

Public Comments

Eliminate Closed Area on Lake Francis Case

Qsdsq Dsqd

Ca SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

dqsdsq

Hrtr Hrth

Rth SD

Position: support

Comment:

sdgvehth

Furbearer Hunting and Trapping Seasons

Ehrt Rtrtj

Rtj SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ehrt Rtrtj

Rtj SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Steve Cherkas

Edgemont SD

Position: other

Comment:

Will GFP commit to reinstating unlimited bobcat harvest in black hills for 26-27 season? The bobcat management plane called for a change (to unlimited or 1) when juvenile percentage was above or below 10% for 2 years. It did NOT meet that criteria yet they limited the black hills to 1 anyway (knowing that some

juveniles were released which would have raised the 23-24 season above 10%). 24-25 season was 18.5% juvenile well above the threshold. When you limit to 1 hunters will not shoot juveniles and trappers will release them so they can keep trying for a big cat which distorts data analysis. We will have already lost 2 seasons due to this so I ask you to commit to reinstating unlimited for 2026-2027 season.

Mountain Lion Season

Starla Graves

Whitewood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am against the expansion of hounds

Zachary Heller

Whitewood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the expansion of using hounds in the black hills.

Margaret Egan

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Expanding mountain lion season is a mistake. We need to conserve and improve populations for this keystone species.

Marcy Barber

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jean Matthesen

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

How many people have been killed or injured by mountains lions in SD? NONE! Is a license still only \$10? They are being killed specifi-cally for sports people! Do they eat this meat? Are their offspring dying because of this? YES! Are reliable authorities opposing a mountain lion mountain season. YES! Whenever a moose wanders into SD, some jerk usually kills it--killing just for killing. STOP IT--let the lions live!!!! Most people living here have not even seen a mountain lion in this state! LET THEM & THEIR KITTENS LIVE!!!! Jean Matthesen, Custer

John Griffith

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Beth Morey

Belle Fourche SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose hunting of mountain lions using dogs. Also, I am disgusted by the term "harvesting" when it refers to animals instead of crops. These beautiful creatures have feelings and should be left alone!

Jett Blakeman

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support any expansion of hound hunting because it provides more science based wildlife management, better and more opportunities for hunters.

Paula Roskens

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I wish to oppose hunting of these beautiful animals. GFP lists the count for mountain lions in the Black Hills as 277, they are issuing 60 tags, 40 for females. With them raising their cubs to hunt and survive in the forest for 2 yrs, it is cruel and unwarranted to allow trophy hunting of these animals. Why would you allow dogs to further this inhumane practice to run this animal to exhaustion then come in and make the kill when it is too tired to move, to get the perfect shot so as not to ruin the coat so they can stuff and exhibit this dead animal, how very

sad, unethical, and immoral. We have the knowledge and intelligence to know this. Please do not allow this, and allow greed to sway your vote. Mountain lion s are native to the Black Hills, we aren't. Let's learn to live with and not destroy these beautiful wild incredible animals.

Ryan Wiechmann

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hounds were used to keep the lion population isolated to the hills in the surrounding areas. If lions are used within the hills on regular basis, fair chase is no longer used. Houndsman should not profit from this public resource.

Bailey Konvalin

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Daniel Nisse

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

William Mcallister

Midland SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jenna Wells

Fort Peirre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hound dogs in the fire district area as a young woman

Samantha Magnus

Black Hawk SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the continuation and responsible regulation of mountain lion hunting as an essential tool for wildlife management and ecosystem balance.

Mountain lions are apex predators with few natural threats, and in areas where their populations are not managed, they can have significant impacts on prey species such as deer, elk, and bighorn sheep.

Overpopulation can also lead to increased human-wildlife conflicts, livestock depredation, and the encroachment of lions into suburban and rural communities.

Nelda Holden

Brooneldahilkings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please pretect them.

Nelda Jjolden

Brokings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please save them.

Aspen Rittgarn

Fort Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

Hound hunting is tradtional and requires skill. When done responsibly, it helps manage predator populations. Running hounds works with nature better.

John Grillo

Los Angeles CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Mountain Lions should remain protected at all costs. Hunting a species that has already greatly diminished in population is not ecologically ethical. Coexistence is critical and hunting mountain lions in any area should be considered illegal. We cannot risk the extinction of these animals because of sport, or fear of their presence. Their survival is dependent on our actions.

Jim Hagen

Britton SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Paula Roskens

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Why??? How cruel, and unnecessary. GFP list count 277 in SD issuing 60 tags 40 of which are for females. These animals are just trying to survive. They keep nature in balance. A Female will keep her cubs with her up to 2 years teaching them the way to hunt, now you kill her leaving young to fend on their own to learn all the wrong ways. Think of trying to hunt and feed herself plus her cubs, the energy it requires. Then to unleash dogs to run them to pure exhaustion to get the perfect shot as to not "damage their fur". This is inhumane and disgusting. What are we to torture these animals who belong in Nature, what is left of it. History will look back and ask Why, How was this allowed, and Shame. TROPHY hunting is a sin, and should be illegal. Stop this now.

Gwen Oberholtzer

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Lorraine Finazzo

Six Mile SC

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose hound hunting which is cruel to both mountain lions and dogs and do not want it to be expanded in South Dakota.

Annette Hof

Crooks SD

Position: other

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jeffrey Edwards

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hunting for mountain lions with hounds is cruel and inhumane. It should be banned not expanded. Very bad for existing and any future lion population.

Ashley Passino

Lakewood WA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am against the hunting of animals with hounds. This is the exact same as fox hunting with hounds in the UK. It makes it extremely unfair for the prey and has no purpose here.

Sonal Swaroop

Brentwood TN

Position: other

Comment:

Stop mountain lion hunting. They are shrinking population.

Sheila Metcalf Tobin

Berkeley CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing to urge the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission to reverse their decision and permanently ban the cruel practice of hound hunting mountain lions.

Shari D

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose the proposed expansion of mountain lion hunting with hounds.

?? Procedural Failure: This proposal directly violates the SDGFP's own 2024 Mountain Lion Action Plan, which was developed with public input and adopted just last year. Approving this change would undermine public trust and set a dangerous precedent of ignoring established management policies.

?? Willful Ignorance: The Department's own proposal acknowledges that their population data can be "misleading" and even admits that the harvest plan "may reduce the population." Making policy decisions while admitting the science is uncertain is reckless and irresponsible.

Mountain lions are a keystone species, vital to the balance of South Dakota's ecosystems. Hounding is inhumane, disrupts family groups, and puts unnecessary stress on both lions and non-target wildlife. The commission should honor its own plan and the best available science by rejecting this proposal.

Sherry Wu

Ann Arbor MI

Position: oppose

Comment:

Are we going to kill everything until they're endangered then protect them? When will these meaningless exploitation stop?

Lisa Bobbitt

Sterling Heights MI

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is cruel and unnecessary.

Aoife Hart

Seattle WA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I sincerely plead with you to reconsider the barbaric and cruel practice of using dogs to chase down and butcher alive our precious wildlife, including mountain lions. Please consider alternative messages which are more humane and will not endanger the dogs nor create scenarios of extreme pain for the mountain lions. This is a blood sport, akin to the travesty of British fox hunting, rather than wildlife management.

Robert Curl

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I believe a healthy population of mountain lions allows for an ecosystem and lifecycles to exist that balances out deer populations and all animals affected naturally. Therefore I think mountain lions are overly hunted and extending time limits, using hounds to do so is cruel, encroches on too much land, and serves no need for game meat, or any other purpose.

Susan Clark

Barnstable MA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I like many others oppose the culling of the mountain lion! This is yet again humans running to kill off a species instead of protecting its habitat. We kill, we disrupt the ecosystem. It's wrong. It's not 21st century thinking. Humans are the only species to view other species with this action. End the hunting of the cougar

Ilse Singer

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The expansion of one of the most inhumane hunting practices: chasing mountain lions with dogs, is unconscionable and a stain on South Dakota! I am ashamed.

The decision to allow hunters to use hounds to pursue terrified mountain lions across more of the Black Hills Fire Protection District, including newly opened stretches of privately owned land, is barbaric!

This change is not only cruel but also indefensible. Mountain lions, already under intense pressure from shrinking habitats and human encroachment, now face even more brutal odds.

The kill limit remains set at 60 mountain lions or 40 females. Every mountain lion killed represents a disruption to an already delicate ecosystem, and the loss of a mother could lead to the gradual demise of her dependent cubs.

I URGE you, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission to reverse your decision and permanently ban hound hunting!

Mira Kovacic

Miami Beach FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please prohibit mountain lions hunt all together. Mountain lions are endangered and essential part of nature. Hunting for 'sport', with hounds is particularly cruel, wicked, compassionless. Targeting females predominantly, it's particularly damaging to the species. Please, let us steward the nature, not rape it. Humans can choose compassion. Thank you.

Clay Baumung

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The hunting of cougars should be stopped ASAP. The population is too low

Mary Shabbott

Arkadelphia AR

Position: oppose

Comment:

This species is struggling to survive because of habitat loss, hunting and climate change. What do you do to help this keystone species survive? You tell trophy hunters it's fine to use dogs to brutally chase down these animals. This is disgustingly wrong and it's clear this commission works for trophy hunters and doesn't care anything about wildlife or the non consumptive majority.

Ivan Nikolenko

Toronto ON

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please ban the hound hunting. Using dogs to chase Mountain lions to exhaustion and then killing them, is cruel and inhumane. Mountain lions are already struggling to survive due to habitat loss. These animals need protection and help, not killing. These are sentient individuals just like us with lives and families. We, humans, who say we know right from wrong and can spread compassion and empathy, know that harming, or killing others, like Mountain lions, for sport or management is wrong. Killing is never right or the answer. Please mountain lions don't deserve this cruelty. Plus if more of them die, the ecosystem will start collapsing with prey

species increasing significantly and being overcrowded. So please, the Mountain lions are counting on you, ban hound hunting and stop the harming of animals for any reason under your watch. The animals can't speak English but they will thank you for saving them.

Thank you.

Have a great day.

Anthony Casella

Seaford NY

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ivan Nikolenko

Toronto ON

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please ban the hound hunting. Using dogs to chase Mountain lions to exhaustion and then killing them, is cruel and inhumane. Mountain lions are already struggling to survive due to habitat loss. These animals need protection and help, not killing. These are sentient individuals just like us with lives and families. We, humans, who say we know right from wrong and can spread compassion and empathy, know that harming, or killing others, like Mountain lions, for sport or management is wrong. Killing is never right or the answer. Please mountain lions don't deserve this cruelty. Plus if more of them die, the ecosystem will start collapsing with prey species increasing significantly and being overcrowded. So please, the Mountain lions are counting on you, ban hound hunting and stop the harming of animals for any reason under your watch. The animals can't speak English but they will thank you for saving them.

Thank you.

Have a great day.

Brianna Aguilar

Kearns UT

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing to express my deep concern about the recent decision to allow 60 mountain lions to be killed this season. Mountain lions are essential apex predators that help keep ecosystems in balance by controlling prey populations like deer. Killing these animals especially females who are raising young cubs risks devastating the population and leaving orphaned cubs to starve. This practice is not only inhumane, but it also threatens the long-term health of the species and the natural environment. Once a population is pushed to collapse, it is incredibly difficult and sometimes impossible to restore. I urge you to reconsider this decision and prioritize non-lethal wildlife management strategies that respect the crucial role mountain lions play in South Dakota's ecosystem. Please stand for conservation and compassion by ending this unnecessary hunt and protecting these majestic animals for future generations

Chit Dhan

Irvine SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Candi Ausman

Fremont CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do NOT allow one of the most inhumane hunting practices still legal in the US: chasing mountain lions with dogs.

Thank you.

Antoinette Ubaldi

Portland OR

Position: oppose

Comment:

Why allow mountain lions to be abused by hounds. What is the purpose? And the people who own the hounds. Leave the mountain lions alone. Why do you hate them.

Laura Cavazza

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

To the Government of South Dakota,

I am writing to strongly urge you to cancel the upcoming mountain lion hunting season. Mountain lions are an essential part of South Dakota's natural heritage and ecosystem, yet they are being subjected to unnecessary and inhumane practices that threaten their survival.

One of the most troubling aspects of the hunt is the use of dogs to track and corner these animals. This method is not only cruel, but it also strips mountain lions of any fair chance of escape, turning the hunt into a practice of harassment and brutality rather than responsible wildlife management. Extending hunting time under these conditions is not a matter of conservation—it is an unnecessary expansion that only serves a handful of hunters at the expense of already vulnerable wild populations.

South Dakota's wildlife belongs to all its people, not just to those who seek to exploit it for sport. Mountain lions are apex predators with vital ecological roles, helping to balance prey populations and maintain healthy ecosystems. Allowing their persecution undermines both the stability of our natural environment and our state's reputation as a steward of wildlife.

We should be working to protect and preserve these magnificent animals, not subject them to suffering and

decline. I urge you to cancel the mountain lion hunting season and instead invest in science-based conservation measures that ensure their continued survival.

Respectfully, Laura Cavazza

Cindy Kreiman

Bentonville VA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Good Afternoon,

Please Ban Hound Hunting

I am writing to you on behalf of our mountain lions, as they are paramount to the health and wellbeing of our ecosystems, keep wild herds healthy and help control CWD.

They are all too often overlooked and unheard, trying to live, survive and care for their young in a world being overrun by "humans".

They have enough setbacks with habitat loss, climate change, vehicular hits, trapping, snaring, poaching, mismanagement and more. Their numbers are already low, with slow reproductive rates. To chase these mountain lions with hounds and expanding the length of time and areas, especially their sanctuary, is horrific and cruel. This is not hunting, this is down right murder of innocent animals. It is fear, anger, hate, greed and ignorance, it is misconceptions, myths and lies, it is special interest groups, power, money and politics that are taking control.

The public's opinions are not being acknowledged and taken into consideration.

Please hear their cries, see their tears, feel their pain and be the change to make a difference for all our sakes...

Thank you for your time

Margarita Skrinnik

Montreal PQ

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Miriam Garcia

Aurora IL

Position: oppose

Comment:

Protect the mountain lions and stop cruel hunting practice of allowing dogs to hunt them.

Tracey Chan

Chippenham SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please dont kill mountain lions. If females are killed kits starve. It's cruel to chase them to exhaustion with dogs when their population is facing loss of habitat. As an apex predator they are important for the ecosystem and can control pests.

Thank you
Tracey Chan

Katherine Emery

Tampa FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

I cannot believe that any rational human would think it's a good idea to use dogs to terrorize mountain lions, just so hunters can then move in for kill on exhausted cat. Please don't let this continue. I don't want this species to go extinct. This is a cruel practice that needs to stop.

Other

Tad Roccaro

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

I currently came in to buy a couple of mentor tags for my two sons. I was informed that some things have chanhed since last spring. According to the front desk clerk. My children need their own email addresses. We as many parents do not allow our young children certain technologies. Emails being one of those technologies. I am greatly apposed to this as my children are not ready for these things. This opens the doors to harmful people towards children. I would like to see this policy changed back to the way it was.

Wendy Carroll

911 Preston PI SD

Position: other

Comment:

I am very disappointed at how my past camping trip out at West Bend Recreation area. The phone calls that I had received while camping, one of them I totally understand but the other phone call I was asked how many people were camping with me and I didn't have a camp sticker for my vehicle that was down at the boat dock they said was from Nebraska. I am NOT from Nebraska.

Then was approached on the day before our reservations were to expire and told that we were to be out of there that day. I said no, we have this cabin for another day and was asked if I could prove that. I said yep. The girl then went to her little I-pad and said no, you are suppose to be gone isn't this so and so? I said No! The person she was looking at was in a different cabin all together and went on to say did I screw up again.

Seriously!!!! The cabins are numbered and before you tell me that we have to be gone, learn how to read and get your crap straight before you approach people. We have been using the cabins for years and I think that I would know if we had to be gone. Also, I have never been in a cabin that was filthy as these ones. We had friends out there as well and they said the same thing about their cabin. The cobwebs and the dead bugs in the screens and window wells was disgusting!!

Was a very disappointing trip!!! Was suppose to be a place to where my husband and I could go and relax after not having time off of work for the longest time!!! I know we won't be going to West Bend again. I know a couple other areas that have Cabins have been slacking on fixing them up and getting them cleaned. You raise the pricing to stay in them and you would think that you could do a little better on repairing at least the small things on some of them

Robert Thiel

Brookings SD

Position: other

Comment:

WHO the heck is running things in this department? Not a single facebook post or email notifying hunters that leftover deer licenses were available. Now most licenses are gone! This is absolutely unacceptable. My license dollars are funding this operation and someone needs to step up and start to notify hunters of these license opportunities. This is the second time this summer/fall I have missed out on applications because the GFP never announces the deadline to the public. Probably because their piece of crap website goes down every year when the licenses become available. Commissioners better get involved and start monitoring this stuff because its the public's department and right now is getting a "F"-rating. I hope some commissioners read this and start to do something to help hunters. The communication between the department and the hunters has to change. My group of 13 hunters are frustrated and upset to say the least.

Ben Torrent

Harrisburg SD

Position: other

Comment:

Since when did the GFP stop notifying the public that west river leftovers were available to purchase? Unfortunate now as I won't be able to make the trip west because all the tags for my unit are gone and I've been going for the last 9 years. Piss poor announcement for the public.

Bob Gradner

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Are you kidding me? Leftover West River licenses are nearly all gone and the GF&P didn't even send an email. Is this a joke? My step son and I go and shoot does every year on leftover licenses and now I find out they are all gone. Every year the system crashes or now you guys just quite making the hunters aware. This is maddening to me and I am not very happy. Whoever is running this outfit better pull their head out of their rump. You guys are so busy with your 20million dollar gun range you forgot about who pays the bills. Get off your butts and start doing the job that hunters pay you to do!

Matt Christopherson

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support more of the Custer State Park Buffalo tags being reserved for residents, I also feel that non residents should pay much more for the tag than they are being charged today.

Wildlife Action Plan

Abbagale Morgan

Tavernier FL

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Connie Burris

Springfield IL

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hound hunting is cruel for the Mountain lions and the dogs. Mountain Lions are already under intense pressure from shrinking habitats and human encroachment, now they will face even more brutal odds of stress and cruelty . Every mountain lion killed represents a disruption to an already delicate ecosystem, and the loss of a mother could lead to the gradual demise of her dependent cubs. Please do the right thing and BAN this CRUEL SPORT .
I OPPOSE the hunt please BAN

Amanda Seissian

Dunedin FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

To use dogs to hunt mountain lions is obscene and cruel. This action needs to be stopped.

Adrian Mason

Goonview SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

