. The use of dogs would make sure that the quota is met each year to sustain a healthy population.

I would be happy to visit with you at any time. Please call me if you have any questions 605-999-9233.

Sincerely,
Wade Musick
Mitchell, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: use of dogs to hunt mountain lions outside of the Black Hills

From: David Utter [<mailto:d62utter@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 12:27 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: use of dogs to hunt mountain lions outside of the Black Hills

I am writing in support of the rule change. I think that allowing the use of dogs to hunt mountain lions outside of the black hills will increase the recreation opportunities for hunters and houndsmen. Landowners will have another tool available to keep predators numbers in balance.

I would like to be able to hunt lions with dogs outside of the Black Hills.

Submitted respectfully by,

David Utter
Piedmont, SD 57769

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: No hounds to hunt Lions!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From: cathy sotherland [<mailto:csblackhillsrealestate@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 1:07 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: No hounds to hunt Lions!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Please do not consider hunting lions with hounds! Not at all sporting!

Cathy Sotherland

Owner/Broker CNE, ABR, ACRE-SD

The Real Estate Group Hot Springs Properties, Inc

csblackhillsrealestate@yahoo.com

Office: (605) 745-7653

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: FW: Lion hunt

From: LYNN HETLET [<mailto:lynnhetlet@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 1:10 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Re: FW: Lion hunt

Lynn Allan Hetlet
Oral
SD 57766

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: LYNN HETLET [<mailto:lynnhetlet@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 10:40 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Lion hunt

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hounds on Lions

From: rolf [mailto:rhkraft@gwtc.net]

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

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hounds on Lions

I would only allow hounds to hunt lions if normal hunting does not provide adequate population control. Hound hunting compromises fair chase.

Rolf Kraft
Martin, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hounds used to hunt mountain lions

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

From: kevhans@nrctv.com [mailto:kevhans@nrctv.com]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 9:29 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hounds used to hunt mountain lions

Game Fish and Parks Commission:

The purpose of this email is to voice my support for the use of hounds while hunting mountain lions. Not only do I favor the use of hounds outside of the Black Hills, but I am in favor of being able to use them in the Black Hills as well. Using hounds allows a hunter to be extremely selective in the mountain lions they choose to harvest.

Thank you for considering my opinions. Please contact me should you have questions.

Respectfully,
Kevin J. Hansen
Zell, SD 57469

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hunting lions with hounds

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

From: Hotmail [mailto:NowAlive@hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 10:07 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hunting lions with hounds

I really hope you will consider allowing hounds to be used for Mountain Lion hunting. I thoroughly agree with the quote below by a rancher near Piedmont, SD.

"Using hounds is a big aid in hunting lions and would help livestock producers if a lion is his area. A corral of weaned calves is really at risk of being spooked and to break out. The lion may not directly kill a calf, but as you know breaking out can mean a whole set of calves being forever spooked and hard to handle, broken legs, calves out on the highway...ruined facilities. The option for using hounds gives the livestock producer another way to protect his investment and livelihood." Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Rem and Marla McGeorge. Ree Heights, SD

Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: HUNTING MTN LIONS

From: Neal McIntyre [<mailto:clarno42@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 7:03 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: HUNTING MTN LIONS

THE DEER HARVEST IN THE HILLS IS DOWN TO LESS THAN A QUARTER OF WHAT IT ONCE WAS, MTN LION HUNTING SHOULD INCREASED IN EVERY MANNER POSSIBLE TO CUT THERE NUMBERS BACK SHARPLY. I CONCUR WITH THE PETITION TO USE HOUNDS FOR HUNTING.

NEAL R. MCINTYRE
WINFRED, SD 57076

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mtn Lion Hunts & Dogs

From: Mike Brant [<mailto:mrbmrb8@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 8:55 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mtn Lion Hunts & Dogs

I think dogs should be allowed in mountain lion hunts in all parts of South Dakota. It's good for hunters. It's what other states are doing and those states that allow dogs don't have an overpopulation problem of lions and their deer and elk herds are healthier and better able to sustain themselves. There are too many lions in the Black Hills and too few deer and elk. Plus it gives hunters another opportunity to use their dogs with hunting. Thanks for your consideration.

Mike Brant
Piedmont, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Dogs for us in lion hunts...

From: Nick Haase [<mailto:nickhaase06@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 9:28 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Dogs for us in lion hunts...

Using dogs to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota should be allowed because other states do and I know a lot of my friends go to surrounding states to hunt them when they could hunt in our state. As a rancher I think it would be a great way to keep them in check so they are not so likely to kill livestock. A lot of ranches have dogs on them and if they have been hunted by dogs before they may not come around a ranch that has a dog around the place.

Nick Haase
Whitewood, SD 57793

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Use of Hounds in Hunting Mountain Lions

From: thomas schmitz [<mailto:tlsdip@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 5:30 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Use of Hounds in Hunting Mountain Lions

Dear SDGFP Commission - I am writing to ask that you deny the petition to allow expanded use of hounds in hunting mountain lions in SD. I am a longtime SD resident with a home in the Black Hills. There is no valid science to support this inhumane practice. The abuse of animals for sport/entertainment is being prohibited in more and more locations world wide. Civilized peoples do not permit this type of activity. Please don't let SD go down this unsavory path.

Sincerely,

Tom Schmitz
Deadwood SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound hunts for Mt. Lions

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

From: Jim Scull [mailto:jscull@scullconst.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 9:05 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hound hunts for Mt. Lions

I believe this proposal has merit and should be passed. I am a landowner of several hundred acres in the Black Hills and I see no problem with the hounds crossing my land if necessary and the hunters in fair chase. In fact I would welcome this as the lions now travel now around and through my ranch with no fear it seems. I have lost 4 barn cats to the lions or I assume this was the issue as I lost them all in a 1 month period. My wife is in great fear for her pet dog or she knows more cats will be lost to these fearless lions.

I feel if there are landowners who are opposed to the hounds crossing their lands these locations could be identified and the houndsman would know to avoid these areas. You must also remember there will not be a lot of hound hunting as few will be able to or be able to afford the care of hounds and have the desire to raise, train and manage the dogs to do this, consequently you will only be managing a handful of houndsmen and this could easily be regulated.

There are many hunters of the lions around my land now and I welcome them to keep the lions in check. It seems the deer population has been hit very hard by the excessive amount of lions in my area. I would like to see this controlled at a greater level.

This a wonderful opportunity for sportsman and is done in every other state which allows the hunting of Mt. Lions. It allows for a more selective harvest of cats. As I said, I would welcome the hunters to cross my land is support of fair chase lion hunting with hounds.

We obviously have an abundance of lions as they are now for populating the prairie land and even going out to surrounding states. They have been identified as from the Black Hills. This seems like it would be a much better control mechanism for the GFP to manage over abundance in select areas and problem cats as well.

I don't see the down side of allowing sportsman this opportunity. I encourage you to give it a try, I believe it would wok out just fine.

Jim Scull

Sent from my iPad

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain Lion Proposal

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

From: oonagh wood [mailto:oonagh@gwtc.net]

Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 12:41 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mountain Lion Proposal

People should be able to hunt with hounds both inside and outside of the Black Hills. This would result in a better kill of male lions and lessen the kill of immature lions and females. Most states that have lion hunts allow the use of dogs. I do not hunt lions and probably would not hunt with dogs even if I did hunt them. However, this is the logical way to hunt lions. There appear to be an increasing number of lions in the Pringle/Argyle area.

Respectfully submitted

Leonard Wood

P O Box 166

Pringle SD 57773

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Vote for MT. lion hunting w/dogs

From: darcy warren [mailto:warren_darcy@hotmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 7:54 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Vote for MT. lion hunting w/dogs

This is Jason Krick and I support hunting Mountain Lions with dogs.

Thank You Jason Krick Highmore South Dakota

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: hounds on mountain lions outside the park.

From: Dana DeWitt [<mailto:ddeWitt@mtmc.edu>]
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 6:26 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: hounds on mountain lions outside the park.

I support the use of hounds outside the park to control mountain lion populations. If the idea is to meet a quota of lions killed hounds are the most effective, safe and humane way to hunt mountain lions. I would also still include all other state approved methods of fair chase.

Sincerely,
Dana C. De Witt
Yankton

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: mountain lion hunting revised

From: Wendy Schmitz [mailto:wendymschmitz@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 5:27 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: mountain lion hunting revised

Dear South Dakota Game Fish & Parks Commission,

I am an environmentalist. I choose to live in South Dakota for its vast beauty, incredible wildlife, and open spaces. I enjoy hiking and take my dogs out on long walks every chance I get. When driving to and from work, I often stop my car and get out to take pictures of the beautiful sunrises/sunsets and meditate on how truly wonderful and peaceful it is here.

Many times while out walking in my subdivision in the Northern Hills, I hear gunfire close by and become concerned for my safety and the safety of my dogs. To be quite frank, I am a lot more afraid of my dogs or myself being injured or killed by a stray bullet or accidental fire than I am of being attacked by a mountain lion. Hunting disturbs me and my peace of mind but I know it is a fact of life out here in the Hills.

What I do not accept is hunting mountain lions with dogs. It is cruel for the dogs as well as the mountain lions and serves no real purpose except to satisfy a few hunters' craving to have a mountain lion trophy proudly displayed in their home. This is wrong. The hunters are not the only ones who love it here in the Hills. There are many who call the Hills home who care about the welfare of its wildlife and the importance of preserving it.

There is not a mountain lion problem in the Hills. Certainly not one that justifies allowing dogs to viciously hunt them down. The Mountain Lions are controlled by your commission during hunting season. The generous quotas already bring in a large portion of our lions yearly. We need to protect the few lions we have left. Please do not allow dogs when hunting mountain lions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Wendy M. Luedke

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hounds When Mountain Lion Hunting

From: Dr. Bob Woerman [<mailto:drbobw@alliancecom.net>]

Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 4:23 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hounds When Mountain Lion Hunting

Comment:

The use of hounds when hunting cougars or mountain lions gives the hunter a significant advantage compared to how cougars have been hunted in the past.

Success rate of cougar hunting should be much greater. Escape by the cougar will be much less compared to how they are currently hunted.

If hounds will be used to hunt cougars than cougar permits must be significantly reduced or the current population will be decimated. South Dakota will not have a cougar population to hunt.

It seems the current cougar population is about correct based on reports of cougars visiting out of place locations as compared to a few years ago. South Dakota must currently have a reduced manageable cougar population.

Thank you for an opportunity to reply about this topic prior to the upcoming meeting.

Dr. Bob Woerman

Brandon SD 57005

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: use of hounds for mountain lion hunting outside of the Black Hills

From: alliancecom.net, rsnow_hargus@alliancecom.net

Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 3:40 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: use of hounds for mountain lion hunting outside of the Black Hills

I am against the use of hounds for general mountain lion hunting outside of the Black Hills, with exceptions allowed in the case of a cat that presents a danger to livestock or humans.

Thank you,
Robin Snow
Renner, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: (No subject header)

From: Brenda Wolf [<mailto:adlekness@tnics.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 11:39 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: (No subject header)

I would like to see dogs used for Mountain Lion hunting outside of the Black Hills and in Eastern South Dakota for residents only.

Alan Dale Lekness

Sisseton, SD 57262

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: Use of Dogs Proposal

From: Arlin Stratmeyer [<mailto:astratmeyer@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 11:27 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Use of Dogs Proposal

Thank you for my opportunity to express support for the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions outside the Black Hills. I personally have experience in the use of dogs not only for hunting mountain lions, but the use of dogs for pheasants and ducks as well. Dogs certainly do afford the sportsman the opportunity for more success.

However, I have more experience hunting all three of these species **without** dogs than I do **with** dogs, and can say that hunting pheasants and ducks without dogs is much easier than hunting mountain lions without dogs. In fact if we consider the success percentage rate without dogs on all three of these species, it makes more sense to restrict us pheasant and duck hunters from the use of dogs, and allow the mountain lion hunters the privilege of using dogs. More and more people are becoming discouraged from hunting mountain lions due to the extreme handicap of not being able to use dogs. I personally would never consider even hunting outside the Black Hills for mountain lions if I couldn't use dogs. It would be a waste of my time. Please vote in favor of this proposal.

Thank you.

Arlin Stratmeyer

Rapid City, SD 57702

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Lions

From: Randy Schaefer [<mailto:randy.schaefer.l01q@statefarm.com>]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 4:12 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Lions

I do support hunting lions with hounds outside the Black Hills.

Randy Schaefer

Madison, SD 57042

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hunting with hounds

From: just deuts [mailto:ideutsch42@live.com]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 4:34 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hunting with hounds

Commission,

I believe hounds should be used everywhere including the blackhills. This is the only way to ensure only adult males are taken, and non lactating females. I feel there are way to many sub-adult and lactating females taken every year. This only contributes to "problem" cats. One way this could be done is with a lottery, similar to Custer State Park's season. Thanks for listening.

Justin Deutsch
Langford, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountain Lion Hunting

From: Katie Day [mailto:kinser0011@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 8:42 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mountain Lion Hunting

Dear Commission Members:

I urge you **not** to expand the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions on the prairie. My friends and family hunt and none of them believe in the unsporting practice of using hounds. Hounding is one of the cruelest methods of hunting and has no place in South Dakota's wildlife management plans. Hounding results in injuries or death to both mountain lions and hounds and makes kittens vulnerable to mauling, orphaning, and death and it also violates landowners' rights. Dogs cannot discern property boundaries, and will not obey "no trespassing" signs. No reasonable rules are in place to prevent unleashed hounds (whether hunting or training) from crossing on to private property, infringing on private landowners' rights.

Furthermore, there is no justification for this expansion of hound hunting, as there have been no confirmed depredations by mountain lions of pets or livestock outside of the Black Hills area. The SD Houndsmen Association petitioned SDGFP for this change simply to improve their business's bottom line. If some South Dakotans prefer this unsporting method of hunting it is currently allowed on a limited basis within Custer State Park, and I even question whether it should be allowed to take place there.

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

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

Sincerely,

Katie Day
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound Hunting Proposal

From: Steve Bulle [<mailto:ompetfarm@rapidnet.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 9:18 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hound Hunting Proposal

I am writing to express my support for the Proposal to allow the use of hounds in hunting mountain lions outside the Black Hills. Extreme pressure from the anti lion hunting crowd, many of whom were from out of state, managed to get the proposed legislation defeated narrowly in the Senate last year, after it had been passed with overwhelming support in the House. Please do not allow a similar outcome this year. It is a sad state of affairs when folks from hundreds and thousands of miles away from South Dakota are able to dictate policies in South Dakota that do not directly affect them in any meaningful way. Their desire to have South Dakota be the breeding source population of mountain lions to recolonize much of the rest of the United States ignores the serious social and economic impacts of excessive predation on both wildlife and livestock in South Dakota. Please vote yes on this proposal.

Thank you.

Steve Bulle

Keystone, South Dakota 57751

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: petition to expand the use of hounds

From: Carol Layton [<mailto:cas5526@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 1:21 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: petition to expand the use of hounds

Dear Governor Dennis Daugaard, Secretary Kelly Hepler, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commissioners:

The last time this proposal was brought forth, you did not vote in favor of it. Please review the logic behind your last vote.

It seems obvious that hunting with hounds should be reserved for lions that are particularly problematic. There have been no problems filling the yearly hunting quota, so why add hounds to the equation?

I am opposed to the proposal of hunting lions with dogs, and am asking you to think carefully about your decision.

Sincerely,

Caro Layton
Rapid city, S.D. 57702

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mtn Lions

From: Jil Jennewein [<mailto:jjenn33@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:51 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: re: Mtn Lions

Please do not allow our state to kill our Mtn Lions by tracking them down, hunting them down, with a pack of dogs year around.

They were here first. We need to keep our wild life free.

There has to be other measure we can take to protect people from nature/animals....without going out and tracking them down and killing them.

I am against this!

Jil Jennewein

Rapid City SD

Ascher, Debra

From: Deb S <dc1958is@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:48 AM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Mountain lion / dogs

To Whom It May Concern,

I understand regulation changes are being considered for using dogs to hunt mountain lions.

I own property and live 20 miles NE of Box Elder. I have a six year old grandson that stays with me nearly every weekend. I also have 3 small dogs and various other livestock. A couple of years ago my neighbor shot and killed a mountain lion just over my fence line to the north....probably only a quarter mile or less from my house. At that time I had a brand new baby colt, not but 4 or 5 days old, and I believe it was there stalking that baby. That is too close for comfort considering my grandson is outside playing every weekend. Even though he stays near the house I worry for his safety. I don't claim to be either pro or anti hunting, but in inhabited areas where there is obvious mountain lion activity there should be an allowance to use dogs to hunt mountain lions or at least help encourage them to move along into a more remote area.

Thank you for considering my concerns,

Debbie Stangle

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: RE:

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

From: Joan [<mailto:viztam9@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 7:31 PM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: Re: RE:

Fox
Tucson, AZ

Sent from my iPhone

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

> From: Joan [<mailto:viztam9@yahoo.com>]

> Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 9:05 AM

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

> Subject:

>

> Please do not allow this killing spree of God's beautiful beloved creatures.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

From: quigleyren1@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 12:15 AM
To: GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules
Cc: info@mountainlion.org
Subject: ARSD 41:06:61:06 Mountain Lion Hunting by Hounds

Renee D. Alford
2928 Felicita Road
Escondido, CA 92029
760-317-5778

Dear Sirs,

I am a retired 62 year old retired female firefighter/EMT Medic from Julian-Cuyamaca, California now living in Escondido, CA. My mother was a native of South Dakota and spoke of your state and its many resources with love and so with my love of mountain lions and her as my heritage I feel compelled to write.

Many of my years have been spent in the wildernesses of California, Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming as a firefighter and rancher. I have pulled calves in the dead of winter in Idaho, driven cattle into the high country of Nevada in spring, fought the wildfires of California. I dealt with predators of all sizes, from squirrels, whose holes in the ground broke our cattle's legs, to the beavers whose dams flooded our ranches and pastures. I was there when the great herds of elk in Jackson Hole needed to be selectively culled due to sickness and starvation due to overpopulation in the dead of winter. I understand the inherent spirit of the ranchers and farmers of our West and Midwest and a way of living that few experience or understand and appreciate. I also recognize that without the predators (mountain lions) we are walking a tightrope in regards to maintaining balance in our wilderness world. Hunting with hounds goes back to our foundation and roots, but I believe for those of us who love and thrive in the lands that house these incredible predators we need to rethink our use of them to hunt.

I used to be able to hop on my horse and gallop into town thru knee high buffalo grass, sadly, those days are gone. I believe that in order for our States to maintain any kind of "memory of what was" it will fall to the ranchers, farmers and hunters who still work these lands. I think the time of hunting with hounds to kill the mountain lion is gone. These predators are in a fight for their lives and prosperity and I know that any hunter worth his salt would never go after a compromised prey. I am thinking that instead of retiring hound hunting completely, perhaps, as they have done in countries around the planet, they could look to becoming eco-advocates for these beautiful animals and use the hounds to help biologists and researcher track and tag them, or tourists photograph them.

I miss my wilderness, the wind driven snows, tracking and being a part of something beyond me. I do not wish away this lifestyle for the hunters, but rather a changing of the way in which we interact with these animals. Perhaps replace the gun with the camera...use the hounds to track and aid research to find ways to keep this lifestyle and spirit of America alive.

One cannot track and hunt that which is extinct. As we kill off these animals indiscriminately we lose the diversity of the gene pools from many animals and we end up with compromised and weakened animals, which will bleed into all aspects of the surrounding wildlife.

I request, with the deepest respect, to my peers, to rethink using hounds to take out the last of these incredible animals that color our history. I am not asking you to stop using your dogs, but to use them to better our wilderness. To work to keep our wilderness wild and to not allow it to fall prey to the encroaching cities and crush of humanity that will eliminate all that makes this life worth living.

Please discontinue using hounds to hunt the lions in South Dakota. Do not let them go the way of the buffalo and wolves. We are less as a people without the presence, seen or unseen, of these animals. Their quiet presence in the perimeters of our lives may not be known until they are gone, and then it will be too late.

Whatever your decision will be I will understand but I am hoping that this will be one part of history that can be re-evaluated and adjusted for today's needs rather than business as usual. This might be one tradition that needs to be revered and then retired.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With deepest respect,
Renee D. Alford
Escondido, CA

Ascher, Debra

From: Nancy Barker <nabarker@gwtc.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:42 AM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: NO! NO! NO!

Please vote down the proposal to allow mountain lions to be hunted down with packs of hounds year round or otherwise!

We hike the Black Hills and outlying areas year round.

I can't imagine the sound of hounds tracking and treeing a lion then the crack of the rifle while I am out seeking solace and beauty in the areas I love so much.

We hike 100's and 100's of miles in western SD and used to frequently see tracks of lions.

Now we hardly see any and I mean any!

With the imposed hunting season, in my humble opinion, 100's of lions have already been killed.

Hunting lions will increase conflict with tourists, horseback riders, campers, hikers etc.

Ranchers already have the legal right to kill lions threatening their property.

We have a dog pack in our neighborhood (rural) that are killing sheep, a burro, chickens, domestic cats and posing a threat to me walking on the Mickelson Trail.

I am more afraid of the dogs than a lion!

Hounding will not just mean the tracking, exhausting, treeing of a lion for the hunter to shoot but will also leave kittens in the den to starve to death.

I feel some people will not be satisfied until lions are wiped out completely.

That would be such a tragedy and a reminder of the tragedy more than 100 years ago in wiping out the bison, elk, bears, beaver, wolves in our area.

Please, please vote this proposal down!

Nancy Barker
11859 Hickok Dr.
Hot Springs, SD 57747
605.745.4231

Ascher, Debra

From: Lynn Gray <2grays@goldenwest.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 10:01 AM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: lion hunting

Hello,

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW hounds for hunting mountain lions in South Dakota. We feel that this is a very bad idea.
Thank you.

Lynn and Gardner Gray
Pringle

—
Lynn Gray
2grays@goldenwest.net
www.bluegrasskennels.com

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hunting With Hounds

From: William Ing [<mailto:willpix@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:23 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hunting With Hounds

It has come to my attention that the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks is considering the allowance of using hounds to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota all year 'round.

I strongly object to this unfair and inhumane method of hunting as well as opening lion hunting to year 'round status. Please do NOT allow this to happen.

Gwen E. Kaneshiro
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Subject: FW: Comments on proposed hound-hunting of mountain lions on the Prairie

Dear Sirs,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposal to open the South Dakota Prairie to hound hunting of mountain lions. I have been following the saga of the mountain lion in your state for many years. South Dakota is of great interest to me because I advocate the "rewilding" of the East—the return of cougars which had been eliminated in West Virginia by 1900. Until recently, the Black Hills had been the principal source of the dispersing cougars that have been turning up in the Upper Midwest. After reaching a high in 2011, the numbers of dispersers killed in both the Upper and Lower Midwest have plummeted, presumably as a result of the DGFP's management plan to reduce the Black Hills lion population.

To me, hound hunting is morally repugnant. But others disagree. I suggest a compromise. A contact list of hound hunters desiring to hunt lions on the SD Prairie could be maintained. If a professional determines that a lion has depredated livestock, the hound hunters could be notified and allowed to remove the offending lion. It is possible that the chase could get out of control, but that's not likely because there are so few lions on the Prairie, and not a single instance of livestock depredation has been confirmed there.

I am not sure of the motivations behind the proposal. **Do the hound hunters who submitted the petition believe lions are undesirable and hope to do their part eliminate them?** If so, the belief is based on mainly on ignorance and misinformation. The DGFP does little to educate ranchers and hunters. Here are some fears I perceive.

- (1) "If something isn't done soon, a child will be killed!" The last fatal attack in all of the US and Canada was in 2008 in New Mexico. Since Jan 2000, only three people have been killed—all adults who were alone at the time of the attacks. That last time a child was killed was in 1999. I keep track of news items on cougar attacks in my computer files. I haven't had time to compile them for 2014, but I'd be surprised if there have been more than 12 attacks involving physical contact in the US and Canada—not more than two resulting in serious injuries. I believe the reason decline in injuries is that state wildlife agencies, park officials and others are taking advantage of every opportunity to tell people how to behave in the presence of a wild cougar.
- (2) Concern about livestock depredation. Not a single instance of livestock depredation has been documented on the Prairie. In the Black Hills, it is a minor problem involving pets and hobby livestock. Instead of always adopting the lethal option, the DGFP should educate pet and livestock owners on how to protect their animals.
- (3) Perceived competition between sport hunters and cougars for ungulates. I am not aware this is an issue on the Prairie. The main causes of decline of deer and elk numbers are weather and overhunting by humans. Are wild ungulates simply free ranging livestock, to be protected from all life-threatening hazards until they are "harvested," or are they the means of getting outdoors and connecting with nature?

Or maybe the hound hunters just want more opportunities to enjoy their sport. If so, hound hunting on the Prairie is premature. A small breeding population is just now developing in the Southwest part of the state. They could also advocate the reintroduction of black bears to the Black Hills. I live in the mountains of north-central West Virginia. Bears had almost been exterminated, but in the 1960s their numbers began to build up. They are now common, and many local people enjoy hound hunting bears. Bears apparently are more socially acceptable than other large and medium-sized carnivores such as cougars, coyotes and wolves. Helen McGinnis, PO Box 300, Harman, WV 26270

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Mountains Lions

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

From: wil kent [mailto:wil_k@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:52 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Mountains Lions

Please so not use dogs to hunt mountain lions I do not think it is a fair survivalist fight for the mountain lions.

Wila Kent

Hot Springs, SD

Sent from my iPod

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: hounds for lions

From: Lon Sharp [<mailto:sharp@gwtc.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 10:40 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: hounds for lions

Dear Commissioners and GFP staff:

I am a lifelong hunter. I am a dog owner. However, I oppose the use of hounds in hunting lions in South Dakota because of the huge negative possibilities of lions crossing onto private property. We must foster good landowner relations, not antagonize them.

Sincerely,

Lon Sharp
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW:

From: Wayne Patterson [<mailto:wpat2313@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:09 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

Hello my name is Wayne Patterson of Sturgis SD. I am writing this e-mail to inform you of my support of the legalizing of dog use on private property outside the backhills fire protection district. As a beginning rancher I believe that any mountain lion on my land is a potential problem. In my opinion the best way to control problem lions is the use of dogs. I believe that a landowner should have the right to hunt and remove problem lions on his property using the most effective means available by using dogs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Wayne Armond Patterson 12749 Bighorn Road

Whitewood Sd 57793

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hunting with dogs

From: Kensuz [<mailto:kensuz5@rap.midco.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:18 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hunting with dogs

I have to admit I don't know a lot about this issue and especially why it is being considered to let hunters use dogs to track down mountain lions on the prairie. It sounds like a most inhumane practice as if using high powered rifles isn't enough of an assault on mountain lions. And it comes as news to me that mountain lions are even on the prairie, but there are things I don't know. I am very opposed to the use of dogs to hunt anything other than flushing birds out of corn fields, but I'm willing to listen to the other side. So please contact me with additional information and for now, register me as an opponent of this barbaric idea. Suzan Nolan, 1164 Lookout Lane, Rapid City, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: comment on hunting

From: Kym [<mailto:lily1875@comcast.net>]

Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 4:52 PM

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

Subject: comment on hunting

The killing of Mountain Lions is Despicable but to allow 'hound hunting' is beyond the pale. End All hunting of Mountain Lions and other predators Now! There is no other route into a sustainable future for the wild areas of the planet than to End predator killing! Healthy wild systems Require predators!
Kym Waugh, Denver Colorado

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Proposed year round mountain lion season with hounds outside the black hills.

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

From: denise m maher [<mailto:dmmaher@rushmore.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 10:20 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Proposed year round mountain lion season with hounds outside the black hills.

After reading the proposal for allowing the use of hounds to hunt lions outside the Black Hills District. I have the following concerns.

+ As your department admitted this past Sunday, the contractor's hounds that were tracking a lion in piedmont discovered a den of defenseless kittens and destroyed them before their handler arrived. Clearly these hounds were not under direct control of their handler. This incident is likely to occur on private property on a regular basis if hounds are allowed to be used.

+ As a land owner with horses, the concern that a panicked cat may be tracked by hounds onto my property and as a result panick my horses, potentially running them into barbwire fencing or other dangerous scenario is a real issue. How will GFP prevent this from occurring?

+Most ranchers will shoot a dog(s) on site that is running through their property in order to avoid livestock casualties. Reality is that a hound in pursuit of a cat isn't going to stop at a fence line. There are too many properties inter connecting to prevent this from happening.

+ Most lions on the prairie are passing through and do not take up residence.

There is no need to allow hunters with hounds on private property. GFP has a great track record of responding to problem cats in a professional, safe manner. Let's keep it that way. No hounds please!

Thank you, Denise Maher, Rapid City, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: Hound hunts for lions

From: Damon Ausmann [<mailto:dausmann@rap.midco.net>]

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 4:42 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hound hunts for lions

I am firmly opposed to the proposal to allow hounds hunting for mountain lions. Lion hunters using hounds are in the same category as road hunters, in my estimation.

Damon Ausmann
Rapid City, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hound Hunting of Mountain Lions

From: John Cooper [<mailto:jlcoop11@aol.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 9:03 AM
To: Ascher, Debra; Kiel, Emily
Subject: Fwd: Hound Hunting of Mountain Lions

I am forwarding this one to you for our public comment files because it comes from one of our South Dakota citizens. I have also received 26 emails from people opposed to the hounds/lion proposal who have either not included their place of residence or have indicated that they are not residents of SD. I am assuming that all Commissioners got those same emails, however, in the public comment summary at the Commission meeting, we should comment that we received these opposing comments.... Thanks, Coop

From: "Julie" <signsofhope@rap.midco.net>
Date: January 11, 2015 at 11:41:02 PM CST
To: <jlcoop11@aol.com>
Subject: Hound Hunting of Mountain Lions

To: Chairman John Cooper

The SD Houndsmen Association has petitioned the GF&P to allow hound hunting of mountain lions on prairie areas year round. Hound hunting is cruel, it creates orphans who are more likely to prey on livestock because of inept hunting skills and will decimate the mountain lion population even further than the current season. It seems that the interests of hunters, ranchers and representative Betty Olson get priority at GF&P, but South Dakota land and its wildlife is for all people, and I for one am tired of continually writing letters of this nature every year to this department because it is constantly catering to these special interests.

There has been an explosion of problem animals which is due to "management" of mountain lions in the first place. These orphans are the ones preying on domestic animals and contrary to propaganda hound hunting actually increases tensions between hunters and landowners.

Lastly, your own department had a incident of mountain lions go awry when the RC Journal reported that a hound killed a den of kittens. If your organization has had something of this nature happened, you can expect more of these incidents happening but not being reported by houndsmen. There must be some protection for these animals who are being killed for nothing other than trying to survive.

Please reject this proposal for allowing hound hunting in prairie areas of South Dakota.

Thank You,
Julie Anderson
845 Virginia Lane
Rapid City, SD 57701

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: Comment to GFP about dogs

From: Jeb Bordewyk [<mailto:jebbordewyk@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 10:50 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

Allow the use of dogs outside the Black Hills National Forest for lion hunting, please.

Jeb E. Bordewyk
Black Hawk, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Dogs hunting mountain lions

From: Albert Tetreault [<mailto:alberttetreault@hughes.net>]

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 8:31 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Dogs hunting mountain lions

I am adamantly against dogs being used to hunt mountain lions! This appears to be just another recreational sport for hunters aimed against disadvantaged mountain lions who really aren't that big of a threat to humans as the media showcases them to be. Granted farm and ranch animals, along with pets, are occasionally destroyed by mountain lions. I am empathetic towards this dilemma, so this does make this a catch 22 situation.

Lori Tetreault
Whitewood, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: against expanded hound hunting

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

> From: Melissa Rohm [<mailto:honeybeerohm@comcast.net>]

> Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 12:51 PM

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

> Subject: against expanded hound hunting

>

> I am against expanded hound hunting of cougars. It is a cruel, unnecessary "sport" that reflects poorly on your state.

>

> Melissa Rohm

> Pittsburgh PA

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: FW: GFP

From: Jamie Fettig [<mailto:atgetc@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 7:56 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

I support hunting lions with dogs in south dakota.
Jamie Fettig

Belle Fourche, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW:

From: Dwayne Ice [mailto:diceod@rushmore.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 1:06 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

i would like to express my support to a mountain lion season that would allow the use of dogs. I understand that such a season is being considered and think it would be beneficial to the state of South Dakota, both for predator control and revenue generation. Thank you. Dwayne Ice of Rapid City, SD.