

Evaluation of the 2010 Mountain Lion Season **HUNTER SURVEY**

HD-8-10.AMS

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This report was produced for Game, Fish and Parks' wildlife staff and administrators to evaluate the 2010 Black Hills mountain lion season from the perspective of mountain lion hunters.

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Executive Summary

Evaluation of the 2010 Mountain Lion Season

Hunter Survey

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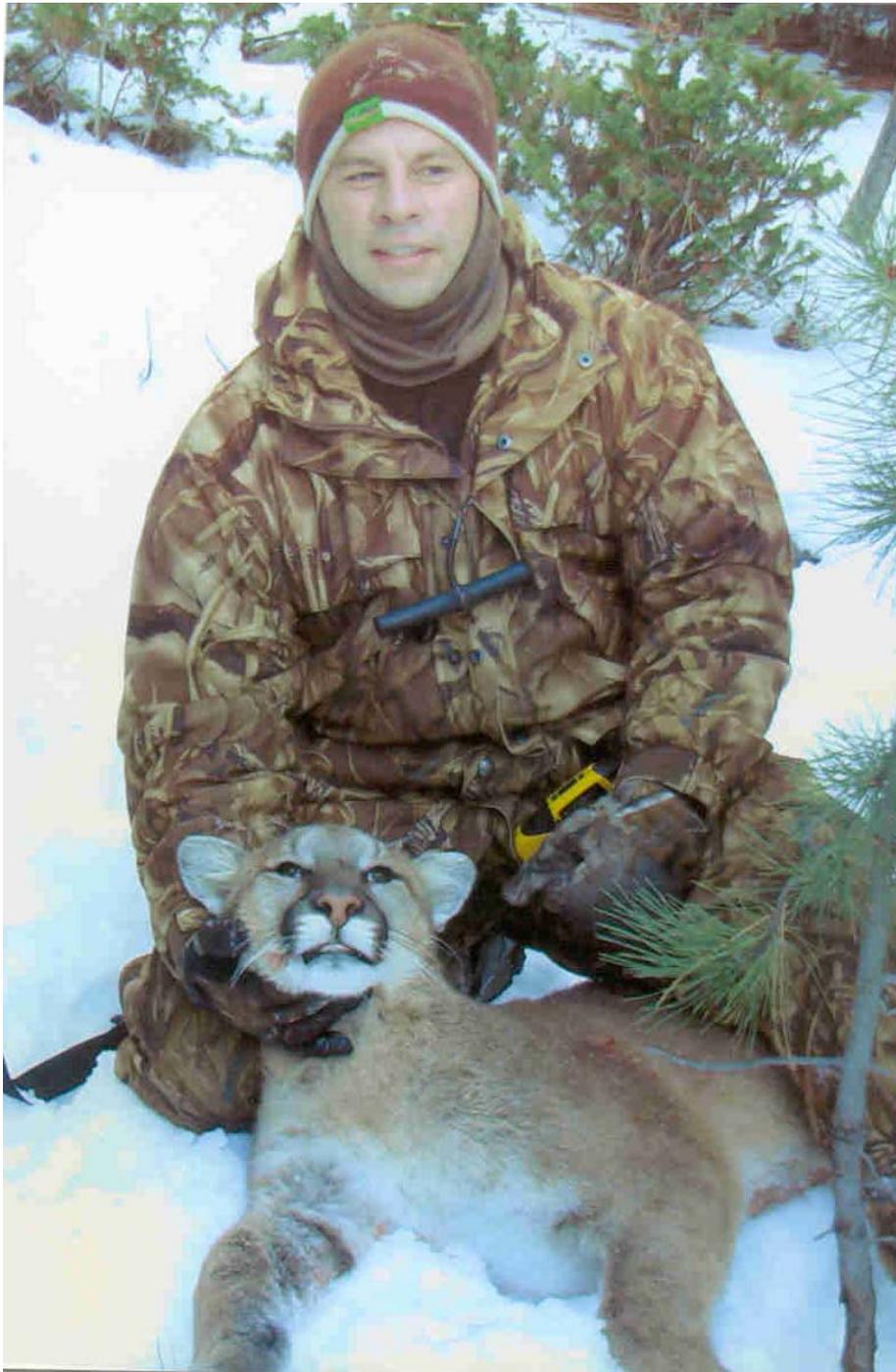
- South Dakota's fifth lion season lasted 41 days, harvesting a total of 40 mountain lions:
 - 24 females
 - 16 males
- A total of 2,082 mountain lion licenses were sold by the close of the Black Hills mountain lion season of which 70.5% reported spending some time hunting for mountain lions. About 1.9% of the licensed hunters and 2.7% of the hunters that actually spent time hunting for mountain lions were successful in harvesting a mountain lion.
- About 55% of the 2010 mountain lion license holders were satisfied with the mountain lion season as conducted (33% neutral and 12% dissatisfied). License holders who actually went lion hunting were more satisfied than were the license holders who did not go lion hunting (63% vs. 38%).
- Overall, most mountain lion license holders had positive and supportive attitudes towards mountain lions in South Dakota, but many (75%) were concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals.



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Evaluation of the 2010 Mountain Lion Season HUNTER SURVEY

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SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS**

South Dakota's fifth mountain lion season ended February 10, 2010, just 41 days after opening on January 1st after the 40th mountain lion was harvested, meeting the 2010 harvest limit (40 total or 25 female lions). A total of 24 female and 16 male mountain lions were harvested during the 2010 season (Table 1 and Figure 1). Harvest information from the previous mountain lion seasons can be found in Appendix A.

The 2005 and 2006 seasons included a Black Hills and prairie unit while the 2007, 2009 and 2010 mountain lion season combined the two units into one statewide unit. The Black Hills was closed for the 2008 mountain lion season (only one male mountain lion was harvested west of Saint Onge). Other restrictions were no dogs, trapping or baiting, no harvest of spotted lions or lions traveling together, and mandatory check within 24 hours (at the Rapid City Regional Office) of lions harvested.

Landowners who have purchased a mountain lion license can harvest a mountain lion year-round on private land they own or private land they lease outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District. All harvested mountain lions must be presented to a conservation officer, state trapper or department representative within 24 hours. This survey only covered mountain lion hunting during the period that the regular season was open (January 1 – February 10, 2010).

METHODS

All licensed mountain lion hunters at the time of the season closing (N=2,082) were included in the survey. Hunters with an e-mail address in our database were first sent an e-mail invitation to complete their survey via the Internet at the close of the season, followed two weeks later with an a reminder e-mail to the non-respondents (Appendix B). In early March non-respondents and hunters without an e-mail address were mailed a four-page questionnaire (Appendix B). A postcard reminder was sent to

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all non-respondents about five days after the mailing of the questionnaire followed by a second mailing of the questionnaire to all non-respondents about two weeks after the postcard reminder.

RESULTS

A total of 1,795 usable questionnaires were returned for an 86.5% return rate (Table 2). A total of 31 respondents to the survey reported harvesting a mountain lion (77.5% return rate from successful hunters). A little over half (53.1%) of the survey responses were via the Internet. More than two-thirds (70.5%) of the licensed mountain lion hunters actually spent any time hunting for mountain lions for an average of 6.2 days (Table 3).

Methods Used by Lion Hunters. Many of the lion hunters used a call (81.0%), tracking in snow (70.4%), walking in the woods looking for lions (65.8%) and driving the roads looking for lions or lion sign (53.2%) (Table 4). Most used more than one method. Twenty-three of the 40 successful mountain lion hunters used a predator call (Table 4-A).

Lion Interactions. About 79% of the active mountain lion hunters reported seeing mountain lion tracks or other signs of mountain lions while hunting (Table 5). About 14.3% of the active lion hunters observed a mountain lion (53.5% reported seeing one lion and 46.5% reported seeing a total of 2 or more lions during their hunt). About 46% reported that they did not have a good or clear shot at the lion and 25% reported observing more than one lion together; 13% reported seeing a spotted lion (young lion) and 10% reported seeing a lion with a spotted lion. One hunter reported an aggressive lion; eight hunters (4.6%) reported shooting at but missing a lion and two hunters reported shooting at, probably wounding, but not retrieving a lion. About 69% of the hunters reported that the lion they observed was not wearing a radio-collar, 19% were unsure, and 11% (20 hunters) said that a lion they observed was wearing a radio-collar, although 12 (60%) of these 20 hunters actually harvested a lion.

Success per licensed hunter (includes all licensed hunters) was 1.92% and success per actual lion hunter (hunters that actually spent some time hunting for lions) was 2.72% (Table 6). A total of 1,468 hunters were estimated to have actually spent time hunting for mountain lions during the 2010 mountain lion season.

Evaluation of the Season – Satisfaction. About 55% of the mountain lion license holders were satisfied with the mountain lion season as conducted in 2010, 33% were neutral and 12% were dissatisfied (Tables 7-A). License holders who actually hunted mountain lions during the 2010 season were more satisfied (63%) than those who did not hunt (38%), but the difference was mainly the result of non-hunters being ‘neutral’ or having ‘no opinion’ (Table 7-B).

General Attitudes towards Mountain Lions in South Dakota. Overall, most of the 2010 mountain lion license holders had a positive, supportive attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota (Tables 8-A – 8-E). Most agreed with the statements, “The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment,” (67%) and “Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me,” (62%) (20% and 26% disagreed; respectively) (Tables 8-A and 8-B). Also, only 30% believed that “having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people,” (Table 8-D) and most (79%) felt that “by following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions” (Table 8-E). However, most (75%) of the 2010 mountain lion license holders were “concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals” (Table 8-C).

Demographic Description of the 2010 Mountain Lion License Holders. About 69% of the mountain lion license holders live in one of the Black Hills counties (Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River and Meade), 10% in other West River counties and 21% were from East River counties (Table 9). Ninety-six and a half percent of the mountain lion license holders were male (Table 10). Mean age of the mountain lion license holders was 44 years old (Table 11).

Research Question 1:

Were there differences between mountain lion license holders who hunted lions and those who did not hunt lions in the 2010 mountain lion season (also comparing successful hunters with unsuccessful hunters)?

Licensed lion hunters who actually hunted for lions were more satisfied with the mountain lion season as conducted in 2010 than were the mountain lion license holders who did not lion hunt (62% vs. 38%) (Table 12-A). About 90% of the successful lion

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hunters were satisfied. Much of the differences are eliminated when the ‘neutral / no opinion’ category is removed from the analyses (Table 12-B).

Age and gender were not related to whether or not the mountain lion license holders actually hunted for lions in 2010 or success (Table 13). Residence was related to mountain lion hunting; 79% of the licensed Black Hills lion hunters actually spent time hunting for mountain lions compared to 52% of the West River residents and 55% of the East River residents (Table 14).

General attitudes were related to whether or not the mountain lion license holders actually hunted for lions in 2010 and success (Tables 15-A – 15-E). For four of the five attitude questions the successful lion hunters had the highest positive attitudes and support for having mountain lions in South Dakota and the license holders that did not hunt had the least positive attitudes, with the unsuccessful lion hunters’ attitude about mid-point between these two groups. However, the three groups were statistically similar on their level of concern about mountain lions killing too many game animals (Table 15-C).

Research Question 2:

Are there any significant/important differences between the five mountain lion seasons (2005–2010)? Note: the 2005 lion season was held during the Black Hills elk seasons (October), the 2006 and 2007 lion seasons were held during the Black Hills deer season (November), and the 2009 and 2010 seasons were outside of the deer season (January–February).

From 2005 through 2007 a similar percent of mountain lion license holders actually spent time hunting for mountain lions, ranging from 57% in 2005 to 61% in 2006, however, a significantly higher percent of the 2009 (68%) and 2010 (71%) licensed hunters actually spent time hunting for mountain lions (Table 16). This is because the 2005 – 2007 seasons were held during big game seasons, in which many hunters had purchased their mountain lion license just in case they had an opportunity to shoot a lion incidental to their other hunting. Another reason for the lower percent of licensed hunters actually hunting for mountain lions in the 2005–2007 seasons was because these three seasons ended relatively early, thus eliminating many hunters who had planned to hunt later in the season.

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A much higher percent of mountain lion hunters in 2009 and 2010 reported seeing tracks or other sign of mountain lions compared to the previous three years (Table 17). This was because the 2009 and 2010 seasons started in January and had many more days of snow cover compared to the previous three seasons. The percent of lion hunters that reported seeing a mountain lion ranged from 10% in 2006 and 2007 to 14% in 2005, 2009 and 2010 (Table 17).

Success per hunter was highest in 2010 compared to the previous three years (Table 18). Success per hunter cannot be used as an indicator of relative population status unless all other factors are held constant, and especially not when the season ends after a limit is reached rather than after a prescribed time period. Some factors besides population that can affect hunter success are timing of the season, weather conditions, number of hunters, and harvest limit. The relatively high harvest success in 2010 was probably most influenced by the higher harvest limit compared to the previous seasons.

The 2005 mountain lion license holders were more satisfied (69%) with their lion season compared to the following four seasons; however, the percent of hunters dissatisfied with the mountain lion season was relatively low for all five seasons (Table 19).

Mean age and gender ratios of the licensed hunters were relatively similar for all five seasons (Tables 11 and 19).

Research Question 3:

Are there any significant/important differences between the two data collection methods (mail vs. Internet) for the 2010 mountain lion hunter survey?

Twelve of 28¹ (43%) statistical comparisons between data collection methods were not significant (Table 27). The following variables had statistically similar results from the two different data collection methods: whether or not the licensed hunter actually spent time hunting lions, success (harvesting a lion), observing lion tracks or sign, observing a lion, five of the six satisfaction measures, gender and two of the three attitude measures of concern about mountain lions killing too many game animals.

¹ Satisfaction had six different measures and each of the five attitude questions had three different measures.

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Sixteen of 28¹ (57%) statistical comparisons between data collection methods were significant (Table 28). Mountain lion hunters responding by mail averaged one more day of hunting compared to hunters responding by Internet (6.7 vs. 5.7 days)(Table 21). Only one of the six measures of satisfaction comparing data collection method was significant and the difference on that one variable was relatively small: for the licensee holders that actually hunted, a higher percent of hunters responding by Internet were satisfied compared to hunters responding by mail (66% vs. 59%)(Table 24-B).

The particularly noticeable difference in results by the two data collection methods was for the general attitudes towards mountain lions in South Dakota. All three measures for four of the five questions and the summarized attitude measure for concern about mountain lions killing too many game animals were significantly different based on data collection method (Table 28). Overall, mountain lion license holders responding by Internet had higher positive and supportive attitudes towards mountain lions in South Dakota and had slightly fewer expressing concern about lions killing too many game animals compared to those responding by mail (Tables 25-A – 25-E). Internet responders were slightly younger on average compared to those responding by mail (43.5 vs. 44.9 years) (Table 26).

DISCUSSION

Satisfaction. Although it appears that satisfaction with the mountain lion season seems to be a bit low (55% satisfied), only about 12% reported being dissatisfied, which overall indicates a fairly successful lion hunting season. Part of the explanation for the relatively low percent of satisfied license holders was the high percent of ‘neutral or no opinion’ responses, especially from the license holders that did not spend any time hunting mountain lions. Removing the ‘neutral / no opinion’ responses results in 82% satisfied and 18% dissatisfied with the 2010 mountain lion season.

Another factor related to dissatisfaction is from the small portion of hunters that want to use dogs to hunt mountain lions. Since the current hunting season structure provides for a recreational opportunity for a large number of participants and a harvest limit is reached well within the established season it is unlikely that permitting hunting with dogs would lead to overall increased satisfaction. A majority of the hunters like the current mountain lion hunting system.

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Fewer mountain lion licenses were sold in 2009 and 2010 compared to the 2006 and 2007 seasons, largely due to the fact that many of the 2006 and 2007 licensed lion hunters were Black Hills deer hunters that purchased their lion license as an incidental hunt with their deer hunting. Many hunters liked having the ability to hunt mountain lions incidental to their deer and turkey hunting while others wanted to have a mountain lion season outside of other hunter seasons. This survey only measured the satisfaction of licensed lion hunters, thus hunters that were dissatisfied with the 2010 mountain lion season that did not purchase a 2010 license are not included in this evaluation.

General Evaluation of the 2010 Mountain Lion Season. Although some aspects of mountain lion hunting in South Dakota will always have some level of controversy, from a management perspective South Dakota's 2010 mountain lion season had the following elements of success:

- The mountain lion season provided recreational opportunities for many South Dakota hunters. There was considerable interest in the mountain lion season and a majority of the hunters were satisfied with the season design.
- The mountain lion season operated as designed; the total harvest limit was reached in 41 days and a healthy population of mountain lions remains in the Black Hills.
- The mountain lion season creates a need for additional research as well as providing very important information about the overall health of the mountain lion population in South Dakota.

Controversy surrounding the mountain lion season has many aspects ranging from whether or not there should be a hunting season on mountain lions to various aspects of the season structure, such as timing of the season, hunting methods, harvest limits, cost of the license, etc. The mountain lion season is a useful tool for managing mountain lions that is well supported by a majority of South Dakota residents. Most South Dakota residents support having a healthy population of mountain lions in the Black Hills but also expect that the mountain lion population should be managed using science-based information. Biological information will be needed to determine if the mountain lion population is at a level that can support a hunting season and the most appropriate limit, however many of the other aspects of mountain lion management also relies on the human dimensions of management.

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Based on some of the comments supplied by hunters there appears to be a misconception held by a few that harvest of females needs to be avoided. The truth is that with a healthy mountain lion population some female harvest may be necessary. However, the experience gained from the first three lion seasons has helped GFP design a season structure that minimizes the problem of young orphaned kittens.

Comments. Many of the respondents to the mountain lion hunter survey provided optional comments with their completed questionnaire (Appendix C and D). These comments provide a qualitative description of hunters' opinions related to mountain lion issues and especially the mountain lion season. Appendix E contains a copy of the summary report sent to all 2010 licensed mountain lion hunters.

Additional Mountain Lion Information. In addition to the annual survey of hunters, GFP produces an annual cougar summary report.² The annual report and other information about mountain lions in South Dakota can be found on the GFP web-page. Also, GFP has supported a series of continuous mountain lion research projects by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University since 1998, with the current project funded through 2011.

Data Collection Methodology. The large number of significant differences between the two data collection methods, especially for the attitude measures, is strong evidence that the Internet data collection method used in this study can not be relied upon as the sole data collection method. The Internet data collection method excludes people who lack a valid e-mail address and also has a relatively low response rate for a number of reasons. Thus, relying solely on the Internet will likely produce biased results.

I do not believe that the survey method itself is responsible for the bias but rather that Internet responders are different from people responding by mail.³ Both data collection methods use the exact same wording and response categories and both methods are taken in a similar environment (namely; the respondent chooses the time that they want to complete the survey and both methods require the respondent to read the questions and check a response category). Thus, these two data collection methods

² The Cougar Summary Report is prepared by GFP, Region 1 biologists (Rapid City, SD).

³ This would make for an interesting experiment: to determine if the Internet response method itself is responsible for different results collected by a traditional mailed survey.

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should not be introducing any biases, unlike biases that may result from using a mail survey compared to a face-to-face survey conducted by an interviewer.

The combined data collection methods used in this study did ensure an adequate response rate (i.e., reduced the possibility of non-response bias errors). The combined method does increase the complexity and amount of work for the researcher, but the portion of data collected by the Internet saved a considerable amount of money by reducing postage and encoding expenses.



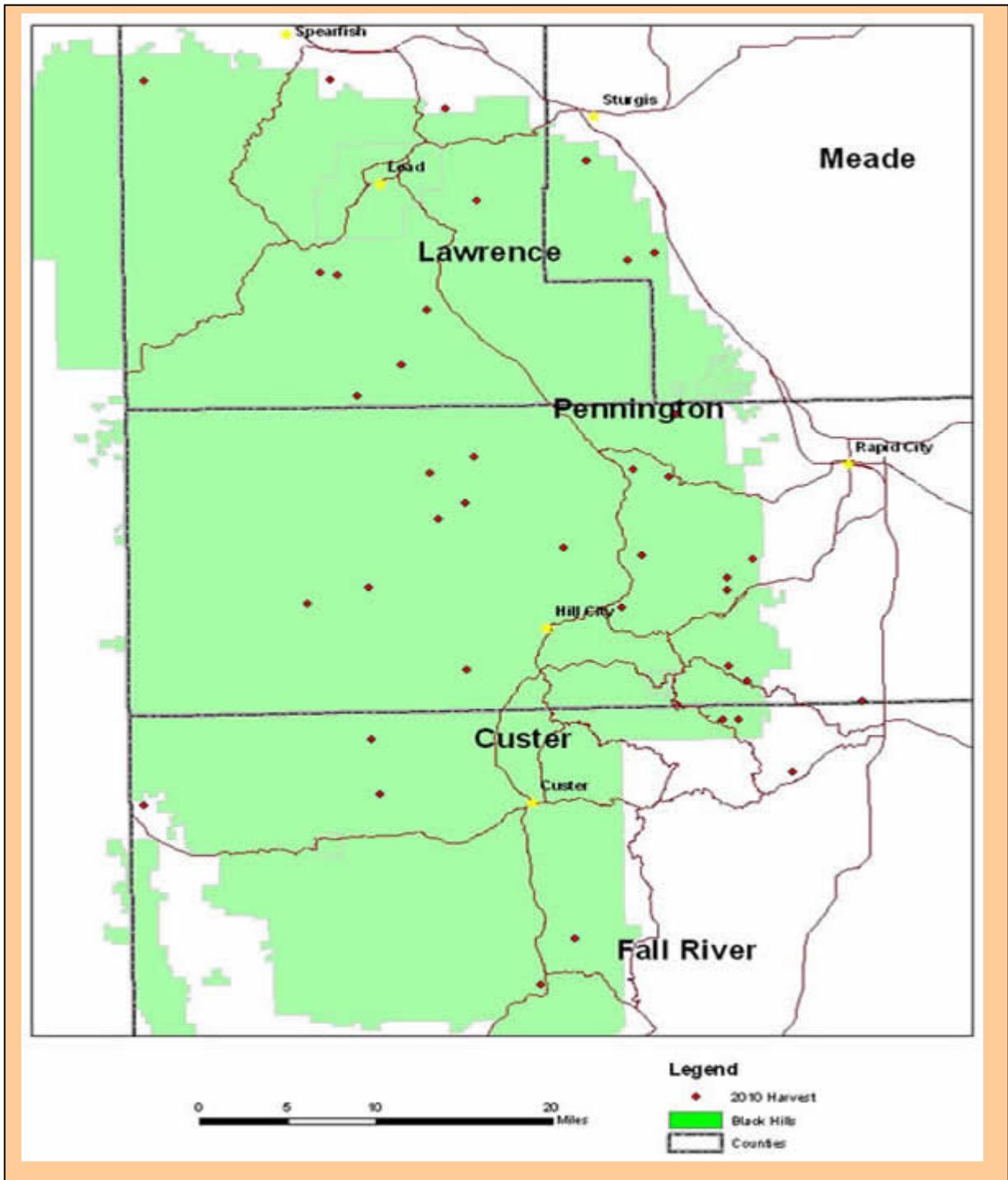


Figure 1. 2010 Mountain lion season harvest locations – Black Hills, South Dakota.

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HUNTER SURVEY – TABLES

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Table 1. Harvest information for the South Dakota 2010 mountain lion season.

2010			
<u>Harvest Date</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Location of Harvest</u>
1 / 1	F	60	2 miles NW of Piedmont
1 / 1	F	70	4 miles SE of Cheyenne Crossing
1 / 1	F	91	3 miles SW of Hayward
1 / 1	F	84	3 miles N of Johnson Siding
1 / 2	M	40	3 miles SW of Mystic
1 / 2	M	66	3 miles SE of Cheyenne Crossing
1 / 2	F	52	3 miles SW of Deerfield Lake
1 / 3	M	139	3 miles S of Rochford
1 / 3	F	57	3 miles S of Brownsville
1 / 6	F	93	1 mile NW of Hayward
1 / 8	F	28	3 miles NE of Pringle
1 / 8	M	107	6 miles SW of Hill City
1 / 9	F	100	1 mile W of Stratobowl
1 / 10	M	145	3 miles NE of Deadwood
1 / 11	F	101	5 miles S of Silver City
1 / 15	F	68	4 miles NW of Rochford
1 / 17	F	31	1 mile W of Stratobowl
1 / 18	F	87	2 miles N of Sheridan Lake
1 / 22	F	74	1 mile N of Mystic
1 / 24	M	120	2 miles NW of Hermosa
1 / 25	F	98	1 mile N of Stratobowl
1 / 29	M	128	4 miles NE of Jewel Cave
1 / 29	M	49	4 miles S of Deerfield Lake

Table 1 continued on next page.

Table 1 – Continued. Harvest information for the South Dakota 2010 mountain lion season.

<u>Harvest Date</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Location of Harvest</u>
1 / 30	M	113	4 miles SW of Mystic
1 / 31	F	96	1 mile W of Galena
2 / 2	F	86	1 mile S of Pringle
2 / 3	M	140	9 miles SW of Spearfish
2 / 5	M	134	6 miles NE of Jewell Cave
2 / 5	F	97	2 miles E of Harney
2 / 6	F	92	3 miles SE of Spearfish
2 / 7	M	105	1 mile S of Johnson Siding
2 / 8	M	137	3 miles N of Elk Mountain
2 / 8	F	89	1 mile SW of Sheridan Lake
2 / 9	F	68	4 miles S of Harney
2 / 9	M	146	4 miles W of Hermosa
2 / 10	F	72	1 mile E of Wonderland Cave
2 / 10	M	130	1 mile W of Johnson Siding
2 / 10	F	91	1 mile E of Harney
2 / 10	M	104	4 miles N of Rochford
2 / 10	F	96	2 miles S of Sturgis

Summary

Females = 24

Males = 16

Total = 40



Results

Table 2. Response information for the 2010 mountain lion hunter survey.¹

Survey Parameters	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey			
Initial Sample Size	2,082			
Undeliverable	7			
Final Sample Size	2,075			
Total Number Returned	1,795			
Total Return Rate	86.5%			
Number Returned Blank	0			
Number Usable Questionnaires	1,795			
Usable Return Rate ¹	86.5%			
Return Method	Mail		Internet	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	841	46.9%	954	53.1%

¹31 of 40 successful lion hunters returned their completed questionnaire (77.5% return rate).

Table 3. Did you spend any time hunting for mountain lions this year (January 1 – February 10, 2010 (and days of hunting)?

Response	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey	
	Number	Percent
NO	530	29.5%
YES	1,265	70.5%
Total	1,795	100%
If Yes, How many days?		
Number of Days	Number	Percent
1	118	9.8%
2	180	15.0%
3	189	15.7%
4	131	10.9%
5	133	11.1%
6	87	7.2%
7	48	4.0%
8	57	4.7%
9	11	0.9%
10	86	7.2%
11 – 20	125	10.4%
21 – 30	29	2.4%
31 or more	7	0.6%
Total (64 missing)	1,201	100%
Median / Range	4.0	1 – 42
Mean / 95% C.I.	6.15	5.81 – 6.48

Table 4. Type of hunting used by the 2010 mountain lion hunters → Check all the types of mountain lion hunting methods that you used.

Response – Types of Mountain Lion Hunting in 2010	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey		
	Number	Percent	% of Cases
calling	1,021	26.7%	81.0%
tracking in the snow	888	23.2%	70.4%
walking in the woods looking for lions	830	21.7%	65.8%
driving looking for lions or lion sign	671	17.5%	53.2%
incidental while doing other activities	239	6.2%	19.0%
sitting on a kill site	110	2.9%	8.7%
other	43	1.1%	3.4%
use of scent attractants	25	0.7%	2.0%
Total Number of Cases (4 missing)	1,261	100%	303.5%
Number of Methods used	Number	Percent	
1	149	11.8%	
2	261	20.7%	
3	391	31.0%	
4	338	26.8%	
5	105	8.3%	
6	14	1.1%	
7	2	0.2%	
8	1	0.15%	
Total (4 missing)	1,261	100%	
Mean / 95% C.I.	3.03	2.97 – 3.10	

Table 4-A. Type of hunting used by the 40 successful mountain lion hunters (recorded at the check-in station).

Type of Mountain Lion Hunting	Number	Percent
Predator Call	23	57.5%
Spot & Stalk	7	17.5%
Tracking	6	15.0%
Kill Site	3	7.5%
Lion Call	1	2.5%
Total	40	100%
Average days of hunting by the 40 successful mountain lion hunters: 6.9 days		

Table 5. What type of interactions with mountain lions did you have during the 2010 Mountain Lion Season?

Response	Observed tracks or signs	
	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey	
	Number	Percent
NO	264	20.9%
YES	1,001	79.1%
Total	1,265	100%

Response	Observed a Mountain Lion	
	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey	
	Number	Percent
NO	1,084	85.7%
YES	181	14.3%
Total	1,265	100%

If Yes → Observed a Mountain Lion: How Many?		
Response	Number	Percent
1	92	53.5%
2	48	27.9%
3	21	12.2%
4	7	4.1%
5	3	1.7%
17	1	0.6%
Total (9 missing)	172	100%

If you observed a mountain lion – Check all the situation that apply:	Number	Percent	% of Cases
Did not have a good or clear shot	80	34.3%	46.2%
Lion was with one or more other lions	44	18.9%	25.4%
I harvested a mountain lion	31	13.3%	17.9%
Other	28	12.0%	16.2%
Lion had spots (young lion)	22	9.4%	12.7%
Lion was with a spotted lion (young lion)	17	7.3%	9.8%
I shot at but missed a lion	8	3.4%	4.6%
I shot at, probably wounded, but did not retrieve a lion	2	0.9%	1.2%
Lion was aggressive and near a possible den	1	0.4%	0.6%
Total (173 cases – 8 missing)	233	100%	134.7%

→ Were any of the lions you observed wearing a radio-collar?		
Response	Number	Percent
No	122	69.3%
Not Sure	34	19.3%
Yes	20	11.4%
Total (5 missing)	176	100%

¹ 12 (60%) of the 20 hunters that saw a collared lion, harvested a lion.

Table 6. Success statistics for the 2010 Mountain Lion Season.

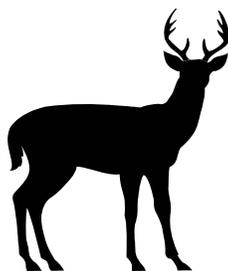
SUCCESS STATISTICS	
Success per licensed hunter	40 / 2,082 = 1.92%
Estimated number of lion hunters	70.5% 2,082 = 1,468
Success per lion hunter	40 / 1,468 = 2.72%

Table 7-A. Overall, how satisfied were you with the mountain lion season as conducted in 2010?

Satisfaction (scale)	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey					
	Didn't Hunt		Hunted		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	18	3.4%	55	4.3%	73	4.1%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	6	1.1%	47	3.7%	53	3.0%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	18	3.4%	70	5.5%	88	4.9%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	289	54.5%	297	23.5%	586	32.6%
Slightly Satisfied (1)	18	3.4%	170	13.4%	188	10.5%
Moderately Satisfied (2)	76	14.3%	332	26.2%	408	22.7%
Very Satisfied (3)	105	19.8%	294	23.2%	399	22.2%
Total	530	100%	1,265	100%	1,795	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=184.293$; $df=6$; $p<0.001$						
Mean	0.76		1.10		1.00	
95% C.I.	0.63 – 0.88		1.01 – 1.10		0.92 – 1.07	
ANOVA: $F=17.022$; $df=1/1,793$; $p<0.001$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
DISSATISFIED	42	7.9%	172	13.6%	214	11.9%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	289	54.5%	297	23.5%	586	32.6%
SATISFIED	199	37.5%	796	62.9%	995	55.4%
Chi-square: $X^2=163.781$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						

Table 7-B. Overall, how satisfied were you with the mountain lion season as conducted in 2010 (analysis eliminates the neutral / no opinion response)?

Satisfaction (scale)	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey					
	Didn't Hunt		Hunted		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	18	7.5%	55	5.7%	73	6.0%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	6	2.5%	47	4.9%	53	4.4%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	18	7.5%	70	7.2%	88	7.3%
Neutral / No Opinion	<i>response coded as missing</i>					
Slightly Satisfied (1)	18	7.5%	170	17.6%	188	15.6%
Moderately Satisfied (2)	76	31.5%	332	34.3%	408	33.7%
Very Satisfied (3)	105	43.6%	294	30.4%	399	33.0%
Total	241	100%	968	100%	1,209	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=26.759$; $df=5$; $p<0.001$						
Mean	1.66		1.43		1.48	
95% C.I.	1.43 – 1.90		1.32 – 1.54		1.38 – 1.58	
ANOVA: $F=3.348$; $df=1/1,207$; $p=0.068$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
DISSATISFIED	42	17.4%	172	17.8%	214	17.7%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	<i>response coded as missing</i>					
SATISFIED	199	82.6%	796	82.2%	995	82.3%
Chi-square: $X^2=0.015$; $df=1$; $p=0.901$						



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General Attitude towards Mountain Lions in South Dakota

...held by 2010 licensed mountain lion hunters (Tables 8-A – 8-E)

Table 8-A. Attitude of 2010 license mountain lion hunters: The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment.

Response (scale)	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	499	28.6%
Moderately Agree (+2)	384	22.0%
Slightly Agree (+1)	289	16.6%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	224	12.8%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	111	6.4%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	109	6.2%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	129	7.4%
Total (50 missing)	1,745	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	1.05	0.97 – 1.14
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
AGREE	1,172	67.2%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	224	12.8%
DISAGREE	349	20.0%

Table 8-B. Attitude of 2010 license mountain lion hunters: Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me.

Response (scale)	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	469	26.8%
Moderately Agree (+2)	349	20.0%
Slightly Agree (+1)	266	15.2%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	208	11.9%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	135	7.7%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	115	6.6%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	206	11.8%
Total (47 missing)	1,748	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	0.79	0.70 – 0.89
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
AGREE	1,084	62.0%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	208	11.9%
DISAGREE	456	26.1%

Table 8-C. Attitude of 2010 license mountain lion hunters: I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals.

Response (scale)	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	763	43.7%
Moderately Agree (+2)	339	19.4%
Slightly Agree (+1)	213	12.2%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	179	10.2%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	76	4.4%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	82	4.7%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	95	5.4%
Total (48 missing)	1,747	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	1.52	1.44 – 1.60
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
AGREE	1,315	75.3%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	179	10.2%
DISAGREE	253	14.5%

Table 8-D. Attitude of 2010 license mountain lion hunters: Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people.

Response (scale)	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	137	7.8%
Moderately Agree (+2)	148	8.5%
Slightly Agree (+1)	241	13.8%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	238	13.6%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	224	12.8%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	269	15.4%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	489	28.0%
Total (49 missing)	1,746	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	-0.73	-0.83 – -0.64
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
AGREE	526	30.1%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	238	13.6%
DISAGREE	982	56.2%

Table 8-E. Attitude of 2010 license mountain lion hunters: By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions.

Response (scale)	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	680	38.9%
Moderately Agree (+2)	409	23.4%
Slightly Agree (+1)	281	16.1%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	119	6.8%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	89	5.1%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	73	4.2%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	95	5.4%
Total (49 missing)	1,746	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	1.50	1.42 – 1.58
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
AGREE	1,370	78.5%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	119	6.8%
DISAGREE	257	14.7%



Table 9. 2010 Mountain lion license holders' home county.

COUNTY	2010 Mountain Lion License Holders	
	Number	Percent
1. Minnehaha	64	3.7%
2. Pennington	596	34.1%
3. Brown	21	1.2%
4. Beadle	12	0.7%
5. Codington	11	0.6%
6. Brookings	21	1.2%
7. Yankton	6	0.3%
8. Davison	15	0.9%
9. Lawrence	217	12.4%
10. Aurora	3	0.2%
11. Bennett	5	0.3%
12. Bon Homme	7	0.4%
13. Brule	8	0.6%
14. Buffalo	1	0.1%
15. Butte	54	3.1%
16. Campbell	1	0.1%
17. Charles Mix	14	0.8%
18. Clark	3	0.2%
19. Clay	9	0.5%
20. Croson	2	0.1%
21. Custer	155	8.9%
22. Day	6	0.3%
23. Deuel	3	0.2%
24. Dewey	3	0.2%
25. Douglas	8	0.5%
26. Edmunds	3	0.2%
27. Fall River	52	3.0%
28. Faulk	2	0.1%
29. Grant	5	0.3%
30. Gregory	22	1.3%
31. Haakon	12	0.7%
32. Hamlin	4	0.25
33. Hand	8	0.5%
34. Hanson	2	0.1%
35. Harding	11	0.6%
36. Hughes	36	2.1%
37. Hutchinson	1	0.1%
38. Hyde	5	0.3%
39. Jackson	6	0.3%

Table continued on next page.

Table 9 - Continued. 2010 Mountain lion license holders' home county.

COUNTY	2010 Mountain Lion License Holders	
	Number	Percent
40. Jerauld	1	0.1%
41. Jones	7	0.4%
42. Kingsbury	4	0.2%
43. Lake	11	0.6%
44. Lincoln	26	1.5%
45. Lyman	5	0.3%
46. McCook	4	0.2%
47. McPherson	0	0.0%
48. Marshall	5	0.3%
49. Meade	189	10.8%
50. Mellette	2	0.1%
51. Miner	4	0.2%
52. Moody	3	0.2%
53. Perkins	9	0.5%
54. Potter	2	0.1%
55. Roberts	1	0.1%
56. Sanborn	3	0.2%
57. Spink	2	0.1%
58. Stanley	2	0.1%
59. Sully	6	0.3%
60. Tripp	21	1.2%
61. Turner	9	0.5%
62. Union	3	0.2%
63. Walworth	8	0.5%
64. Ziebach	2	0.1%
65. Shannon	3	0.2%
67. Todd	1	0.1%
TOTAL (48 missing)	1,747	100%
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
Black Hills Counties¹	1,209	69.2%
West River Counties, including Black Hills	(1,376)	(78.8%)
West River Counties, excluding Black Hills	167	9.6%
East River Counties	371	21.2%

¹Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River, and Meade

Table 10. Percent of male and female 2010 mountain lion license holders (based on actual license sales).

SEX	2010 Mountain Lion License Holders					
	Didn't Hunt		Hunted		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	491	97.2%	1,206	96.2%	1,697	96.5%
Female	14	2.8%	48	3.8%	62	3.5%
Total (36 missing)	505	100%	1,254	100%	1,759	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=1.179$; $df=1$; $p=0.277$						

Table 11. Age distribution of 2010 mountain lion license holders.

AGE CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENT	AGE CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENT
11 – 14	17	1.0%	11 – 19	66	3.8%
15 – 17	31	1.8%	20 – 29	245	14.0%
18 – 20	31	1.8%	30 – 39	360	20.5%
21 – 24	83	4.7%	40 – 49	438	24.9%
25 – 29	149	8.5%	50 – 59	390	22.2%
30 – 34	177	10.1%	60 – 69	195	11.1%
35 – 39	183	10.4%	70 – 79	53	3.0%
40 – 44	186	10.6%	80 – 89	9	0.5%
45 – 49	252	14.4%			
50 – 54	213	12.1%			
55 – 59	177	10.1%			
60 – 64	116	6.6%			
65 – 69	79	4.5%			
70 – 74	41	2.3%			
75 – 79	12	0.7%			
80 – 84	7	0.4%			
85 – 89	2	0.1%			
TOTAL (39 missing)	1,756	100%	TOTAL	1,756	100%
SUMMARIZED AGE DATA					
2005	Mean age = 42.9 years; median age = 43; range = 12 – 85; 95% C.I. = 42.3 – 43.5				
2006	Mean age = 42.63: Deer Hunter Survey Data (N=353); 95% C.I.= 41.09 – 44.17 Mean age = 42.58: Lion Hunter Survey Data (N=2,120); 95% C.I.= 41.97 – 43.19				
2007	Mean age = 43.7 years; median age = 44; range = 11 – 98; 95% C.I. = 43.1 – 44.2				
2009	Mean age = 43.3 years; median age = 44; range = 12 – 87; 95% C.I. = 42.6 – 43.9				
2010	Mean age = 44.1 years; median age = 45; range = 12 – 86; 95% C.I. = 43.5 – 44.8				

Table 12-B. Satisfaction with the 2010 mountain lion season analyzed by participation and success in the mountain lion season (analysis eliminates the neutral / no opinion response).

Satisfaction	2010 Mountain Lion Survey					
	Did Not Hunt Lions		Hunted Lions			
			Unsuccessful		Successful	
Mean ¹	1.66		1.40		2.43	
95% C.I.	1.43 – 1.90		1.29 – 1.51		1.86 – 3.00	
ANOVA: F=6.761; df=2/1,206; p=0.001						
FULL RESULTS						
Satisfaction	Did Not Hunt Lions		Hunted Lions			
			Unsuccessful		Successful	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Dissatisfied	18	7.5%	53	5.7%	2	6.7%
Moderately Dissatisfied	6	2.5%	47	5.0%	0	0.0%
Slightly Dissatisfied	18	7.5%	70	7.5%	0	0.0%
Neutral / No Opinion	<i>Response coded as missing</i>					
Slightly Satisfied	18	7.5%	170	18.1%	0	0.0%
Moderately Satisfied	76	31.5%	327	34.9%	5	16.7%
Very Satisfied	105	43.6%	271	28.9%	23	76.7%
Total	241	100%	938	100%	30	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=59.795$; df=10; $p<0.001$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
Satisfaction	Did Not Hunt Lions		Hunted Lions			
			Unsuccessful		Successful	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISSATISFIED	42	17.4%	170	18.1%	2	6.7%
NEUTRAL	<i>Response coded as missing</i>					
SATISFIED	199	82.6%	768	81.9%	28	93.3%
TOTAL	241	100%	938	100%	30	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=2.635$; df=2; $p=0.268$						

¹Satisfaction scale: 3=Very Satisfied; 2=Moderately Satisfied; 1=Slightly Satisfied; 0=Neutral / No Opinion; -1=Slightly Dissatisfied; -2=Moderately Dissatisfied; -3=Very Dissatisfied

Table 13. Age and gender of 2010 licensed mountain lion hunters analyzed by participation and success in the mountain lion season.

Age	2010 Mountain Lion Survey			
	Did Not Hunt Lions	Hunted Lions		
		Unsuccessful	Successful	
Mean	45.1	43.8	40.6	
95% C.I.	43.9 – 46.3	43.0 – 44.6	34.6 – 46.6	
ANOVA: F=2.348; df=2/1,753; p=0.096				
Hunting Status	Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Did Not Hunt Lions	491	28.9%	14	22.6%
Hunted Lions – Unsuccessful	1,175	69.2%	48	77.4%
Hunted Lions – Successful	31	1.8%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	1,697	100%	62	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=2.549$; df=2; p=0.280				

Table 14. Licensed (2010) mountain lion hunter’s country residence analyzed by participation and success in the mountain lion season.

HUNTING STATUS	COUNTY RESIDENCE					
	BLACK HILLS		WEST RIVER ¹		EAST RIVER	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Did Not Hunt	256	21.2%	81	48.5%	161	43.4%
Hunted Lions: Unsuccessful	929	76.8%	86	51.5%	203	54.7%
Hunted Lions: Successful	24	2.0%	0	0.0%	7	1.9%
TOTAL	1,209	100%	167	100%	371	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=107.096$; df=4; p<0.001						

¹Excluding the Black Hills counties.

Table 15-A. Attitudes of 2010 license mountain lion hunters: “*The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment*” analyzed by participation and success in the mountain lion season.

The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment.	Did Not Hunt Lions		Hunted Lions			
			Unsuccessful		Successful	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	123	25.1%	364	29.8%	12	38.7%
Moderately Agree (+2)	87	17.7%	287	23.5%	10	32.3%
Slightly Agree (+1)	81	16.5%	204	16.7%	4	12.9%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	79	16.1%	144	11.8%	1	3.2%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	36	7.3%	73	6.0%	2	6.5%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	39	7.9%	69	5.6%	1	3.2%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	46	9.4%	82	6.7%	1	3.2%
Total	491	100%	1,223	100%	31	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=26.791$; $df=12$; $p=0.008$						
Mean	0.76		1.16		1.71	
95% C.I.	0.58 – 0.93		1.05 – 1.26		1.12 – 2.30	
ANOVA: $F=9.987$; $df=2/1,742$; $p<0.001$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
AGREE	291	59.3%	855	69.3%	26	83.9%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	79	16.1%	144	11.8%	1	3.2%
DISAGREE	121	24.6%	224	18.3%	4	1.1%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=22.383$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						

Table 15-B. Attitudes of 2010 license mountain lion hunters: “Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me” analyzed by participation and success in the mountain lion season.

Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me.	Did Not Hunt Lions		Hunted Lions			
			Unsuccessful		Successful	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	108	22.0%	348	28.4%	13	41.9%
Moderately Agree (+2)	78	15.9%	261	21.3%	10	32.3%
Slightly Agree (+1)	75	15.2%	187	15.3%	4	12.9%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	76	15.4%	131	10.7%	1	3.2%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	45	9.1%	89	7.3%	1	3.2%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	35	7.1%	79	6.4%	1	3.2%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	75	15.2%	130	10.6%	1	3.2%
Total	492	100%	1,225	100%	31	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=36.086$; $df=12$; $p<0.001$						
Mean	0.44		0.91		1.84	
95% C.I.	0.25 – 0.62		0.80 – 1.02		1.28 – 2.40	
ANOVA: $F=13.893$; $df=2/1,745$; $p<0.001$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
AGREE	261	53.0%	796	65.0%	27	87.1%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	76	15.4%	131	10.7%	1	3.2%
DISAGREE	155	31.5%	298	24.3%	3	9.7%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=30.109$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						

Table 15-C. Attitudes of 2010 license mountain lion hunters: “*I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals*” analyzed by participation and success in the mountain lion season.

I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals.	Did Not Hunt Lions		Hunted Lions			
			Unsuccessful		Successful	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	200	40.8%	553	45.1%	10	32.3%
Moderately Agree (+2)	109	22.2%	225	18.4%	5	16.1%
Slightly Agree (+1)	67	13.7%	135	11.0%	11	35.5%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	55	11.2%	123	10.0%	1	3.2%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	17	3.5%	57	4.6%	2	6.5%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	20	4.1%	61	5.0%	1	3.2%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	22	4.5%	72	5.9%	1	3.2%
Total	490	100%	1,226	100%	31	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=27.102$; $df=12$; $p=0.007$						
Mean	1.56		1.51		1.42	
95% C.I.	1.40 – 1.71		1.40 – 1.62		0.85 – 1.99	
ANOVA: $F=1.168$; $df=2/1,744$; $p=0.845$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
AGREE	376	76.7%	913	74.5%	26	83.9%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	55	11.2%	123	10.0%	1	3.2%
DISAGREE	59	12.0%	190	15.5%	4	12.9%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=5.495$; $df=4$; $p=0.240$						

Table 15-D. Attitudes of 2010 license mountain lion hunters: “*Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people*” analyzed by participation and success in the mountain lion season.

Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people.	Did Not Hunt Lions		Hunted Lions			
			Unsuccessful		Successful	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	50	10.2%	86	7.0%	1	3.2%
Moderately Agree (+2)	44	9.0%	104	8.5%	0	0.0%
Slightly Agree (+1)	88	17.9%	150	12.3%	3	9.7%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	76	15.5%	159	13.0%	3	9.7%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	62	12.6%	160	13.1%	2	6.5%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	63	12.8%	200	16.3%	6	19.4%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	108	22.0%	365	29.8%	16	51.6%
Total	491	100%	1,224	100%	31	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=36.687$; $df=12$; $p<0.001$						
Mean	-0.38		-0.85		-1.81	
95% C.I.	-0.55 – -0.20		-0.96 – -0.74		-2.41 – -1.20	
ANOVA: $F=14.766$; $df=2/1,743$; $p<0.001$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
AGREE	182	37.1%	340	27.8%	4	12.9%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	76	15.5%	159	13.0%	3	9.7%
DISAGREE	233	47.5%	725	59.2%	24	77.4%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=26.258$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						

Table 15-E. Attitudes of 2010 license mountain lion hunters: “By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions” analyzed by participation and success in the mountain lion season.

By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions.	Did Not Hunt Lions		Hunted Lions			
			Unsuccessful		Successful	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	155	31.5%	507	41.5%	18	58.1%
Moderately Agree (+2)	123	25.0%	280	22.9%	6	19.4%
Slightly Agree (+1)	82	16.7%	195	15.9%	4	12.9%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	52	10.6%	66	5.4%	1	3.2%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	22	4.5%	67	5.5%	0	0.0%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	23	4.7%	49	4.0%	1	3.2%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	35	7.1%	59	4.8%	1	3.2%
Total	492	100%	1,224	100%	31	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=33.869$; $df=12$; $p=0.001$						
Mean	1.26		1.58		2.10	
95% C.I.	1.10 – 1.42		1.48 – 1.68		1.55 – 2.64	
ANOVA: $F=7.804$; $df=2/1,743$; $p<0.001$						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
AGREE	360	73.2%	982	80.3%	28	90.3%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	52	10.6%	66	5.4%	1	3.2%
DISAGREE	80	16.3%	175	14.3%	2	6.5%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=19.577$; $df=4$; $p=0.001$						

Research Question 2

Are there any significant/important differences among the five mountain lion seasons (2005–2010)? Note: the 2005 lion season was held during the Black Hills elk season (October) while the 2006 and 2007 lion seasons were held during the Black Hills deer season (November), and the 2009 and 2010 seasons were outside of the deer season (January-February).

Table 16. Did you spend any time hunting for mountain lions this year (2005–2010)?

Season – Year	Sample Size	NO		YES	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2005	2,028	875	43.1%	1,153	56.9%
2006	2,474	956	38.6%	1,518	61.4%
2007	3,372	1,384	41.0%	1,988	59.0%
2009	1,949	628	32.2%	1,320	67.8%
2010	1,795	530	29.5%	1,265	70.5%

Table 17. Interactions with mountain lions during the 2005–2010 mountain lion seasons.

Season – Year	Percent that Observed Tracks or Sign of Lions	Percent that Observed a Mountain Lion During the Season
2005	45.9%	13.9%
2006	49.7%	10.4%
2007	41.7%	10.3%
2009	74.3%	14.0%
2010	79.1%	14.3%

Table 18. Success statistics for the 2005–2010 mountain lion seasons.

YEAR	PARAMETER		
	Success per Licensed hunter	Estimated number of lion hunters	Success per lion hunter
2005	13 / 2,294 = 0.57%	56.9% X 2,294 = 1,305	13 / 1,305 = 1.00%
2006	15 / 3,016 = 0.50%	59.8% X 3,016 = 1,804	15 / 1,804 = 0.83%
2007	19 / 4,070 = 0.47%	59.0% X 4,070 = 2,401	19 / 2,401 = 0.79%
2009	26 / 2,428 = 1.07%	67.8% X 2,428 = 1,646	26 / 1,646 = 1.58%
2010	40 / 2,082 = 1.92%	70.5% X 2,082 = 1,468	40 / 1,468 = 2.72%

Table 19. Overall, how satisfied were you with the mountain lion season as conducted in 2005–2010?

Satisfaction (scale)	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Very Satisfied (3)	32.0%	23.9%	24.8%	27.2%	22.2%
Moderately Satisfied (2)	25.0%	23.0%	24.5%	23.0%	22.7%
Slightly Satisfied (1)	11.5%	12.2%	10.7%	11.0%	10.5%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	15.8%	26.9%	25.5%	28.3%	32.6%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	6.9%	7.1%	6.4%	4.1%	4.9%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	4.4%	3.4%	4.5%	2.9%	3.0%
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	3.9%	3.5%	3.7%	3.5%	4.1%
Total Number	1,956	2,386	2,052	1,840	1,795
Mean	1.31	1.06	1.08	1.18	1.00
95% C.I.	1.24 – 1.39	N/A	1.00 – 1.15	1.11 – 1.26	0.92 – 1.07
SUMMARIZED RESULTS					
SATISFIED	69.0%	59.1%	59.9%	61.2%	55.4%
NEUTRAL	15.8%	26.9%	25.5%	28.3%	32.6%
DISSATISFIED	15.2%	14.0%	14.6%	10.5%	11.9%

Table 20. Percent of male and female 2005–2010 mountain lion license holders.

SEX	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Male	96.8%	96.3%	96.7%	96.1%	96.5%
Female	3.2%	3.7%	3.3%	3.9%	3.5%
Total Number	1,964	3,016	3,229	1,911	1,759

Research Question 3

Are there any significant/important differences between the two data collection methods (mail vs. Internet) for the 2010 mountain lion season?

Table 21. Percent of licensed mountain lion hunters that spent time hunting in the 2010 mountain lion season and mean days of hunting analyzed by data collection method.

Hunted for Mountain Lions	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	257	30.6%	273	28.6%
YES	584	69.4%	681	71.4%
Total	841	100%	954	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=0.811$; $df=1$; $p=0.368$				
Mean Days of Mountain Lion Hunting				
Parameter	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
Mean Days	6.67		5.70	
95% C.I.	6.17 – 7.17		5.27 – 6.13	
Number	556		645	
ANOVA: $F=8.456$; $df=1/1,199$; $p=0.004$				

Table 22. Percent of successful (harvested a mountain lion) mountain lion hunters that spent time hunting in the 2010 mountain lion season analyzed by data collection method.

Harvested a Mountain Lion	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	572	97.9%	662	97.2%
YES	12	2.1%	19	2.8%
Total	584	100%	681	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=0.711$; $df=1$; $p=0.399$				

Table 23. Interactions with mountain lions during the 2010 mountain lion season analyzed by data collection method.

Interaction	Observed a Mountain Lion			
	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Observed Tracks or Sign				
NO	116	19.9%	148	21.7%
YES	468	80.1%	533	78.3%
Total	584	100%	681	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=0.666$; $df=1$; $p=0.415$				
Observed a Mountain Lion				
NO	494	84.6%	590	86.6%
YES	90	15.4%	91	13.4%
Total	584	100%	681	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=1.076$; $df=1$; $p=0.300$				

Table 24-A. Overall satisfaction with the 2010 mountain lion season (all licensed holders) by data collection method.

Satisfaction (scale)	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey			
	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	34	4.0%	39	4.1%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	25	3.0%	28	2.9%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	49	5.8%	39	4.1%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	276	32.8%	310	32.5%
Slightly Satisfied (1)	85	10.1%	103	10.8%
Moderately Satisfied (2)	186	22.1%	222	23.3%
Very Satisfied (3)	186	22.1%	213	22.3%
Total	841	100%	954	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=3.248$; $df=6$; $p=0.777$				
Mean	0.97		1.02	
95% C.I.	0.86 – 1.08		0.92 – 1.12	
ANOVA: $F=0.492$; $df=1/1,793$; $p=0.483$				
SUMMARIZED RESULTS				
DISSATISFIED	108	12.8%	106	11.1%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	276	32.8%	310	32.5%
SATISFIED	457	54.3%	538	56.4%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=1.478$; $df=2$; $p=0.478$				

Table 24-B. Satisfaction of the mountain lion hunters with the 2010 mountain lion season (only those that actually hunted) by data collection method.

Satisfaction (scale)	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey			
	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	22	3.8%	33	4.8%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	24	4.1%	23	3.4%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	41	7.0%	29	4.3%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	151	25.9%	146	21.4%
Slightly Satisfied (1)	72	12.3%	98	14.4%
Moderately Satisfied (2)	141	24.1%	191	28.0%
Very Satisfied (3)	133	22.8%	161	23.6%
Total	584	100%	681	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=11.164$; $df=6$; $p=0.083$				
Mean	1.02		1.16	
95% C.I.	0.89 – 1.16		1.04 – 1.28	
ANOVA: $F=2.135$; $df=1/1,263$; $p=0.144$				
SUMMARIZED RESULTS				
DISSATISFIED	87	14.9%	85	12.5%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	151	25.9%	146	21.4%
SATISFIED	346	59.2%	450	66.1%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=6.294$; $df=2$; $p=0.043$				

Table 25-A. Attitudes of 2010 licensed mountain lion hunters: “*The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment*” analyzed by data collection method.

Attitude: The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment.	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey			
	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-3)	82	10.2%	47	5.0%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	53	6.6%	56	6.0%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	61	7.6%	50	5.3%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	105	13.1%	119	12.6%
Slightly Agree (+1)	132	16.4%	157	16.7%
Moderately Agree (+2)	169	21.0%	215	22.8%
Strongly Agree (+3)	202	25.1%	297	31.6%
Total	804	100%	941	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=26.712$; $df=6$; $p<0.001$				
Mean	0.82		1.25	
95% C.I.	0.69 – 0.96		1.14 – 1.36	
ANOVA: $F=22.609$; $df=1/1,743$; $p<0.001$				
SUMMARIZED RESULTS				
DISAGREE	196	24.4%	153	16.3%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	105	13.1%	119	12.6%
AGREE	503	62.6%	669	71.1%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=19.046$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$				

Table 25-B. Attitudes of 2010 licensed mountain lion hunters: “Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me” analyzed by data collection method.

Attitude: Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me.	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey			
	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-3)	115	14.3%	91	9.7%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	61	7.6%	54	5.7%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	65	8.1%	70	7.4%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	109	13.5%	99	10.5%
Slightly Agree (+1)	115	14.3%	151	16.0%
Moderately Agree (+2)	157	19.5%	192	20.4%
Strongly Agree (+3)	185	22.9%	284	30.2%
Total	807	100%	941	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=23.031$; $df=6$; $p=0.001$				
Mean	0.56		0.99	
95% C.I.	0.42 – 0.70		0.87 – 1.12	
ANOVA: $F=20.042$; $df=1/1,746$; $p<0.001$				
SUMMARIZED RESULTS				
DISAGREE	241	29.9%	215	22.8%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	109	13.5%	99	10.5%
AGREE	457	56.6%	627	66.6%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=18.460$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$				

Table 25-C. Attitudes of 2010 licensed mountain lion hunters: “*I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals*” analyzed by data collection method.

Attitude: I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals.	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey			
	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-3)	50	6.2%	45	4.8%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	39	4.8%	43	4.6%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	31	3.8%	45	4.8%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	64	7.9%	115	12.2%
Slightly Agree (+1)	102	12.6%	111	11.8%
Moderately Agree (+2)	159	19.7%	180	19.2%
Strongly Agree (+3)	363	44.9%	400	42.6%
Total	808	100%	939	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=11.284$; $df=6$; $p=0.080$				
Mean	1.55		1.50	
95% C.I.	1.42 – 1.67		1.38 – 1.60	
ANOVA: $F=0.345$; $df=1/1,745$; $p=0.557$				
SUMMARIZED RESULTS				
DISAGREE	120	14.9%	133	14.2%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	64	7.9%	115	12.2%
AGREE	624	77.2%	691	73.6%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=8.839$; $df=2$; $p=0.012$				

Table 25-D. Attitudes of 2010 licensed mountain lion hunters: “*Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people*” analyzed by data collection method.

Attitude: Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people.	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey			
	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-3)	220	27.3%	269	28.6%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	119	14.8%	150	15.9%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	85	10.6%	139	14.8%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	112	13.9%	126	13.4%
Slightly Agree (+1)	116	14.4%	125	13.3%
Moderately Agree (+2)	73	9.1%	75	8.0%
Strongly Agree (+3)	80	9.9%	57	6.1%
Total	805	100%	941	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=16.052$; $df=6$; $p=0.013$				
Mean	-0.60		-0.85	
95% C.I.	-0.74 – -0.46		-0.97 – -0.73	
ANOVA: $F=7.103$; $df=1/1,744$; $p=0.008$				
SUMMARIZED RESULTS				
DISAGREE	424	52.7%	558	59.3%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	112	13.9%	126	13.4%
AGREE	269	33.4%	257	27.3%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=8.843$; $df=2$; $p=0.012$				

Table 25-E. Attitudes of 2010 licensed mountain lion hunters: “By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions” analyzed by data collection method.

Attitude: By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions.	2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey			
	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree (-3)	58	7.2%	37	3.9%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	41	5.1%	32	3.4%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	50	6.2%	39	4.2%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	64	7.9%	55	5.9%
Slightly Agree (+1)	128	15.9%	153	16.3%
Moderately Agree (+2)	187	23.2%	222	23.6%
Strongly Agree (+3)	279	34.6%	401	42.7%
Total	807	100%	939	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=25.063$; $df=6$; $p<0.001$				
Mean	1.28		1.69	
95% C.I.	1.15 – 1.41		1.59 – 1.79	
ANOVA: $F=24.015$; $df=1/1,744$; $p<0.001$				
SUMMARIZED RESULTS				
DISAGREE	149	18.5%	108	11.5%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	64	7.9%	55	5.9%
AGREE	594	73.6%	776	82.6%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=21.543$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$				

Table 26. Sex and age of licensed mountain lion hunters analyzed by data collection method.

Gender	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	794	96.8%	903	96.2%
Female	26	3.2%	36	3.8%
Total	820	100%	939	100%
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=0.566$; $df=1$; $p=0.452$				
Mean Age of 2010 Licensed Mountain Lion Hunters				
Parameter	Mail Survey		Internet Survey	
Mean Age	44.9		43.5	
95% C.I.	43.9 – 45.9		42.6 – 44.3	
Number	817		939	
ANOVA: $F=4.468$; $df=1/1,754$; $p=0.035$				

Table 27. Variables with statistically similar findings for the two data collection methods (mailed vs. Internet).

Variables – Non-significant	<i>p</i> -value	Table
Spent time lion hunting	0.368	21
Success (harvested a lion)	0.399	22
Observed lion tracks or sign	0.415	23
Observed a lion during the 2010 season	0.300	23
All licensed hunters: Satisfaction (full scale)	0.777	24-A
All licensed hunters: Mean satisfaction	0.483	24-A
All licensed hunters: Satisfaction (summarized scale)	0.478	24-A
Lion hunters only: Satisfaction (full scale)	0.083	24-B
Lion hunters only: Mean satisfaction	0.144	24-B
<i>I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals.</i>		25-C
Attitude (full scale)	0.080	
Mean attitude	0.557	
Gender	0.452	26

Table 28. Variables with statistically different findings for the two data collection methods (mailed vs. Internet).

Variables – Significant	p-value	Table
Mean days of lion hunting	0.004	21
Lion hunters only: Satisfaction (summarized scale)	0.043	24-B
<i>The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment.</i> Attitude (full scale)	<0.001	25-A
Mean attitude	<0.001	
Attitude (summarized scale)	<0.001	
<i>Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me.</i> Attitude (full scale)	<0.001	25-B
Mean attitude	<0.001	
Attitude (summarized scale)	<0.001	
<i>I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals.</i> Attitude (summarized scale)	0.012	25-C
<i>Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people.</i> Attitude (full scale)	0.013	25-D
Mean attitude	0.008	
Attitude (summarized scale)	0.012	
<i>By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions.</i> Attitude (full scale)	<0.001	25-E
Mean attitude	<0.001	
Attitude (summarized scale)	<0.001	
Mean age	0.035	26

Appendix A. Mountain lion harvest information for the previous South Dakota mountain lion seasons (2005 – 2009).

<u>Harvest Date</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Hunting Unit</u>	<u>Location of Harvest</u>
2005					
10/01/2005	F	6	84 pounds	Black Hills	7 mi west of Spearfish
10/02/2005	F	2.5	93 pounds	Black Hills	1 mi west of Custer SP
10/03/2005	M	3	121 pounds	Black Hills	8 mi SW of Spearfish
10/05/2005	M	9	141 pounds	Black Hills	3 mi west of Rapid City
10/07/2005	M	2	106 pounds	Black Hills	11 mi south of Spearfish
10/08/2005	M	2	104 pounds	Black Hills	2 mi south of Mystic
10/09/2005	F	1.5	70 pounds	Black Hills	2.5 mi west of Piedmont
10/12/2005	M	2	98 pounds	Black Hills	2 mi NW of Rockerville
10/15/2005	F	1.5	68 pounds	Black Hills	8 mi NW of Custer
10/18/2005	F	5.5	91 pounds	Black Hills	5 mi east of Hill City
10/19/2005	M	3	97 pounds	Black Hills	1.5 mi west of Custer
10/20/2005	F	2.5	86 pounds	Black Hills	4.5 mi south of Sturgis
10/24/2005	F	4.5	90 pounds	Black Hills	8 mi south of Lead
2006					
11/01/2006	F	1.5	68 pounds	Black Hills	2 mi SW of Deerfield Lake
11/03/2006	M	1.5	90 pounds	Black Hills	3 mi SE of Custer
11/03/2006	F	1	52 pounds	Black Hills	7 mi west of Rapid City
11/03/2006	M	1.5	80 pounds	Black Hills	5 mi NW of Deerfield Lake
11/04/2006	M	4	146 pounds	Black Hills	7 miles north of Custer
11/05/2006	F	2.5	85 pounds	Black Hills	8 miles SW of Spearfish
11/06/2006	M	1.5	93 pounds	Black Hills	10 mi west of Rochford
11/07/2006	F	5.5	90 pounds	Black Hills	2 mi south of Sheridan Lake
11/09/2006	M	7	156 pounds	Black Hills	2 mi east of Nemo
11/09/2006	M	2	98 pounds	Black Hills	7 mi NE of Custer
11/11/2006	F	2	85 pounds	Black Hills	1 mi south of Pactola Res.
11/12/2006	F	1.5	82 pounds	Black Hills	7 miles NW of Hill City
11/19/2006	F	3	104 pounds	Black Hills	3 miles west of Spearfish
11/19/2006	M	1.5	88 pounds	Black Hills	5 miles north of Rochford
11/19/2006	F	2	85 pounds	Black Hills	3 miles NE of Nemo
12/10/2006	M	2.5	124 pounds	Prairie	4 miles SE of Hot Springs

Appendix A – Continued.

<u>Harvest Date</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Hunting Unit</u>	<u>Location of Harvest</u>
2007¹					
11/01/2007	F	2	80 pounds	Black Hills	Northern Hills
11/01/2007	F	1.5	72 pounds	Black Hills	Northern Hills
11/01/2007	F	3	85 pounds	Black Hills	Northern Hills
11/01/2007	F	2	79 pounds	Black Hills	Central Hills
11/03/2007	F	4	84 pounds	Black Hills	Southern Hills
11/03/2007	F	1.5	?	Black Hills	Southern Hills
11/04/2007	F	2	86 pounds	Black Hills	Southern Hills
11/11/2007	F	2	83 pounds	Black Hills	Northern Hills
11/11/2007	M	1.5	90 pounds	Black Hills	Central Hills
11/12/2007	F	8	75 pounds	Black Hills	Central Hills
11/14/2007	F	2	104 pounds	Black Hills	Northern Hills
11/15/2007	F	3	80 pounds	Black Hills	Southern Hills
11/17/2007	F	4	84 pounds	Black Hills	Southern Hills
11/17/2007	M	2	105 pounds	Prairie	Harding County
11/20/2007	F	6	103 pounds	Black Hills	Central Hills
11/21/2007	F	3	96 pounds	Black Hills	Northern Hills
11/23/2007	M	1.5	112 pounds	Black Hills	Central Hills
11/23/2007	F	3	89 pounds	Black Hills	Central Hills
11/23/2007	F	4	83 pounds	Black Hills	Southern Hills

Continued on next page.

Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.

Appendix A – Continued.

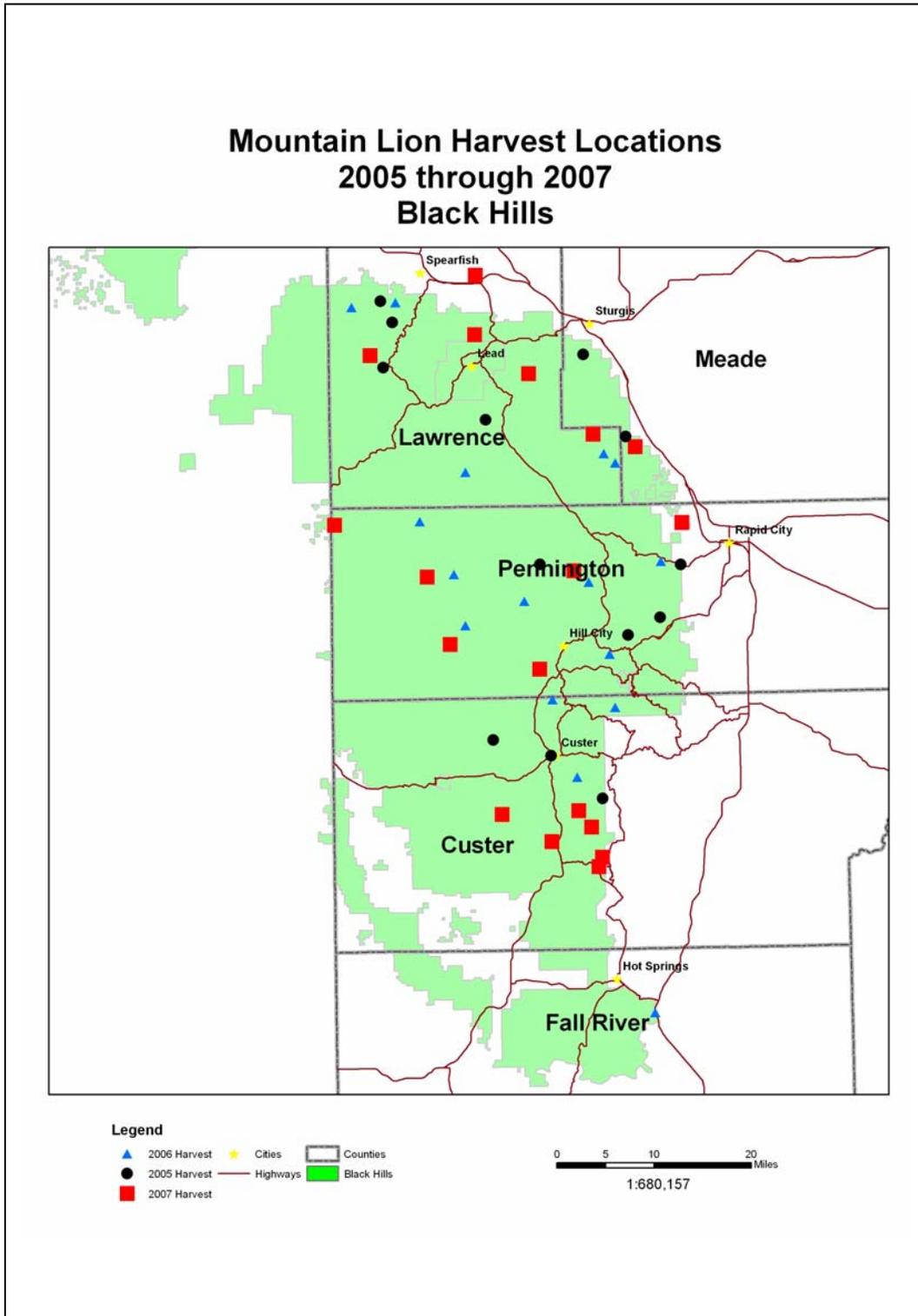
<u>Harvest Date</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Hunting Unit</u>	<u>Location of Harvest</u>
2009^{1,2}					
01/01/2009	F	1.5–2.5 yrs.	75 pounds	Black Hills	Custer Co.
01/02/2009	F	5-7 months	46 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/03/2009	F	6 years	101 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/03/2009	F	9.5–11.5 yrs.	108 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/06/2009	F	1.5–2.5yrs.	84 pounds	Black Hills	Meade Co.
01/07/2009	M	3 years	145 pounds	Black Hills	Meade Co.
01/08/2009	M	3 years	138 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/08/2009	M	7 years	159 pounds	Black Hills	Custer Co.
01/10/2009	M	4-5 years	140 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/10/2009	M	1.5–2 years	121 pounds	Black Hills	Custer Co.
01/10/2009	F	2–3 years	92 pounds	Black Hills	Fall River Co.
01/11/2009	F	2 years	92 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/13/2009	F	2 years	100 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/15/2009	M	3–4 years	147 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/15/2009	M	5 months	43 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/15/2009	M	7 years	129 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/16/2009	M	6 months	53 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/16/2009	F	1.5–2.5 years	76 pounds	Black Hills	Custer Co.
01/23/2009	F	2–3 years	88 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/24/2009	M	3–4 years	140 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/24/2009	F	2–3 years	87 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
01/26/2009	M	5–6 years	129 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
01/31/2009	F	1.5–2.5 years	80 pounds	Black Hills	Meade Co.
02/02/2009	F	3–4 years	92 pounds	Black Hills	Lawrence Co.
02/13/2009	F	2–3 years	98 pounds	Black Hills	Pennington Co.
02/14/2009	F	1–2 years	78 pounds	Black Hills	Meade Co.

¹In 2007 and 2009 the Mountain Lion season was a single statewide unit.²The Black Hills was closed for the 2008 Mountain Lion season (only 1 male lion was harvested in 2008).

Appendix A – Continued: Additional harvest information.

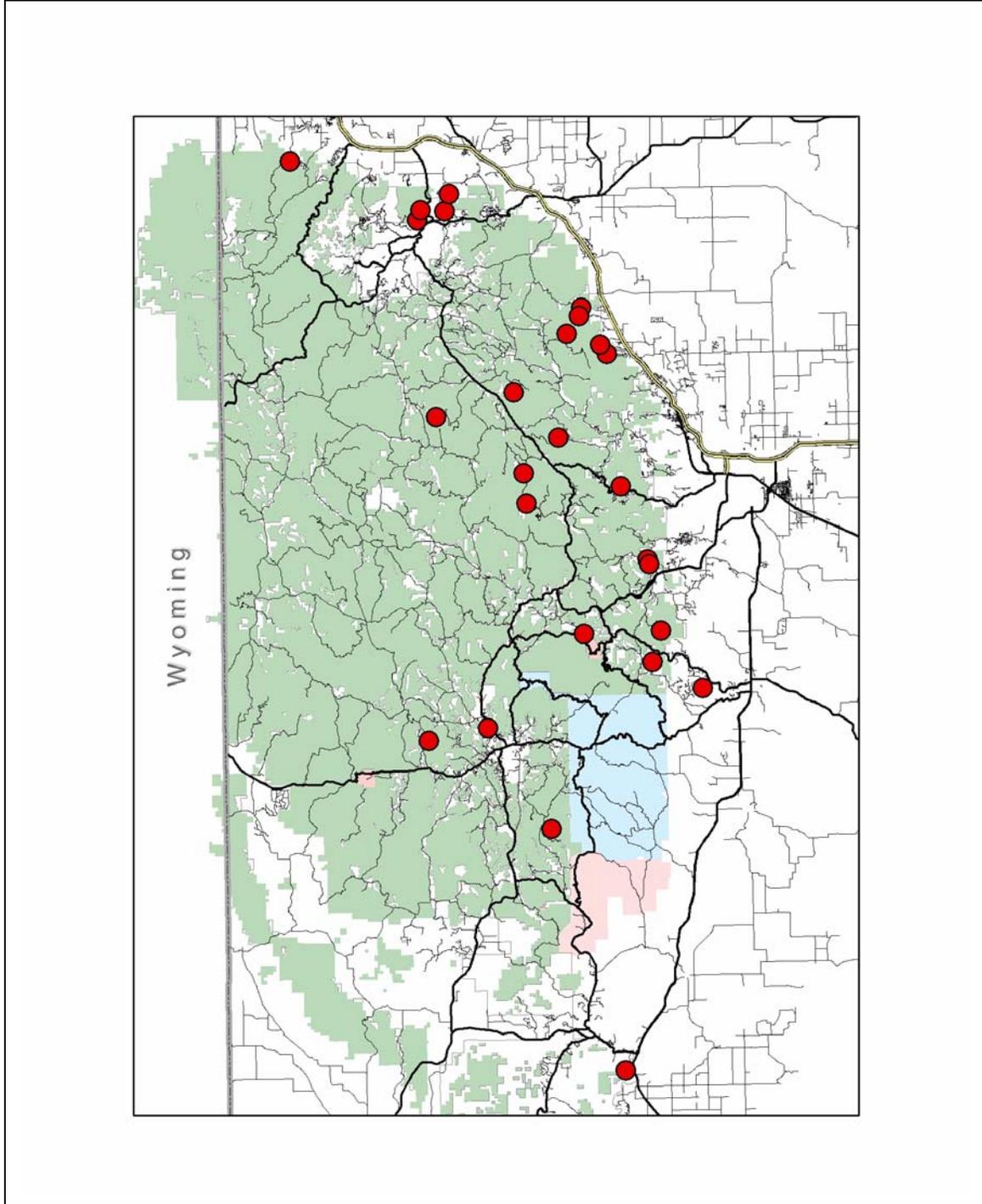
2005			
Hunting for...	Number	Percent	Comments
Elk	5	38.5%	3 incidental harvest and 2 calling for elk (cow call)
Lion	8	61.5%	6 were using some type of call for lions and 2 sitting near a lion-kill site
Total	13	100%	in total, 8 lions (61.5%) were taken by calling
2006			
Hunting for...	Number	Percent	Comments
Deer	4	16.7%	3 incidental harvest and 1 was using a call for deer
Lion	11	73.3%	9 were using some type of call for lions, 1 observed a lion while driving in the hills and 1 lion was shot off a deck
Total	15	100%	in total, 10 lions (66.7%) were taken by calling
2007			
Hunting for...	Number	Percent	Comments
Deer	10	52.6%	8 targeting deer, 1 targeting turkey and 1 targeting coyote (calling)
Lion	9	47.4%	6 hunters used some type of call, 1 hunting from the road, 1 spot and stalk, and 1 sitting with a deer hunter
Total	19	100%	in total, 7 lions (36.8%) were taken by calling
2007 Harvest Summary			
<p>Black Hills Harvest (18 mountain lions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 sub-adult males • 7 sub-adult females, 9 adult females • 5 collared females and 1 collared male harvested <p>Prairie Harvest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 sub-adult male (Harding County) 			
2009			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All hunters specifically hunting mountain lion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 11 hunters predator calling (deer fawn or rabbit distress call) ○ 3 hunters calling using lion calls ○ 1 hunter called using bobcat distress ○ 3 hunters spotted and stalked ○ 4 followed tracks and caught up with lion ○ 3 sitting and 1 sitting over kill site • Average number of days hunted: 5.48 			

Appendix A – Continued: Additional harvest information.



Appendix B – Figure 1. 2005 – 2007 Mountain lion season harvest locations – Black Hills, South Dakota.

Appendix A – Continued: Additional harvest information.



Appendix B – Figure 2. 2009 Mountain lion season harvest locations – Black Hills, South Dakota.

Appendix B

2010 Mountain Lion Hunter Survey: Questionnaires and other mailings



Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182



March 2010

Dear mountain lion hunter:

The 2010 Black Hills Mountain Lion Season closed February 10 (lasting 41 days). Although the season in the Black Hills is closed, licensed landowners outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District can still harvest a lion on their own land for the rest of the year (2010).

Please complete this short survey concerning the 2010 mountain lion season. The questions ask about your hunting experiences and a few general opinions about mountain lions and their management. This information is collected every year as an evaluation of the mountain lion season from the hunters' perspective.

The information you provide is used by game managers in making future decisions about the Black Hills mountain lion season. Your prompt response will eliminate the need to send you another survey. Please take a few minutes to answer your questionnaire and return it using the pre-paid envelope provided. Also, please not remove your address label as the ID number is used to identify hunters that have responded so that we do not mail out reminders.

This year's survey is especially important because GFP is updating the South Dakota Mountain Lion Plan and the information you provide will be part of the public input that will be gathered as part of the planning process. Please answer your survey even if you did not hunt this year because some questions are general attitude questions.

This survey only pertains to the 2010 Black Hills Mountain Lion Season (January 1 – February 10).

2010 BLACK HILLS LION HUNTER SURVEY

Game, Fish & Parks, 523 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501

Please note that this survey only pertains to the 2010 Black Hills Mountain Lion Season
(January 1 – February 10, 2010).

Mountain Lion Hunting in South Dakota



1. Did you spend any time hunting for mountain lions this year (January 1 – February 10)?

- 1. NO → please answer the question #2
- 2. YES → please answer the questions in **Box A** before going to question #2

Box A (answered YES to question #1)

A1. How many days did you hunt for mountain lions? _____ DAYS

A2. Please check all the types of mountain lion hunting methods that you used:

- 1. incidental while doing other activities
- 2. calling
- 3. tracking in the snow
- 4. sitting on a kill site
- 5. use of scent attractants
- 6. walking in the woods hoping to find a mountain lion or signs of lions
- 7. driving the roads looking for a mountain lion or signs of mountain lions
- 8. other → *please describe:* _____

A3. Please indicate which, if any, of the following types of interactions with mountain lions you have experienced during this year's lion season. *Please answer each item by checking either no or yes.*

- | | <u>NO</u> | <u>YES</u> |
|---|-----------|---------------------|
| a. Observed tracks or signs (e.g., buried deer carcass) of mountain lions while lion hunting this year..... | • | • |
| b. Observed a mountain lion while lion hunting this year. | • | • → _____
number |
| → If YES, please check <u>all</u> the appropriate situations: | | |
| • 1. Lion had spots (young lion) | | |
| • 2. Lion was with a spotted lion (young lion) | | |
| • 3. Lion was with one or more other lions | | |
| • 4. Did not have a good or clear shot | | |
| • 5. Lion was aggressive and near a possible den | | |
| • 6. I shot at but missed a lion | | |
| • 7. I shot at, probably wounded, but did not retrieve a lion | | |
| • 8. I harvested a mountain lion | | |
| • 9. Other: _____ | | |

→ Were any of the lions you observed wearing a radio-collar or ear-tag?

- No
- Not Sure
- Yes → _____ (number)

2. Overall, how satisfied were you with the mountain lion season as conducted in 2010?
Please check (•) only one response.

<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Satisfied</u>	<u>Slightly Satisfied</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

General Attitudes towards Mountain Lions in South Dakota

3. People in South Dakota have many different attitudes towards mountain lions. How strongly do **you** AGREE or DISAGREE with each of the following statements?
Please circle one number for each item.

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Moderately Agree</u>	<u>Slightly Agree</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Disagree</u>	<u>Moderately Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
a. The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b. Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c. I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d. Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people... ..	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e. By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Information about Yourself:

4. In which county do you live? _____ COUNTY
5. What is your age and gender? _____ years • MALE • FEMALE

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR VALUABLE TIME COMPLETING THIS SURVEY. Results from this survey will be posted on GFP’s web-page.

You can use this page for any comments you would like to make. These comments will be typed (provided they are legible) and put into a report that will be given to the Game, Fish & Parks Commissioners, staff biologists and administrators and made available to the public.



Optional Comments:

Electronic comments can also be sent to Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us
Please put **Mountain Lion Hunter Comments** in the subject line of your e-mail. Deadline for e-mail comments to be included in the final report is April 1, 2010.

Please return your questionnaire using the addressed, pre-paid return envelope provided.

Postcard Reminder:

March 15, 2010

Last week I mailed you a short survey about the 2010 Mountain Lion Season. The purpose of the survey is to describe purchasers of the Mountain Lion License. Therefore it is important that EVERYONE respond to the survey even if you did not actually spend time hunting for mountain lions. This postcard reminder is being sent to ask you to complete and return your survey as soon as possible using the pre-paid return envelope provided. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed even if you did not hunt mountain lions this year.

Please try to respond to the first mailing of the survey by March 25. If by some chance you did not receive the questionnaire, or if it got misplaced, don't worry (just wait and watch your mail) as a second questionnaire will be mailed to you in a couple of weeks if we don't receive your completed questionnaire in the mail.

Larry Gigliotti

Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist

Insert sent with second mailing of the questionnaire:

Mountain Lion Management in South Dakota

Please help us by completing the enclosed survey. Even if you did not hunt we need your information for the calculations involved in our evaluation of the mountain lion hunting season in South Dakota.

Deadline for responding to this survey is April 22, 2010.

Thank you.

Larry M. Gigliotti

Copy of the Internet Survey:

Lion Hunter 2010	
1. Hunting	
<p>1. This survey only pertains to the the Black Hills Mountin Lion Season from January 1 through February 10, 2010.</p>	
<p>Did you spend any time hunting for mountian lions this year (January 1 - February 10, 2010)?</p>	
<p><input type="radio"/> No</p>	
<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p>	
2. Mountain Lion Hunting Questions	
<p>1. How many days did you hunt for mountain lions? (Please enter a single whole number for your answer.)</p>	
Days Hunting	<input type="text"/>
<p>2. Please check all the types of mountain lion hunting methods that you used.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Incidental while doing other activities.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Calling.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Tracking in the snow.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Sitting on a kill site.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Use of scent attractants.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Walking in the woods looking for a mountain lion or signs of lions.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Driving the roads looking for a mounatian lion or signs of lions (e.g. tracks).</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Other.</p>	
<p>3. Did you find tracks or signs (e.g., buried deer carcass, etc.) of mountain lions while lion hunting this year?</p>	
<p><input type="radio"/> No</p>	
<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p>	
<p>4. Did you observe a mountain lion while lion hunting this year?</p>	
<p><input type="radio"/> No</p>	
<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p>	

Lion Hunter 2010

3. Mountain Lions Observed

1. How many lions did you observe while hunting lions this year?

Total Number of Lions Observed

2. Please check all the types of situations which describe the conditions in which you observed mountain lions this year.

- Lion had spots (young lion).
- Lion was with a spotted lion (young lion).
- Lion was with one or more other lions.
- Did not have a good or clear shot.
- Lion was aggressive and near a possible den.
- I shot at but missed a lion.
- I shot at, probably wounded, but did not retrieve a lion.
- I harvested a lion.
- Other.

3. Were any of the lions you observed wearing a radio-collar or ear-tag?

- No
- Not Sure
- Yes

4. Overall Attitude towards 2010 Mountain Lion Season

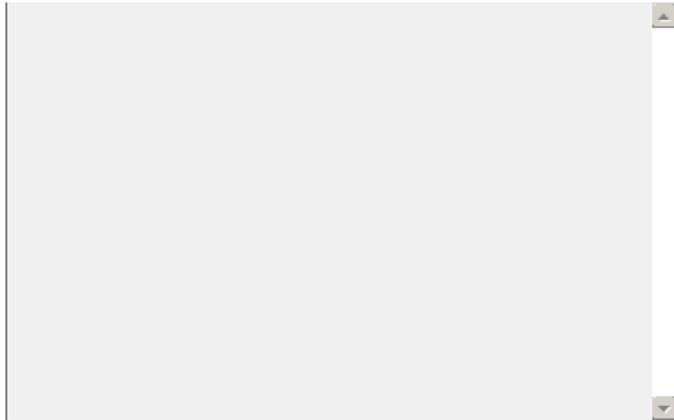
1. Overall, how dissatisfied or satisfied were you with the mountain lion season as conducted in 2010?

- Very Dissatisfied
- Moderately Dissatisfied
- Slightly Dissatisfied
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Satisfied
- Moderately Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

Lion Hunter 2010							
5. General Attitudes towards Mountain Lions in South Dakota							
People in South Dakota have many different attitudes towards mountain lions.							
1. How strongly do YOU agree or disagree with each of the following statements about mountain lions?							
	Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Slightly Agree	Neutral or No Opinion	Slightly Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a) The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment.	<input type="radio"/>						
b) Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me.	<input type="radio"/>						
c) I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals.	<input type="radio"/>						
d) Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people.	<input type="radio"/>						
e) By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions.	<input type="radio"/>						
6. Information about Yourself							
1. In which county do you live?							
<input type="text"/>							
2. What is your gender?							
<input type="radio"/> Male							
<input type="radio"/> Female							
3. What is your age?							
Years <input type="text"/>							
7. OPTIONAL COMMENTS							

Lion Hunter 2010

1. You can use this space for any comments you would like to make. These comments will be put into a report for the GFP Commissioners, staff biologists and administrators and will be available to the public. Please do NOT include your name with your comments.



First E-mail Invitation:

To: [Email]

From: larry.gigliotti@state.sd.us

Subject: Lion Hunter Survey 2010

Body: Dear [FirstName] [LastName]

We are conducting this year's Mountain Lion Hunter survey first by e-mail. You can help save the Department mailing and encoding costs by completing this survey on-line.

This survey only pertains to the 2010 Black Hills Mountain Lion Season (January 1 - February 10).

The 2010 Black Hills Mountain Lion Season closed on February 10. Although the season in the Black Hills is closed, licensed landowners outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District can still harvest a lion on their own land for the remainder of this year.

In a couple of weeks we will mail a paper survey to all hunters that either did not have an e-mail address, had an undeliverable e-mail address or were unable to complete their survey on-line for various reasons. Some people may experience technical problems with this on-line survey (if you do, don't worry as a paper survey will eventually be mailed to you).

Here is a link to the survey:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx>

This link is uniquely tied to this survey and your email address. Please do not forward this message.

Thanks for your participation!

Please note: If you do not wish to receive further emails from us, please click the link below, and you will be automatically removed from our mailing list.
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/optout.aspx>

Reminder E-mail:

To: [Email]

From: larry.gigliotti@state.sd.us

Subject: [Reminder - Mountain Lion Hunter Survey](#)

Body: Dear [FirstName] [LastName]

Reminder to complete your mountain lion hunter survey on-line (if possible) by March 3). We plan to mail out a paper survey to all licensed mountain lion hunters that were unable to respond to the e-mail survey by March 3. You can help save the Department mailing and encoding costs by completing this survey on-line.

This survey only pertains to the 2010 Black Hills Mountain Lion Season (January 1 - February 10).

The 2010 Black Hills Mountain Lion Season closed on February 10. Although the season in the Black Hills is closed, licensed landowners outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District can still harvest a lion on their own land for the remainder of this year.

Here is a link to the survey:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx>

This link is uniquely tied to this survey and your email address. Please do not forward this message.

Thanks for your participation!

Please note: If you do not wish to receive further emails from us, please click the link below, and you will be automatically removed from our mailing list.
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/optout.aspx>

Appendix C. Option comments received by mail from 2010 mountain lion hunters.

ID: 7

I strongly agree with the public opinion that there are significantly more lions in the Black Hills, and throughout the state, than GF&P officials either know about or are admitting to.

ID: 9

In my business I visit and call on many ranchers all along the foot hills (eastern slope) of the Black Hills as well as ranchers in the Black Hills. They all tell me the same thing. Elk and deer numbers are way down. Several of these people can verify many lion kills of both deer and elk. They also say they see very few elk calves, less each year. I would like to see the lion season opened up for a while at least until we start to see an increase in both deer and elk numbers. Let's not completely lose a valuable resource for GF&P.

ID: 12

I still think the Black Hills should be a separate unit or season. My reasoning for this is in other areas fewer lions are found though still around and with the winter travel it is hard to get around. I also strongly feel that if dogs could be used fewer females would be shot and more adult males harvested because of trophy status.

ID: 13

I grew up in the Black Hills and I have seen more lion signs than the past few years than I ever have while hunting deer, elk, turkeys and etc. It is not unusual to see a lion kill when I venture into the woods. The lion population has to exceed 750 plus until somebody proves me wrong!

ID: 14

It would be nice to have a draw system like elk hunting is set up or once in a lifetime. 10 mountain lion tags in draw and these 10 tags could use dogs. This would give more revenue to the state because every lion hunter would apply and if they didn't draw they would still buy a normal lion tag.

ID: 16

Move the season earlier in the year so the snow is not so deep in Northern Hills, and quite telling the public in the news when a female is killed and you have to look for the young. Wake the f*** up.

ID: 17

Don't increase the kill numbers, thanks for giving us another hunting season. Let's not over do it.

ID: 19

The decline in the elk and deer population near Mystic is very apparent. 50 cats next year need to be called.

ID: 22

Glad to see that a licensed land owner can still harvest a mountain lion outside the Black Hills on their own land.

ID: 30

Keep up the good work. Get rid of these pesky cats.

ID: 31

It would be interesting to know if you could put on the survey results, if over all the years of the lion season has anyone harvest more than one lion. I know they are there, I just haven't seen one yet maybe next year!

ID: 35

The season dates suck! Season favors local hills hunters who can jump in a truck go out, hunt an hour or two and go back to work. At least when season coincided with deer season I had more incentive to drive 4 hours to hunt both deer and lion, not only from a time issue but mostly from a cost factor. \$75 plus a night for motel, food, gas, wear and tear on vehicle, lost time from work for a very low chance of ever seeing a lion track in the snow it is not affordable to me or most people! SD GF&P has never been accused of being affordable by anyone I know.

ID: 42

I have hunted the same area for 30 years in the Black Hills and have seen a big decline in deer population. It's not due to hunters because in the last 7 years were seen maybe a hand full of hunters. You can tell that hardly anyone hunts where we do because lack of vehicle tracks etc. We have also hunted elk in the same area and spend a lot of time during deer season to be able to say the declining deer population is not due to hunters.

ID: 50

I don't believe it is safe or a good idea to have free ranging animals in South Dakota that are capable of killing humans. All the mountain lions on earth can not compare to the loss of one human life.

ID: 52

I will only hunt mountain lions in SD as long as it is continuous to be part of a scientific study. Keep up the great work. I have hunted big game in three states and two counties. This was the most satisfying hunt of my life.

ID: 59

Hope you continue with the mountain lion seasons!

ID: 69

Having mountain lions in the Black Hills at small numbers is acceptable. In our area since the rise of lions, porcupine, mountain goats, and whitetail buck populations have dropped or disappeared. The mule deer population is basically gone. Some herds of elk are good but some have no calves with them. Increase the lion quota and let out limited hound hunts for large male lions.

ID: 73

With the interest this season has and continues to have. There may be a need for the successful ones to sit out of few seasons like they do in elk season. It was a very enjoyable hunt but need to be carefully watched.

ID: 78

They have stirred up cattle herds in this community fear for small children around heavy cover areas.

ID: 126

Either manage the elk, deer, sheep etc or manage the damn cats! In my opinion you can't do both and you sure as hell better not use the cats to manage the rest of the wild life populations.

ID: 133

I believe the mountain lion season would be better if there was a second season allowing only males to be taken with the aid of hounds.

ID: 136

I spend the entire summer in the higher hills our deer numbers have been reduced by 70%. You are going to have to kill for more cats or drastically reduce your deer and elk tags.

ID: 154

While I am not a scientist or biologist, I have believed that the numbers of mountain lions in the Black Hills must be significant and in any layman opinion is very likely we have too many lions currently. I am certainly not anti mountain lion but I do have a concern for safety of children, bikers or joggers, or hunters especially since many of the lions that are being killed are being called in and since the harvest is quite high for what seems to be a somewhat smaller geographic area.

ID: 194

I am a hunter who enjoys hunting big game and small game I know it's tough to get accurate counts on wildlife for the public to know how many are living in the wild, but if you have a mountain lion season that lasts 25 or 30 or whatever mountain lions in the Black Hills I feel maybe there needs to step up and say that maybe we might have more lions than we think.

ID: 209

I feel GF&P is severely underestimating the number of lions in the Black Hills area. When people all over the area are seeing cats, tracks, and finding kills. I don't think the number of cats you claim could cover that much ground. I also think they are having a direct impact on the numbers of deer and elk. We have had winter kill numbers which makes the lion kills even more critical to the overall population of big game.

ID: 224

I would like to see a continued increase in the lion quota with every year, with the focus to increase the harvest at lower elevations (close to cities) but reduced harvest in more remote areas (like the unit 2 elk unit).

ID: 247

Would like to see the uses of dogs like they do in are neighbor states such as Wyoming and Montana! This would bring down the number of females killed each year.

ID: 263

I am a firm believer that the houndsmen of South Dakota deserve a place to hunt mountain lions! It is fair to the owners and the dogs they train private land is every where there is plenty of forest land for hounds and the lions shot were all on public access land. The locations noted that lions taken in past hunting years look like they were all then on forest land, a separate season of 10 lions would be easy to implement.

ID: 265

Having this many mountain lions in the hills to me is completely dangerous and unacceptable. I believe someday a human life will be either mauled or killed. Besides them killing 6500 deer and elk the game and fish could have residents harvest them. I have put in for a deer license 3 years and never been successful, yet lions kill 6500 deer and elk. We spend a lot of time in the hills they are beautiful, yet see very few deer compared to 3 years ago. As far as I and many are concerned, 10 lions in the hills would be enough.

ID: 279

Forest service roads are closed when the January 1st season starts; it's then a young man hunt.

ID: 290

Need to kill more lions the GF&P are not even close on how many are in or around the hills. We need to kill all of them.

ID: 310

I feel the lion numbers are high, I enjoyed the hunting, but am surprised by the fact that everywhere I went I was able to easily find tracks and signs. I believe for the

first time in my life hunting in the Black Hills, I have seen more cat signs than coyote. It has also been many years since I have seen a porcupine; I feel they are being whipped out by the lions.

ID: 352

Keep the season on track. There are obviously more than 260 lions in the Black Hills.

ID: 369

I feel the GF&P is either way off base on the published estimated numbers or is holding back due to political pressure, sightings are becoming so common that people don't even bother to report. Also I know the problem cats and traps cats that were killed by GF&P personnel. Why aren't these all made public?

ID: 387

It appears that the time has come to do something with the lions in Custer State Park, way too many.

ID: 390

Thanks for having landowner season open all year round and keeping it separate from the Black Hills seasons.

ID: 408

I didn't get out to hunt I was hoping to kill one at my house. I've seen 4 this year it's ridiculous. I had a CSP late archery tag. After a fresh snow I saw 13 different sets of lion tracks in one morning. 5 years ago I thought it was cool to see a lion now it just makes me sick. I'd rather see 4 bighorn sheep or mountain goats when is the last time you saw a porcupine in the hills? If we don't kill 100-150 a year starting 2011 we will have a real lion problem, believe it.

ID: 413

I was very disappointed in not being able to hunt on the one weekend I had planned when I checked my license it was for 2009 (this was sold to me after the season was closed. I thought this license was for 2010). I purchased a 2010 license but couldn't find the time to go out.

ID: 438

I like the fact that you can't use dogs. I don't care for the limited access.

ID: 439

I have been hunting in the hills for more than 20 years (deer, turkey, elk) and cat hunted for 2 years (total of 39 days) and still have not seen one!

ID: 446

It was my first year and I enjoyed it. I believe it would have been easier to see one if it were not due to deer snow levels, but nobody can control the weather.

ID: 448

Unlike deer, I don't see mountain lions hunting anything in this state. Deer on the other hand stand on our highways and threaten lives and ruin along with ruining trees that tin SD, most were planted and of course they eat the farmer's profits. I would like to see an open season year around on deer and give out limited licenses on coyotes. If the mountain lion population is high then I'm all for the distribution of licenses for control. I am not at all in favor of the GF&P department to have deer farms a raise deer just to sell more licenses!

ID: 454

Mountain lion hunting is too restrictive; use of dogs should be allowed (surrounding states allow this). I have hunted cats in Utah and Montana, using dogs allows hunters to better judge the quarry (when treed) and is immensely enjoyable. Additionally, I believe the quota needs to be upped on cats lions are having an adverse effect on big game populations (especially in the Black Hills).

ID: 462

We need the use of dogs to tree lions as long as people follow the amount of lions that have been killed.

ID: 468

This year I saw barely any deer and turkeys where we hunted lions and deer. Last year these areas were abundant with deer and turkeys specifically the Nemo to Sturgis area.

ID: 518

Better changes for those of us in the Eastern half of SD. That are no big landowners. Why can't we hunt longer if we have permission of landowners and on public land?

ID: 594

Prior to the Black Hills deer season I observed a collared female with 2 kittens. I got very close due to good still hunting conditions. She stayed between the kittens and me but never showed any aggression at all and eventually left to check on her kittens. During the Black Hills deer season I observed a 4 point whitetail kill and a mule deer doe kill but never saw a lion. Prior to the mountain lion season I rechecked the area and observed a big set of tracks I assumed could be a male lion. The tracks were 2 .243 shell lengths long and wide. I never saw a mountain lion during my hunting time or came across any tracks fresh enough to pursue. Great exercise though!

ID: 597

Have a separate lion hunt for the people with hounds, to get ride of the old toms. So they won't run the young one at that ends up in the towns and out of the hills.

ID: 600

Hope to see continual seasons. I feel it's important, we have too many cats.

ID: 609

Enjoyed mountain lion season nice time to after all other hunting was pretty much finished up.

ID: 610

I was only able to hunt 2 mornings and did no preseason scouting, too busy working I hope the season carries on for many more years. So in the future I can put some real time into it. I am not in favor of the use of dogs.

ID: 618

I am in favor of the mountain lion season by itself, increased number of lions to be harvested. Hope to bag a lion in 2011 season, good job!

ID: 620

Mountain lions are ruining our deer, elk and mountain goat hunting. When motorcyclists are running over them it is pretty obvious there is too many way too many.

ID: 639

SD GF&P professionals are doing a great job managing the lion population in the hills.

ID: 656

I am very much a fan of mountain lions they always have interested me. From the 1st they killed off our in the middle 70's to the 1st I saw when guiding in Montana to the track 75 yards from my house by my corral 2 years ago. The problem I see is the big threat to the cattle and sheep industry. Something I feel has never been addressed by GF&P since 1976 to now; we have lost 2 adult cattle to them please control the numbers.

ID: 674

2 years straight snow has prevented me to go where I want to. I like the fall season better. ½ of the hills is closed to hunting the late season. the kill quota should be raised. I saw tracks of 15 different lions. 2 females with kittens, deer snow prevented me from hunting all day to hard to walk more than 3 to 4 miles. The season should be open all fall with 100 kill quota; 40 day season went to fast even with 30 kill quotas I have heard you say you won't protect wolves if they enter the state. Lions should be treated that way with no protection.

ID: 679

Need to go to open season like coyotes to get under control there are too many lions.

ID: 689

I think the population is more than observable every time I went hunting I seen more tracks of cats than deer or elk and for your knowledge I've seen wolf, black bear, and other tracks while hunting many thanks.

ID: 692

I believe this years harvest was (or might have been) a little too much. I enjoy hunting lions and wouldn't want them over hunted, to the point of a very low population. I think 2009's harvest limit was more in bounds of keeping them thinking down and now landowners have or can harvest all year. Don't let them go the way of the doe!

ID: 700

I think the reinstatement of Cooper is a huge mistake!

ID: 703

You actually took a lion from my back yard tree. I live across from a school with lots of children around. Too many lions there need to be more taken out of this population!

ID: 707

Killing females with cubs will never be stopped completely. I am sure that those cubs are included in the equation when deciding the harvest limit. Publicizing orphaned cubs is a mistake. It gives the uninformed a little information which is a dangerous thing! I didn't get much of a chance to go hunting this year, but I really enjoy it when I do. Thanks for all you do.

ID: 712

It was started that the GF&P had collared 65% of the mountain lions in the hills yet only 2 of the mountain lions killed had collars. There are more lions out there than GF&PO or anyone thinks! Whitetail deer population is down significantly. Provide more classes or information sessions either through Black Hills Ed center or Cabelas/Scheels to help battle some of the issues. GF&P deal with daily; let's not let the Obama's of the Hills win!

ID: 736

I don't believe we need a large population of healthy mountain lions in SD. I would rather see an abundance of elk and deer. I encourage continuance of mountain lion season (can be all year long) in my book. Keep the tags for residents only.

ID: 754

40 mountain lions in 41 days, there are too many lions to accomplish the quota that quickly. I hunted Wyoming mountain lions with dogs and it required a hell of a hunt to fill. I live in the Black Hills, am a taxidermist and seen the devastation the lions are doing to the elk, deer, and goats. Although they are doing a great job on the porcupines! Keep trying and please don't lower the quota to keep Custer, SD happy.

ID: 770

We should vote on a number of mountain lion tags authorized use of dogs. For example 40 total lions 1st 15 tags with the use of dogs. This would be by drawing and

then the remaining lions to hunt would be by the phone system. This would allow hunters to harvest an appropriate sized (aged) lion and give the hunter a better opportunity for harvest.

ID: 773

This was a good season, start date/quota. I think you've got about the right mix with everything now. Keep up the good work.

ID: 818

I believe there are too many lions out there yet, and the population of lions needs to be further reduced. I would like to see 80 lions harvested next season, the lions will be healthier that remain. If the population of lions is not further reduced they will demonstrate the game populations in the outlying areas then move in around the Development which will create a larger threat to people (especially young children) and pets and livestock. From the information I received from other hunters whom harvested lions, the females that were 4 and 5 years old one was 72 pounds the other also in the 76 pound range, these animals should have been heavier and in better condition than what they were in. I observed very little signs of deer tracks and animals in an area I hunt comparing to 3 and 4 years ago. I would estimate there was about 20% of the signs and animals that were there 3 to 4 years ago.

ID: 835

I didn't get to hunt because of all the snow. I deer and elk hunted in October and November and all we saw where fresh tracks and deer killed by mountain lions and no elk what so ever. My father gets an elk tag every year so I have hunted elk a lot and there are very few elk and lots of lions. One 1/2 day alone I counted six different sets of trades and two deer kills.

ID: 865

Are we getting the truth about the numbers? I think we need more focus on deer and elk herds not letting lions take out there number. It takes more care and planning than I think GF&P or Governor has power or money for. Let lions get out of control and we won't have to worry about revenue from deer and elk tags. Besides how much meat does a lion have compared to deer and elk? I like hunting but at the end of the day I like to eat supper. I've ate all. Cats keep the ecosystem simple kill off more lions so they don't affect the other animals. It's only time and someone will be attacked also.

ID: 874

In my opinion when 40 lions are killed in 41 days without the use of dogs, we have a lion problem.

ID: 887

I think you have a good number of lions being taken. The best balance you have done!

ID: 897

The harvest rate must be increased to at least the reproduction rate – 40 are not even close. The deer and elk numbers are rapidly declining and are directly related to the increase in lion numbers. The deer herd on my place is decreasing at the rate of 25% per year and is due to the increase in lion numbers in this area. At 250 to 300 lions killing 1 – 2 animals per week the Black Hills cannot sustain the loses and continue to have a viable elk and deer population. If the GF&P Commission does not address this problem, they won't have to set elk and deer seasons as there will not be huntable numbers in the hills.

ID: 910

I went out a couple of times after a fresh snow and walked and did some calling in an area Southeast and North of Four Mile West of Custer. I didn't observe any real fresh sign or tracks. I believe the mountain lion season and harvest kill numbers should remain high 40+. At least until the quota is not reached in the allotted season time filling the quota in 41 days suggests an abundance of lions in the Hills even with limited access due to all the USFS gate closures.

ID: 922

The cats are taking a toll on the deer. Are you going to reduce the deer tags? Deer numbers are really low!

ID: 929

Quite spending so much money on surveys!

ID: 931

I think it is very important to hunt lions hard. The deer and elk population in my area has declined big time. If the lions continue as they have for the last 8 to 10 years big game hunting in the Black Hills will be something of the past. The cat I shot this year was under weight. I think it was going to starve throughout the winter. The areas it was in had a lot of deer 2 years ago but the lions have killed most of them in the deep snow we've had.

ID: 960

Lion numbers must be kept lower to keep historical game numbers in the hills. We are past the point of easy control on their numbers. They need to be controlled quickly through any means necessary.

ID: 961

Why not direct folks to an only survey option?

ID: 1025

No dogs in future mountain lion hunting.

ID: 1028

Mountain lions historically lived in this region. I am glad they are back and hope they stay. We need to learn to live as a part of nature and that includes living with mountain lions.

ID: 1040

I live right around Johnson's Siding and have seen a mountain lion only once. However many residents have encountered lions over the same time lion (7 years). My concern is I don't believe we know enough about the number of lions and their behaviors. All I know is the frequency of sightings (in our area) has been going up and the amount of visible tracks seems suggest plenty of cats. Based on the reasoning I would suggest/recommend several items be changed with respect to the current lion season; 50 cats total; Separating cats by sex, spots, multiple cats is ridiculous. The reason for hunting them is to reduce numbers. Just pick a number. Start when there are more hunters in the woods (during deer season). GF&P will make more money and the hunters will enjoy it more I hopefully reach the harvest number quicker. Start the season on November 1st and end when count is reached.

ID: 1056

Funny hunting lions, good times

ID: 1071

There are a lot of cow elk in the Black Hills unit that do not have calves. I think the lions are killing too many elk and in not many years the elk will be gone in the Hills if you don't get rid of more lions.

ID: 1077

I have talked to many locals in the Hills and they have been very helpful in finding areas with lions.

ID: 1091

I think the GF&P is doing a great job monitoring the lions and has total control over the situation. I am an avid outdoorsman and wish I could've spent more time hunting lions. I really like that the season is after the deer season and not so crowded, keep up the good work.

ID: 1145

I work out by Nemo, SD and I drive Nemo Rd 5 days a week. I used to see elk in the meadows on Nemo Rd fairly regularly. Last year I saw one small herd of elk. This year I saw no elk, whether it is a result of mountain lions or other issues, I don't know, but it sure was nice to see elk.

ID: 1147

I still feel that people are not educated well enough about hunting lions. I've though the survey was in the licensing application; there are still a lot of people that don't know what they are doing. It is my opinion that something more needs to be done so

a 39 pound cat does not fall victim to someone's poor judgment. Some people I have witnessed are eager to shoot anything that even resembles a mountain lion.

ID: 1150

Other states allow the use of dogs, why not SD?

ID: 1158

I hunted for elk this last fall and only saw 12 elk total in 10 days. We saw many mountain lion tracks and blame the lack of elk on the high mountain lion population.

ID: 1160

My buddy shot a cat that was collared. There were no cubs with it when he shot it. They told us not to tell anyone. Then you guys put it in the paper. That made me kind of upset.

ID: 1167

Get off your dead asses and start allowing the use of dogs!

ID: 1170

I think next year the limit should be 500 females.

ID: 1177

What are we going to do when a child gets attacked by one in town? There are way too many lions!

ID: 1184

I was unable to hunt due to the deep snow in my area. have had a horse 1 ½ years ago get attacked by a mountain lion, but since horse was not seriously injured or killed GF&P would not pursue the matter. I still feel a lot more of them should be harvested. There are a lot of them out there. More than you guys let the public think limit on the lions should be doubled for at least 2 years.

ID: 1188

Good job GF&P

ID: 1212

I very much enjoy hunting lions but I question the numbers. Are there too many? This last fall was my first opportunity to hunt elk in the Black Hills. The small herd of cow elk I watched had few if any calves. One bunch of 12 cows had only two calves. This concerns me (but) it is also enjoyable to hunt lions. However, hunting cats the way we are able to hunt and harvesting one cat a day says something about the population!

ID: 1216

Really enjoyed the opportunity to hunt mountain lions it was a rewarding experience even though I did not harvest a lion.

ID: 1226

I believe that the GF&P estimated lion population is off, I believe that there are more lions than the estimated population show. I have trail camera pictures of many different lions in the same areas and have encountered many while deer and antelope hunting in both the Southern and Northern Hills. Bag limits should be increased. I have noticed declining populations of both deer and elk.

ID: 1241

I also got pictures of mountain lions on a gut pile on West Argyle Road on a game camera.

ID: 1244

Not enough tags and season should be year round.

ID: 1256

I believe that the limit on lions needs to be increased, from the number of female lions with at least 2 or more kittens. That I've seen, 40 lions don't even keep with a years off spring, also I would like the GF&P to consoler the use of dogs as Wyoming does.

ID: 1257

As an avid outdoorsman and a lifelong taxpayer, I would like to express my following opinion. I sincerely appreciate the opportunities provided by GF&P and their efforts in conservation. The last hunting season was enjoyable and disheartening at the same time. I enjoyed the numerous outings for both deer and mountain lion, and was successful in filling my deer tags, but no my lion tag. During a conversation with one of my friends, he informed me that one of his friends had taken a lion with a collar. It turns out the lion and kittens and had to be destroyed on to die on their own, and that all the effort in mounting collar and tracking the lion has ended and another lion will have to be collared. It is my opinion that lion that are collared should not be allowed to be taken during the hunting season. Thank you for your time and consideration.

ID: 1262

I personally think total of lions harvested is to low according to the elk and deer populations seem to be lower than pervious years and this concerns me.

ID: 1279

I think licensed landowners should be able to harvest a lion if it's in their county even if it's not on their land, if they have written permission from the landowner where the lion would be taken.

ID: 1283

The season was nice for me to be out, and see the Hill's and wildlife. The only thing I don't like about the season is that people will shoot the first one they see instead of going for the bigger or troublesome lions. I think we need to set a size limit or before

we have no chance for the little ones to grow up. Dogs would be nice but more of a challenge without I kind of like it.

ID: 1301

I think it is wrong that hounds can't be used. I see you stopped putting the size (weight) and age on the web site of cats killed. Only young are being killed not problem cats. When you do kill a problem cat you use dogs from Hot Springs, you call them in.

ID: 1302

Make a small amount of tags available for hunters with dogs!

ID: 1312

Statistics gained from other mountains areas that hid lions does not seem to hold true for the Black Hills. We observed a mom and her 2 cubs as well as 2 other full grown lions with in a 200 acre property within 5 days. There are 3 different groups studying lions in the hills and have collared 60 to 80 lions but we as hunters have only shot 6 of the collared lions in two seasons shot and there is only 260 + lions running around? The numbers don't add up! Where are all the calves in the elk herd south of Wind Cave park? How many lions are hit by cars in a year? I just want true numbers to be revealed to the public so the lion lovers know of the problem we have.

ID: 1323

The lions are wiping out the elk and deer. When they have no prey they can and will consume humans. Let us hunt longer and kill more lions. No dogs but we need a longer season. Sell hunts with state dog men on problem lions. Charge \$1,000 for hunt. Enter and draw first on firs out list call till you get a taker. The money would be used to pay for the dogs care.

ID: 1332

I was very surprised by how quickly the season ended. Studied how other states have conducted lion hunting, mostly with dogs, and concluded SD has as fair of approach as any state I looked at.

ID: 1344

If you want to see if you have a pulse then you've been mountain lion hunting!

ID: 1367

We have way too many predators of all types preying on our livestock and humans for that matter. We need to have the right to protect our livestock and lives and livelihood without fear of prosecution and we should have the right to the animal if we do kill one!

ID: 1382

In my opinion the quota should be increased on lions in order to maintain our deer and elk populations!

ID: 1397

More tags for a longer season

ID: 1402

I believe adults can safely live in mountain lions areas but am concerned about children, for example I live by Rockerville and would not let my grand kids sleep in a tent.

ID: 1431

For us older hunters who can't walk very far the back road gates are always closed so we can't access the good areas. I no longer can load or unload a snowmobile so it is really hard on us.

ID: 1440

Please do not allow hunting with dogs.

ID: 1441

Very well run season, I think there are more lions out there than you report, the numbers of kills of 5 in one day suggests that suspicion

ID: 1473

I believe the deer and elk populations are down due to the growing numbers of mountain lions in the Black Hills. I think the quota should be higher.

ID: 1481

I have purchased a mountain lion tag 2 years in a row. I have never seen a mountain lion to this date have seen only about 3 sets of tracks and possibly one kill site. I'm told and believe they are there, just don't know what I'm doing wrong!

ID: 1493

We need to be able to use dogs for tracking.

ID: 1503

I live on the Star Academy Campus over the last hunting seasons I have had a lion kill a deer 15 yards behind my house. I have watched the deer populations drop from the presence of lions during the big game season I have seen the tracks of at least 5 different cats (tracks differing in size and shapes). In the area live seen these tracks I feel could only support one or two cats (about 800 square acres).

ID: 1522

I have seen lions and tracks on my property. I didn't go hunting much but was ready to shoot one if I saw it.

ID: 1532

I think we should open the season up to dogs. so we can hunt the lions with dogs I mean. If the lions can eat the dogs the dogs should have a fair chance of getting back at the lions. If we associate dogs in the lions territory and the lions here dogs than people we might keep the lions out of our towns. Either way I had a great time.

ID: 1540

There needs to be a hound season, splitting the season and giving the hound hunters a specified number of tags should be a viable option. Not letting hunters use dogs in counter productive to controlling the population.

ID: 1546

I would like to see more tags issued, in my opinion where I was hunting I have seen more signs this year than any other year. I saw fresh tracks everyday I was out, sometimes up to 3 sets. I saw 3 lions together and I alone and all were in a 10 square mile grid.

ID: 1562

I had a CSP archery elk tag in 2009; I think too much cat pressure on the calf elk population there. I actually saw a huge uncollared tom on the last day I hunted there but he wanted no part of me (Scardy Cat)! Keep the season as is with at least that minimum harvest.

ID: 1566

I think there are more mountain lions than GF&P will admit too.

ID: 1569

I think dogs should be allowed to be used. The season would be limited to how many tags were sold each year like the elk drawing.

ID: 1571

Why can't we use dogs on some of the cats, like set limit of 10 cats?

ID: 1574

I like the fact that the quota keeps going up, my personal opinion is that there are more mountain lions in the Black Hills there what most people think. I would like to see lion tags available to archery hunters earlier in the season and also a limited quota for hound hunters.

ID: 1609

Our deer and elk numbers are way down, I feel the mountain lions are a big part of the population, not to mention the humans and livestock, this season should show that there is more lions in the Hills than the GF&P think. I hunted for 15 days 5 miles from my house and was on tracks every day and in my backyard. I'm for increasing the limit quoted; we hope a problem and management need to wake up!

ID: 1623

Please increase the number of mountain lions that can be killed. I live in Vale and we have too many mountain lions out here. The ranchers have it hard enough without the additional burden of putting up with cougars. In addition the cougars actually come into town.

ID: 1640

I feel the state should continue to survey and track mountain lions. It appears to me our current number of lions is too high in the Black Hills. I own land in Custer and Pennington Counties. All locations in these two counties have observed lions. My elk population in Custer County has been effected. I believe lions are a major factor but I am supportive of 2 to 5 more years of study to draw conclusions. I hope the state continues to allow hunts in the current form. As a sportsman it is an exciting and hard hunt. Please do not allow dog hunts until you have gathered more information.

ID: 1665

When wild animals become more important than humans we have a major problem! My domestic animals will be in peril as well. We need to keep all wild animals at a minimum. I think wild animals are great but not to supersede or become a hazard.

ID: 1693

My dog told me he's ready to hunt lions next year's season, so when do we get to use dogs? I hiked way to many miles track in these sneaky critters. Ha-ha still way way fun. This was my 1st season and now I see tracks in the hills all the time. We wheel in the Hills all the time surprised I have not seen one. I plan on doing some spotting this summer and find some good caves and what not. Can't wait.

ID: 1701

I don't like the idea of having mountain lions in our area for fear of my children. I got a tag just in case I see one on my land. We have enough predators out here to balance the eco system. So far haven't seen any sign in my area. Have been harvested 3 or 4 miles north of me last year and southeast of me this year, thought you would like to know this don't know if it is of any importance.

ID: 1709

As a Haakon County Rancher and landowner I disagree with the price of the license, for not even seeing a lion. I purchased a license because if there is a lion around I want to shoot it to retain the pelt. The GF&P should not have to keep raising the price of the license.

ID: 1714

I was glad to see the harvest numbers up this year as a hunters stand point. However this means that the mountain lion population is also up. If the population continues to grow then it is only a matter of time before someone gets hurt. Mountain lions do also help keep the deer population in check but I am sure they hurt the elk population

some too. I believe that a small healthy group of mountain lions in the Black Hills would be good so that people can draw tags to hunt. However right now I think there need to be more tags and less lions.

ID: 1715

I would like to see dogs allowed in hunting mountain lion.

ID: 1718

Doing a good job!

ID: 1727

I believe that there are way too many mountain lions and the limit should be extended so that more mountain lions can be harvested. I also think the season should be lengthened along with allowing more mountain lions to be killed.

ID: 1728

The mountain lion population is way too high. I think the season should be longer with more lions to be harvested.

ID: 1730

I hear that the young of year elk calves and deer does are not making it. Hunters have told me that they have seen herds of elk with no calves. That can only be a sign the cats are eating good. More tags should be allowed.

ID: 1735

Please do not change anything, no dogs at all. This keeps this sport a sport for the common guy. Introduce dogs and the falls right back to a rich mans sport again! Deer hunting has been lost ever since the guided hunts for thousands of dollars. We used to be able to ask almost any landowner to hunt, not any more. Deer hunting is a sport for the non-residents now.

ID: 1736

I would like to see the mountain lion harvest numbers increased.

ID: 1737

I spent about a month scouting and hunting for archery elk. I had out 5 trail cameras; I got pictures of two lions and only one coyote. I found a lot of evidence of deer and elk killed by lions; also I was concerned that many herds of elk had very few calves. One herd 17 cows had two calves. I would like to see the lion numbers reduced significantly. Don't get me wrong I like having lions around. I just don't want to lose so many elk. Also one lion I have a picture of was starving.

ID: 1740

Limits should not be lowered.

ID: 1750

We need longer mountain lion seasons.

ID: 1752

I believe the department is doing a very good job of controlling the lion population. Keep up the good work!

ID: 1753

In visiting with people who live there their opinion is that the lion population is too high and the cause of big game populations to decline I agree! I arrived in the Hills the day the season closed, I took a day and traveled back roads and saw 20 deer where normally there are hundreds, no elk were seen, but you can't believe all the lion tracks. I think the bag limits need to be increased substantially in order to get our big game back. I realize other factors affect big game populations but I still think we need to increase the bag limits on these predators.

ID: 1755

I think mountain lions are killing too many baby deer and elk. Also they kill too many cow elk and deer does and leave their babies to starve.

ID: 1758

I was disappointed there were 5 cats taken on a mid week Wednesday to close the season. That prevented a number of hunters including myself from going out again that weekend. This tells me, there are still a lot of cats in the Black Hills, there are too many people hunting who don't have any jobs to attend to Monday – Friday!

ID: 1769

I like the current changes don't really know what to think about using dogs.

ID: 1770

You always talk of equal balance of nature of wild animals. I do not know how you will ever achieve this when ever since mountain lion hunting started in SD all of the lions killed have been in the northern Hills. I have written the same thing on every survey you have sent me. I do not think I am the only person that things that way. We need to have a split season of Northern and Southern Hills. The trappers in the Southern Hills have been catching lions in Southern Hills too that need thinned out too. To sum this up when I write dissatisfied on the other part of this survey is all on account of this.

ID: 1774

Believe your sheep problem in Custer State part is directly responsible to mountain lions, if the herds outside the park have no problem where there is hunting of mountain lions then you need to put a season on the lions in the park.

ID: 1786

My family owns a large track of James River bottom where mountain lion sightings have occurred so I buy a tag if I run into one (if I were that lucky cause I would love the opportunity to harvest one) during the deer season or any other time. I believe mountain lion hunting is important to their species as well and would enjoy trying for one in the future in the Hills. You guys are doing a great job.

ID: 1788

I think lions kill way more elk than we thinking. Too have elk in the Hills and being able to hunt them, mean why more to me. I would be willing to spend a lot more money on a tag to hunt elk, then any other game in SD.

ID: 1791

Get ride of more still a lot of lions out their.

ID: 1794

A person should be able to use dogs so they can choose what mountain lions they want.

ID: 1797

I was very satisfied that I was not constantly running into other hunters, considering the number of licenses that were issued.

ID: 1810

I'm very dissatisfied with all mountain lions found within city limits being killed. Why can't they be tranquilized and removed to a remote wilderness area. if the GF&P agrees mountain lions and humans can live in an environment together, then why does all those mountain lions that unknowingly wander into city limits have to be killed. Any further information would help me understand. Thanks for the great hunting opportunities and season.

ID: 1821

There appears to be a large decline in the elk and deer herds.

ID: 1824

They are killing too many deer and elk.

ID: 1831

Shooting 40 cats in 41 days says a problem; it is an everyday occurrence that someone has a cat story anybody that goes hiking, hunting or fishing, or anything else has a story about seeing or tracks or a kill. If we don't do something we won't have anything to hunt. The Black Hills is not being managed very well with the cats; the cats keep taking more deer and elk. The cats keep taking them as soon as they hit the ground. The GF&P really doesn't have a clue. If they did then the Hills would be managed better. They should just come clean with how many cats are out there. They should not have to worry about animal activists they don't know. The licensing revenue will fall because the numbers are cut both animal and licensing. There is

more people not becoming interested in hunting because they don't see anything when out. That will hurt the revenue; we are not balanced as far as cat's verses deer and elk. Does someone need to be attracted before something really gets done are focus is in the wrong area. Are we getting anywhere with the season we need to make some changes.

ID: 1838

My opinion is there are more lions than the public is told there is let us use dogs to hunt and get the population down, I would rather have the opportunity to hunt elk and deer. I think the lions have hurt the population of elk and deer dramatically!

ID: 1839

I am saddened that the state has placed a higher value on lions than on the other game we have spent so much on to establish (such as the sheep and goats).

ID: 1843

As a elk tag holder this year, I feel that the mountain lions has pushed the elk herds from the Black Hills, when elk hunting I saw all kinds of mountain lion tracks and signs, but no elk were found in prime elk units. I think that more lions need too be harvested!

ID: 1845

I think the mountain lion population is far greater than most think.

ID: 1847

Major decline in deer and elk populations is a real disappointment! Lions should be treated like coyotes.

ID: 1849

I do not live in the Hills but as many deer that I see along bad river looks like to me it would be a good place to put any unwanted lions.

ID: 1853

I was born and raised here in the Rapid City area there have always been lions just not as many as now. I don't know but I think we have too many lions and it's not just people moving into more places in the Hills. There are just too many lions in my opinion, keep up the good work.

ID: 1854

Would like to see estimated age and weight listed with approximate harvest location. As in the past it was on the website. It would be nice to see how many immature cats are being harvested. It's hard to believe 40 lions in 41 days that young cats and cats traveling together are not being shot. In the past seasons while tracking lions in the snow most of the tracks I've followed after a short distance turned into two or three sets of tracks. Just hope other hunters are taking the time to really check out what they are shooting. Thanks for the opportunity to hunt lions.

ID: 1856

I strongly hope this season stays the way it is now, with reminders to everyone that hold a license to try and pass up younger cats.

ID: 1857

I am very satisfied with the mountain lions season.

ID: 1861

I think you should look at allowing people to track lions with the use of dogs. By allowing dogs to be use and treeing lions the state can regulate the sex of lions taken. This in turn would help eliminate the agreement that young lions are being orphaned and not learning how to hunt properly.

ID: 1875

Too much snow, too few deer, a very strange year in the Northern Hills, strangely many lions on my ranch north of the Red Water will try to harvest one there this year.

ID: 1878

When I was hunting deer in the Black Hills last fall in our best hunting area we saw 7 dead deer. Three of which were positively lion kills. One of these was less than 24 hours old. The deer population was down drastically over the year before. No elk were seen at all usually we see several groups. The locals we hunt with said when they did see elk in was only bulls or cows no young, I didn't get to hunt much during the lion season (lost 2 days) but we seen tracks crossing the roads every where their was deer tracks. No coyote tracks were seen any where. I think GF&P is managing the Hills very well for the lions. My concern is what they are going to eat when the deer and elk are gone.

ID: 1879

I believe that the Mountain lion season is a great opportunity for hunters and to manage the number and to maintain a healthy population. I believe the season should include a couple tags maybe once in a life time that may use dogs. I believe that all the lions should be hunted with dogs to manage to alter the chance of killing females or smaller lions. The hunter would be able to sex and age or size the animal. I understand the way it is being managed now but believe that a few tags should allow dogs just to try it and see what the response and better management with no kittens being orphaned. I also want to thank you for the landowner continuation on the season for outside the Black Hills Fire Protection.

ID: 1880

Get ready to change your game to Fish and Parks because the way your going about it, your not going to have any game! I just can't fathom the way you go about doing things. To control the deer you put out an unlimited amount of dog tags for the youth and the doe killers to blast away at mountain lions on the other had you put a limit on the females, doesn't make much sense to me. You not even killing enough lions to

make up for the reproduction rate. Your new slogan for the Black Hills lets go check out all the mountain lions maybe well see a deer or an elk.

ID: 1881

Having some lions in the Hills is a good thing but there are too many.

ID: 1884

I own a ranch just east of Deadwood comprising approximately 1300 owned and leased acres. I have hunted deer in the Black Hills for over 50 years and have hunted elk in unit H7 since the season began, having received one of two landowner elk permits the first year the season in H7 began and have received many landowner preference licenses since that time. Although I have hunted all over the Black Hills, I am not familiar with the area east of Deadwood and included in the H& elk unit. Although I had a successful elk season from the standpoint of hunting old areas and some new areas and having good outdoor experiences, I was disappointed that I only saw 2 bulls and no cows, including one small bull which I could have shot. I observed much more mountain lion signs and mountain lion tracks than elk signs and elk tracks. This is a pattern that I have observed more and more over the past few years. I have concluded from my observations while elk hunting and deer hunting that the mountain lion population is growing and thriving. The elk population in unit 7 is disappearing. During the elk season and deer season I observed several mountain lion deer kills and believe that mountain lions are having a detrimental affect on the Unit 7 deer population. I do not know if the decline in the elk population in unit 7 is due to mountain lion elk kills or just driving mountain lions and decrease in elk must be related. My observations are also concurred with and supported by conversations with many other unit 7 hunters. I understand that the other Black Hills elk units still have pretty good elk numbers and my observations and opinions are only limited to unit 77 as I have not hunted in the other areas much in recent years. I was also surprised at the lack of elk seen during this season as there were anywhere from 12 – 25 elk, primarily bulls, on my place much of last winter. I do not know if your department plans on having a unit 7 landowner meeting as we have had in years past although I don't believe we had one last year, however I would like to attend if such a meeting is held.

ID: 1888

Deer, elk and all other big game are more important!

ID: 1897

Thank you for the opportunity to hunt big game. You at the GF&P do a terrific job, keep up the good work and increase the numbers a few. Don't allow outfitters and dogs so many can hunt.

ID: 1906

If we don't get rid of a lot more lions there are going to be very few deer and elk in a few more years. I already have noticed drastically fewer elk calves with every herd I see.

ID: 1907

I like the thought of having mountain lions around again. They are fun to hunt and it kind of makes you feel like you are back in colonial days. God made many beautiful creatures one of which is the mountain lion.

ID: 1909

The mountain lion population is extremely high as evidenced by decimation of wildlife populations (deer in Black Hills area and I am told same is happening to the elk population). The Belle Fourche School System has had numerous lion problems confirming extremely high lion numbers which pose a very real and serious threat to human life. This is largely due to over populated lion numbers expanding their normal range and habitat, impacting human life and communities because their numbers are out of balance. This is due to the current management strategies being implemented by the GF&P. If you want or desire sustainable wildlife populations for sportsman your help and an aggressive management strategy needs to be implemented to remove more lions and incentives put in place for that to happen, over population is not the answer.

ID: 1914

Not enough tags and the season should be year round.

ID: 1915

Thank you for letting me a rancher protect my property. I don't have a problem with lions except my deer hunting has suffered been guiding since 1974 no charge to hunters on my ranch.

ID: 1917

Lions seem to be hard on the mule deer population.

ID: 1919

We have too many lions, it is wrong to let them kill all the bighorn sheep lambs, mountain goats, elk and deer in the Black Hills. If all the bighorn sheep are whipped out in the park and that is a crime. Also if we have lions then do not have any more doe deer seasons in the Black Hills.

ID: 1920

Let us use dogs, screw the sierra club and peta

ID: 1926

In this area the limit could be increased but I think there are so many at this time caused by logging near here, so it's probably normal.

ID: 1927

Don't try to maintain this high populations reduced, there are way too many they have reduced the deer and elk numbers in my area.

ID: 1934

I think the quota should be raised to 100 lions and or 60 females, also season times or coordination with the forest service should be arranged as ½ of the forest service are closed January 1st. I also believe there are 800 or more adult lions in the Black Hills.

ID: 1936

Harvest more cats

ID: 1945

You guys do a great job! We are lucky to have a wonderful GF&P in place here in SD. Thanks for all you do.

ID: 1947

Peta people for the eating of tasty animals. There are too many lions. They are killing and eating game that I would be harvesting and eating. I can't get a hills deer license every yeah, yet lions can eat 1 every week. Something wrong with that picture, areas to hunt are closed except to lions. Something's wrong with that need to harvest more lions so we have more wild game, so sportsman who pays a lot of money can benefit. It's a waste to let lions eat and not the sportsman who depend on game to eat. Kill them all but 5 or 10. Then manage them you let them get out of control.

ID: 1948

There are too many lions in the Hills; last year there were four different kills of Black Fox draw. This year there were none because there were no deer. I live on O'neil Pass and always had whitetail and there fawns running in my yard and every year there are less deer to be seen. I saw two lions this year one in November deer hunting and one in December while going through Black Fox. We should be able to use dogs to hunt them and we need to cut down on the number of lions in the Hills.

ID: 1952

I think that killing as many deer in the Hills during hunting season, away lion food, not enough food, and means different pray (people or livestock).

ID: 1960

Remember what the deer and elk population were like before there were mountain lions in the Black Hills. Get rid of the lions before it's too late!

ID: 1961

I've hunted the Black Hills over 40 + years, I remember when the deer and elk population were up. Mountain lion numbers are up and deer and elk down. 40 lions killed doesn't even cover the amount of kittens born in a year. Are you going to wait until the big game numbers are so low and you cut the amount of licenses sold before you do something? GF&P knows the problem (mountain lions), you have all the excuses of dry years to harsh winters "Bull". Look what happened to your elk herd in

Custer State Park. Don't wait till this happens to the Black Hills. Why are mountain lions considered big game, pretty soon you have to change your name to Predator, Fish & Parks. Why are you protecting the Predators? Tell me one game animal in the Black Hills that eats Meat? None!

ID: 1965

It's nice to have enough mountain lions for hunting, too many will be problems like some states have with black bear.

ID: 1967

I have no problem with lions in the Hills, but I think that there are too many. They are killing too many deer and elk by what I observed.

ID: 1968

The whole emptying your gun while on a four wheeler when it's already cased is a big hassle and unnecessary. It should be an option, unloaded or cased. Also or the report online should include the way they were taken.

ID: 1969

I feel the deer population is down due to the cats, snow kill, and youth licenses. GF&P needs to cut back on deer licenses for 2010 season.

ID: 1977

If the mountain lions area part of the problem with such low elk numbers in Custer State Park, why can't they issue a few tags in the park. I've seen a number of cat tracks going through the park with fresh snow. Keep up the good work guys!

ID: 1979

I think the mountain lion plan that the GF&P has had in place the last two years has been working great. Job well done!

ID: 1981

Explaining the consequences of over population of any animal to antihunting people would help the general public. You could use the flickertail gopher population in the 70's and early 80's in eastern SD as example. There were millions haven't seen on in over 20 years not that farmers want any back!

ID: 1982

Mountain lion hunting is one of the most challenging hunts I have ever done, and I will continue to hunt them as long as I can.

ID: 1983

I heard people hunting with dogs, I saw people walking with dogs and they had guns.

ID: 1987

If there is snow on the ground I always see lion tracks when out hiking seems there are many around the area.

ID: 1988

I didn't think there were that many lions out there, but after crossing 25 different lion tracks in 8 days I was stunned. Please don't ever consider allowing dogs to hunt lions, as this is not fair chase!

ID: 1989

Harvest more cats!

ID: 1993

Love the fact that lions are here! They are eating far too many of the prey species (deer, elk, turkey, raccoon). We live in forest and the elk and deer have been noticeably reduced in the last two years especially when they are reduced below being an available food source for the cats they will eat what they can catch. Before a tragedy happens I would like to set the limit at what the SDSU Boys say the total population is collars from harvested cougars. This will allow the cat's natural food source to rebound. Cats in the wild are not viewable to the public being nocturnal, we need to take our cues from their food source, and too many cats left the hunters have a longer season. Close it during bobcat season to prevent harvest with does and gives people heartburn.

ID: 1996

Although this is the second season I've hunted without harvesting, I still think it's a great hunt, just by the fact that I saw tracks every day that I hunted and the number of anecdotes about novice hunters harvesting in hours or days and the fact that the season was over in less time, with more cats than last year indicates there are a lot of mountain lions here the only changing I would recommend would be to up the quota.

ID: 1998

Season needs to be earlier too much snow and closed roads!

ID: 1999

As a lion hunter I would like to see where lions were taken. I would also like to know the methods used by successful hunters. Even though controversy over size and age of lions taken exists, I would be very interested in seeing the results also. I have lived in the Black Hills for 12 years and seen my first lion (running across the highway) about a month after the season ended.

ID: 2001

I think the GF&P is doing a great job managing the mountain lions. I am glad to see that hound hunting is not allowed; as I am afraid it would become a rich man's sport. I would like to see the season open during elk season for those who have an elk tag. I

would also like to see a year round season outside the Black Hills, open to everyone, not just landowners. Thank you for your consideration and keep up the good work!

ID: 2004

Even though I haven't been successful in harvesting a lion, I enjoy the experience of hunting one of nature's predators. I learned something new every year, but I do believe in my experience that the cats know where I am before I know where they are at. SO I might have to try an electronic call, maybe take the attention away from me better luck next season.

ID: 2007

You are doing a great job.

ID: 2008

Mountain lions should be considered varmints and shot just like coyotes or skunks, our ancestors got rid of them for good reasons. They are dangerous and they are costly to farmers and ranchers. I think it was very irresponsible for GF&P to have reintroduced them in SD, and when someone is attacked and injured or killed, I feel the head of GF&P should be charged as an accessory to the injury or death.

ID: 2010

We do need to have a viable mountain lion population. The issue is there are currently too many. Your increased quota 15 a step in the right direction, we are the lions only predator, hunting must be used to keep the population in check. I have lived and hunted in the Black Hills since I was ten years old (almost 50 years) each year in the field, I saw more evidence of lions from tracks, kills and even sightings, in fact people are not reporting sightings as often because they are a more common occurrence. Some areas I have hunted in the past both of the prairie and the Black Hills, no longer have any numbers of deer. Deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and bobcat populations are suffering. Your season quotas are being reached without the use of dogs. Please do not allow the use of dogs, it will commercialized the season and keep the average hunter from being able to participate! You have a difficult task of balancing the hunting season and keeping the activist who want to eliminate hunting all together. Happy if they had their way, there would be no hunting of any animal! Continue your research and listen to the people who are in the field. They are your most important resource. Thank your staff for their hard work and diligence. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion.

ID: 2016

The use of dogs should be allowed in the Black Hills.

ID: 2021

The cats this year seem to be having a hard time, last year I found over 8 kills in a 4 day period, this year I found no kills. By cats lots of tracks, a lot of the locals drive around just hoping to see one, I like to get out of the truck, call in productive area or

sit on kill site and call hard to due with people driving around, makes the cats very nervous.

ID: 2026

Is there any way to let hunters know if most kills were called in or tracked down?

ID: 2029

I believe we have had lions for many years but we now have way too many. I've seen two in the last two or three years not during the hunting season, one was within 10 feet, not far. I would hate to think what could have happened if I had been a small kid.

ID: 2031

The mere fact that 40 lions were taken in 41 days, mostly on foot and without dogs and by hunters for the most part new to lion hunting means to me there are a lot of lions in and around the Black Hills. I have noticed fewer deer and turkeys around our place this fall and winter. I live in the Thunderhead Falls area on 21 acres of forest on the North side of HWY 44 W at Thunderhead Falls Road.

ID: 2032

Love the hunt keep it the way it is.

ID: 2033

We do not need to allow hunting with dogs. The season ends too quickly as it is. Dogs will only become another BS pay to hunt opportunity. There are already people hunting with dogs and lying about it.

ID: 2043

More lions and a longer hunt

ID: 2046

It would be nice if you would put the season back on earlier dates. In the Northern Hills we can't hunt them because we can't get around because of the snow.

ID: 2048

Even though I didn't make it to the hills to hunt and you didn't raise the limit or too many females were harvested early, I still like the fact it's a statewide tag.

ID: 2050

My pickup quite right as the season started, bough another and it quite; is the only reason I didn't get to go and I already had land and permission to hunt. Don't know what else to tell you other than I hope there's another season next year. I like the cat family, the pickup there'll be more than one around here come next year.

ID: 2053

Real tough getting around in the snow and cold, I'm disabled and somewhat scared of getting stranded. Over all I really enjoy getting into the back country.

ID: 2062

Allowing pursuit with hounds would greatly decrease the harvest of female lions.

ID: 2065

We need to continue to harvest mountain lions. We have an over population of them in the Black Hills as you well know! We also have to start controlling the population in Custer State Park. This could be an opportunity to hunt them with dogs.

ID: 2069

I would like to have the season open the same time as Black Hills deer season.

ID: 2072

I strongly believe the use of dogs, especially a pursuit only season would greatly confine the cat population to the hills/forests and out of town where they would be less visible to the town population.

ID: 2075

I have been coming to the Hills for 15 years riding the Hills on horse back. I have noticed the last 2 – 3 years it seems the deer population has been less. The number of cats taken might be at a correct level or possibly you need to consider a few more. I did enjoy hunting out there and hope you continue offering the season.

ID: 2077

Snow too deep to hunt

ID: 2080

With more and more sightings across the state open the season statewide year round in the plains areas.

ID: 9002

I live close to the Hills and love to hunt in the Hills but I lease a place close to the Missouri River, and would like the people to have tags good in all of the West River, maybe it is I was told different.

ID: 9006

I would like to see GF&P set a time frame for the lion season. Whatever amount of lions get harvested in a set time frame so be it. Do away with the calling in to check lion numbers. This is a "major hassle". GF&P should have a good idea now how long it takes to harvest amount of lions they want taken for that season. Also give hunters a better idea of areas to hunt where there are more lions and what works to hunt them the more information better. Thank you!

ID: 760 (late return)

It is important to me to have mountain lions in the Black Hills, but I think there are more mountain lions than what the SDGF&P tell people. I think that a larger quota would be acceptable to the majority of the people living in S.D. I also believe that the mountain lions have had a larger impact on the populations of the deer & elk herds in the Black Hills.

Appendix D. Option comments received by e-mail from 2010 mountain lion hunters *(comments are exactly as entered by respondents, i.e., not edited)*.

ID Comments

- 1 I think the state to do a little more research on our lion population. I can not believe they say we have a population of about 250 lions. How can we harvest 40 lions in 41 days without the use of dogs or other means if there are 250 lions in the hills. That would mean that we harvested 16 percent of the lions in the hills. But yet in 20 years of being an avid sportsmen in the hills I have yet to see a lion. I have not see a porcupine in the hills in over 5 years, yet I was a kid a can remember harvesting several ever deer season. The amount of lions in the hills is having a effect on all the other wildlife and it is time we figure out how many we need to harvest so the other wildlife in the hills comes back in check. All I can say is there have been a lot of lions harvested in last few years in the hills and it does not seem to be to be getting tougher to reach the quota you guys set each year. At the end of each season the average is one lion per day. As long as hunters continue to harvest an average
- 4 would like to see the G.F. & P. put on a class on how to hunt mountain lions in SD,
- 8 I think the fact the annual quota is easily met without the use of dogs in the Hills goes a long way in demonstrating the position there are too many cougars in the area. I've personally seen a lion at noon while riding a dirt bike with 3 other people on bikes and ATV'S. It sat and looked at us no farther than 50 feet away. This was in the Experimental Forest near Rochford. Lions should almost never be seen. There are too many and a tragedy is waiting to happen.
- 12 It would be nice to be able to use dogs, only to track and tree them.
- 21 it schould be fairly obvious that the deer, elk and turkeys getting harder to find the ground did not swallow then up so something must be eating them!!!!!!!
- 25 I would like to see a splt season for Elk and Deer hunters have a chance in hunting lions
- 26 I believe that there is a considerable difference in the number of actual lions in the hills and the number that is being reported to the public. After talking to several hunters the amount of sightings is way up during daylight hours for there to only be 250 in the hills. If the northern hills had not received as much snow fall as we did, this season would have been over far sooner than it was. If we can take 40 lions in a short amount of time during daylight hours and with out the use of dogs I believe that we are on the verge of having a problem. Our deer and elk numbers are down considerably and I fear that we will never have a season on mountain goat again and the bighorn sheep season within the next five years will follow if nothing is done to save the lamb crop. I feel like we need to make a decision on what animals we want to manage for and if we want big game animals around for future generations than we need to keep a very close count on the predators in the hills. We are the only ones that are going
- 28 I have 20 years of preference on Mt. Goat, 18 years of preference CSP Bighorn. Interesting that both of these seasons no longer exist in the Black Hills, just a coincidence I'm sure. I would rather have Elk, Bighorn, Mt Goat, Deer, turkey, and Antelope than Mt. Lions. A few lions would be okay, not too many.
- 29 I know I can see a big decline in deer and elk population in my ariea. I see lion tracks more frequent. I live between Pactola a rapid city. My theary is if our mountain lions are moving as far as chicago, canada, oklahoma, don"t you think the wolf's over west of here pushed them out and over to here?
- 40 i would have to say that there are alot of lions in the black hills, every time i went out i seen tracks, i think that they are killing way to many deer. i think that the threat to humans is very minimal.
- 47 I ALSO THINK THAT SHOULD BE MORE LIONS KILLED

- 53 We only seen one lion during season, But seen several tracks. We live southwest of custer and have seen and videoed several lions just from september to december. We have on video 5 lions together the mother has a radio collar on her and we believe she had four cubs but the cats were all full grown cats they were as big as she was. Then christmas eve we videoed a mother with three cubs on a deer kill these cubs were small. We have alot of lions were we live but unfortunately didn't get to shoot one. The one we did call in came in alone but we found out a few days later that she did have cubs so I was glad I never got a shot. thank you cheryl
- 58 Lion hunting is a necessity to control the population just like any other hunting season. I am satisfied with the rules and regulations that have been adopted.
- 61 I am glad they raised the limit to 40 total this time. In the past 2 years of hills hunting I have noticed a decline in deer and elk,mostly in deer. So hopefully by filling the 40 cat total the deer and elk numbers may start to bounce back. I also believe that they should have at least 1 more season with a 40 cat total. I still think there is still is quite a few cats,since the season lasted 41 days with 40 cats shot. Thats basically a cat a day if you think about it. Hopefully they do a real good survey late summer or early fall to determine if we had a decent fawn birth rate. I hope my opinion on this subject matters because that is how I feel. Any questions you may e-mail me back.
- 72 I dont mind how how the mountain lion season is set up. The only thing I think is stupid and a lot of people agree with me is the two rules the Game, Fish & Parks has that you can't shoot a lion traveling with anouther lion and all the trouble you can get into for shooting a young lion. Lets get real a lion is a lion whether it is big or not. We can shoot all the fawn antelope, deer & calf elk we want to when we have a tag. I myself would not shoot a tiny lion but if someone does and they have a tag. So be it! And as far as the two lions traveling together rule I understand it is because they could be a breeding pair or it could be a mother and kitten. We can shoot a doe deer if she had a spotted fawn if we wanted to or we could shoot a buck deer right off of a doe when he was breeding her if we wanted to. Why do we have such special rules for 40 lions when we dont have them for the thousands of deer, antelope & elk we harvest which by the way are getting munched on by our over grown lion population. Just sho
- 80 Up the Quota to 50 lions in 2010.
- 84 I am very pleased that the limit was raised on the number of cats to be taken. By spending alot of time in the hills throughout the fall I have noticed fewer deer and elk. Since cats average eating a deer a week and you estimate there to be 250-280 cats in the hills, that caculates between 13,000 and 14,560 deer or elk taken in one year. I'm sure these numbers are familiar to you but I am concerned for our other big game populations in the hills. I believe that if a cat population of current status remains, our deer and elk will remain to go down in numbers and it will just be a matter of time until local livestock producers such as myself, will feel the blow.
- 85 The use of dogs should be explored and reconsidered for hunting.
- 89 Please let us use dogs
- 91 My impression is that there are lots more lions in the northern hills than there are down here in Fall River county. We have some but it's a "needle in a haystack" situation here. It's a good winter activity just the same.
- 94 More female and total tags should be given next year.
- 98 Please discontinue the mandatory orange clothing requirement for lion season.
- 103 I think the season should stay as it is now. There are alot of cats in the hills. I saw more than one set every time I went hunting. Enjoy getting up in the hills in January. Don't change a thing, GF& Parks are doing a great job!

- 104 Having hunted 2009 cow elk in custer park and finding out the elk numbers are way down. everywhere I walked there were lion tracks do you think this is why the numbers of game is down. I think there should be a unlimited license and a season year round to control this pest.
- 105 I would like to see a limited draw hunt available for the use of dogs. Like for example give 5 dog tags and do the rest of the hunts the same we have been doing it in the past. I think it would be really fun hunters to be given the oportunity to trophy hunt mountain lions in the Black Hills with the use of dogs.
- 106 I beleive that the use of dogs should be used to take care of problem areas in where the state would like more Lions harvested, and have more controll of what is being shot ie.Male and female lions
- 108 The deer population is on a steady decline in the Black Hills. I attribute this decline to over-harvesting and the increase in mountain lion kills. I believe this will eventually have an effect on the elk population in the Black Hills as well.
- 110 Due to medical issues I was unable to hunt lions this year. I think the state is using the right approach and hope it continues. I plan to be out again next year.
- 115 Need to let more lions be taken and also the use of dogs.
- 117 i would like to see the quota the same or higher next year. there are too many lions
- 118 I realize we need to get these lion numbers down,something like the numbers from 15-20 years ago would seem right to me. But is GF&P going to continue to turn a blind eye to the lawbreakers that are doing whatever they have to do to kill a lion? 40 lions in 41 days...REALLY? All taken by legal means? Taken against other states with lion seasons that has to be a record! I hunted at least 30 of those 41 days,afoot,and the one thing I didnt see in the woods was a game warden.I did see 4 wheeler tracks going around every locked gate in the hills,I did find deer carcass's that looked suspiciously like roadkills in very odd locations.And the little tidbits of stories you can hear at the gunshop,grocery store,coffee shop etc,etc.! WOW! There are always BS stories going around started by sour grapes types,people with an ax to grind with GF&P,people who cant hunt their way out of a wet paper bag with a howitzer,whatever.But I myself have taken a lion in the past and I feel very fortunate to have done so,if I only get
- 119 I believe more lions should be harvested
- 120 I think we have too many lions in SD. The big game count in the Hills is going down. The elk calfs are being killed off. The big horn sheep lamb count looks bad to me. What happened to the mountain goats around Mt Rushmore. I had numerous big game tags this last hunting season, including serveral deer tags, three antelope tags, for Harding County, and never fired a shot, all season. I know the weather had a lot to do with this, but I believe the lions are part of the problem.
- 121 WHY ARE WE TRYING TO MAINTAIN A POPULATION OF MOUNTAIN LIONS IN A SMALL PEOPLE POPULATED AREA . There isn't enough room for lions,deer, elk ,campers outdoor enthusiasts and children. this isn't the Rockies. Lets not pretend it is. Hunters are tired of going numerous years to draw a quality hunting tag just so we can feed the lions. I have 19 years preference in Custer park, how many elk do lions kill. Do they pay to maintain land and wages for quality wildlife? Don't increase tags for inferior huntable big game animals, decrease the lions. The GFP was so right on 7 years ago managing populations, what happened? It seems like you caved in to pressure from the greenies who move in from states they couldn't stand. Man Up! Wolves, bears and LIONS have a place but it's not in an area as small as the Black Hills. Manage for a population suitable for the environment not to appease the whiners....

- 122 Keep increasing the quota, we need to be very aggressive in the management of the lions before they destroy all the other big game herds, like the mt. goats. Do we even have any of them in the hills any more, or did the lions eat them all?
- 123 I would like to see the GFP put out the facts, tell the truth on what they have learned and know about the lions in the Black Hills and Western SD. I would think with all the lions that have been collared in the Hills over the years and the information from the harvested (hunting) and problem cat control that the GFP has the valid information to evaluate the lion population. I feel that the population is much higher than what we hear and that the growth rate is much faster than predicted and definitely higher than what is needed. I know the lions are taking a toll on other animals, you can not find a porcupine any place in the Southern Hills and this may be true in the rest of the Hills, I have not seen a Mt. Goat for three years and the sheep population has a low lamb crop as well as the elk calves are fewer than the number of breeding cows that I have observed and not due to the number of Bulls because that number is very strong. Based on what I have observed I feel the lion population is much higher than what
- 124 Seeing Lions in my front yard frequently when my son is 5 years old kind of scares me.
- 125 The harvesting limit should be 100.
- 129 Based on how quickly the quota was filled this year, the number of lion encounters reported during other times of the year, and the number of problem lions taken out by GF&P during the year, it would seem to me that there are more than enough lions in the Black Hills to justify the 2010 quota, or to even increase it somewhat in 2011.
- 138 I think if we can kill 40 lions in 41 days. We have too many lions!
- 142 This was the most exciting hunting that I have ever done! I observed plenty of sign/tracks/kills -- I hunted every opportunity I had -- I liked not seeing a lot of other hunters in the woods -- this is a great time for having the season (Jan 1 - March 31). I believe we will discover that even more lions will be able to be harvested after further research is completed. Thanks for the hunting season and keep up the good work!
- 145 I think we should have mountain lions in the state, but it seems we have way too many. Too many eating deer and elk, and too many leaving the black hills and turning up east river. I live in Brookings and a mountain lion was spotted 4 times a few blocks from my house. I live .5 miles out of city limits. Many kids play in this area (including mine) and I don't want the first lion attack in SD to be in my backyard. I think it is pretty intuitive that if we have lots of mountain lion sightings around cities/towns that there are too many lions. Keep up the good work managing all of our wildlife. I appreciate your hard work.
- 146 Great season. Can't believe we can get that many that fast without dogs. Should start a season in CSP. It is a refuge for cats with the 60,000 plus acres that they have free roam over. Not many cats shot around the Custer area this year.
- 152 Maintain current regulations of "big game" animal to keep dogs out of the hunt. This gives equal opportunity to all hunters.
- 153 Good hunting, season is appreciated. I believe with success in past seasons maybe it's time to NOT allow electronic calls.
- 159 I would like to see more lions killed each year for the fact that there are more out there than people realize. They should look also at setting up a season in Custer state park.
- 162 I believe SDGFP needs to manage lions like any other game species. Please continue to use sound science to evaluate the quota for mountain lions. I prefer the use of hunters to regulate lion numbers. The decision to remove a lion near homeowners feeding deer should be done as a last resort. People feeding deer are causing this close encounter with the lions, not the lions themselves. The department should have a policy that if homeowners are intentionally attacking lion prey, those lions are not removed by GFP unless it is near a school or other high potential problem area. Hunters are doing a great job of removing lions, please give them the chance to harvest the lions that need to be removed from the population.

- 172 I believe the Deer & Elk ,Fawn & Calves are down severely. Can you explain this? . Thank you Bob
- 176 I strongly believe there are more lions than GFP estimates, believe lions are causing problems with our big horn sheep, elk and deer populations in the BH. GFP should increase the numbers allowed to be harvested each year until we know the other populations are stabilized. We found too many areas of the BH with closed roads and large tracks of land unable to hunt. Should consider holding the closure of some of these until after the season. I'm not lazy but some of these are just too large to walk into. Feel GFP should include a special CSP season for mountain lions, they too are causing problems with the elk population. Don't know if florescent orange should be required. Great time, hope to do it again.
- 179 Lions have killed to many game animals and other predators. Including ALL big game species, bobcats, porcupines and all small game. SD GF&P have put lions on a pedestal at the expense of all other animals.
- 181 I have seen lion tracks almost everytime I have looked for them. It seems the population is quickly increasing. I also see less deer and elk. I'm concerned that we are not taking enough lions each year.
- 186 When will the GFP allow the use of hounds to hunt lions? Is it possible to issue only a limited number of permits for those wishing to use hounds? Would the use of hounds allow the hunter to be certain they are harvesting a mature male? How many states that offer lion permits prevent the use of hounds when hunting lions? What is the reason that the state wont allow the use of hounds?
- 188 Found a fresh kill, put up a camera, mom and young so I moved to a new area! Lots of fun. Wish I could have found the one I saw while bow hunting.
- 189 should allow more lions to be shot. dogs should be allowed.
- 190 There must be lots of lions, as it is pretty easy to find tracks after a fresh snow.
- 191 I think the season and how it works is just right. Maybe in the future a few tags (by lottery) could be used for use with dogs and for taking males only.
- 200 I hunted for one single lion. He has been on the ranch for several years but failed to show during the season. I saw a couple small male lions, along with a female with cubs several times. The atv traffic was terrible this year, they ran everywhere a lion track could be seen from the road or trail. It appeared they were trying to run the lions down, not sure how that worked for them. With the number of roads I know its a losing cause to monitor, but some more enforcement is required for the uncased guns and lack of hunter orange that was seen this year. I don't know if the heavy snow up north drove a lot of the traffic down to the southern hills, but it was crowded this year.
- 203 I enjoy having another excuse to be out in the woods, chasing lions. But i think you could still increase the lion kill by another 20%, and not hurt the population at all. Its us hunters that support them not the anti hunters. Who are so misinformed. but that is another subject. thankyou gentlemen keep up the good work
- 204 I feel that that the lion quota should be significantly increaced. The deer & elk populations are suffering from what I gathered in my fall hunts. I realize there are many factors involved in the big game population, but dont think it would hurt to at least double the lion quota and cut back deer & elk permits. I'm worried in a few years we wont have an elk season, just like mountain goats and big horn sheep. I realize you guys at the GFP have a tough job but some changes NEED to be made in the hills. I also think that 40 lions in 40 days without dogs or traps and lots of snow says something about lion numbers. Thanks for listening

- 205 The yearly lion hunt, if nothing else, is a good opportunity to get in the hills in the winter and enjoy nature. This year most the hunters I talked to enjoyed themselves but had a hard time getting around because of the hard packed snow. Thanks for the opportunity!
- 206 I am concerned about the number of Mountain Lions that were killed this year. I hope the GFP Commissioners will listen to the biologists and not set harvest limits because of political reasons. Thank-You
- 211 Successful Black Hills mountain lion hunters should have to skip one to two years after killing a lion before being allowed to purchase another mountain lion license. Example if I killed a mountain lion in 2010, I would have to wait until 2012 before I could purchase and hunt mountain lions in the Black Hills.
- 228 The time of the season was excellent. I choose to hunt in an area that is closed to motorized vehicle from Dec 15 (+/-) to May 15 (+/-) for wildlife winter habit. I was VERY discouraged with 4 wheelers accessing the ENTIRE area. They are accessing the area from private ground across from the old Doty Firehall on a regular basis. The 4 wheelers are driving through the walk thru gates off of Nemo Rd and travel the Box Elder Creek bottom to the onto private property by Doty firehall. One day I lost a fresh set of tracks because the mountain lion traveled the road and they drove over the track. The 2 4-wheelers were hunting lion as well (they would stop on check tracks that crossed the road). They have cut the fence to access USFS in the back of lot #65 in the Canyon Springs development. Really enjoyed hunting in January & February this year without all the other hunters out there. Just wish the 4-wheelers would follow the same rules.
- 232 A very simple quick and effective step would be to put a bounty on them and then step back and let nature take its course.
- 235 I hope the season dates stay the same and would like to see the number of cats harvested to keep increasing due to the large population of mt lions in the black hills. I really hope that it stays illegal to hunt mt lions with dogs. Because all that is going to do is make it impossible for the average joe to harvest a mt lion. It will turn into a money mans sport and the mt lion population will get out of control because the majority of hunters cant afford to pay someone to use their dogs. I would also like to see the season stay only open for South Dakota residents.
- 244 Completely agree with the need for a season. The fact that hunters can fill a 40 lion quota in a month and a half without the use of dogs is a testament to the population we have in the hills.
- 248 First of all Statement 5-D should be stated "Having too many" Mt Lions in SD could possibly be a dangerous risk to people. The way you have it phrased is too generic. Statement 5-E, I don't think an attack is likely, but then again you never do until it happens, these predators have proven to be unpredictable in other states and in Canada as well, they are excellent hunters and I believe that there is always a risk of an attack, especially on a small child that may not be protected under, knows, or has been shown these "Simple Precautions". I have seen what they can do to a full grown deer or elk, The risk is there whether we want to believe it; or wait until we see it. I am not just an angry hunter concerned about all the big game we are losing, even though that is what some people label us whenever the sportsman speak out on this. I am also concerned about what the actual number of Mt Lions really is within the Black Hills Fire Protection District, we managed to reach the raised quota for 2010 in record fashion.
- 251 I don't believe any state could achieve 40 lion harvests in 41 days, especially without the use of dogs. I believe lions are having a significant effect on our elk and deer herds.
- 253 I think you guys are doing a great job with this season. I would like to see the harvest limit still keep climbing. We do have a lion inversion in the hills. We are very lucky that we can hunt them in this state and not have to compete with dogs.
- 254 I liked the long season and the time it was set up for.

- 256 The snow prevented me from getting in to some of the areas I was interested in, but a good season nonetheless.
- 260 I think the GFP has done a very good job with the whole mountain lion issue in the state of SD. I think you could have harvested a larger number in previous years and it may have helped with the pressure on other big game animals, but to get where you are at has been a battle.
- 262 I thank the lions are hard on elk and deer , as these numbers have dropped down , this is seen by several hunters
- 264 I think the lion season is an excellent way to bring down the population and SD residents are fortunate to have the opportunity to enjoy an exclusive opportunity...residents only. My great concern is the degree of political correctness involved in managing the OVER POPULATION.....the ease of filling the quota tells me there are still too many lions. The dwindling population of big horn sheep in the Hill City area can be attributed to the number of lions killed in that area along with goats, cats and dogs, some of which were killed within the city limits. The declining population of mountain goats also play into the mountain lion deprecation issue. Mr. Kantana recently made a statement that a mountain lion kills an average of 43 animals a year and in 2008 he estimated that 140 of 250 (possible population) killed 6000+ deer and hunters about 7400 deer. If we continue to listen to arm chair biologists we won't have a deer,elk, big horn sheep, or mountain goat population population. We must also admit a
- 266 I feel the 2010 season went very well and I still hear of Lion sighting even after the season has closed.
- 267 GF&P's lion population estimate continues to be significantly low. I sure the biologists know this, but for whatever reason GF&P will probably continue under estimating lion numbers in the Black Hills. Female lion take has closed the season from the beginning. This in itself indicates a higher than estimated lion population, in my opinion as a certified wildlife biologist, I didn't hunt this year due to snow depth, and I didn't want to road hunt as many hunters (shooters) did. I'm puzzled as to why you request no names. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
- 271 Increase the number of tags.
- 273 Why not consider letting people use dogs to hunt lion. Then we can take mature cats.
- 275 I would like to harvest a Mt. Lion. Two have been taken that I am aware of, in my area, in the past few years. Lion tracks are seen along the Cheyenne River. My neighbors have seen an occasional Lion in the past 7-8 years. I buy a license , just in case , I see one some day. I only hunt on my own land South of the Cheyenne River so could harvest one anytime this calendar year. I hope the season continues.
- 284 I like the season starting on January 1. It allows me time to make several trips to the black hills hunting lions. It also makes the mountain lion season a fair sport (deer hunters are out of the woods when it starts Jan 1). I like the idea of the quota and think it should be kept the same. I think that all seasons should close when the quota is met, including the landowners.

- 285 I feel that there are in excess of 500 resident lions in the black hills. I had found 54 sets of tracks by driving the roads on one day after a fresh snow. I found them every time I hunted and in several areas of the hills. The problem appears to be most of the time it was multiple lions traveling together. I found a kill and placed a camera on it and got photos of 4 different lions on the first night and a total of 9 eventually visited yhis kill. I do not wish to harvest a young lion, however I was told a story that a game biologist and a friend followed a pair of lion tracks (which is illegal), eventually jumped the lions which then seperated and one person followed each track until a 50-60 lb lion was killed by the biologist. Lets face it the lion population is out of control and let people hunt and kill any lion. In all other big game seasons it is ok to shot a young animal. Dont worry about the non-hunters or anti-hunters and make it legal to hunt or harvest any lion.
- 286 This was a great season. I would have been out more times but other commitments didn't allow it. I had a great time and so did the other hunter that I talked too. I will go again next year as I have all the other years. I really like the time of the season as it give everyone who really wants to hunt Mountian Lions that oppportunity. Thanks for a great season.
- 287 Having a later season for mountain lions is a good thing. At least this way the season lasts a little while and a person can get out and actually hunt for them without all kinds of other hunters and people in general to contend with. I do wish the season was open sooner if you were archery hunting. An archery mountain lion is one of the best trophies SD has to offer. With all the criticism about the lion season there are some things that I feel could have been done differently. I hear hunters that want a season for lions that dont have a good thing to say about GFP because dogs cant be used. I dont have dogs and never will. I like being able to go out and hunt for them. But the season could have been set up so the dog hunters could run dogs at the end of the season. The last few weeks or the last 10% of the quota. I dont know the correct answer, but something that at least unite the people that are for the season. If this would have been done from the begining GFP would have avoided a lot of the n
- 288 I love mountain lions. However in my opinion there are far too many in the Black Hills. Between a far too generous antlerless tag issuance (both deer and elk) and an over abundant lion population. I see our herbivore species in the Black Hills at their lowest population densities in recent times. Do our SDGFP biologists actually conduct population counts or are tags issued based on revenue need? This problem is far larger than the Black Hills. Archery and rifle deer and antelope hunting in Harding county was disgusting, yet SDGFP keeps cranking out doe tags and extending antlerless seasons. Is it landowners that are dictating our states habitat carrying capacity or biologists. What is the problem? What SDGFP has done in the past 6 years is working, if the goal is to reduce an abundant natural resource to a scarce one.
- 291 Living in Custer I find that hunting next to Custer State Park makes hunting unproductive as most of the lions that I track end up in the park. That makes it one big lion refuge. Along with Wind Cave thats one big safety zone for them. I know you can't do anything about Wind Cave but it would be nice if we could stay on the tracks once they hit Custer Park. Other then that, lion hunting west of Custer I notice there is a lot of elk cows with no calves and for that matter not many spikes in the herds with the cows which means theres not many yearling cows also. I had a bull tag in Custer Park this year and notice it was real bad for cows with out calves in there. Alot of cat sign. Gary
- 292 I like the fact that mountain lions are able to sustain a healthy population in the Hills. I appreciate the opportunity for a chance to harvest a lion in my home state. However, I like even more the fact that we have thriving populations of elk, mule deer and whitetail deer, and a base population of big horns and mountain goat. If future studies conclude that mountain lions are having a significant detrimental effect any on those populations, I would be in favor of increasing the number of lion licenses to the extent necessary to bring that back in check.

- 294 I feel it is very important to maintain a balance in the number of lions and strongly support the hunting season as an effective manner to accomplish that. We border the National Forest but have never been concerned about our safety while walk or riding in the woods.
- 297 A FEW mountain lions indicate a healthy environment. A FEW mountain lions don't pose much of a safety risk, etc. We have a lot more than a FEW lions. I live near the Spring Creek drainage and another 3 lions were killed within a mile or so of my house this year and there still are lion tracks around. I haven't seen Bighorn Sheep on our portion of the Bighorn Sheep preserve for about 2 years now and the deer population has dropped dramatically and it's not because of added hunting pressure. This area is not easily accessible. I am becoming more and more dissatisfied because of the slow response by GFP to the situation. I applaud the commissioners for upping the quota above the recommendation of the staff but I believe it may be too little too late. When you think of the areas of the Hills that are not accessible in the winter time, how can the lion population be managed in those areas? I'd much rather have a lot less lions and more deer, elk, turkey, Bighorn sheep, mountain goats, etc. Have you not
- 298 The control of the mountain lion population through fair-chase hunting is a common sense method which allows a safe level of these unique and beautiful creatures. History will show how effective hunting methods have been used to, not only control - but increase, populations of a huge variety of various wild game species. Some obvious examples are: wild turkeys, deer, elk, pheasants, grouse, ducks, geese, etc. The list could include many more of our countries wild creatures. The bottom line is that no anti-hunting organization comes even close to helping promote the continuation of reasonable levels of wild game in comparison to hunting organizations. The NWTf, Ducks Unlimited, RMEF, Pheasants Forever, SCI, etc. - in conjunction with state game, fish and parks people - are the real reason that we currently have the great numbers of wild game in our country.
- 302 The deer and elk population in the hills seems to be getting less and less all the time. My feelings are that since the lions are increasing it has a great deal to do with the decrease in deer and elk population.
- 304 ok to nhave lions in hills but any east of there we should be able to shoot all year around, and we should keep the numbers in hills under control also
- 305 From an ecological perspective, it seems that the maximum sustainable harvest would be greater than 40 animals. Considering that recent studies have indicated population sizes to be closer to 300 mountain lions in the Black Hills alone, we ought to be able to harvest more lions. However, it is greatly appreciated that all South Dakota residents are guaranteed a lion license if they so desire. Also, it would be nice if all landowners had the privilege of hunting year round, even if their property did not include 160 contiguous acres. Thank you for the opportunity and keep up the good work!
- 308 I just wanted to comment that it is a perfect time of year (January) when there is no other season occuring to hunt. It is one of the most enjoyable hunts I have been on, and I hunt everything. I was out a lot in an attempt to get a mountain lion, and saw several tracks, and enjoyed following them everyday. The only thing bad about it is that it was too short of season!!
- 311 My son and I had a good time hunting lions this year. We wish we would have had more time to go out again. We found plenty of tracks and you don't have to get one to have a good time hunting.
- 312 Having seen numerous mountain lions the last six years I was suprised I didn't see more sign this year. The coninued fresh snow fall i'm sure was a big plus for serious hunters.

- 313 I agree 100% with the way the season is setup, just don't agree with the quota. Please increase the quota again for next year. It seems to me that the current quota's aren't even scratching the surface of the Mt Lion population and the population estimates are very, very, conservative.
- 316 I was unable to participate this year.
- 317 Moving the season to Jan. 1 is bad. Cannot combine hunts because of this. Snow may also be a problem. Too cold generally. Since I don't live in Pennington, Lawrence, Custer counties then making a special trip to hunt lions when weather may be bad is really a hardship. Why can't you move it back to where it was!!!
- 322 I just purchased a lion tag. The day after I received it, the season was closed. Bad Luck? Fine. But not having one minute of daylight to even think about hunting them, is just plain wrong. \$15 lost fee. Not right.
- 324 We have spent many days hunting elk, coyotes, etc, walking in the Hills and never seen a lion, but you always here stories of people that do. I was thrilled just to find 2 or 3 sets of tracks , not real fresh but it was neat. I have to admit I was nervous walking in and out of the woods in the dark though. I just wish I lived out there I love it.....
- 326 I feel that there are still too many lions in the Black Hills. You regularly hear of people seeing lions and of lions injuring or killing pets and livestock.
- 333 I honestly think lions are slaughtering the elk calves in the black hills. An I think thats awful, im an avid elk hunter in any an all states I can draw a tag in, but the hills are the closest elk population to me. But I have just applied for preference in the park for the last couple years an plan to in the future. Just because the lions are having a free for all in the park on elk calves, an the big bulls are becoming more an more sparse. You guys have got to kill more lions. I hunt deer out in the hills an lots of my friends do aswell, an we have all seen lions before. I honestly think there is way more lions in the hills an especially in CSP than you guys really know. Next season set the lion quota at 100 or 60 females, an be able to use dogs. I guarantee you will fill the quota with ease. WHY PROTECT THEM....
- 334 This was my first year to hunt lions. I will hunt lion in the future, I realize that it takes time and skill to be sucessfull. I hope that GFP will continue this season.
- 335 THIS WAS MY FIRST HUNT OF MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THE HILLS AND EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T HARVEST A LION IT WAS GREAT. WE MAINLY DROVE AROUND LOOKING FOR FRESH TRACKS IN THE SNOW AND WAS SUPRISED TO FIND AS MANY AS WE DID. I FEEL THAT THE QUOTA IS WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE. (25 FEMALES/40 TOTAL). I ALSO FEEL THAT THERE ARE MORE LIONS IN THE HILLS THEN WHAT MOST PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT. FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND THE ELK IN THE PARK HAVE BEEN TAKING BIG LOSSES BECAUSE OF THE POPULATION OF THE LIONS, MOSTLY THE NEW-BORNS. I HOPE THAT WE CAN KEEP THE LION SEASON AND GET THE POPULATION OF OUR ELK HERD BACK TO WHERE IT ONCE WAS.
- 338 When I was a young child in piedmont , the exploring trips in the black hills were an important part of my early learning experiences. It was wonderful to grow and get an appreciation for the outdoors as I did at ages 7 - 58. We had lions back then but not so many. I saw my first tracks at 13. I enjoy hunting lions and have called 3 in for the kill these last 2 seasons. I think there are too many to allow 7 to 14 year old children to run and play in the forest. If the population could be brought down to say 20 -30 for the state children could play in relative safety as the few lions left would have a very strong fear of humans and we would have enough lions so people could occasionally see a track as it was in the 70's and lions would still be present. Cal Walsh Lion deer & coyote hunter.

- 348 Was a little dissatisfied with the season because of the amount of snow, Not with anything the state did. I am a little upset with other hunters and the lack of hunter etiquette!! When other hunters vehicles are parked on a closed off forest service roads, they themselves should not park by your vehicle. Then walk right up your tracks in the snow, calling to game every one hundred yards. That is just wrong. I think we need to get some public service messages out to the public about hunter and outdoors etiquette. we all need to share the hills, but there are just some good old common scense ways to share the outdoors. I also think the state needs to publish some mountain lion information in different media, this would help educate the public on mountain lions, and give them the real satistics about mountain lion attaches, and way its important to not kill the mother lion with cubs, Why she needs the full two years to raise her cubs to teach them the hunting skills for big game animals. If you don't and go
- 350 The mountain lion population in Custer state park is to dense. I helped a friend with a late season archery tag in the park. The three days I hunted with him, we saw a lion everyday. The reason for the poor, elk-calf crop in the park the last few years, has everything to do with the current population of lions within the fence. The GF&P does a great job of administering a lion season out of the park. Why can't the same thing be done in the park?
- 351 seen many female lions with young tracked many lions that met up with other lion seen numerous pairs of lions at 5 different kill sites or dead deer (i.e. road kills or deer trash that people dump out) and then abandoned the hunt because of your rules about pairs but know of at least 4 cases where the lions were shot with more than one lion in site I keep your rules in mind on every hunt but it makes it hard when you dont enforce your own so called rules with others now i know their far too many lions in the hills alone I thought the deer/elk population was just getting to a workable level so we could enjoy not only hunting but just sightings not to mention trophys you maybe now know that lions are problematic and is obvious by your rules and your actions about your rules that you dont care if the populations are lowered so as far as im concerened their should be open seson 24/7/365 any means possible but we all know that is just bad business so for me ill just have to go out of state for my outdoor activitvys
- 354 I THINK YOU SHOULD INCREASE QUOTA OF LIONS
- 356 I think we have to many cats. Most any where I went in the northern hills within a mile of hiking you can encounter cat sign new or old. Other western states most of the time require many miles of scouting to cut a cat track or a mature cat that you would want to kill. Killing this many cats with out the use of dogs just blows my mind.
- 362 Overall, with regards to lion hunting, I believe that the quotas are on the right track. I live in lion country (Rapid Creek drainage Johnson Siding area) and have hunted the Black Hills since 1970. This past year was the WORST year I have seen as far as numbers of deer that I can recall. The Biologists and GFP Commissioners need to listen to there own CO's and concerned sportsman and start reducing the number of licenses in the Black Hills and West River in general. I plan on seeing you this spring in CSP for the hearings on proposed big game seasons. Start thinking about OUR big game and quit relying on this finite resource to fund your budget. The deer in the Black hills get HAMMERED for 5 months in the year. You seem to disregard MVA mortality, youth doe seasons, mentored doe seasons, archery deer seasons plus 4000+ buck tags along with how ever many any deer tags that you issue and what it has done to OUR deer herd. About the only thing you have done right is increasing the lion quota. Please s
- 364 I think having lions in the hills is a good thing but i do worry the number of deer that they prey on. I had a rifle buck tag for the hills and i was extremely dissapointed in the number of bucks and the number of good quality of bucks that I saw. I also understand that lions are no the only factor when it comes to deer numbers. I think a good balance between the two can be struck and I appreciate your effort.

- 366 Unless you want a substantial number of female lions killed the cats should be able to be hunted with dogs.-
- 367 I believe you guys are doing a good job in trying manage the lion population! I just would like everyone to be on the same page as to really what the population is in the Black Hills! I've talked to several wardens and commissioners and all opinions seem to point to the population being way higher as to what is portrayed!Thanks and keep up the good work!!
- 371 40 mountain lions in 41 days. I feel there are too many lions in the hills and it is hurting big game animals -deer and elk. Just ask elk and deer hunters.
- 372 I think controlled hunts using a lottery tag system should be implemented so that dogs can be used. I feel the local people in the hills probably have the best chance of harvesting a lion. The use of dogs during the hunt would be a much better approach to controlling the population.
- 373 I hunted around the Galena area and around the Johnson Siding area, saw lion tracks both places. First year hunting lion, didn't know much about them, would like to learn more. I think more info on GFP website would be great(links to other info sites, hunter experiences, more info from your survey/methods used). Won't be my last hunt unless you close season for some reason. Thanks.
- 375 Harvesting a lion this year ranks at or near the top of all my hunting experinces.
- 378 to many lions and not enough deer left in the hills,,also there are too many roads that are blocked and it is hard to get around in the snow. Would rather have the earlier season..
- 383 Based on previous studies I have read, the Mountain Lion population is still above the carrying capacity of the Black Hills. And, if the number of lions currently in the hills (verified by studies and tracking collars) is above it's carrying capacity ... Why are we only allowed to harvest such a relatively small number of lions. 41 DAYS 40 LIONS this seems to me, we did not harvest enough lions to even keep the lion population stagnant, assuming the birth rate is as low as 1 kittens per year per breeding age female... I support your efforts and hope further consideration will be given to maintaining a healthy lion population for generations to come...
- 394 Mountain lions can live in harmony with people only if they have fear of people, and the best way to accomplish this is by hunting
- 395 if you can shoot them in the hills you should be able to hunt them statewide.....
- 399 I feel that the Black Hills Mountain Lion season is a great way to manage the population in the Black Hills. GOOD hunters are a ethical and effective way to manage all wildlife in our state. Unfortunately, a few people who are inadequately educated and informed make hunting mountain lions a much larger issue than it needs to be. Keep up the good work and I am proud to say I live in South Dakota; one of the greatest outdoor/hunter friendly states in the U.S.
- 405 I think that the last few seasons have been run very well. I liked that the start date was moved into January allowing a better chance for snow to track/locate the cats. I like the very liberal bag limits, which hopefully will be adjusted if there are too many cats killed. I like that the vocal opponents to the lion season have been proven wrong and that their yelling has been reduced to a whining whimper. I do not think that people really need to fear being attacked by cats, so I would hope that does not become a rationale for increasing the limits. If the big-game populations are being reduced, especially in certain areas as they are rumored to be, then possibly the Hills could be split up into areas (as in north/south areas) to take more lions out of one area than another. Realizing, of course, that the lions will disperse more or less evenly even if this is done. Thanks for all the good work you are all doing to make hunting in SD a great experience.
- 406 Enjoyed a few days of hunting in the Black Hills. Additionally, I have seen sign, good tracks, here in Lincoln County on or near my own farm ground. Keep up the good work.

- 407 I LOVE TO HUNT FOR MT. LIONS, AND I LOVE THE TIME OF YEAR THE LAST 2 SEASONS HAVE BEEN IN BUT DUE TO THE LACK OF AVAILABLE ROADS BEING CLOSED IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH SOME OF THE AREAS NEEDED TO HUNT SOME OF THESE CATS, THE FIRST YEAR THE GAME FISH AND PARKS HAD THERE FIRST SEASON YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE, AND I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO SHOOT ONE OF THESE FINE ANIMALS, BUT SINCE THEN I HAVE SCOUTED DIFFERENT AREAS IN THE HILLS, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE A GOOD POPULATION IN THE CENTRAL HILLS DEERFIELD AREA BUT AT THIS TIME OF YEAR IT IS PRETY MUCH NOT AVAILABLE TO REALLY HUNT DUE TO LACK OF OF AVAILABLE ROADS TO GET CLOSER TO GOOD HUNTING AREAS WITH CATS IN THEM, AND NO WAY TO HELP OUT THE ELK POPULATION BY REMOVING SOME OF THE CATS THAT HUNT THEM WICH IS A SAD THOUGHT TO ME, I THINK IF THEY COULD OPEN UP AN AREA OF BOILES CANYON ROAD TO 4 CORNERS AND DOWN 6 MILE WE COULD ELEVIAETE SOME OF THESE CATS, AND MAYBE CHANGE IT FROM YEAR TO YEAR ON DIFFERENT SECTIONS I KNOW THIS IS ASKING ALOT BUT THESE CATS NEED TO
- 410 I had the hunt of a lifetime. There is no feeling like harvesting a lion, I will always remember my lion hunt.
- 415 Someone needs to grow a spine and quit trying to appease the complaints of the few opposed to mt lion hunting and the methods used to hunt mt. lions. To kill 40 cats in 40 days only by calls and tracking should tell the incompetent people administering this hunting season that there are more cats than you are willing to truthfully tell the public. You think your smoke screen is appeasing the public and all you are really creating is more distain toward SDGF&P. You arent willing to listen to sound science so good luck with the path that you are on.
- 420 I sincerely hope that the SD GF&P is going to take a good hard long look at the lion population and harvest quota this year. At some point the state is going to have to listen to the very sportsmen who are buying the deer tags (which I think it is safe to assume is a bigger source of revenue for the department than lions) and increase the quota to actually impact the lion numbers and protect the big game. Every day I hear a new story from landowners in the hills wondering where all their deer have gone, and these are landowners that hold no love for deer in great numbers...they just have seen a drastic decrease in the numbers as the lion numbers have increased. Then there are the elk hunters who last year saw smaller herds of elk, and a close friend of mine was in a herd of 40 cows...NOT A SINGLE CALVE!!! That is not normal, and it was not a VIRUS that took down those elk! How about the big horn herd..the lamb survival has been atrocious, and yet again, it was a VIRUS. If we are going to continue to c
- 425 MT. Lion hunting is by far the best season in South Dakota to hunt. No or very little ATV traffice. Not to much hunter pressure. Very glad to see this season exist. Would be a poor season if dogs were allowed to be used.
- 427 I hope in the future that the gf&p exercises better judgement in releasing dangerous predator such as mountain lions an especially wolves which i believe would be extremely irresponsible!!!!!!!!!!
- 433 A lot of snow that first weekend, made it tough moving around. Thats OK, love South Dakota.

- 434 There are a lot of lions out there. I cut lion tracks every day I hunted for them (although it was only 2 days). However, I frequently encounter lion tracks while deer hunting or hiking the hills. We need to keep lions in the hills, but they need to be managed just like any other big game animal. I'm just concerned that the current estimate of the number of lions in the hills is much lower than reality. Glad to see the number of licenses increased because I think they are starting to really hit the elk herd pretty hard. I saw, what I consider, significantly fewer calves than in any previous years. Also, I'd like the GFP and SDSU to provide better access to lion reports. I know they have been studied for quite some time, but I'm not able to find the actual study results (or at least I find very few). Also, it would be really nice to have access the current locations of lions that are collared to study their patterns. But I understand this should not be available during the hunting season. Maybe
- 436 we need to take more lions we also need to take lions in custer state park, before allelk and deer are gone.
- 440 Very exciting hunt, I believe I found 6-7 different sets of lion tracks within 3 or 4 square miles just Southeast of Spearfish. It actually seemed like I was seeing more lion tracks than deer or elk. I would rather see a healthier population of elk than mountain lions.
- 441 I like MT. Lion hunting and have hunted every season in S.D. After 20 days of hunting I harvested my 2nd lion. The first took 7 days in 2006. This is not an old man sport and the cold weather and icy roads make it tuff but I.m having too much fun to stop now. See ya next year. Keep up the good work. THE LION SLAIER
- 442 This years Mt. Lion season was great. I believe starting the season in Jan. was ideal. South Dakota has proven beyond a doubt there is no need to use dogs for tracking Mt. Lions. Patience, snow, and a little luck are all it takes to be a successful Mt. Lion hunter in SD. Please don't change the start date to the season. Please don't decrease the number of lions to be harvested. Finally, please don't ever make the mistake of opening our Mt. Lion season to out of state hunters. Thanks for a great Mt. Lion season.
- 449 living in sioux falls, the weather this season kept us from being able to make it to the black hills before the season was closed. i hope that in order to provide as many hunters the opportunity to harvest a mountain lion that there would be a once in a lifetime limit put in place. meaning that a hunter would only be able to harvest one mounain lion in their lifetime. once successful, your done.
- 452 I had fun hunting moutain lions. We weren't very sure how to do it though or where to go. I think that some more info on how to hunt them and where to go would be very helpful
- 474 i think the population is higher than gfp is telling us
- 476 With the copious amounts of snow we had I didn't get to the west side of the state in time. It seems like every time I tried it snowed. Then when I had concrete plans with clear weather, I was unable to travel due to fulfilling military obligations. Oh well, there is always next year!
- 481 I would like to see more tags issued for lions the population is still growing and the deer population seems to be crashing in the hills. On a normal day i see about 1/4 of the deer i used to see. That doesn't appear healthy to me.
- 485 I'll try to go next year

- 494 I love the ability as a South Dakota citizen and avid hunter to possess a tag and hunt these incredible animals. I am a little concerned about the number of mountain lions that we may actually have in South Dakota and the risks associated. I was successful in the last Mt. Goat season in South Dakota and would like to see this season re-open so others can experience the same thrill. My concern is that the number of lions present has impacted species like Mt. Goats and animals alike. It is also hard for me to not think of worst case scenarios such as children and schools when analyzing this topic. I am confident the SD biologists and others on staff with more knowledge on this subject matter can and will make the right decisions. In a perfect world a good hunt-able number of lions coupled with safety and game animals would make any outdoorsman smile.
- 498 The experience of lion hunting is one of the most basic hunts I have been on. It was exciting and would have been almost perfect, if I had the opportunity to bag one!
- 499 would like to see a season in custer state park also.
- 504 Mountain lions outside the Black Hills should not be protected.
- 507 Way to many cats! Every time there was fresh snow I found multiple sets of tracks in different areas. The Mountain Goats are all but gone. I had an Elk tag this year. I scouted hard and took a nice 6pt Bull. During all of my hunting and scouting I saw only 2 calf elk! Same goes for the bighorns I see every day along HWY 44, where's the young of the year? We should be shooting at least 100 more. If you chose to "manage the cats" at the current pop density you chose not to manage any of our other big game! Not that I don't enjoy hunting them in this season, I do. But given the choice between the cats and all the other species, there is only one logical answer. Kill the Cats!
- 520 Keep the sseason as you have been doing since inception of the lion hunts. Make sure that you don't allow hunting with dogs and no non-rersidents. Would it be possible to have depredation hunters take the naughty lions that wander into places that they shouldn't? Thanks Pat Nogelmeier
- 532 I believe SD should consider the dogs for this hunt and larger amount of animals per season, the reason is because i believe there may be a lot more animals out then thought.
- 533 Too many cats. I have been hunting the hills since '73 and saw no cats until the last 10 years, or so. I have observed cats attacking deer on two occasions. I am noticing fewer and fewer deer and turkeys. It is beyond me wht the Great State of South Dakota has allowed a few special interest groups to detrimentally affect our traditional hunting opportunities. I am not alone in my opinions. Talk to the local wardens. We need a year-round open season on cats, as it is with coyotes. Do something before it is "too late". Thankyou.
- 538 There is only one reason we are not getting the young of year elk and deer to survive,CATS. Open up more limits on them.
- 539 you can find mt lion sign everywhere you look for it.....there are way too many.....we are noticing a big decline in deer, elk and turkey in a number of areas where they wer very numerous before. i hope they continue to increase the number of permits allowed and the late season is better so there aren't any conflicting seasons with other hunters...
- 544 I am a rancher in the black hill and am very worried about mt lions eating my livestock. The elk and deer population is to the point where you don't see a deer or elk any time of year. The deer and elk population needs to go up.. Talking to Arizona game and fish 38% of their collared cats are eating livestock in areas. Very few mt lions are harvested in the southern hills and trappers still trap them all the time and the sightings of the cats are very common. I think you need to harvest more cats, harvest less deer and elk, and cut the black hills mt lion season in units.
- 545 I didnot see a lion while hunting, but I did hear them 2 out of 3 days.

- 547 I grew up in the Black Hills hunting deer, elk, and turkeys. The deer population has been impacted the most from the lions or some other factors. We have had relatively open winters yet the deer numbers are way down. I am familiar with the elk calf problem in CSP and understand that there are many factors that go into managing the elk herd. I can't help but think, the lion population in and around the park has to play a major role in the lack of elk calves. A breeding problem in the park is hard to believe since the elk travel in and out throughout the year. If this is the case, why aren't the elk outside the park experiencing the same problems? In my opinion, be able to shoot 40 lions in 41 days is jaw dropping. Especially, using the hunting techniques required by the state to take these animals. If we were allowed to use dogs as a method of hunting (which is a way more productive way to hunt), would it be safe to assume we would have killed 40 lions in 1/2 or 1/3rd the time? Had the season lasted another mo
- 550 This is my first year of hunting lions. Have lived in the Black Hills for 30 years and have yet to see a mountain lion.
- 552 I'm going to apply myself a lot more next year. Didn't make it out much this year, but last year (2009) I about killed myself snowshoeing, and saw lots of tracks. Still have never seen a Mt Lion, in my entire life, but I have seen 3 bobcats now. Good job-please can I have an elk license this year? ;-)
- 553 I live on the Rochford Road just west of 385 in Lawrence Co. Deer populations have declined in our area. There also seems to be less sightings of elk in the area. I think the GFP should collar as many lions as possible to keep track of the lion population in the hills. The lion kill should be increased if it is the reason for decline of deer and elk.
- 555 I strongly feel that Lions should be considered a predator animal and hunting should be open year round! Just think about the money it costs the GF&P in lost license fees because of the reduced deer and elk #s
- 559 During the Black Hills deer season I encountered more mountain lion tracks, mountain lion kills, and actual mountain lions than I have ever encountered in previous seasons. I saw 4 mountain lions this year throughout the fall. I feel we have a mountain lion problem in the hills and the deer and elk numbers are going down because of it. Let us shoot them like coyotes. I know you want to get your 15 dollars, so do unlimited tags 15 dollars per lion. It is interesting to me that there were five gentlemen here a week and a half ago that claim they were here to collar wolves in the hills. Don't here much about that.
- 564 The season could be a little longer.
- 569 Mountain Lions are killing off the Elk herds. The farmers in the hills agree with this statement. Mountain lions mostly feed on big game such as deer and elk and with the elk license given out so few their are less chance of success and i think the mountain lion population should be limited even more.
- 575 I would like to see a split season, and or limited licenses available for hunters during Black Hills deer and elk seasons. For many of us, traveling to the Hills from the east end of the state can be cost prohibitive. It would be cost effective to have a cat tag incidental to a big game tag in order to hunt both at the same time. Concurrent seasons could have a small female quota and small total cat quota leaving the bulk of the season for late winter.
- 582 Add more lions to the season next year.
- 598 Snow made things really difficult this season.
- 599 successful season don't buckle under use the information you have to determine future seasons
- 603 Too many people on 4 wheelers, need to shut some of the roads and trails down to these atv's.

- 607 The Season is starting to late giving no access to public road with winter conditions. Would like to be able to deer hunt whils mountain lion hunting. Given i will only be hunting lions with all the deer in the hill being lion food.
- 608 I like having the Mountain Lion season on January 1st because the deer hunting season is over. It makes it a fair sport because the deer hunters can not just shoot one when they are not actually hunting for them. Having it at this time in the year also allows me to come back to the hills more often. I like the idea of the quota and i think it is the right amount. Not only should the Black hills season close but I think the landowner season should close as well. I like the season being state wide as it seems the mountain lions are becoming more common outside the black hills. Maybe extend the lion season outside the black hills longer and have a different quota for counties outside the hills.
- 616 This season was well conducted and the lion harvest successful. I hope it will be conducted in the same manner next year. I am not in favor of allowing dogs for the mountain lion hunt.
- 617 I feel the mountian lion season was a sucess... They need to be managed just as much as the deer..
- 622 In my opinion, there should be an open season on lions. They are not necessary to the Black Hills ecology, they may have served a purpose 100 years ago but not anymore. The Hills are too populated and commercilized. The lions are not necessary for any wild game population, we already have an excess of hunters applying for a limited number of deer and elk tags. It is important that we set aside land for lion habitat but that land is not the Black Hills. There are better, less populated, less comercialized areas in the country for lions, like the Rocky Mtns. Our money would be better spent preserving land for lions elsewhere. I am all about preserving wildlife habitat but realisticaly our Black Hills are not the place for lions no more than wolves or bears, all of which once lived here. The old wild west days are gone forever and the picture is totally different now. Take a drive around the Hills, there is a house around every other corner and cattle everwhere. One thing that surprises me is that we haven't had
- 644 I have noticed when hunting deer this year there really is a decline in numbers as well as elk and turkeys. I live next to the forest for a number of years and since the lion population has increased the other wildlife have decreased. I think we need to get rid of more lions and also use dogs to properly manage the lion population as the other western states do. They say 250 lions in the hills but I think the wool is getting pulled over our eyes, I we don't get a handle on this we won't have anything left to hunt and our kids will be left with the problem. The last 13 or so lions were killed in about 5 days that should tell you that there are more lions out there than we think. I also had 21 elk hanging around and did not see any calves,..... seems a little odd?
- 645 Lion licencses should be a 15 dollar year round tag for a predator. hunting in deep snow with the roads closed limits where you can hunt and how far you can walk. GFP did a great job when they changed the deer requirements to 2 point or better, but now that there are so many lions in the hills and after next year with the new cubs there will be around a 1000 lions and the deer population will be desimated.
- 650 I think that it is great that people can not use dogs to hunt lions in this state. It really makes it fair for everyone.

- 658 I personally feel that GFP overall do a very poor job of game and fish management--game and fish have no money. Sportsman do, therefore, it is all about sportsman management. I would guess that hunters could kill twice the number of mountain lions allowed this year without hurting population at all. I am also sure that there needs to be a greater effort to hunt lions statewide. Lions are a predator and are a threat to the economic welfare of all livestock producers. Lions, wolves, and bears were all native to this area and were all eradicated years ago. They are not necessary for the survival of mankind. Once again common sense has been replaced by ignorance and greed.
- 677 To date, in 10 years of living in the Black Hills I have observed 7 mtn. lions on my own and only 2 bobcats. I spent 25 years in the Colorado Rocky Mtns. and the only mtn. lion I ever observed was one that I killed while hunting for them (it was circumstantially lucky). Why aren't wildlife managers managing for the lion population that was present in the Black Hills in 2000? Is it necessary to manage for the density of mtn. lions that have been present the past few years? The big game resources in the Black Hills area are suffering and will continue to. Do you want to collect the big game license revenue and continue the hunting heritage or feed the lions? Lion encounters and observations are daily, yet folks have become so habituated to another sighting that most don't report anymore. And, why report an observation anymore.....lions are well established here. Best wishes.
- 678 More lions need to be harvested, the deer population in a lot of areas have been wiped out. I have hunted the Blackhills for 45 years and there are less and less deer as the lion population continues to grow, your money is going to start decreasing as the hunters grow tired of hunting because there are no deer left, also Elk. In the past the GFP did a good job with the deer and elk making the blackhills a desirable place to hunt, but the GFP really missed the boat on this one (Lions) how much money are they going to generate for you.
- 687 SD GF&P is doing a great job managing the mountain lion population, especially considering the all the opposition. I still believe the quota could be increased, just based on the increase in my personal sightings over the last few years.
- 690 We seen several fresh tracks when we went hunting, we only got out there 1 time this season. I spend most all my weekends as an instructor for 4-H shooting sports so my hunting time is very limited. I will purchase a license again next year because you never know if you will be successful at harvesting a lion. I hope next year I will get to hunt a few more days.
- 694 I think that as long as you can harvest a lion a day with the current methods of primarily, walking and tracking, that there are more cats than the hills can carry. If they aren't reduced by more hunting they will reduce themselves by either over eating their food supply or disease and that would take a lot longer to recover from and be financially harmful as well. To reduce and maintain a reasonable population of cats you need to increase the quota of cats harvested to 150 until it becomes difficult to fill then reduce to the carrying capacity that is healthy for both predator and prey.
- 696 I really wish we could use dogs to hunt lions with I have tried to get one the last 3 years and have been unable to locate any shooters. I don't know if I will hunt Lions in South Dakota anymore?

- 699 I was happy to see the Game and Fish raise the quota of lions for the past season. As you can see from my answers on the survey I feel there is a place for lions in the Black Hills and they need to be managed so there will continue to be. That being said I still feel the population of cats is still way to high. When you can have a season with a quota of 40 cats that need to be hunted without dogs and it fills as fast as it did we still have a huge population of lions. Most of the cats this season were taken in the southern and middle portions of the hills where smaller accumulations of snow allowed people to get around. Here in the northern hills there was just too much snow for hunters to be very successful. I can get out and hunt as the snow allows me to later with a landowners tag and with the amount of cat sign I have been seeing I am confident I can get a cat. I think you are moving in the right direction with the increased quota but I think more cats need to be taken.
- 701 I have been hikeing, hunting, fishing, camping, snowmobiling, 4- wheeling, and using the hills in other ways for the past 50 years. The first lion I seen was in 1969 about 1/2 mile from harney peak tower. For the next 30 years I crossed paths with two or three lions. But in the last 10 years lions have been everywhere. We had one in my dogs kennel last Aug. I have always felt that it will take a kid getting mauled or killed before people around here belive we have a lion problem. I hope that dose not happen. I know that most hunters and GF&P personel know what there doing to the deer population. I feel we are on the right track by harvesting 40 lions this year. But I feel we could harvest a lot more.
- 702 too damn much snow in the northern hills! I found older tracks but nothing fresh. The snow was so deep it was just too hard to walk very far. I should have had snowshoes. I really wish we could use dogs here as I feel it would allow hunters to look at the cat and decide if it is too young to take. What is the reason we can't use dogs here? thanks
- 704 Some areas of the northern Hills are blocked off for wildlife habitat, and unaccessible by road, perhaps during mountain lion season in future years, they could be opened during that season only?
- 705 In 8 days of hunting, I persued fresh tracks of 6 adult cats. I also saw 3 sets of double tracks that I assumed to be female with young. In addition I found numerous tracks that were not so fresh. All were within about a 5-6 square mile radious in and around the Experimental Forest. It is my opinion that the cat population in the hills is healthy and doing well. You guys are doing a fine job!
- 706 I think the season went well. I feel there are still a lot of lions out there. I hunted over 25 days this season and saw fresh sign nearly every day. The season limit still might be too low. I am concerned that the deer and elk numbers are way lower than the hills can support. I am not seeing very many game animals out there. Please don't allow the use of dogs in the hills. If dogs do become allowed, please make the limit low, so sportsmen who can't afford dogs have the opportunity to harvest a cat in a sporting way. I have been successful during another season. Finding and harvesting a cat is challenging, making it a true hunt. I appreciate that and don't care if I get one every year. Could open the season earlier (Nov. 1st) in the year for archery only!!! I would hunt this season and be willing to pay for an early season license. No dogs please!!!
- 714 I am very Happy with the harvest this year , but I am concerned as to just how many lions do we have in the hills area? Because to kill 40 lions in 41 days is just an amazing feat without the use of dogs . I hope the results of the season is a wake up call to those in charge we have a problem so lets fix it now PLEASE.

- 723 I didn't like that the GFP website didn't show the weight of each lion harvested like in years past. I'm guessing that it was to keep the little kittens out of the news. I had heard rumors of a 30 pound or less cat taken this year. That is pathetic! If that is true, why are the consequences not being enforced for shooting these critters. I had to fill out a questionnaire before I could get a tag, stating that I wouldn't do such a thing. I believe that these so called "hunters" that shoot kittens should suffer much more severe consequences than a slap on the wrist if you are going to have these rules. I believe that if dogs were allowed to hunt the lions, there would be a significant change in the harvesting of young female lions and kittens. A hunter would be able to be more selective and harvest those older male lions, which are from my understanding, the target animals. Every state that I know of that allows the hunting of lions, allows the use of dogs, except South Dakota. I would think that th
- 726 I totally agree with having a mountain lion season and hope it continues.
- 727 I truly feel we are not harvesting enough mountain lions. I have had the great opportunity to talk with wild life officers and biologist for western SD and eastern WY. These people have shared their thoughts, feelings and knowledge with me, and they as well state the population is out of control with our eco-system. I know the GFP has two sides of an argument those that want them protected and those that want them exterminated. It is a tough place to be, and not an easy answer for either cause.
- 729 This year we saw more mountain lion kills than ever. It seems the presence of lions are much higher.
- 735 I only hunted for lions a few days this year, but every time I went out I saw plenty of tracks from different lions. I would have to believe that the population is much higher than the estimates on record. In my opinion, there should be more lions allowed to be taken during the future SD lion hunts.
- 738 I really wish that the season would revert back to late Autumn....I hunt the Northern hills and the last few years there's been so much snow, one can hardly get around. Even starting Dec. 1 would be a big help. We simply caved in to the animal rights people.
- 739 Moving the season to January was a very positive move. The people that are hunting are truly engaged in hunting the cats, which make it a much more pleasant hunting experience. Based on the amount of sign I observed, and others I talked to that hunted lions, and the duration of the season, I believe there are more cats in the Black Hills than is stated, but I am satisfied with the current quota number for now, but I think it may need to be increased in the near future. I've spent a significant amount of time hunting the same area over the past few years for both deer and elk, and have noticed a significant decrease in the amount of deer and elk, especially calves in the last two years. I believe this is primarily due to the number of cats in the area. Thanks for listening to hunters and reviewing biological data to increase the quota for this year!
- 740 I did find one dead mountain lion and called the Game Fish & Parks rep who came and picked it up. The biologist determined it was a 103 # lion and was killed by another lion about 50 yards behind our subdivision. This was the first lion I have seen alive or dead in the Hills after living here for about 40 years. The strange thing is that this season is following the deer season trend which seems to be that controlled hunting leads to more game.
- 747 If you put on a hunting season, don't have all the roads in good mountain lion habitat closed. The ground is frozen and driving on them to get to a good area doesn't hurt the road. The only vehicle you stop is the trucks all the four wheelers go to the good areas.

- 753 I THINK THIS LITTLE HUNTING SEASON THAT THE GF P HAS CREATED IS MUCH TO SHORT AND THERE ARE WAY TO MANY PEOPLE OUT THERE HUNTING THEM. THERE ARE MORE MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THIS STATE THAN YOU GUYS REALIZE AND/OR ADMIT TO. ON A LIGHTER NOTE I ENJOY THE HUNTING BUT I WISH THE SEASON WAS LONGER OR YOU USE DOGS OR SOME KIND OF ADDITION TO THE ALREADY STATED SEASON.
- 756 If your not removing as many lions as there are born your not managing the population. Quit bowing to uneducated public pressure and do what you need to get these animals under control. All you have to do is look to West at the wolf problem.
- 759 I believe that the population of the mountain lions in the Black Hills is much larger than the GFP claims. I have seen many lions and sign of lions in the Black Hills in the recent years. Their numbers are increasing.
- 762 increase number of lions killed and have opportunity to use dogs some day.thank you
- 763 I am in favor of a Mountain Lion population in the Black Hills-but not in the rest of the state. I just think it is too risky to promote the spread of mountain lions to urban areas where you have a large population base of people who are not and should not have to be taking precautions to keep their kids and pets safe. It is one thing to travel to an area that is a wilderness where you would expect to possibly run into dangerous game. It is totally another to live on the outskirts of a large city and not be able to trust that your kids could play safely outside without the fear of being attacked and eaten by a mountain lion. Thank you, Mark.
- 765 We identified 19 different adult lions, by tracks and areas where we found the tracks. There is no good reason not to allow the taking of kittens (toughten up take the heat).
- 774 I wish I hade more time to dedicate to Mountain Lion hunting. On one day i saw a single set of traces from an adult line near Sharidan Lake but lost the tracks as they entered posted privite property. The other day I hunted, I used my call and had o single lion approach, but was unable to take a clear shot and it became to dark to continue the hunt that day. The season was closed by the time I was able to hunt again, because the 40 lions were killed. It was an awsom sight seeing and hearing a lion roar in the wild.
- 776 Keep up the great work with the mountain lion season! Thank you for stopping the late rifle season January hunts for deer! The big bucks are not getting shot anymore. Would you consider bringing the mountain lion season back during elk and deer seasons? Thanks for your time and help.
- 777 some day soon a tourist we be killed!!!! game animals are decreasing because of lion kills!!!YOU THE GAME FISH AND PARKS will have to answer to this ...good luck!! We tracted lions through Deadwood hillscity Nemo ,cosmos;and a church camp this year alone.To many lions ,to many lions!!!!!! plus area around hills city is closed ,china gulth area were their is a lot of lions. I would prefer to have lion and no tourist and houses but that is not reality. Good Luck please remember the giant canada geese history here .
- 778 Your season needs to be bigger, with a higher number of mountains to shoot. There are twice as many lions as you predict in the black hills. Hunters basically killed a lion a day for the 2010 season. That should be a hint to how many lions really rome the black hills. It's also very discouraging to not recieve deer license in the black hills because cuts are being made to the number of deer that can be shot, due to the fact that mountain lions are a huge player in determining that by how many they are killing every ten days. You also cut elk, mountain goat, big horn sheep and just about every other species were allowed to shoot in the hills all because the lions are wiping out the calves and fawns in the spring. You also need to realize closing areas like china gulch near hill city is hurting the wildlife more then helping it. closing roads stops most hunters from entering these areas which is prolly your point so elk have good breeding grounds in peace. But ultimately, its become refuges for mountain lions t

- 783 Over the past 4 years I have seen a half dozen or more mountain lions while elk and deer hunting in the southern Black Hills. I have notice a decline in wildlife and calf/fawn survival in these areas. The mountain lion population is higher in the Black Hills than led to believe.
- 788 I just bought the license as I am a land owner and may have need to use it if and when a lion should become a problem. thanks
- 789 I hope that next years season is conducted in the same manner. With at least the same number of lions to be taken again. I think it was very well put together.
- 795 I think having a mountain lion season is great! I think more effort should be made to inform the public of the "real" numbers of lions in the hills. I think the current statistics being reported are grossly under reported. If more people knew how many lions are actually in the hills and what the impact of an over population of lions is there would be more public support for the season.
- 802 I believe the lion population in the hills is underestimated. The harvest quota should be higher. The use of dogs would allow for sexing of the lions prior to harvest and result in a full quota. The special interest groups are a small amount of people, try listening to real reason for once, and do the right thing not the politically correct thing.
- 805 I think the way the season is conducted is great. It gives everyone an opportunity to hunt lions. I would be greatly dissapointed if the state went to a outfitter/dog stlye of season because then only the rich could hunt. I realize that the number of lions harvested from year to year could change one way or the other but that's not any different than any other big game season when the number of licenses issued are changed due to populations in certain areas. I think if you went to limited issue licenses you would lose a lot of hunters for the species. Keep up the good work and I look forward to another season.
- 806 I'm glad the harvest limit for the entire quota of lions was increased.... We went to the Custer State Park meeting and voiced our concerns and thank you for listening... I do feel the mangement of these predators is in the right step. A big thank you goes out to the Game,Fish and Parks. We will attend one of the meetings this fall to voice our concerns again in Spearfish. Between 5-7 lions were killed in our area. My wife is the first female to harvest a lion # 21 in the lion season.. Congrats to her as well... Thanks, Jerald Frasier
- 811 If hunters can harvest the quoaata of lions in less then 2 months, there is to many lions . Increase the number of females harvested.
- 812 THE 2010 SEASON WAS GOOD, IT SHOWED ME THE FACTS THAT THE NUMBER OF LIONS NEEDS TO GREATLY REDUCED. PIE CHARTS AND GRAPHS DO NOT REPLACE IN THE FIELD TIME AND OBSERVATIONS. I HAVE SEEN MORE DEER AND OTHER REMAINS SCATTERED ALL ACCROSS THE HILLS. THE DEER ARE ALL BUT GONE IN SOME AREAS, AFTER DRIVING FOR 5 HOURS AFTER A FRESH SNOW, AND NOT TO CUT A FRESH DEER TRACK IN PLACES THAT I HAVE HUNTED OR HIKED FOR TWENTY FIVE YEARS IS SICKENING FOR THE FOLKS EAST RIVER THAT THINK IT IS NICE TO HAVE ALL THE CATS POSSIBLE IS CRAZY, THE CARRING CAPACITY IS FAR ABOVE THE MANAGEMENT PLAN SET FORTH IN YOUR STUDY. IN A EARLY MORNING DRIVE ON BACK/MAJOR ROADS FROM THE REPITLE GARDENS TO BEAR MOUNTIAN WE CUT 14 SETS OF TRACKS IN THE FRESH SNOW, IN ONE NITE OF HUNTING FOR THEM. IT IS JUST CRAZY TO SEE HOW FOR OUT OF LINE THIS BALANCE HAS GOTTEN, GIVE US A BIOLOGIST THAT IS A HUNTER AND NOT BOOK READER FOR THIS STUDY SADLY JIM GLINES.
- 814 I strongly support GFP lion season and quota's. I will not endorse any idea's of the use of dogs, as it is a level playing field for all that want to participate and truely wish to hunt lions.
- 826 the later season makes it more difficult to get around in the hills and be able to find them. Was better when it ran the same season as deer season. Gave me a better chance to find them.

- 840 If something isn't done to get rid of a bunch of these lions there will be no deer or elk left in the Black Hills. Look at what has already happened to the mountain goats and big horn sheep. I had a lot of preference points for both. The CSP elk hunt this year showed the effects of the lions that GFP was so proud of in the park. Lets get rid of these cats before we loose the rest of our big game hunting.
- 844 I believe that SDGFP should consider allowing the use of dogs for hunting the cats as this would allow the taking of precisely the animals the wildlife biologists want, while making the cats much more wary of people and dogs. Thank you for your attention.
- 850 a job well done by GF&P
- 851 The hunters in the northern hills don't get a very good opportunity to hunt due to the massive snow. This will always be a problem w/ the season so late.
- 857 Higgins gulch being closed because of logging trucks was a real dissapointment. The people driving those trucks seem to have little concern for other people on the road.
- 858 I am glad there is a list on website that shows where and how many lions were harvested thank you!
- 859 I believe Lions to be very hard on the Bobcat and porcupine population also the deer population suffers.
- 861 I feel that using dogs to track mountain lions would allow people to see if it is a female or a small lion. This would end people shooting a female with kittens or a small mountain lion. People could take the bigger lions and help put the fear of dogs into mountain lions.
- 867 The mountain lion kill needs to be increased to a degree that instills a healthy fear of humans in the lion population. A planned kill of at least 25% of the guessed population would be a fair start.
- 869 I do not think those hunting bobcats during Mt. Lion season should be able to use dogs. I came across another hunter with two dogs 'claiming' to be bobcat hunting.
- 876 hunting in the black hills as we knew it has ended. the population of all species has taken a drastic decline due to the growing number of lions. I have worked for the saw mill in Hill city for 15 years, and have traveled from rapid city five days a week durring that time. That adds up to over 250,000 miles of driving in the black hills, and most of it is prior to sunrise, and after sunset. I do not see any porcupines, when I used to see them every week. For many years I could tell you where the deer would be bedded durring the day, and feeding durring the eavning. Now I can show you bones of deer that used to be those same herds. I couls have shown you small herds of mounitian goats, and for a short while this year I was impressed that they were still alive.....untill a game warden told me they Just bought them this year.(expensive lion chow). It was an improvement adding to the quota of lion, but a far cry from where it should be. It shoud be an indication that if 42 lions were harveste
- 878 You're going to love this one. The very day after the season closed, on my way home from work in Custer I saw a cat about 200 yards south of the turn off we used repeatedly to go to the nearby area we had been tracking one in. It was probably making its rounds and would have been in our stomping grounds the next day when we were out there. (That's not to say we would have found him but at least the timing would have been right.) Oh well, there's always next year...
- 883 I would like more info about the lions shoot on the status link that we check each day Like what, were, how big, and better location defintions (ie 2 miles west of Sheridan lake) (NOT 2 miles west of Sheridan)

- 894 The area I hunted (south and mostly east of Rockerville) was litterly covered with lion sign, but very little deer or elk sign. There were several females with cubs in this area but also a couple of lone cats. After a few weeks there were many cub tracks with no large cat tracks with them. Because I was only able to hunt for three days some of the information I have came from my son who hunted MANY days. It appeared that the cubs were wondering aimlessly, maybe looking for their mother (which, by the sign I found and information I got from other hunters, I believe was killed by a hunter). I think there were more than one cub or litter of cubs in this situation. The regulation that you can't follow multiple cat tracks is not a good regulation. Several times I found multiple tracks and they appeared to be two adult cats traveling together. I feel these were probably made by an adult male with an adult female and therefor both legal game, but because they were traveling together I did not follow because of the r
- 896 we need to kill more lions
- 901 Thank you, 40 cats in 41 days. I'm looking forward to next years season, I have tracked three differant cats when I was hunting deer west of exit 37 I-90
- 902 I believe that mt lions are more numerous than most people think in the Black Hills. I also believe that it is only a matter of time before someone, probably a young child, is killed by one.
- 905 Most of the hunting was performed by people driving the roads and using ATV's nearly everyone of my setups was disturbed by another hunter who was too lazy to walk.
- 909 I got lots of pictures of a Mt Lion from my Trail Cam 1 mile E of Deadwood but when hunting season started there was too much snow & he must have moved out of the area.
- 916 I would rather see efforts aimed more at enforcing the "closed to wheeled traffic" rules in the Black Hills . I saw more wheel tracks in closed areas than lion tracks.
- 918 I'd like to see a summary of successful tactics others have used to kill lions. What calls worked best? What time of day? What terrrain seems to hold lions? A good how to list would be very helpful to those of us who are not proficient cat hunters and are basically just learning.
- 923 I hunt a lot every year. I feel deer populations are down greatly from years past. I have seen lion kills in many places and feel lions are over taking the hills area. They are killing way too many deer and elk.
- 925 Great season ! 40 lions with good diversification of males and females. Also, season lasted only 40 days AND we DID NOT allow dogs to hunt the lions !!!! This is VERY GOOD ! I would like to have you tell us the number of lions that were legally taken during the season that had radio collars at the time of their harvest ? Please make that information known. Thanks
- 926 Ithink we better kill more lions if we want wildlife to survive.I think that C.S.P.better look at having some kind of season for lions.
- 932 Seems like the Lions this year were mostly small and underweight, my opinion is that the harsh winters are causeing starvation only a little bit. I think there should be more lions taken due to soo little deer population.
- 935 The mountain lion season this year was very successful. Enough to the point where I believe that there should be a higher bag limit just because of the fact that the season did end so quickly. Which to me proves that there are more lions out there than people may think.

- 940 In my opinion the lion population is too high. Studies have shown a lion must make a major kill (deer or elk) every 7-8 days; based on the SDGFP population estimate of 250 lions, the current lion population would kill and consume +/- 10,000 game animals per year. I believe this number is quite conservative, and based on the field reports of hunters I have spoken with, the deer and elk population is severely suffering. I suspect the hunter success ratios for the 2009 elk and deer seasons will be well below normal, and we will again be looking at reduced harvest quotas and fewer available licenses for our 2010 deer and elk seasons. If the population is, in fact, in the 240 lion ballpark and 1/3(80) are male, 1/3(80) are females with kittens or sub-adults, and if only 1/3(80) are breeding phase females, and they typically have 2-3 surviving kittens, the possible recruitment is a staggering 160 to 240 kittens per year! We harvest 40!?!?! What is the natural mortality rate? Dispersion rate of lions to new t
- 942 Although I was only able to get out 4 days this year, I did come across tracks 3 out of the 4 days and they were all around the sub-division that I live in. I don't think all the tracks were made by only one lion either. I strongly believe that there are still way more lions in the Hills than most of us realize
- 945 i did not hunt this year because is snowed to much right after i bought my lisencc also I had some health problems that kept me from hunting I still think that the lion season is to late in the season as many forest service roads are closed and the weather is not good as it was in the early season this is important to me because i am disabled with a heart condition and can not walk far enough to get away from the main roads to hunt I also saw in the paper that a small cub was shot this year in jan. I think this shows that waiting does not garontee that the cubs will be big enough to survive on there own. Thanks Dallas Heltibridle
- 949 Never allow hunting with dogs. Thanks
- 954 Please draw Scott Rogers name for 2010 Elk season. Thanks
- 955 I am very concerned that Mt. Lions are having a very negative effect on the big game populations in the Black Hills. The Mt. Lion harvest numbers need to be kept high. We do NOT need a huge population of Mt. Lions around here.
- 956 you need to allow dogs?
- 959 I believe that 40 lions was the right number in harvesting the lion population. I do feel that 25 females is too high. I would not increase the number for next season. Of the 40 lions taken, I would like to know how many were collared? Another question I have, is if you have land outside the Black Hills Fire area, why do they get to kill a lion that is not effecting or harming anybody for the rest of the year, we still have 10 months left this year. Explain to me the Black Hills Fire area. Overall with the 40 shot this season and the normal kill by automobiles, Game Fish and Parks that have to take a lion, disease, and the land owners, we are going to find the lion season will eventually be eliminated. This will be sad for South Dakota Lion hunters.
- 963 it might be good revenue for SD to have apply only draw tags for a small number of dog hunts.
- 966 Enjoyed the oppurtunity to hunt lions this year and believe the later season was more appropriate to reduce abandoned kittens. However, I find it dissappointing that it seems a large number of game animals are falling prey to lions and reducing the quality of hunting in and around the hills. The money lost to less hunters and less tags I would not suspect is off set by the amount of lion tags sold. I also find it very disappointing to see the numbers of big game such as elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats, who's numbers are already limited appearing to decrease as well. Especially after amount of tax dollars spent to reintroduce some of these animals to this area. I spend alot of time in the hills and enjoy viewing and hunting wild game I just hope that the future of the lion population in the hills is not based on political motivation from groups and veteraniars that claim to have so much knowledge on these wild animals. More public information and a few more facts based on studies not just on module

- 975 Tow Much Snow this year
- 981 I saw several sets of fresh tracks in widely scattered areas. I think seasons should be held every year, but with close supervision of the population in the Hills and the total harvest set accordingly.
- 984 I strongly recommend leaving the season open for 2 months and allowing as many lions to be shot in that time frame.... I think there are far tooooo many lions killing elk, deer and turkeys....they absolutely need to be shot...If that many lions can be shot in that short of time without the use of dogs then there are far to many...
- 994 Don't change a thing! I feel the lion season is at a great time of year, and an excellent addition to our many outdoor oppurtunities in SD. Please don't allow dogs, lets keep it a sport anyone can participate in, at the exertion level of your own choosing. One shocking thing was the lack of deer, turkeys and porcupines-if its lion related maybe need more tags? I would have loved to have hunted much more, just to busy. Good work and thank you GF&P. Just seeing tracks was great!
- 996 I think the state can harvest more than 40 cats next year.
- 998 i think there should be season from archery elk season until reg season... everyone should have a chance to hunt
- 1000 I have not hunted enough to have an opionion.
- 1001 I hunted with a companion that harvested a 4 yr. old non-lactating female that weighed 74lbs. What a hoot! Called it in after observing tracks.
- 1008 As a rancher, ranching inside of the Black Hills Fire protection area and having lions on the ranch. I believe it is time to step up population control of the lions. We have seen decline in the numbers of deer, turkeys and elk and a increase in the number of lion sightings. It is such a common occurrence to see lions we are not reporting it to GF&P. I am at the point that I will not let game hunters on the ranch because I think I need the game animals to feed the lions and maybe keep them from my cattle. Please make reducing the lion population back to pre 2000 levels a top priority. Thank you Dave Lindblom Hermosa.
- 1013 I live in the center of the Black Hills and spend alot of time out in the woods hiking and riding an off road motor bike. In the last two years I have noticed three things. First, the evidence of lion activity in the areas that I frequent has exploded. Second, the number of Elk has drastically declined in the areas that I frequent. Calves are almost non existant and the adult population has dwindled from the mid thirties to three or four adult Elk. Third, the population of deer in the woods has dropped dramatically and might have increased near the groups of houses. Wheather this is due to a migration away from the lions or the only deer left are near the population centers I don't know. Twice in the last six months, while out in the yard, we have heard a lion call to us. Once while I was watering our Dog and once when I was supervising my grandson while he was sledding in the pasture. We average 15 road kills of whitetail deer each year now. Five years ago it was 25 or 30. Out of the 15 roadkills a lion

- 1014 I agree to a healthy population of Mountain Lions but as long as its managed, as with the precaution question, I feel it goes both ways, the more we populate further into the hills, the more encounters there will be, whether it be seeing them or them on residential properties or putting it politically correct us on their property, where else are they gonna go. I mean the Black Hills isnt really that big. I've notice alot of places I hunted as a kid there are homes for miles back and what use to be dirt trails or gravel roads there are paved roads going to homes. These perfect predators cover alot of ground and when their food source happens to be bedding down or eating in someones backyard, or the easy meal of a house pet, then the cat is gonna get a bad rap. Let alone, I pray that the worst doesn't happen, if there were an attack. But the more population goes further into their enviroment precautions and education needs to be a taken.
- 1020 I would comment that some the areas that need to be hunted for lions are behind those stupid closed for winter habitat gates. Have you people ever asked or bothered to listen to the people who live in the hills or next to them where the wildlife spend their winters. In mine and everybodys else's yards. I was hoping to shoot my lion off my deck, didn't work out this year always next year. Thank's
- 1023 I feel the mountain lion season is great, the way it is being conducted, I had a liscense this year but didn't hunt because of health problems, I hope I can hunt next year. Mountain lions are a very important part of the eco system in the Black Hills, and hope the Game,Fish and Parks continue to handle it with the professionalism as they have in the past.
- 1027 The fact that hunters were able to fill the quota in less than a month and a half tells me that there are way to many lions in SD.
- 1032 I only put in for a tag because on our land we have strong evidence there is a mountain lion. I do NOT intend on killing it. However, if I were confronted by it and I did shoot it I would not want to be have a fine assessed agaisnt me. Therefore, I applied for a license. With that said I do not in general agree with people living in the black hills and then complianing about mountain lion. They need to take reasonable precaustions or move.
- 1034 the area i hunt on Nemo road over the last two years i have seen a huge decrease in the deer population , i saw a mountain lion feeding on a dead deer during hils deer season , ive seen alot of tracks , we use to see a lot of deer on this private property of 100 acres surrounded by forrest service , over the last 2 yrs it has declined to half of what we use to see .
- 1041 I have lived in Lawrence county for 40 years & have only seen 5 cats, if the some of the public think the cats are dangerous then they should move to New York & then they will see living with mountain lion' is not so bad. Thanks.
- 1043 I agree with the season for hunting lions just to keep them down in # towns kill more deer than any lion does in city limits where in live
- 1044 Use of dogs would nice.
- 1045 I don't understand why dogs can't be used for hunting lions. Montana has a non-hound season and then a hound season. They also have a chase season that allows hunters to chase the cats with there hounds. I think that is a very good idea. Even if a hunter can't use hounds to harvest a lion at least they could chase the lions. This would make them a little more fearful of man and dogs. I also think that dogs should be allowed for landowners to use. If a lion is on a ranchers land he has a lot better chance of getting it with the aid of dogs then he will just seeing it and shooting it. Custer State Park would also be a great place to introduce the use of hounds. Its obvious that the number of lions in the park need to be reduced dramatically. Special permits for the park could be offered at a greater price that would allow the use of dogs.
- 1050 We need more lion lic. There are more than we think. Thanks

- 1055 Some of your questions are too broad. Having lions in the region is a good thing, but having too many can be a danger to people and wildlife. I grew up in this area and we would occasionally hear of someone seeing a track and on a very rare occasion seeing a live cat. When cats are seen in and around developed areas, there are way too many. I congratulate you on the efforts you have made so far, but there is still a lot of work to do to maintain a sustainable population. As I mentioned above about your survey, it is structured in a way that environmental groups could twist the conclusions to their benefit and stop hunting all together. Also, I like the way Montana has structured their hunting where you can use dogs in the foothills but not in the higher elevation. This would teach the animals that being around civilization is threatening. The Hills region may not be large enough for that type of hunt but please give it some consideration.
- 1057 I went to John Kantas seminar at the Holiday Inn during the Stock Show and found it to be even better than last year's. I appreciated his willingness to share hunting tips, lion activities, and lion habits. Les Evjen
- 1062 I like the way that the season is set up and the opportunity to extend my hunting season. This year it was difficult to hunt in the Northern Hills, due to the amount of snow, but I still feel that this is a good way to both manage the lion population and give hunters an opportunity to pursue them.
- 1066 It would be nice with the technology available that if one wants to be text messaged &/or e-mailed when a kill has been made, with one's permission, to keep hunters informed. I was very pleased with the GPS maps available for my Garmin, I really hope those stay around!
- 1067 There is definitely a healthy population of lions in the Hills. I'm pretty much retired and spend a good deal of my Octobers bow hunting; and spend a good deal of the rest of the winters snowshoeing (usually 4-6 days / week). With the early and continuous snow cover this year, we've documented several different sets of tracks in the same region. Males do overlap. My only real concern regarding game animal impact centers around a sudden imbalance situation as may result if there's a drastic deer herd reduction via severe / heavy late winter storms. Should this happen, there could be a transition period where there are areas with lots of hungry cats and insufficient prey.
- 1069 I believe you could hunt at the minimum of 50 lions a year with the population that must be in the hills. As fast as the season closed, shows me how quickly the easy and non secluded animals were shot. I believe these animals could have been problem animals to humans in the future.
- 1078 My second year hunting lions in SD plan on getting one in a future hunting season here and don't want hunting with hounds legalized in SD.
- 1081 I feel the number of total Mt. Lions taken should be higher.
- 1087 I have called and talked to one of your staff members from Rapid City and have enjoyed his conversations. Lions are a real curiosity item for me and I enjoy seeing them and hearing stories about them.
- 1093 I pray that lions are not over harvested and any lions killed in non-hunting situations should be counted in the overall harvest including traffic accidents, poachers, and problem lions killed by GFP personal.
- 1096 While out hunting mountain lion above Piedmont, I was surprised by the number of deer kills. I hope this does not hurt deer hunting. If it does I think more cats need to be hunted. As I stated the last survey I feel cats that are wearing tracking collars should not be shot.
- 1100 Hunters should be allowed to use dogs. Other states that have established lion seasons make this resource available to hunters. Hunters could be more selective in their harvest, have increased and safer odds and owners of cat hounds would benefit. They use them on bobcats in the Black Hills, there is no reason to not allow the use of dogs on Mt. Lions.

- 1104 seen plenty of lions at my house... missing several domestic cats... small children for neighbors is a concern for me in this environment... this cat has been hanging around here for several years... have plenty of photos of her... glad we have an opportunity to legally deal with this situation, and enjoy hunting for these very much
- 1105 The majority of time I was out this season, I encountered lion tracks. One day I spent 7 hours tracking one lion that just came out of its den. I wonder if this method will lead to lions getting pushed off their normal territory and cause them to venture into populated areas. Allowing dogs for hunting lions would be an option to consider. If I had a dog, I know that hunt would have ended in success and less pressure on the lion. I've been told that hunters can use dogs in Wyoming. Is there any good data to support using dogs in SD? I would find it very helpful knowing the methods used by hunters to get their lion. An interactive site on the GFP site would be a valuable resource during the season, providing a real time "playbook" that is successful for filling a tag.
- 1106 If people are scared of Mountain Lions it is because they don't know any information about them. In my profession I see and hear about dog attacks all the time. Why don't we get rid of the dogs, and to take it one more step, how many vehicle kill people? Having the mountain lions in the Black Hills evens out the animal population. Ya, ya, ya, I hear all the time that the mountain lions are killing all the animals. Well if this is what is really going on it's because it needs to be balanced out and this is one way it will be done. And yes one more thing, I think the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks are doing a wonderful job in managing the game in South Dakota. You do need to hear this more often. I just want you to know that I hear a lot of complaints about the Game and Fish; I do ask those people complaining if they ever talk or attend any meeting, which usually shuts them up. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK-GREAT JOB WITH THE MOUNTAIN LIONS
- 1112 I have seen a number of kills one was an Elk so I can't imagine how many deer they kill. I live in the rural Black Hills and the deer population is going down. There are too many cats because the season ends to soon and the cats are showing up in the towns along with the deer. The use of dogs should be allowed so some of the old big cats can be taken instead of the young small ones
- 1114 I wish there was more info on how to hunt them and/or how the tagged ones were taken.
- 1118 I was doing my best to only hunt for a larger male lion. Got within 100 yards of one(GUESS). Using a fox pro female in heat call, had a male come within about 75-100 yards. Due to incorrect visual set up, the male came in and responded to my call with a courting call twice about 14 minutes apart. I coughed loudly on accident "busting" my position. Went through the trees to see if I could find him, but not sighted. Due to terrain and scrubery could of been within 10 yards and not seen it. Also, due to substantial snow, walking into some game production areas was next to impossible. Thus, I think many areas were not hunted due to inaccessibility.
- 1121 You need to double the quota & start the season in November. There is too much snow in Lawrence county to get anywhere besides most of our access is denied because of snowmobiling & Dec. 15th road closers.
- 1126 I like the seperate season for lions.
- 1127 In the 12 days I hunted lions, I continually saw fresh tracks in the snow, most of which were mature, single sets of lion tracks. I primarily hunted Custer County, north and east of Pringle, SD.
- 1128 My feeling is we are losing too many deer and elk to the overpopulation of lions. I appreciate the increase in the number of licenses issued, but still think you need to raise the number of licenses issued even more. Thank You

- 1131 IT WAS A SMART, GOOD, WELL THOUGHT OUT SEASON. MY ONLY COMMENT IS TO KILL MORE NEXT YEAR.
- 1134 I think that the lion population has had an effect on the mule deer, sheep, and elk populations in the hills. I am not seeing nearly as many big game animals as I did five years ago. With the tags being filled so fast, this indicates that there are too many lions.
- 1137 I am very pleased with mountain lion hunt this year, I was able to harvest a lion in a day and a half during the first week. Although the likely reason I was able to was, I had spent a lot of time this fall scouting for tracks and sign of lions in areas that I had an elk Tag for, and went back to these areas in January and found sign in some of the same places. As for possible changes I would like to see happen in the future years. 1st would be to start to allow non-residents be able to hunt as this year the quota was considerably higher then in the past years, because of the research that has been done now over the years. As I believe that the Black Hills population is now one of best studied mountain lion populations. Since the quota has been going up the past few years I think that non-residents should be allowed to purchase a license in the coming years, but that their should be a cap on the amount non-residents could harvest i.e. maybe up to 25-50% percent of the total yearly quota that non-residen
- 1149 Up the number of lions to be harvested.
- 1150 When mountain lions are seen in broad daylight walking in residential neighborhoods, the need to be eliminated as a threat to residents because they have lost the fear of man.
- 1152 How soon if ever will a person be able to hunt Lions with dogs in SD
- 1154 I think we should be able to use dogs to better age and sex the lions
- 1157 Increase total limit to at least 50 total lions, or 35 females before closing season.
- 1161 i think there is two high of a concertration of moutains in the hills and that there needs to be a increas in taken cats to bring it to a healthy leveal
- 1166 Congratulations to all the hunters that filled and SDG&F for the first season that made it to the total harvest limit. I'm looking forward to next years lion season.
- 1168 The main reason I purchased a license is that we have to many lions in our area. We had one under our deck on Christmas day. We also have tracks around our 3.5 acres all winter. Which i'm quite sure they must be around in the other seasons also.
- 1169 Recommend increasing the number of Mt. Lions harvested. Weather/Road conditions in the Northern Hills probably hampered a resrepresentative harvest in that area.
- 1171 mountain lion and turkey hunting are the most enjoyable seasons we have around area deer an antelope seasons are a joke
- 1172 I enjoy hunting lions and knowing that lions are here. Seeing a mountain lion in the wild is an awe inspiring experience. But I think we need to be honest with ourselves about how many lions the habitat can handle. My experience is that the numbers of deer, elk, goats and sheep have fallen considerable in the last several years. I know there are more reasons than just mountain lions for these decreased numbers. But the lions are playing a significant role. The increase in tags for this year was a positive step, but I'm not sure we have the lion population at a low enough level to sustain healthy deer, elk, goat and sheep herds. It will take more years of study with sustained or increased harvests of lions to answer these questions. Thank you for listening.
- 1176 I believe the season dates, structure and quotas used for this lion season were a perfect fit. I would like to make a request that when a lion that has been tagged or collared is harvested the hunter be provided with information in regards to it. You provide fisherman with information on tagged fish when the are caught. I would like to know when and where my lion #118 was tagged and collared. Otherwise keep up the good work!
- 1179 Put the weights back on the sight. It serves as a reminder to hunters even if the artis bitch.

- 1185 I would like to see designated quotas for separate units within the Black Hills Fire District. For example, I know several hunters (including myself) who spent several days this season trying to harvest a cat in Fall River County. Yet not one of the lions harvested as part of the 2010 season came from this county or anywhere near my home west of Hot Springs. That is certainly not due to a lack of their presence! I personally found several mtn. lion kills throughout the 2009/2010 fall and winter here. A few of which were on my private property, as close as 80 yards from my house. One year ago this month, I lost livestock to a mtn. lion in my corral not more than 60 yards from my house. My local wintering mule deer herd has been reduced from a stable six year average of approx. 25-30 head, to four (4) this year. (without me or any of my nearby neighbors harvesting any of the does?) I understand the concept of winter kills and nature taking it's course through disease and disaster, but this is ridiculous! The ca
- 1195 I called in a mother lion and two kittens. Six days later I harvested a six year old female. The young man to whom I turned in my cat was very cordial. I feel the mountain lion season could be improved by opening the state park to hunters with dogs who could more easily discern and select the sex and size of any lion to be harvested. Such selective harvesting could possibly stop the decline in numbers of other game animals, such as elk and sheep, not to mention porcupine, racoon, and turkey. I really hope to see a mountain lion season in the park for hunters with dogs because they need their day as well.
- 1200 I feel that the mountain lion hunting program has been put together well and is a great success. I feel it is important to have a regulated population of mountain lions that is in balance with the deer and elk numbers.
- 1203 What is the purpose of the current lion quota: 1) Lower number of lions in the hills. 2) Maintain current level of lions in the hills. 3) Allow increase in the lion population in the hills. About 10-12 yrs ago when I recommended licenses for the depredation hunts at that time I was told by the Chief Enforcement Officer, not to talk about it. Is there still a big concern regarding the public perception of hunting lions? Will there ever be hunts with dogs, like in other states permitted? It would generate income.
- 1209 I think the mountain lion population in this state is way higher than any estimates. One has only to hike the hills in this snow to see all of the lion kills. I personally have 5 lions in my are where I live. None of them were killed this season. That means that there will be even more just where I live west of Spearfish. I beleive that the season limit should be raised even higher. Maybe 100 lions with the first 40 females ending the season. There are too many lions in the Black Hills.
- 1210 I firmly believe that Mountain Lions and People can co-exist in the Black Hills. I do also strongly believe that the population needs to be managed by GF&P through the use of the hunting season. I feel that it is only a matter of time before an adverse human/mountain lion encounter happens, hopefully with no loss of human life.
- 1217 I didn't put a whole lot of effort forth in getting a lion just used it as a good excuss to be up in the Hills
- 1222 you are missing a county ,LAWERENCE i live in lawerence county
- 1232 moutian lions are a dangerous nuisance to people and are a big reason that deer population in south dakota

- 1234 I hunted in the area mostly south of Custer during the middle of January. There was no fresh snow at the time so looking for tracks was not good. I have hunted turkey in that same area several times in past years and the last three times there i did see lions, so decided to try for one. Also normally see a few elk but did not see any of those either. I realize that the time was later than I normally go as that is usually in November so might have had an effect on seeing a lion. I enjoy spending time in the hills and with or without a kill I consider it a successful time.
- 1238 Change the season dates to a warmer season.
- 1239 saw some tracks in hamlin county when hunting deer that sure look like mounlion tracks. I bought a lisencc just in case i saw him while hunting deer. Didn't plan on hunting in the hills but for the price of the lisencc I wanted one because if I saw one I might shoot it and I wanted to be legal about it.
- 1240 I believe that if we can kill 40 lions in 41 days, maybe we should look at the number we are harvesting. I believe the GFP more than likely reacts to the "fringe Opinion" to strongly but overall has done a great job managing the cat numbers so far...and providing for sportsmen to have a hunting opportunity.. Good job..
- 1246 Please continue the: "Landowners are allowed one mountain lion license for the year".
- 1247 If hounds were allowed to be used with a pursuit only tag, lions would learn to leave civalization alone and also teach the mothers to better hide their young. Thus making the killing of cubs less likely. This has been proven to work in other states such as Utah and Montana.
- 1248 With the increase numbers--it definitely shows that there is an abundant population of mountain lions in the hills.
- 1265 We saw sign every place we went. I wish the Forest Service would stop closing trails.
- 1271 I believe as a rancher that the mountain lion population in western SD has grown alot due to sightings and not only from almost all my neighbors but including myself. I do think that these lions will get to be a real problem if not controlled in some way. I have seen alot of sign including kills and witnessed some farm animals that have been attacked. I also think as the population grows the people that live in and near towns will find them to be a problem. We have heard storys of police even tracking one on several occassions in town to find that the lion had been licking a grease barrell behind the local restraunt. As to the season I beleive that it is vital to harvest a some of these lions every year and I am glad that The GFP is allowing the land owners to be able to take a lion not only to protect their livestock but to help control the population.
- 1277 Good Job!
- 1278 I can barely tolerate lions. I would like an elk tag but I have to compete with the many elk kills by lions. I only applied to do my part to keep down the predators. It was a short season so I didn't make the deadline. I try to do my part with the coyotes too. There needs to be a bounty on coyotes, or something.
- 1280 Should allow dogs
- 1285 It is a good hunting system that you guys are setting up.
- 1290 Too much deep snow!!!
- 1291 There are too many mountain lions, and they are decreasing the deer population. The number of mountain lion kills needs to increase!
- 1292 I believe the amount of lions could go up higher next year. I believe the population needs to be controlled.
- 1303 Harvest more lions. Everyone was worried about filling the limit. It happend fast with really bad weather. I would really like to know what the real numbers are in the hills.

- 1313 Love this season! It gives me a good reason to be outdoors even more. I did find a deer kill and sat for several hours. Before sunset a cub came to feed. It was spotted and alone.
- 1315 I really appreciate no dogs being allowed to hunt, it gives me a chance at chasing them. The season lasts longer without the aide of dogs and gives me more oppertunity to be out enioing the great outdoors and after they kick fourwheelers out of the hills and off the roads this will be one of the only reasons to get out there.
- 1322 I believe the game population has certainly decreased over the last few years, and I am convinced that the increase in mountain lions are the major cause of this. I read an article about less birth rates among game animals in the hills and it seemed also very linked to the presence of mountain lions and the stress along with that. I could do without mountain lions in the hills completely. I'm also convinced that a lion killed my yellow lab 3 years ago. PS. I'm completely convinced that the wolves will become a factor as well. Please take an aggressive stand on this issue! We do not want wolves here! 2 million pioneers were not wrong to want to eliminate them. My wyoming and montana hunting areas are completely wiped out!!
- 1330 Thank you for opening up the harvest limit for mountain lions this year. I have wanted the number to be increased for awhile now. I do not believe we have harmed the population as responsible hunting keeps the balance. Thanks again.
- 1331 I guess the one question that have is, if the Department wants to be selective on the lion harvest than why don't you allow hounds? I do not have any nor do I have access to any but I know that the use of hounds can be a very selective means of harvest, and it looks to me that it would be a very good management tool. Question no. 2, what sort of impact does the biologist and the rest of the department feel that lions have on big game populations in the Hills, elk, deer, sheep and ect?
- 1341 I don't have much to comment regarding the season. Can't wait for next year!!
- 1369 I live in the northern hills near Piedmont. We had cats in close all season long. I only caught a flash of a cat after a fresh kill was made on the ridge above my place. Deep snow didn't allow me to move on it fast enough. I'm not a young buck you know! We have ample cats by the sign around here. Hunting them is a whole lot of fun and I don't believe the resource is being damaged if well controlled. You seem to be doing that. About the only thing that gets me a bit is having kittens loose their mom. That BS in Dead wood is a prime example. I was a street cop back east for 23 years, and as a squad sergeant I can say there was no excuse for that mess at all up there. What the hell were they thinking, or were they thinking at all? I on the human side of the deal lost a pile of family at a young age and kinda side with the cats here. I did track two different sets of kitten / female tracks this year and moved off them as fast as possible. Over all a good season. Raised my hair a bit, Called several
- 1381 Saw a large amount of mounion lion tracks later in the season when the weather became colder and the deer started to herd together. Many areas we have deer hunted with a lot of success in the past had more mounitian lion and coyote tracks than deer tracks this year. Thanks for increasing the # for the lion quota and keep up the good work in this area.
- 1385 need to be able to kill more mtn lions
- 1393 Allow use of dogs. Would solve the issue of killing female cats.
- 1394 I purchase my lion tag for landowner purposes. I think the landowner priviledge is a very good idea and appreciate the provision. Thank you.
- 1401 I saw lots of tracks from different mountain lions. Even though I didn't see a lion I know from the signs and tracks that there is a very healthy population of lions in the Black Hills.
- 1403 I believe that there should not be a female limit. There should only be a certain limit. I had read that there might be a option for 10 lions to be taken with the aid of dogs. I don't know if this is true or not. I think if this does happen it should be a different season than a regular lion season, just like archery deer or elk.

- 1408 First, I do enjoy hunting mountain lion and appreciate the efforts of the SD GFP to manage this animal. Due to our limited geographical size of potential animal habitat (compared to vast unpopulated regions) I do have a long term concern regarding the exposure of mountain lions to people. As the lion population grows and their territories expand, I believe the mountain lion will become less shy around people which will increase the number of sightings and potential physical encounters. As much as I support wildlife management and enjoy hunting and have hunted all my life in different parts of the U.S., I don't think that animals of an aggressive nature (Lions, Wolves and Bear, etc.) should necessarily be introduced/promoted to some regions...including the Black Hills. Another factor of concern I have is with the effect of the lion kill of deer/elk. As the lion population increases, so does the amount of deer/elk taken by the lions. I think our priority should be on preserving the deer & elk populat
- 1448 we should be able to bait them.
- 1452 I enjoyed the hunting, I am looking forward to learning more about how to hunt mountain lions. I saw tracks everytime I went out. I am concerned that there are too many lion for the amount of game we have. I see signs of reduced populations of porcupines as an example in the southern hills where I grew up. (Craven Canyon, Red Canyon area). I dont know that lions are the cause but wonder. We have game camera photos of a lion from this fall, so they are now around in the southern hills which would have been very rare even 10 yrs ago. I am concerned that at some point a lion is going to kill someone as in Colorado. I think we should do more to reduce the population, I think it is good to have them in the system, but they do not have any enemies except us. John Hey 390-9644
- 1463 it was my first time hunting big cats and didnt have much experience in calling but had fun anyway. looking forward to next year. glad to see that it is not an incidental season anymore. hope the cats dont get too depreciated where the season becomes a draw.
- 1479 I had a good time hunting just wish I could have seen one!
- 1480 It seems that the limit was filled rather quickly. Maybe next year the limit should be raised. I am not sure if this is an option, but it is something to think about.
- 1494 I believe the season would be better if you were to allow dogs. Not only would it be beneficial for the hunter, I believe it would DECREASE run-ins with the average populas. Lions learn to fear dogs and that will in turn keep them from populated areas. Due to some unforeseeable plans, I was unable to hunt this year, but will be out again next year.
- 1497 I've lived in the Black Hills since 2005, in that time I have seen the mule deer population, decrease, from equal sightings of Muley's to Whitetails, until this last year when I see white tails frequently, but I have not sighted a Muley in over a year. Are they a more attractive target, taste better, less evasive than the white tail? I don't know but I do know they are not here like they were just a few short years ago. Kind of like the lions, just a few short years ago people were arguing whether they were in the Black Hills,.....well now we know don't we. I strongly feel the lesser numbers of Mule deer, and fewer mountain sheep lambs surviving the first year are directly related to the lions. I have never seen a lion, I have tracked them, I know they are here,.....I would be just as happy if they weren't!!
- 1500 The heavy snow in the Northern hills made a big impact on the number of lion kills south and limited the amount in the north. maybe a south and north unit limit. I did like and would encourage the amount of Lions harvested this year. Thanks for upping the number.
- 1507 I saw lion tracks every time I went out, and on november 5 while trying to hunt coyotes for a calling contest we cut nine sets of different lion tracks from east of Sturgis, to Deerfield Lake

- 1512 There are way too many lions in the hills they are hurting the elk and deer populations. In the area west of rapid city too 385 north of hwy 44 and south of nemo road I use to see alot of elk hardly even see them anymore not too mention I never see young elk in the spring out turkey hunting. lets face it 40 lions in 41 days should tell everyone there are way too many. forget the stupid season and open it up to general hunting just like coyotes etc. roughly the same amount will be shot every year and it will reduce the population back so it will make it difficult to hunt them .In one day I followed one from the begininng of Bojus Jim road to Merrit este road by the sugar shack and this lion had 3 lions cut its tracks in this area along with two of my friends following others in the area and I did not see any elk sign and very little deer sign so if u want to wipe out the elk and deer populaitions just keep the same regulations u have now and in three years u will not have to worry about deer or elk seasons beca
- 1517 i believe a season with dogs would be better hunting system
- 1525 I think the GF & P are going a great job with the Mt. Lion season after the changes they have made. With the number of lions able to be harvested and changing the season to later. Keep up the great work. Maybe next year I can hunt a little more and be able to see something. Keep on hunting. Thanks Chad Scoular
- 1527 Personally, I feel that the quota should be a little higher or atleast the female sub quota. It seems like there is a very large populations for the size of the Black Hills. If hunters are able to take 40 lions in about 5 weeks, without the use of hounds, there are a lot of lions. Overall it was a successful season and GFP did a good job keeping the hunters informed about how many lions were harvested and what was left for the quota.
- 1531 Unable to hunt due to weather. Look forward to next year.
- 1534 I very much enjoyed the time I spent in the Black Hills. This lion hunting season is an oppurtunity I greatly appreciate. I enjoy being in areas that are not saturated with vehicle traffic (trucks,fourwheelers,snowmobiles). My hope is that there will continue to be more and more large areas off limits to any kind of vehicle traffic to hunt. I am concerened about the talk of people wanting to hunt lions in the black hills with dogs. This without a doubt is an effective way to harvest specific lions, however it will drastically increase the traffic throughout. If the current season is seen to be an effective way to harvest/maintain the lion population to reasonable standards...please do not change it. To me hunting is just that..hunting. To many, hunting is only a success if there is a harvest in the end. Simply not true, especially with what I see as South Dakota's most prestigious animal. Please continue to give me an oppurtunity to hunt in South Dakota as a resident non-land owner to hunt an area that is not
- 1535 let us use dogs to hunt cats, but put some limit on how many cats that the dogs can hunt pure year. for example: one hunter and dog team, can tree and kill one cat pure year. thanks
- 1545 I was unable to participate in the 2010 Mountain Lion hunting season due to other activities but I will apply as long as we have a season in this state. I think that due to the quota being taken in such a short time that the numbers of lions are up and are doing well in the Black Hills of South Dakota. I know that there is a lot of interest in using dogs to track and tree the cats and hopfully some day we see the numbers that the state will allow them. I come from a ranching family so most predatory animals are what I like to hunt to preserve the way of live I love and with the cat season I feel that we are doing a good thing to preserve the wild life and the domestic animals in the area. Congragulations to all the hunters that used ethical means to get their mountain lion this past season and hopefully we will continue to have the oppportunity to participate in this great activity.

- 1548 Again, I am not satisfied with the policy of the Game Fish and Parks to not allow the use of hounds for taking Lions. I think that this is poor policy on the part of the Game and Fish and I have yet to get a plausible explanation for the policy. The reason I am continually given is that it isn't fair to guys that don't have dogs. Why is it fair to guys that have dogs not to be able to use them? That is an excuse and not an answer. With a quota of 40 lions I can't think of a good reason to exclude houndsmen from the sport. If it isn't fair for all then issue part of the quota for hound hunters and part to non hound hunters. When the hound quota is reached then that season is shut down. Seems like a simple solution that would allow all the taxpayers and license holders to get what they want out of the season. My honest opinion on this after many conversations with Conservation Officers is that it is nothing more than apathy on the part of the Game Fish and Parks. I believe they don't want to
- 1550 After reviewing some of the GFP's data on mountain lions in South Dakota, I have to believe that you are way off on the numbers. Although I live in Sioux Falls, I make it west river often. I love to hunt just about everything and it is rare that I am in the woods for turkey or deer and don't see lion sign. From Custer, to Nemo, to Spearfish; everywhere I go I find sign. I would estimate the population to be at least 5 to 10 times more than the estimated 250. The fact that 40 lions were killed in 40 days (without dogs) is a testament to that. Please don't allow hunting with dogs in the future. This will only lead to many outfitters and professional hunting, limiting what the average South Dakotan will be able to do. I believe the numbers can be managed this way for a long time.
- 1551 I think the lion season should be broken into east and west river. Set a limit on the number of cats harvested, like it is currently, for west river. For the east river season start it at the opening of rifle deer and continue till the end of January with no limit on the number of cats harvested. I spotted lions a couple times on our property and have found 2 deer kills. Obviously there is a healthy population in the hills. With that growing population lions are now expanding their territory to eastern South Dakota. I do not feel threatened yet, but I have had some friends out bow hunting that have had lions stalk them, no attacks. I feel that this set up would benefit people, livestock, and the lions. They must be managed just like deer.
- 1554 i believe if the number of lions killed is being done without the use of dogs in the relatively short period of time it happened given that about half the days were storms than we have far too many lions for my liking. i for one had a very close encounter with a lion while hunting elk and have no desire to have it again.
- 1567 Please keep the mt. lion season the way it is. If you let hounds in the picture that will take out the low to middle income hunters out of the picture. I think you should really look at how many Mt. lions are in the black hills, to keep a healthy deer herd and especially the elk herd.
- 1573 I did not have a chance to get out and hunt for the lions this past season due to the weather and its bad timing. I am just happy to have had the chance to hunt them in our state and maybe i will get a chance next year to actually go. I liked the new season dates, less traffic has to help.
- 1579 I want to talk to you about snow blindness in cats. It's affecting alot of cats...and it scares the shit out of me.
- 1582 This hunt was a GREAT !! we saw tracks most everywhere we hunted my friend did kill a cat that i called in . we were not troubled by other hunters and all land owners we asked let us hunt. When we checked in our lion at 7pm everything was done VERY professional and educational, I was quite impressed with all we learned at the check in, This really made a great end to our trip. Congratulations to your staff and we are looking forward to next season..

- 1591 The very cold weather hampered my hunting. The season ended too soon which tells me there must be more lions in the Hills than the surveys report. I think the deer & elk populations will decrease because the lions have to eat. Please do not introduce wolves into the mix.
- 1593 You may want to list all of the counties. Weather (snow) in the northern hills was a big factor this year
- 1599 My feelings towards hunting lions in South Dakota is an overall positive one. For me it is a privilege to move to this state and to be able to have the opportunity to pursue such a magnificent creature. Knowing that we have such animals just out the back door of our home makes living here a bonus to me, let's do what we can to continue the harvest for these animals but on the same hand let's manage our herd in a positive way, not to hurt the population of what we have here should be one of our primary goals at hand.
- 1602 I saw lots of tracks before the season and the day after the season closed but nothing during. I feel like there is a enough numbers of lions, that you can allow more lions to be killed. I also find it funny that many other states allow dogs to be used in hunting bear and lions. But not in south Dakota seems stupid dont you think.
- 1603 In my opinion Mt. Lion season should be earlier in the year before the deep snow comes. I personally watched a Lion stalk a 4x4 whitetail that I was hunting. The deer got away, but the Lion hung out around my tree for a couple of minutes. It was within 30 yards of me i could have made a clean ethical kill with my bow but since season was not in i had to let it walk away. Thank you for all your hard work and helping to make hunting in SD great!! Joe Bailey
- 1618 I think the limits are set a little low due to the fact that in the black hills where I hunted there were multiple tracks by multiple lions overlapping territories. Multiple big game animals have been hunted/taken by mountain lions this past year.
- 1621 DO NOT ALLOW THE USE OF DOGS. Keep up the good work. The quota is at a solid number....could even be a little higher. Do no change the season date...keep is separate from other seasons. Crack down on the killing of females with kittens. I've heard numerous stories of a female cat being killed and other hunters seeing kitten tracks that pondered around the kill site for days. Great job though, awesome season
- 1622 I believe there are too many lions in the area with no natural predators other than humans and 40 a year to eliminate may not be enough. Especially considering this year the total quota was filled before females tells me that we have too many males in a small enough area that we will continue to see them, and even more so now, pushed from the hills into towns/cities where they will become more of a threat to kids and pets.
- 1627 On the ranch I hunt deer. The 2009 fawn population is no more than 10% so I feel the lions have a large contribution to the decline I personally witnessed a male, female and 2 cub lions on the ranch prior to lion season. The deep snow was detrimental in the Northern Hills to hunting lions. I feel you should change the season back to Nov.1 The later season does not make a difference to the lion cubs
- 1628 Weather was better this season than last season Blizzards. Conditions this season only allowed us(My two sons and I) to hunt on three days. We hiked into remote areas where we found tracks several days and and just sat and watched game trails. Just didn't see any Mt. Lions moving aroudnd this season. We'll try again next year. Thanks Ron White Sturgis, SD
- 1629 would like to see quota increased x2

- 1632 There has been some talk about opening it up to dogs. although it may help to prevent the showing of nursing females, I strongly disagree with opening it to dogs. I think lions in the environment are healthy and just plain neat, but my opinion would change if we did not have a managed hunting season to instill the fear of man into the lion. I believe others states that have closed seasons on lion vouch for what I say and have lions causing problems in the human population.
- 1641 I'm a little disappointed in your survey, It is obvious the game and fish is not concerned about my livestock, in the survey there are no ? concerning this matter, Only concerning the killin of wildlife. There are some very expensive horses in western south dakota and the hills and I think there should be some responsibility if and when a lion does damage. It is not if, it is when, it is going to happen, Im thankful I don't live in a highly populated area of lions.
- 1645 Would like to be able to use dogs!
- 1656 I believe that they are called Mountain Lions for a reason. They are NOT Prairie Lions, they are Mountain Lions and should stay in the Mountains in their natural habitat. By having them out here on the prairie is a good sign that there are way too many lions in the state. They are not natural to our area and feel they need to go back to the Mountains.
- 1661 I enjoy getting out and hunting for all of our game in S.D. I enjoy seeing all of the animals at any time of year, it is really exciting to see a Mt. Lion when you don't expect it. I would like to thank all of the people who make the sport available to us and who protect our rights to participate.
- 1663 I am very concerned for the well-being of my livestock and animals. We have some very expensive horses and have experienced an attack as well as had many attacks and deaths of horses in our area. we do not have the ability to put our horses in at night. We have had sitings an tracks all over our area including in our small town, but we had no lions harvested in our area this year due to the inability to hunt because of deep snow and the terrain. I believe the public needs to be better informed about what they need to do when they have an attack and/or siting. They need to report it. Many people I have talked to that have had sitings or losses don't report it because they don't believe anything will be done about it anyway. Because the hunting season this year was during a period of such horrible weather and deep snow in the hills, I as well as all the hunters I know were unable to even get out to look. Still the hunting season limits were met very quickly and easily. That tells me that there are still
- 1674 It would be interesting if on the web site if you could include more info on the lions killed, examples : sizes weight, age, or some interesting facts.
- 1676 HUNTING MOUNTAIN LIONS WITH HOUND DOGS WOULD MAKE MORE HUNTERS SUCESSFUL DUE TO LACK OF TIME NEEDED FOR TRACKING AND CALLING THEM. ALSO U COULD GET A BETTER LOOK AT WHAT TYPE OF CAT YOU ARE HARVESTING. "MALE OR FEMALE, AND AGE OR SIZE OF OF CAT."
- 1679 I called in a sick or old dieing lion one day. I don't think it will make the winter. I am after a large male lion. I don't have to travel very far to find new signs of a different lion. I believe there are more than people know. I also have noticed the elk in the region I hunted in have no new calves. Why is that? I believe that there could be a human lion mishap in the black hills area. Time will tell.
- 1682 The lion population should be drastically reduced. It is a matter of time before someone gets killed.
- 1690 We had a great time hunting. There are lots of lions, they are just very elusive. What a challenge! I can't wait until next years season. The GFP website is a great resource and helped us keep up to date on the harvest status.
- 1691 I WISH THERE WAS SOMEWAY TO HAVE A SIZE REQUIREMENT,I DON'T THINK 30 LBS LIONS SHOULD BE KILLED.

1694 I THINK THE BLACK HILLS AREA IS THICK WITH MT/LIONS AND THE HARVEST SHOULD BE STEPPED UP BEFORE THEY HAVE A MAJOR EFFECT ON OTHER GAME IN THE BLACK HILLS AND SURROUNDING AREA. FEB-2010- MARK MY WORDS

1698 I normally do not hunt. I do however interact with the Mule Dear population on my Ranch. A lion was causing the heard to move away, and I wanted to keep my heard where it is. Since I am also in a relatively remote location I was concerned for my domestic animals.

1699 It was a great season and I think that the seasons should continue as there obviously plenty of lions if people are having no problem filling the quota.



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Report to Survey Participants 2010 Mountain Lion Season Evaluation



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June 2010

Dear 2010 Mountain Lion Hunter,

This is a summary report of the 2010 Mountain Lion Season. All hunters licensed to hunt mountain lions were sent a short questionnaire designed to measure hunters' evaluation of the mountain lion season. We sincerely thank all of you who participated by completing and returning your questionnaire. A total of 1,795 usable questionnaires were returned for an 86.5% return rate (53% of the returned surveys were by the Internet, saving considerable postage and encoding expenses). Your information was very valuable in helping us evaluate South Dakota's fifth mountain lion season. The information will also help with future management decisions regarding mountain lion season designs.

Larry Gigliotti, Ph.D.
Planning Coordinator / Human Dimensions Specialist

Evaluation of the 2010 Mountain Lion Season HUNTER SURVEY

LARRY M. GIGLIOTTI, PH.D.
SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

South Dakota's fifth mountain lion season ended February 10, 2009, just 41 days after opening on January 1st after the 40th mountain lion was harvested, meeting the 2010 harvest limit (40 total or 25 females). A total of 24 female and 16 male mountain lions were harvested during the 2010 season (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Landowners who have purchased a mountain lion license can harvest a mountain lion year-round on private land they own or private land they lease outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District. All harvested mountain lions must be presented to a conservation officer, state trapper or department representative within 24 hours. This survey only covered mountain lion hunting during the period that the regular season was open (January 1 – February 10, 2010).

Table 1. Harvest information for the South Dakota 2010 mountain lion season.

#	Harvest Date	Sex	Location	#	Harvest Date	Sex	Location
1	1 / 1	F	2 miles NW of Piedmont	21	1 / 25	F	1 mile N of Stratobowl
2	1 / 1	F	4 miles SE of Cheyenne Crossing	22	1 / 29	M	4 miles NE of Jewel Cave
3	1 / 1	F	3 miles SW of Hayward	23	1 / 29	M	4 miles S of Deerfield Lake
4	1 / 1	F	3 miles N of Johnson Siding	24	1 / 30	M	4 miles SW of Mystic
5	1 / 2	M	3 miles SW of Mystic	25	1 / 31	F	1 mile W of Galena
6	1 / 2	M	3 miles SE of Cheyenne Crossing	26	2 / 2	F	1 mile S of Pringle
7	1 / 2	F	3 miles SW of Deerfield Lake	27	2 / 3	M	9 miles SW of Spearfish
8	1 / 3	M	3 miles S of Rochford	28	2 / 5	M	6 miles NE of Jewel Cave
9	1 / 3	F	3 miles S of Brownsville	29	2 / 5	F	2 miles E of Harney
10	1 / 6	F	1 mile NW of Hayward	30	2 / 6	F	3 miles SE of Spearfish
11	1 / 8	F	3 miles NE of Pringle	31	2 / 7	M	1 mile S of Johnson Siding
12	1 / 8	M	6 miles SW of Hill City	32	2 / 8	M	3 miles N of Elk Mountain
13	1 / 9	F	1 mile W of Stratobowl	33	2 / 8	F	1 mile SW of Sheridan Lake
14	1 / 10	M	3 miles NE of Deadwood	34	2 / 9	F	4 miles S of Harney
15	1 / 11	F	5 miles S of Silver City	35	2 / 9	M	4 miles W of Hermosa
16	1 / 15	F	4 miles NW of Rochford	36	2 / 10	F	1 mile E of Wonderland Cave
17	1 / 17	F	1 miles W of Stratobowl	37	2 / 10	M	1 mile W of Johnson Siding
18	1 / 18	F	2 miles N of Sheridan Lake	38	2 / 10	F	1 mile E of Harney
19	1 / 22	F	1 mile N of Mystic	39	2 / 10	M	4 miles N of Rochford
20	1 / 24	M	2 miles NW of Hermosa	40	2 / 10	F	2 miles S of Sturgis

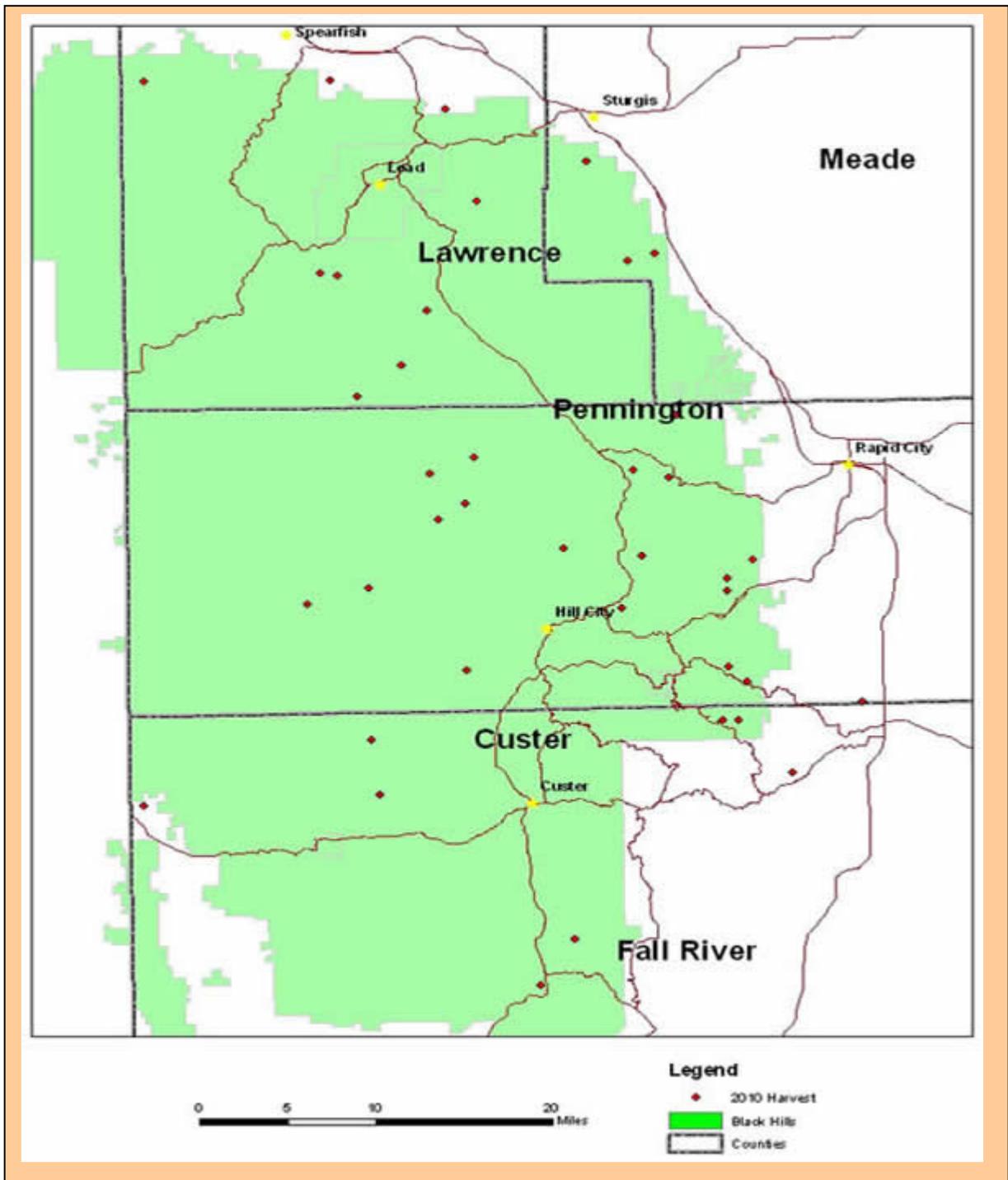


Figure 1. 2010 Mountain lion season harvest locations – Black Hills, S.D.

About 70.5% of the licensed mountain lion hunters actually spent any time hunting for mountain lions for an average of 6.2 days. Hunting methods used most often were calling (81%), tracking in snow (70%), walking in the woods looking for lions (66%) and driving the roads looking for lions or lion sign (53%). Twenty-three of the 40 successful hunters used a predator call, 7 stalked the lion, 6 tracked the lion, 3 waited at a kill site and 1 used a lion call. About 79% of the active mountain lion hunters reported seeing lion tracks or other signs of mountain lions while hunting and 14% of the active lion hunters observed a mountain lion.

Success per licensed hunter (includes all licensed hunters) in 2010 was 1.92% and success per actual lion hunter (hunters that actually spent some time hunting for lions) was 2.72%. A total of 1,468 hunters were estimated to have actually spent time hunting for mountain lions during the 2010 mountain lion season. Table 2 compares these statistics for all five of the mountain lion seasons.

Evaluation of the Season – Satisfaction. About 55% of the mountain lion license holders were satisfied with the mountain lion season as conducted in 2010, 33% were neutral and 12% were dissatisfied. License holders who actually hunted mountain lions during the 2010 season were more satisfied (63%) than those who did not hunt (38%), but the difference was mainly the result of non-hunters being ‘neutral’ or having ‘no opinion’.

Table 2. Success statistics for the 2005–2010 mountain lion seasons.

YEAR	PARAMETER		
	Success per Licensed hunter	Estimated number Of lion hunters	Success per Lion hunter
2005	13 / 2,294 = 0.57%	56.9% X 2,294 = 1,305	13 / 1,305 = 1.00%
2006	15 / 3,016 = 0.50%	59.8% X 3,016 = 1,804	15 / 1,804 = 0.83%
2007	19 / 4,070 = 0.47%	59.0% X 4,070 = 2,401	19 / 2,401 = 0.79%
2009	26 / 2,428 = 1.07%	67.8% X 2,428 = 1,646	26 / 1,646 = 1.58%
2010	40 / 2,082 = 1.92%	70.5% X 2,082 = 1,468	40 / 1,468 = 2.72%

A copy of the complete report: **Evaluation of the 2010 Mountain Lion Season: Hunter Survey** can be found on the Game, Fish and Parks web page along with other mountain lion information.

