

## Ascher, Debra

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**From:** Guffey Scott <scottg@pennco.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 04, 2015 5:07 PM  
**To:** GFP Admin Rules; GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** ARSD 41:10:04 - Aquatic Nuisance Species Comments

**Subject:** ARSD 41:10:04 - Aquatic Nuisance Species Comments

When I first read that the South Dakota Game, Fish, & Parks Commission was adding Phragmites to their aquatic invasive species list, I thought it to be a duplication to what the South Dakota Weed & Pest Commission has already listed. There does seem to be some duplication of efforts by the two commissions as well as the SD Department of Game, Fish, & Parks and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. There also appears to be a lack of communication between the two commissions and departments.

The addition of Phragmites and allowing law enforcement officers to require removal will however increase public awareness of the problem and increase management efforts. With that said Phragmites is also a problem along the Belle Fourche River and other areas in the state, not just along the Niobrara River. Purple Loosestrife is also on both lists, why stop there? Why not list all the state and locally declared noxious weeds listed by the South Dakota Weed & Pest Commission or at least the ones that are invasive along riparian areas such as Salt Cedar, Flowering Rush, and Common Tansy.

Over all I support the proposed rules, although I would like to see better cooperation between the South Dakota Game, Fish, & Parks and Weed & Pest Commissions, also between the two state departments of Game, Fish, and Parks and Agriculture.

Sincerely,

*Scott Guffey*  
*Pennington County Weed & Pest Director*  
*3607 Cambell Street*  
*Rapid City. SD 57701*  
*(605) 394-5320*  
*(605) 391-1926*  
[scottg@pennco.org](mailto:scottg@pennco.org)

## **Ascher, Debra**

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**From:** Julie <signsofhope@rap.midco.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 12:26 AM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** Petition to Repeal Hound Hunting of Mountain Lions on the Prairie

To: GF&P Commissioners

I am writing in support of Dr. Tom Huhnerkoch's petition to repeal the rule allowing hound hunting on the prairie areas of South Dakota. With this rule, mountain lions have no safe haven and will be killed at will by anyone for any reason or no reason at all. There is no way for GF&P to determine if a mountain lion is causing problems, and lions hunted on the prairie will be subjected to a brutal death from lack of trees as witnessed by GF&P when dogs killed a den of kittens. Mountain lions are not killing livestock and pets as a vendetta against ranchers and pet owners, which is the mentality that went into passing such a rule. Hunting mountain lions has produced a generation of orphans without hunting skills and thus has created the problem. South Dakota public lands belong to everyone but despite that fact views by people who do not want the hunting of mountain lions are consistently ignored in favor of representative Betty Olson and her constituents. Our view must have a say in the writing of any policy that involves public land and wildlife in the state.

Thank you for your time,

Julie Anderson  
845 Virginia Lane  
Rapid City, SD  
57701

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 788  
Black Hawk, SD 57718  
March 5th, 2015

SD Game Fish and Parks Commission  
523 East Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501  
c/o Debra Ascher, Executive Secretary

RE: Huhnerkoch's Petitions to Amend or Repeal Rule

Prairie Hills Audubon Society writes in support of Dr Tom Huhnerkoch's petitions to repeal or amend the rule changes adopted by the SD GFP Commission on Jan 15th, with respect to hound hunting of cougars on SD prairie unit (SD outside Black Hills Fire Protection District).

We incorporate by reference our comment letters submitted for the Jan 15th , 2015 meeting.

Dr Tom's second petition states:

"If the intent of this Rule change is to 'help' the livestock producers and to give them another 'tool', there must be an additional amendment stating that 'only' livestock producers can qualify for, receive or request the aid of hound hunting. (emphasis added).

As the alleged reason for the hound hunting of lions on prairie rule amendment, was to help livestock producers it makes sense to limit such licenses to livestock producers. We specifically request that SDGFP move this proposed amendment forward to formal rule making.

Thanks for this opportunity to comment.



Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

## Ascher, Debra

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**From:** Kym <lilly1875@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 10:42 AM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** Dr Tom's petitions

Please accept Dr Tom Huhnerkoch's petitions on behalf of Mountain Lions. Hunting with dogs is horribly cruel and an abomination; the Lion population in Nebraska needs protection as it is very small and predators are the keystone in providing a truly healthy natural system. Please do not allow 'dog' hunting and do Not kill your Mountain Lions.

Sincerely, Kym Waugh, [lilly1875@comcast.net](mailto:lilly1875@comcast.net)

521 Logan St, Denver CO 80203

303-698-2546

## Ascher, Debra

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**From:** Jeff Laughlin <jlaughlin@bhssc.tie.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 10:01 AM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** repeal hound hunting decision

I am writing in support of the petitions submitted by Dr. Tom Huhnerkoch regarding the Commission's decision to allow for the hound hunting of mountain lions.

It seems that the Commission has been duped by the Houndsman Association's slanted, self serving ( and largely untruthful) facts and figures. I ask the Commission to please reconsider their favorable position on this potentially disastrous action.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Laughlin  
104 Park  
Lead ,SD 57754  
605-641-3805

## Ascher, Debra

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**From:** Helen McGinnis <HelenMcGinnis@frontiernet.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 9:57 AM  
**To:** Ascher, Debra  
**Subject:** Comments on the Rule change regarding lion hunting with hounds on the Prairie

I have read the minutes of the January 15th meeting and the comments submitted by the public. I request an amendment because the implied reasons for the rule change adopted by the Commission on January 15, 2015 do not make sense:

1. To prevent depredation of livestock on the Prairie. According to the DGFP, only two instances of depredation have been confirmed, presumably since the DGFP started keeping records in 1996.
2. Fear for human safety. Only three people have been killed by lions in all the United States and Canada since 2000. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_fatal\\_cougar\\_attacks\\_in\\_North\\_America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fatal_cougar_attacks_in_North_America) No attacks have been confirmed in South Dakota since lion recolonization began in the 1970s. There has been one unconfirmed attack, resulting in facial scratches and a torn jacket, at Sheridan Lake in the Black Hills in 2008.
3. To allow hound hunters to enjoy their sport on the Prairie. Game, Fish and Parks repeatedly alleges that no breeding population of lions exists on the Prairie, only occasional dispersers. If houndsmen really wanted increased opportunities for lion hunting, they would request protection for lions on the Prairie so that additional small populations could become established. In Montana, hound hunters successfully persuaded Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to reduce the lion quota in the Bitterroot area so they would have more lions to hunt. <http://mtpr.org/post/hunters-refute-fwp-mountain-lion-study>

The only reason I can think of for this policy is to eliminate as many dispersing lions and incipient populations on the Prairie as possible. The DGFP states that it does not manage for lions outside the Black Hills. In fact, it is managing AGAINST lions outside the Black Hills.

I suggest a revision that would give hound hunting permits to ranchers who have suffered lion depredation, determined by a qualified professional. These ranchers could then allow hound hunting on their property.

Helen McGinnis  
PO Box 300  
Harman, WV 26270