

PLEASE  
BY END OF  
FRIDAY.

We the undersigned disagree with the Game Fish & Parks decision to increase the fishing limits on Opitz Lake in Marshall County. It is our belief the lake has already been over fished and that the limits should remain at 2 fish per day. We further would encourage increased enforcement of the 2 fish limit and size restrictions.

(Signers of this petition should print name and address on the first line and a signature on the second line)

1. David Bankers 442992 S Shore Dr Lake City SD 57247  

2. Elmer Steiner 333 Roosevelt Av. Eden SD 57232  
Elmer Steiner
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. \_\_\_\_\_  
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9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To: SD GF&P Commissioners 523 E. Capital Ave. Pierre, SD 57501

Danny Gritschitsch  
Box 104

eden.01@HotMail.  
com

Eden S.D. 57232

cel 605-880-7590

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1. Fran C Kawk  
FRAN CIKAWEK

2. Sheila Crawford

3. [Signature]

4. Carla Sanderson  
Carla Sanderson

5. [Signature]  
Richard M Sawisch

6. [Signature]  
Michael Angles

7. [Signature]

8. Craig Tevelde  
Craig Tevelde

9. Christine Babekuhl 322 Wilson Eden  
Christine Babekuhl

10. Craig Babekuhl 322 Wilson Eden  
Craig Babekuhl

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1. Jim Pitzl 12047 437th ave Eden, S.D

Jim Pitzl

2. Eric MacLennan 44146 101st Vethen

3. Jonda Kraft 25 S. Main St. Webster.

Linda Kraft

4. Bob Phillips 11661/ Roy Keta Drive Lake City

Tom Blair 812 S. 9th St Aberdeen S.D.

5. Jaylen Kwasnichen Aberdeen Sd

6. Walter BARR 204 S 2d St Eden SD

WALT BARR

7. Georgia BARR " " "

Georgia Barr

8. Terry J. Sattler 402 So 3rd St Eden SD

Terry J Sattler

9. Rodney Nelson 43764 122nd St Eden SD

Rodney Nelson

10. Dale Pitzl 43649 122st Eden SD

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1. Denise Fox PO Box 124 Eden SD 57232  
*Denise Fox*

2. Andrew Schuster PO Box 74 Eden SD 57232  
*Andrew Schuster*

3. Daron Steiner

4. Andrew Mischlitsch  
PO Box 104 Eden SD 57232

5. Kevin Pitzl  
Eden SD (268-1168)

6. Tammie Steiner  
Eden SD Tammie Steiner

7. *Roslyn*  
Roslyn, SD

8. Maclain Pitzl  
eden SD

9. Kent Carlsen  
Eden SD

10. Keith *MS*  
Eder

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1. Blair Healy 211 Hickory Langford SD

Blair Healy  
2. Greg Healy Bretton SD

3. Ralph Keritz Eden SD

4. Daniel E. Bor Scout Falls, S.D.

5. Rick Johnson Aberdeen, SD 57401

6. Olen Ahlstrom Eden SD

7. James O. Baker  
Linton S. Dak 57445

8. Jon Healy  
1802 Overlook Ridge Brookings, SD

9. John Phillips  
323 S 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Eden, SD 57232

10.

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1. Julie Pitzel 43649 122ND St. Eden SD 57232  
Julie Pitzel
2. Beverly Johnson 442954 South Ocean Drive  
Beverly Johnson
3. Micah Samson 43755 122<sup>nd</sup> St Eden SD 57232  
Micah
4. SAM Pitzel 122nd 3rd St. Eden SD 57232  
Sam Pitzel
5. Daren Olson 214 2<sup>nd</sup> St Eden 57232  
Daren Olson
6. Art Steiner 11989 Steiner Rd Eden SD 57232  
Art Steiner
7. Franklin Hostetler 219 S 2<sup>nd</sup> St Eden SD 57232  
Franklin Hostetler
8. Joe Pitzel  
Joe Pitzel
9. James or Bloch, 404 LAKEVIEW DR, MILBANK, S.D.  
James Bloch
10. Julie Heitman  
Julie Heitman

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1. Deane L MacInaell  
44146 101st Vebeem SD 57270
2. Davidschid  
42541 102ndst Britton SD 57430
3. Jim Hartman  
505 Drake Ave Milbank SD 57252
4. RUTH ANDERSON  
116730 Roykota Dr Lake City SD 57454
5. Joy Pahl  
43650 118th Lake City SD 57247
6. Basil Knobel (aka John Knobel Jr)  
12355 440th Ave Eden, SD 57232
7. Kelly Knobel  
12355 440th Ave Eden, SD 57232
8. Leta Knobel  
12355 440th Ave Eden SD 57232
9. Ryan Opitz Ryan Opitz
10. Dennis Winters Clear Lake SD

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1. Russell Bartunek 904 S Foster Sioux Falls 57111  
*R Bartunek*
2. Alan W. Schultz 4148 20<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
PEGGY E. SCHULTZ WATERTOWN, SD 57201  
*Alan W Schultz*  
*Peggy E Schultz*
4. Michael Dunn 119 S Second St. Eden, SD 57225  
*Michael Dunn*
5. Donald Schuster Eden, SD  
Clement Schulte Roslyn
6. Clement Schulte 12446 440 Ave
7. Hilary Neuberger 46928 121 st Eden SD
8. Donald J. Dunn P.O. Box 103 Eden S.D.
9. Gary McTall 1199 752 Sissatou N SD
10. Renee Norton 409 5<sup>th</sup> St. E Clear Lake, SD 57026

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1. Jerry Keintz  
438364 Northside Drive, Lake City, SD  
J Keintz
2. DENNIS HEALY, 438928 NORTHSIDE DRIVE, LAKE CITY, SD  
Dennis Healy
3. Diane Healy, 438928 Northside Dr Lake City SD 57247  
Diane Healy
4. Lois Keintz 438364 Northside Dr, Lake City, SD 57247  
Lois Keintz
5. Jane Duerre 116749 Boykota Lake City  
Kent Duerre 116749 Boykota Lake City
6. Kent Duerre
7. Wayne M. Wegleitner 409 Hammond St  
Langford SD
8. JEFF AND LINDA 104 W. BURTON AVE  
ROSLIN, SD
9. Yvonne Healy 211 Hickory  
Langford SD 57450
10. Sydney Cohen

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1. Jennifer Keintz 116 S 3rd St Eden  
Jennifer Keintz
2. Mitchell Samson  
Mitchell Samson
3. Berdette Zastrow  
BERDETTE ZASTROW
4. Bruce Zastrow  
Bruce Zastrow
5. Craig Sommer  
1244 Porcupine Drive Aberdeen SD
6. Dale Iverson  
Sisseton
7. Mike Haller Roslyn  
Mike Haller
8. Sarah Gaikowski Webster  
Sarah Gaikowski
9. Thomas Steiner Eden SD  
Thomas Steiner
10. Justin Henning Roslyn SD

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1. Halley Schmidt 214 S Kline St. Aberdeen, SD  
Halley Schmidt

2. Taylor Schmidt 1219 N Washington Aberdeen SD  
Taylor Schmidt

3. <sup>Jacob</sup> ~~Jack~~ Schmidt <sup>Schmidt</sup> 1325 W. Lake Dr. Grenville SD  
Jacob Schmidt

4. Robert Fischbach 38932 147th St Warner SD  
Robert Fischbach

5. JATHY FISCHBACH 38932 147th St  
Jathy Fischbach Warner SD 57419

6. Barbara Schmidt 1425 N Lakeview Dr Grenville, SD 57231  
Barbara Schmidt

7. Gordon Rahlf Wren, SD  
Gordon Rahlf

8. Luke Nordquist Lake City, SD  
Luke Nordquist

9. Gary J. Knebel  
Gary J. Knebel 401 Main St Roslyn SD 57224

10. Greg Keintz 116 S 3rd Eden  
Greg Keintz

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1. John Krubel  
12335 440<sup>th</sup> AVE Eden SD
2. Jermy Schuster  
43648 120<sup>th</sup> St Eden SD
3. James Michtitsch  
43224 122<sup>nd</sup> St Langford SD
4. Heath Sommer  
120755 Cedar Acres Eden SD 57232
5. Bill Leonard  
318 Taft Ave Eden, SD 57232
6. Braden Stearn  
PO Box 131 Eden SD 57232
7. Lyle Michtitsch 43222 122 St Langford SD
8. April Michtitsch - P.O. Box 104 Eden SD 57232  
April Michtitsch
9. Grace Michtitsch P.O. Box 104 Eden SD 57232  
Grace Michtitsch
10. CAROL LEE MICHLOTSCH PO Box 91 EDEN, SD 57232  
Carol Lee Michtitsch

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1. Kyle Haines Langford  
Kyl D Haines
2. ~~Loren Josephson~~ Loren Josephson Lake City  
Loren Josephson
3. Ron Bringer Lake City  
Ron Bringer
4. Rebecca Stream Eden  
Rebecca Stream
5. Jane A. Schneider 912135 Drywood Lake Rd Sisseton  
Jane A. Schneider 912135 South Shore Drive Lake City
6. Wayne Lattin Watertown SD  
BRIAN LATTIN Eden SD
7. Pam Steiner  
Pam Steiner
8. Rick Lehman Langford  
Rick Lehman P.O. Box 141 Eden S.D.
9. Josh Trautner 12555 437 Ave ROSLYN S.D.  
Josh Trautner
10. Jennifer Boerig 43872 123rd St. Eden, SD  
Jennifer Boerig

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1. Danny Muehlisch Eden S.D.  
Danny Muehlisch
2. Walter LeBlanc Verden SD  
Walter LeBlanc
3. Georgia Barr Eden SD  
Georgia Barr
4. Leslie King Eden S.D.  
LESLIE KING || || ||
5. Shari Baker Eden SD  
Shari Baker Eden SD
6. Greg Wigenor Langford SD  
Greg Wigenor Langford SD
7. Nathan Steiner Eden SD  
Nath Steiner
8. J. Allen Eden SD  
Justin Allen
9. GABRIEL PLEINIK EDEN S.D.  
Gabriel Pleinik
10. Jennifer Sandal Eden SD  
Jennifer Sandal

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1. DONALD G. PETERSEN 44032 SD Hwy 10 Lake City S.D.  
Donald G. Petersen
2. BYRON PETERSEN 11130 Guy Rd LAKE CITY, SD 57247  
Byron Petersen
3. Clark Moeckly 41698 SD Hwy 10 Britton SD 57430  
Clark Moeckly
4. Deanna Petersen 11130 Guy Rd Lake City, SD 57247  
Deanna Petersen
5. Rodney D. Westby  
Rodney Westby - PO Box 137, Roselt, SD 57260
6. Lois Westby  
Lois Westby - PO Box 137 Roselt, SD 57260
7. Carolyn Jett 44032 SD Hwy 10 Lake City S.D.  
57247
8. Sandy Grupe 1208 Main Britton  
Sandy Grupe
9. Alan Grupe 1508 main Britton  
ALAN GRUPE
10. David Doctor 442553 N. Shore Drive Lake City S.D.  
David Doctor

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1. ~~John Phillip~~ 323 S 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Eden SD  
JC Phillips

2. ~~Paul Amundson~~ 43298 111<sup>th</sup> St Lake city SD  
Paul Amundson

3. Alex Suther 41236 116<sup>th</sup> St. Ceremont SD  
Alex Suther

4. Chad Strei  
3335 41<sup>st</sup> Ave Bellingham MN

5. ~~Paul Amundson~~  
306 LAKEVIEW DR MILBANK, SD

6. Jerry Arbach 318 6<sup>th</sup> Ave E Sisseton SD 57262  
Jerry Arbach

7. Richard Mysterick 611 4<sup>th</sup> Ave E Sisseton SD 57262  
Bill Mysterick

8. Blair Healy 211 Hickory St Langford SD 57454  
Blair Healy

9. Wayne Wegleitner 409 Hammond St Langford SD.  
Wayne Wegleitner

10. ~~Paul Amundson~~ Columbia ~~Langford SD~~  
~~Paul Amundson~~ ~~Langford SD~~

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1. Blake Anderson - 116 N 2nd St. Groton S.D. 57445  
Blake Anderson

2. Chris Kassube - 3975 134th BAK SD 57427  
Chris Kassube

3. Taylor Anderson - 236 East 7th Ave  
Taylor Anderson Groton, SD 57445

4. Ron Anderson 609 N 3rd  
Ron Anderson Groton SD 57445

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

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To: SD GF&P Commissioners 523 E. Capital Ave. Pierre, SD 57501

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [SPAM] Opitz Lake in Day County  
**Date:** Thursday, August 20, 2015 11:08:57 AM

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**From:** tom [mailto:tom@knasecoinc.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2015 10:58 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [SPAM] Opitz Lake in Day County

I own a house in Eden SD and I fish Opitz off and on. Recognizing the lake is an outstanding walleye fishery, I would prefer caution on the side of removing the 2 fish per day limit. Removing the 15" length limit will guarantee that everyone fishing will have fish to take home. Increasing the 2 limit per day to 4 per day, will guarantee the lake will be fished out.

Please proceed with caution and change one limit item at a time. The 2 per day limit can be addressed after fish netting results are examined.

Tom Knase  
219 4<sup>th</sup> St  
Eden SD 57232

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on 2016 Fishing Regulation Proposals  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 1:51:24 PM

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**From:** D Hansen [mailto:dhansen147@itctel.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 1:33 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Comment on 2016 Fishing Regulation Proposals

I support the proposed fishing regulation changes for 2016 on the lakes in northeast SD in general, with particular reference to Bitter Lake.

Over the past few years, I've had the good fortune of "processing a lot of data" on walleye harvest and condition in Bitter Lake. These data were not collected in a scientific manner, unlike the Wildlife Division's data. Nonetheless, my observations of and conclusions from these data are consistent with those of the Division. Walleyes from the abundant 2011 year-class of walleyes are not growing like they should be. Neither are many of the other walleyes in the population.

Removal of the 15-inch minimum size restriction on Bitter Lake is soundly based in fisheries management science and is supported by reliable scientifically collected data. It is also supported by anecdotal observations by active anglers.

I encourage the Commission's approval of the proposed fishing regulation changes for Bitter Lake. Although I have no personal observations of the fisheries on the other lakes in question, I have seen the data collected by Wildlife Division staff. I believe they have collected compelling data to support the recommended regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Doug Hansen  
Webster, SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Commercial Fishing of White Bass in South Dakota: More "Class" Rules and a Plea for Unleashing the State's Entrepreneurial Energies  
**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2015 11:37:10 AM

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**From:** Robert E. Wright [mailto:[rwright@augie.edu](mailto:rwright@augie.edu)]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 11:21 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Cc:** Harry Thompson  
**Subject:** Commercial Fishing of White Bass in South Dakota: More "Class" Rules and a Plea for Unleashing the State's Entrepreneurial Energies

Dearest Commissioners,

White bass are a highly prized game fish everywhere, it seems, except South Dakota.

They are the state fish of Oklahoma and are so closely related to striped bass ("stripers"), the state fish of Maryland, Rhode Island, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, and New Hampshire, that they can be successfully hybridized with them to create superfish called wipers. [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Striped\\_bass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Striped_bass)]

White bass and their various kin are voracious predators; feeding schools of them are among the most exciting environments in which one can fish in fresh water. I urge you watch this YouTube video of white bass "boiling" on Lake Mead [[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-m8E\\_8WCPR4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-m8E_8WCPR4)], where fishing guides like Adventure in Angling [[adventureinangling.com](http://adventureinangling.com)] earn thousands guiding fishers to hotspots.

White bass also fight like the dickens. I have often had on line what I thought was a 2 lb. white bass only to pull out a 4 lb. walleye. Unlike walleye, white bass strike with force and will often jump. Even throwbacks fight hard.

Despite a myth to the contrary, white bass are excellent table fare when properly prepared by avoiding the lateral line or mud line. This guy knows what he is doing [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xcb3dYWiXcs>]. These stuck up walleye fishers also have a clue: [<http://www.walleyecentral.com/forums/archive/index.php/t-200335.html>] though I have found that nothing but salt, pepper, and butter are needed. The owner of M&W bait shop in Sioux Falls once told me that she silently served white bass (and drum) to some friends and they found it the best "walleye" they had ever eaten!

Most importantly, though, white bass can be caught with *regularity from shore* throughout the temperate part of the year. (I don't ice fish so I don't know if they hit hard in the winter.) I stress *from shore* and with *regularity* because they are in many ways a poor man's fish. No boat required, just a pole, a simple hook, and \$2 worth of minnows and a guy can limit out in two hours any evening in the summer. And, thanks to the generous limit, a successful white bass outing can feed a family (well) for several days while walleye fishers get skunked completely or have to scrape together a meal out of four "smalleye."

This brings me to a bigger issue: "class" rules. I use this term with trepidation because by

"class" I do not mean just socioeconomic class (rich, poor, or in between) but also class of outdoors folk. Some of us do not have the money or time or frankly patience to buy, maintain, pull out of storage, launch, etc. an 18 foot Lund with a fish finder, a live well, etc., etc. Some of us just want to run out to East Vermillion or Thompson or Poinsett on a whim on a long summer evening and catch some fish. We don't know where the precious walleye are biting or what color jig is hot this week. If this "class" of fisher catches a decent walleye while out fishing (for whatever bites), yeah, it'll go on the stringer. But we are just as happy with some perch or crappie or, yes, white bass. And this class is not happy that if he is with a buddy and one of them catches fish over his limit, he can't legally share with his buddy because they happen to be standing on shore instead of lounging in a boat (one typically laden with high tech equipment ... how fair is that? For the fish I mean).

Some other "class" rules on SD's books include the 5-day limitation on ground blinds on public land. Why is it okay for a guy to put up a tree stand and leave it in the same spot the entire season but another guy, too old, fat, afraid, or poor to use a tree stand, can't? When I called GFP to inquire about this, I was told that the ground blind seems to "claim" an area more than a tree stand does. I'd like to see some empirical research on that (and I know there isn't any because the officer I spoke to admitted there was not clear policy on tripods because no one had ever asked), and if it is in fact the case, then why not make clear to everybody that blinds, stands, tripods etc. do not given preference to the owner, only a vehicle in the appropriate parking space does?

Half of all states allow the use of crossbows during whitetail deer archery season (24 w/o restriction, 1 on private land only): <http://www.tenpointcrossbows.com/united-states-crossbow-regulations/>. Why is SD one of the half that does not allow them? Again, it appears that there is a class bias to the decision because bows are generally more expensive than crossbows in terms of initial purchase and subsequent kit (arrows, sights, etc., etc.) but especially in terms of practice time to become proficient. Some of us simply do not have the time to shoot 100+ arrows per week for weeks on end while others, city dwellers, cannot practice in their backyards (rightly so) or afford to give \$7.50 per day to use the ranges at Archery Outfitters. So why not allow archers to use crossbows, if only for part of the full archery season? Crossbows would draw more females and kids into the sport. Or is that why it is illegal (except in firearms season, which really isn't all that useful)?

SD GFP's policies also seem to discriminate against hunting lessees. Special buck tags are not made available to them (unless they are also ag. lessees, which in this day and age is rare) so they have to take the risk of the draw as most such leases are concluded in the spring/summer and not after GFP's September lotteries. This raises yet another issue: why is it in most states, hunters are guaranteed a shotgun/rifle buck tag but have to enter a lottery for antlerless tags while in SD the antlerless are doled out liberally and the lottery is for bucks? Only landowners get buck tags with regularity. Again, whatever the rationale for the system was/is, it reeks of "class" legislation, in this case rural vs. urban.

Finally, hunting lessees on annual leases (as most seem to be) can't invest in the sorts of technologies that allow people to hunt all day in the state's harsh climate (e.g. the wooden "condos" that dot the landscape) because they are too costly to put up for only one season. But hunting lessees could invest with confidence, if allowed by law, in moveable elevated blinds. By the current regulations, a moveable elevated blind would have to have the wheels removed or be detachable from the vehicle. The types of vehicles used in Texas are illegal (for deer) even if the engine is off and the operator is not in the cab. (See

<http://texaspredatorposse.ipbhost.com/index.php?showtopic=23790> for several of many examples.) Why? It can still be illegal to drive on public land, to shoot at deer out of a cab, or out of a moving vehicle while allowing people to drive to a spot, hunt it, and drive away when the day is done.

I think by liberalizing these rules (and there are probably many others I have yet to discover) you could INCREASE hunting and fishing tourism into the state and get more residents interested in hunting and fishing and hence buying licenses and paying sales taxes on kit, etc. Instead of commercializing the white bass harvest, GFP should encourage more outfitters to offer white bass/fishing packages, maybe combined with doves (the season for which seems to start too late, btw) or geese. You wouldn't think about allowing the commercial harvest of walleyes or pheasants, right? So use the same techniques that generate revenue to the state from those sources to build up the markets for white bass, archery, hunting leases, etc. That boils down to being more INCLUSIVE rather than EXCLUSIVE, without, of course, endangering the reproductive success of the underlying resource.

For example, instead of allowing Asian and European carp to collect in their masses at the Vermillion spillway (where I saw people catching and RELEASING them over the summer), sponsor a bow fishing contest where the deceased carp are mulched for fertilizer instead of becoming a burden on the archer/fisher (or a stinky mess when illegally left on the bank). You could run the contest yourself and keep the profits or license it to entrepreneurs for a fixed fee. I've written a book called *Little Business on the Prairie* [[http://www.amazon.com/Little-Business-Prairie-Entrepreneurship-Prosperity/dp/0931170680/ref=asap\\_bc?ie=UTF8](http://www.amazon.com/Little-Business-Prairie-Entrepreneurship-Prosperity/dp/0931170680/ref=asap_bc?ie=UTF8)] that shows how entrepreneurial South Dakotans can be *when allowed to innovate*. Free them up, as you did decades ago for the pheasant industry, and the state soon will be known for more than roosters, bison, and snobby walleye-or-nothing fishers.

-- Robert E. Wright  
Sioux Falls, SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: commercial take of white bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 12:17:33 PM

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**From:** Martin Tarby [mailto:mjtarby@rushmore.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 11:44 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** commercial take of white bass

WHAT? You have got to be kidding! White bass is a SPORT FISH! I and many other fishermen thoroughly enjoy fishing for white bass with rod and reel. I am fervently opposed to any attempt to commercially fish for white bass or any other sport fish. Please do not vote to reduce the recreational opportunities available to South Dakota anglers.

Sincerely,  
Martin Tarby  
Rapid City  
South Dakota

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Commercial take of White Bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 2:20:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)

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**From:** Paulson Marc [<mailto:Marc.Paulson@rcgov.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 2:12 PM  
**To:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Subject:** RE: Commercial take of White Bass

Marc Paulson  
Hermosa, SD

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn [<mailto:LouAnn.Miller@state.sd.us>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 11:20 AM  
**To:** Paulson Marc  
**Subject:** RE: Commercial take of White Bass

I have received your comment below and in order to include in the public hearing minutes, please reply with your first name, last name, city, and state.

Thank you  
LouAnn Miller  
SD Game Fish & Parks  
Phone number 605-223-7660



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**From:** Paulson Marc [<mailto:Marc.Paulson@rcgov.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 11:50 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Commercial take of White Bass

Dear SDGF&P,

We now have a fishery where you can take kids fishing and they can catch fish. Younger kids have trouble catching some types of fish and get bored easily but in the spring when the white bass are running they have a lot of fun and enjoy fishing because they can catch these more aggressive fish. I do not believe we need to reduce the population of white bass by allowing commercial fishing. If you want to allow commercial fishing let them take the cat fish there are lots of them and no one seems to fish for them as much. I hope more fisherman are against this also.

*Marc Paulson*

email: [marc.paulson48@yahoo.com](mailto:marc.paulson48@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: fish regulations  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:05:10 PM

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

From: Arden Price [<mailto:gpa321@icloud.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:04 PM  
To: SDGFPINFO  
Subject: fish regulations

I am all for removing the 15 inch limit and going to a 4 a day limit there is just to many small fish being caught numerous times and also to much of a problem to inforce when that many small fish

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Fishing rule changes for Opitz Slough  
**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2015 12:23:03 PM

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**From:** Tom Tobin [mailto:tomtobin39@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2015 11:46 AM  
**To:** SDGFPINFO  
**Subject:** Fishing rule changes for Opitz Slough

I am Thomas Tobin. My phone number is 605-380-6348. I am contacting the department relating to the proposed fishing rules changes for Opitz slough. I live in Aberdeen SD and am 66 years old. I fish Opitz Slough about 20 times per year. I am opposed to removing the 2 fish limit or to reduce the size limit. The fishing was real good into June, then it was a little slow for about 6 weeks and now is is very good. If you change the rules on this lake you will have it fished out in no time. I was there last week and there were 17 boat on the lake when we got there. Several more came after we were there. Only 3 boats were from SD. The same thing happened 2 days later. First of all Opitz can't handle that many boats and if change the limit to four the boats will multiply until the fish are gone. I take two disabled people with me to fish most of the time and I took all of my Grandkids (9) to fish there. It is a nice quiet lake where you can catch fish and have fun. I was upset to see so many boats on the lake last week. If you change the limit the out of state boats will have it so you can't get on the water because of the limited parking and you will have the same thing happen there that has happened at some of the other lakes. With the low cost out of state season fishing licenses and many of the people coming more than once to fish the out of state fishing appetite is insatiable. I have fish a lot in the glacial lakes over the past 25 years and I have seen how fast the fishing pressure comes to the hot lakes i.e. Waubay, Bitter, Pyus. I am asking you to leave the rules as they are for Opitz. Thanks TT

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: GFP October Commission Meeting to be Held in Spearfish  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 8:04:54 AM

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**From:** Tom Mahan [mailto:[tom.mahan@grotonford.com](mailto:tom.mahan@grotonford.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 4:17 PM  
**To:** SDGFPINFO  
**Subject:** RE: GFP October Commission Meeting to be Held in Spearfish

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission,

I'm sorry I couldn't make the meeting Tuesday night in Eden concerning the walleye limits and length restrictions on Opits and Bitter Lake in Northeastern South Dakota.

It is my understanding that you want to increase the limit from two walleyes to four on Opits and let fishermen keep any fish under 20" and one over 20". The reasoning is to lower the population of walleyes in the lake so the fish can get bigger faster. I really enjoy fishing Opits because it is not usually crowded and you can always catch fish, a very nice combination. I always thought that the state must be thinking along these same lines because the boat landing will accommodate just a few boats and the people who are concerned about keeping more than two fish can go some place else to fish. Bitter on the other hand has a great landing area and the lake has all sorts of structure and different venues to accommodate any type of fisherman and the walleyes are usually very accommodating, we always catch fish on Bitter.

Both of these lakes offer great fishing because they both have a good population of fish and I can't see why the state wants to destroy that population by removing the lower slot and allowing fishermen to keep fish under 15"s. Game and fish has done a great job in creating our fishing recourses in the state and I think all SD residents agree along with the countless out of starters that our fishing attracts year around.

The economy's in the towns in and around where the fish are biting have grown to really rely on the traffic fishing has created and I hope you take that into consideration when making your decisions. Have you explored the idea of putting more bait fish or fresh water shrimp into these waters to help these fish grow bigger faster? Most of the Northeast lakes that grew to what they are today started that growth back in the early 90's and the bottoms of those lake have matured to resemble most any ordinary glaciated lake and the habitat in those lakes is not what it was after the flooding started. If you make a mistake on this I think you know how long it will take to rebuild the numbers from fingerlings, let's just feed what we have and see if that works first. Thanks for reading what I had to say!

Sincerely,

Tom Mahan  
Groton SD.

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**From:** South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks [mailto:[sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 11:09 AM  
**To:** [tom.mahan@grotonford.com](mailto:tom.mahan@grotonford.com)  
**Subject:** GFP October Commission Meeting to be Held in Spearfish

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks



The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' Commission is holding their October meeting in Spearfish at the Holiday Inn Convention Center.

The Commission will be finalizing the 2015-16 and 16-17 mountain lion hunting seasons, changes in fish limits, the commercial take of white bass, paddlefish regulations, fish health inspection rules and the 2015-16 and 16-17 bobcat hunting and trapping seasons,

A full agenda for this meeting can be found [here](#).

Written, public comments must be received by Oct. 1 at 12 p.m. MDT and include a full name, city and state of residence. To submit written comments, click [here](#).

The public hearing portion of the meeting will begin Thursday, Oct. 1. at 2 p.m. MDT

This message was sent to [tom.mahan@grotonford.com](mailto:tom.mahan@grotonford.com) from:

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks | [sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us) | South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks | 523 E. Capitol Ave | Pierre, SD 57501

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**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Removal of walleye length restriction  
**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2015 8:32:58 AM

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**From:** Taylor Anderson [mailto:[taylor.ross.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:taylor.ross.anderson@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 26, 2015 10:53 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Removal of walleye length restriction

Hello,

Taylor Anderson of Groton, SD here. I am emailing you in regards to the proposed removal of the walleye length restrictions on Bitter, Opitz and Cattail Lake. I am against the removal of the restrictions on Bitter and Opitz. The fish in Opitz, in my opinion, will be exploited by fishing pressure if that changes. I also believe that there are big fish in the lake, and that the creel surveys are not reflecting this.

In regards to Bitter Lake and the year class that is causing trouble. I believe it has grown recently, and many of the fish are, or soon will be, over the 15 inch minimum. Thus will be available for harvest.

As far as Cattail Lake goes, personally I am okay with whatever you decide to do. The fishery there is really struggling.

I am also 100% in favor of removing the protective slot on the small mouth bass.

If you have any questions feel free to email me back, or contact me at 1-605-380-4059.

Thanks for your time,  
Taylor Anderson, D.C.

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Restricted Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:25:10 PM

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

From: Byron Petersen [<mailto:bdpetersen@venturecomm.net>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:24 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Restricted Fishing

I would encourage the Commission to leave the current fishing restrictions in place for Opitz Lake in Marshall County. The few SD residents that can fish it during the week are happy with their results and I see no reason to change as it only will help out of state fishermen who are already often surpassing their limits; especially those who remain on the lake past nightfall . Thank you

Byron Petersen  
11130 Guy R.d  
Lake City, SD 57247  
605 448 5548

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Walleye length limits  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:24:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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**From:** Malcomb, Pat D. [mailto:Pat.Malcomb@spartanmotors.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:45 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Walleye length limits

I am all for the proposed walleye rule changes, and would like to see Lake Poinsett do away with the 15 inch size limit also. There are so many 14-3/4 to 14-7/8 inch walleyes being caught it is sometimes hard to get a few over 15 inches to keep, not to mention the ones we see floating belly up because they are under 15 inches. I hate to see these fish floating because they are 1/8 under 15 inches, what a waste as they are really nice looking walleyes.

Pat Malcomb 3016 East 21<sup>st</sup>  
Sioux Falls SD

### **Pat Malcomb**

Engineering Plumbing Liaison  
Emergency Response

**CELL** 605-323-7761

**EMAIL** [Pat.Malcomb@spartanmotors.com](mailto:Pat.Malcomb@spartanmotors.com)

**WEB** [www.spartaner.com](http://www.spartaner.com)



**From:** [John Cooper](mailto:John.Cooper)  
**To:** [gino.adams@state.sd.us](mailto:gino.adams@state.sd.us); [Lott, John](mailto:Lott, John)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Info for commission  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:44:40 AM

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Please add to our public comment record. TKS, Coop

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

**From:** Joe Honer <[joeguidesyou@me.com](mailto:joeguidesyou@me.com)>  
**To:** John Cooper <[jlcoop11@aol.com](mailto:jlcoop11@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Mon, Sep 14, 2015 10:21 am  
**Subject:** Info for commission

Boys did a survey at Opits this weekend during there fireman's tourney. Boon also did one over last three days at bait shop he owns, which had A great amount of traffic including five different states. The over wellming response was that they thought the minimum should stay in place. They also reported the keeper to catch rates on Opits were at or above fifty percent and that the total numbers of fish they were catching was down from last year. At the stake dinner afterward I worked the crowd and found that the guys after given the info I was given still felt very strongly that the bitter and Opits should be left in place also the 2 fish limits. Some of thees guys felt so strongly that they said they were going to call the media in. When I told them they needed to e mail u or others there response was they don't listen. I tried to encourage them that that is not the case. I tell u this so u know and I'm sure u do already but this is part of why u don't get an overwhelming response directly from the public. As far as the bitter lake. The word is out and the landings were pretty much full this weekend with every one I talked to having there limits of keeper fish. After thinking about what I was told on the phone. The things that don't add up are. One of the biggest reasons they don't want to wait a year on bitter is that after waiting 9 years on Waubay then taking the minn off. We r experiencing a slow growth rate even on new fish stalked. I would agree, but I believe it is from the exact thing we r proposing to do. Once the minn were taken off the harvest was very heavy leaving a void in wich the white bass exploited. The population of white bass is now higher than population of walleye in bitter. So if u look at the chart the high numbers in bitter are 13-1/2 and biggest being 14-1/5. After that it goes down considerably. So we take and knock those fish down to 12-13 we will be providing that very fertile opportunity for those bass. Brian commented on they think it is heading that way now but we r not seeing that In catch rates and actually the opposite this year as they r very rare. Also the other thing I hear a lot is that our lakes are not as fertile as in the past and we should be carful not expect as much out of them. That makes sense from what I see in there consumption. My confusion is that we r making part of this decision based on an expected growth rate from the past also. Maybe we have to modify that in certain situations. I hope this helps and again I am with u guys not against. I have complete respect for all of u. I am just not able to make sense of the whole pic and am very concerned that we may make a decision that will ruin bitter or sentence our fisheries to 15 inch or LESS on our average to big fish size. Thanks again and have a good day. Joe

Sent  
from my iPhone

**From:** [John Cooper](#)  
**To:** [gino.adams@state.sd.us](mailto:gino.adams@state.sd.us); [Lott, John](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Minimum Length limits on Bitter and Opitz Lakes  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:46:28 AM

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Please add to our public comment record. Tks, Coop

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

**From:** Blake Anderson <BAnderson@sdwg.com>  
**To:** jlcoop11 <jlcoop11@aol.com>  
**Cc:** brian.blackwell <brian.blackwell@state.sd.us>  
**Sent:** Fri, Sep 4, 2015 2:12 pm  
**Subject:** Minimum Length limits on Bitter and Opitz Lakes

Hey John,

This is Blake Anderson, I am from Groton, SD. I fish the waters to the NE of me very regularly especially Bitter and Opitz. I attended 2 of the informational meetings that were put on in Aberdeen and Britton regarding the proposed length limits. The guys did a very good job of putting the meetings on and getting the information to us. Although I am seeing the lengths of the fish differ from what they are seeing, especially in Bitter and Opitz lake. I fished there in middle of July and there was plenty of short fish with few keepers but a lot of the fish were close. Currently the fish we are catching have jumped 1-1.5" at least in 45 days. Making catch rates of 1 out of 3 keeper vs. Short fish, some days have been better than that. Hopefully the next 45 days show the same jump or close too. Not only are most of the fish above the 15" limit but they are in great shape also. Even the 13-14.5" fish are very healthy with a occasional thinner fish that comes out of deeper water. Catch rates in deeper water are showing 1 out of 10 keepers. With that being said I believe they need to table the length limits for a year to make sure it is the right thing to do. I think when people see these nicer fish being caught that the populations will be knocked down some with the current limits in place. I worry that if the limits change then they cannot easily be put back into place in the future. As far as the size limit on Cattail, I don't see a population of walleyes below 20" in that water right now so why change the minimum length? I think it should stay in place in case that water does get a good "take" of walleyes and they get to that 15" size very rapidly. From what I've seen from the boat on Cattail there is plentiful food, if those walleyes get going in there they will grow fast.

If you have any questions for me don't hesitate to call

Thanks for your time,  
Blake Anderson  
1-605-380-8573

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**From:** [John Cooper](mailto:John.Cooper)  
**To:** [gino.adams@state.sd.us](mailto:gino.adams@state.sd.us); [Lott, John](mailto:Lott,John)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Minimum length proposed  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:51:18 AM

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Please add to our public record comments. TKS, Coop

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

**From:** Joe Honer <[joeguidesyouto@me.com](mailto:joeguidesyouto@me.com)>  
**To:** [jlcoop11 <jlcoop11@aol.com>](mailto:jlcoop11@aol.com); [Bill Leonard <bleonard@yourstarnet.net>](mailto:bleonard@yourstarnet.net); [Banderson <Banderson@sdwg.com>](mailto:Banderson@sdwg.com)  
**Sent:** Fri, Sep 4, 2015 1:15 pm  
**Subject:** Minimum length proposed

Hey john. Here is some of what we see and feel about minimums. I have been guiding on bitter for the last month. I have also been canvassing other guides and frequent fisherman of bitter and Opits lakes. Most of this info is from bitter. We r all in agreement that the fish have shot up a solid inch in the last month or so and expect that to continue through sep. we r seeing catch rates of 25-40 percent of keepers to none keepers in a lot of areas in the lakes. There are also a lot of fish about to clear the 15 minn. we feel strongly that a significant percentage of fish can and will be harvested to clear the way for the rest of the fish to come out of the stunted stage. I would strongly hope that we could hold off a year on the rule change. It would be a considerable set back to have thees fish cropped down to 12-13 inches at this point. We r also very concerned that there is no plan or goal in place to reinstate the minimum. We feel that in itself would sentence is to a far inferior fishery in to of our most important body's of water. The consensus of the boys I know around here is that our fisheries boys up here r top notch but r limited at times in how much info they have available to them. We have much more input to share but in an effort to keep this message manageable I will stop here My number is 320 260 6143 if any of the commissioners would like to hear more I would love to talk.  
Thanks much. If there is anything I or we can do feel free to call. Joe honer  
Sent from my iPhone. I will get a copy to mr Blackwell also but don't have his email at the moment

**From:** [John Cooper](mailto:John.Cooper)  
**To:** [gino.adams@state.sd.us](mailto:gino.adams@state.sd.us); [Lott, John](mailto:Lott,John)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Minimums  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:41:36 AM

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Please add Mr. Leonard's comments into our public record. Coop

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

**From:** Bill Leonard <[bleonard@yourstarnet.net](mailto:bleonard@yourstarnet.net)>  
**To:** John Cooper <[jlcoop11@aol.com](mailto:jlcoop11@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Tue, Sep 8, 2015 9:31 pm  
**Subject:** Minimums

John

Just a short message to pass on my feelings about reducing the length limit on Walleyes on opitz, and bitter lakes. It's pretty obvious that these two fisheries have been hurt in the past few years due to the increased harvesting. Both lakes are faced with large numbers of smaller fish that seem to be on a slow growth pattern.

However I have seen an increase in the lengths of both fisheries in the past two months. It is now very common to catch several fish in the 15/12-16" class. It's my feeling that we need to hold off on reducing the length limits to less than 15", let's see what these fish do by the end of next yr before a decision is made.

Another short note about another lake in the NE cattail. I might be way off on this one and it may not be finically feasible. I don't think it's a secret that the fishery has been hurt because of high water and the fish moving dn stream through the outlet tiles. How about a fish trap to prevent this in the future.

Thanks for listening to me, and thanks for all your efforts to protect our fisheries.

Bill Leonard  
318 Taft  
Ave  
Eden, SD  
712-380-4466  
[bleonard@yourstarnet.net](mailto:bleonard@yourstarnet.net)

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [John Cooper](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Cc:** [Lott, John](#); [Adams, Geno](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Opitz Lake  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:38:08 PM

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Please place this email into our public comment file on the fisheries proposal re: Opitz Lake. TKS Coop

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Blair Healy <[blairhealy@yahoo.com](mailto:blairhealy@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** September 29, 2015 at 6:00:36 PM CDT  
**To:** "[jlcoop11@aol.com](mailto:jlcoop11@aol.com)" <[jlcoop11@aol.com](mailto:jlcoop11@aol.com)>  
**Subject:** Opitz Lake  
**Reply-To:** Blair Healy <[blairhealy@yahoo.com](mailto:blairhealy@yahoo.com)>

I attended the recent meeting at Eden SD. I appreciate Paul Dennert, commission member, attending the meeting and able to relay our concerns with changing the limit and size restriction for the walleye fishery. While I am not an avid fisherman, I do enjoy fishing with family and friends. Our recent outing was an annual family fishing weekend at Opitz Lake. We enjoyed the numerous catch of walleyes, many below the 15" size restriction, which were returned to the water, but did catch enough over 15" to eat that evening. While we were not able to limit out, we had a fine time.

The GF&P fishery representatives did a good job of explaining their recommendation of changing the rules at Opitz, but this is our local Lake, which we feel should be preserved for the local people. It is not the large fishery of Bitter and Waubay Lakes, and could not handle the influx of SD and out of state fisherman who would fish out 12", 13" and 14" fish, with an increased limit. Soon to be, another lake, without a walleye population.

Please reconsider the recommendation of the biologist's to do away with the 15" size restriction and adding additional fish to the creel limit.

Blair Healy  
Langford, SD

**From:** [John Cooper](#)  
**To:** [gino.adams@state.sd.us](mailto:gino.adams@state.sd.us); [Lott, John](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Opitz Lake  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:39:52 AM

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Please add Judge Sommers comments into our public record. TKS, Coop

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

**From:** Sommers, Judge Richard <Richard.Sommers@ujs.state.sd.us>  
**To:** 'jlcoop11@aol.com' <jlcoop11@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thu, Sep 10, 2015 1:21 pm  
**Subject:** Opitz Lake

I am writing to voice my opposition to changing any of the regulations on Opitz Lake. It has been an excellent fishery that has been fished heavily with the existing regulations. Even as recently as this past weekend, there were over 30 boats at the ramp. The fish that were caught this past weekend were healthy and fat, and also at least half were over 16" long. It is not broken. No need to fix it.

As an aside, I am your daughter's next door neighbor.

Rick Sommers

**From:** [John Cooper](mailto:John.Cooper)  
**To:** [gino.adams@state.sd.us](mailto:gino.adams@state.sd.us); [Lott, John](mailto:Lott, John)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Walleye Length limits  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:43:37 AM

---

Please add this to our public record of comments. TKS, Coop

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

From: walleyescot <[walleyescot@aol.com](mailto:walleyescot@aol.com)>  
To: jlcoop11 <[jlcoop11@aol.com](mailto:jlcoop11@aol.com)>  
Sent: Mon, Sep 7, 2015 9:44 am  
Subject: Re: Walleye Length limits

The 30 inch walleye was by far my biggest walleye in NE SD, caught on Swan Lake in Sept. Prior to that, several 24-25 inch walleye in several lakes. But I mostly catch nice 'eater;' walleye. However, last year, hard to catch a walleye on Bitter over 15 inches. One day, I bet we caught 50 walleye, but all under 15 inches, at the boat ramp talked to 5 other boats all with the same story. I do not think any of us had a fish over 15 inches. But that was last year, have not fished Bitter in 2015. Much was the same for Opitz, hard to catch over 15 inches. But those fish seem to have grown in 2015. Biggest I get is around 17 inches. Still many under 15, but I am ok with that. Several year classes on Opitz. No northern, a few jumbo perch and a few crappie, hard to target those. Catch by accident walleye fishing. I fish NE SD until ice up. Let me know if you want to hear anything more. I will tell you my experience. Keep my boat stored there and fish all the lakes in the NE. Then to Chamberlain for spring. I have lots of photos I can send if interested. This photo from last spring in Chamberlain. I fear the great fishing of NE SD is going to be ruined by excess limits. I would prefer a 2 fish limit. With 4 in possession. I do like only one over 18 inches.

SCOT HANSON  
Shoreview, MN  
612-590-6389

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

From: John Cooper <[jlcoop11@aol.com](mailto:jlcoop11@aol.com)>  
To: walleyescot <[walleyescot@aol.com](mailto:walleyescot@aol.com)>  
Cc: John Lott <[john.lott@state.sd.us](mailto:john.lott@state.sd.us)>; Brian.Blackwell <[Brian.Blackwell@state.sd.us](mailto:Brian.Blackwell@state.sd.us)>; Cathy Peterson <[Cathy.Peterson@state.sd.us](mailto:Cathy.Peterson@state.sd.us)>  
Sent: Mon, Sep 7, 2015 9:28 am  
Subject: Re: Walleye Length limits

Hello Scot: I appreciate your comments on this length limit issue up in our NE glacial lakes area. It's critical for both the GFP Staff and our Commission to hear from folks like you who have experience on these water bodies. To set good regulations, we need both the biology and the public user's views.

Let me/Commission work with John Lott, Brian Blackwell and other staff to review your and other comments on all this before anything is placed into final regs. We will get your comments, and the others, into our final public comment record as well. Thanks for sharing the photo of a real nice walleye - 30 inch fish are hard to come by..!!! Nice Job..!!!! Cooper

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 4, 2015, at 12:56 PM, [walleyescot@aol.com](mailto:walleyescot@aol.com) wrote:

I frequent NE SD for walleye fishing and very concerned about length limits.  
I do like the 15 inch minimum and fear you will ruin the fishery if lowered.

Yes, I have caught 20-30 fish a day and struggled to find any over 15 inches, but had much fun in doing it.

How much detail do you want me to give you as I have fished nearly all the lakes in NE SD? There is a reason I travel from MN and spend my time and dollars in SD. Do not hurt the fine fishing you have here or many other anglers will stop taveling to SD

Released this walleye last fall. Caught on Swan Lake just south of Webster.

SCOT HANSON

Shoreview MN

ps I thought yo retired. So glad to hear you are still working to improve SD. Thanks for your service in the US Navy

<Scot Hanson 30 inch walleye released.jpg>

**From:** [John Cooper](#)  
**To:** [pitzlkevin@yahoo.com](mailto:pitzlkevin@yahoo.com)  
**Cc:** [Adams, Geno](#); [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Re:  
**Date:** Friday, September 18, 2015 8:17:53 AM

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Thanks for taking the time to write and for expressing your concerns. I'll make sure your email gets into our public record comments on this proposal. John Cooper, GFP Commission Chairman.  
Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 17, 2015, at 9:22 PM, pitzlkevin@yahoo.com wrote:

>

>

> John

>

> The length limit on bitter or optiz should not be changed! These fish in these 2 fisheries are without a doubt doing well. Many legal fish are being caught, these fish that people were not finding this summer don't just all of a sudden show up! The number of fish that would be harvested out of these 2 lakes would be terrible. If the size limit would change on bitter, and optiz those 2 fisheries will be done for a long time. Thank you for your time.

> Sent from my iPad@

**From:** [John Cooper](mailto:John.Cooper)  
**To:** [ringneck@albanytel.com](mailto:ringneck@albanytel.com)  
**Cc:** [Lott, John; gino.adams@state.sd.us](mailto:Lott, John; gino.adams@state.sd.us)  
**Subject:** Re: Slot limits on Bitter and Opitz Lakes  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:14:48 AM

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Vern: I appreciate you taking the time to write me and the Commission. I'll make sure that your comments/email get into our formal record of public comments for this proposal. We are actively working on this issue from both a biological and a public use perspective. We treasure the Glacial Lakes fisheries and want to make the right decision on this matter. Thanks for your comments. John Cooper, Chair, GFP Commission

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

**From:** Ruth Prosocki <[ringneck@albanytel.com](mailto:ringneck@albanytel.com)>  
**To:** [jlcoop11 <jlcoop11@aol.com>](mailto:jlcoop11 <jlcoop11@aol.com>)  
**Sent:** Wed, Sep 16, 2015 10:38 pm  
**Subject:** Slot limits on Bitter and Opitz Lakes

Dear Mr. Cooper,  
I am writing to plead with you to NOT remove the slot limits on these two lakes.  
As a Minnesota resident I realize these two lakes are not part of my regular haunts. They are however important to me as I try to get to the Glacial Lakes region 1-2 times per year and during these trips I look forward to the quality of fish they produce.  
The prospect of quality walleye fishing is what attracts many of us non-residents to your great state. The probability of negatively affecting these resources is reason enough for a NO vote.  
Minnesota has seen more than our share of mis-managed fisheries.  
Please don't make changes to these lakes which represent an example of what your people have done well.  
Respectfully,  
Vern Prosocki  
Avon, MN

Sent from my iPad



I support the GFP proposed bobcat season.  
Wildlife management is a complex issue, one size does  
not fit all.

I hope special interest groups, animal activists,  
political and economics don't dilute sound  
management.

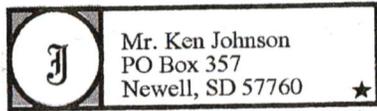
Respectfully  
Retired GFP--ADC

*Ken Johnson*

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2015

Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks  
Pierre, SD 57501



RAPID CITY SD 577

14 SEP 2015 PM 1 L



*S.D-GFP-COMMISSION  
523 EAST CAPITOL AVE  
PIERRE, S. DAK  
57501*

57501\$3182



To: So. Dak. Game Fish & Parks

I support the proposal  
to have the bobcat  
season the same as last yr.

RECEIVED

SEP 21 2015

Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks  
Pierre, SD 57501

Henry (Toby) Peters

P.O. Box 366

Sturgis, So. Dak

57785

Box 366  
Sturgis, S.D.,  
57785

RAPID CITY SD 577

17 SEP 2015 PM 1 7



S.D. G. F. + P. Commission

523 East Capitol Ave.

Pierre S. D.

57501

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 2015-2016 Mountain Lion Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, August 10, 2015 10:52:53 AM

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**From:** Andy Jackson [mailto:[getandyjackson@gmail.com](mailto:getandyjackson@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 10:38 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** 2015-2016 Mountain Lion Proposal

I oppose issuing non-resident licenses for mountain lion hunting. The only reason I can see for this is monetary! I'd rather pay additional for a resident license and keep this season for South Dakota residents only, especially since the quota is recommended to be reduced!

Thank you for allowing my input!

Andrew J. Jackson  
2507 Minnewasta Rd.  
Rapid City, SD 57702

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: American Cougar  
**Date:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 8:20:35 AM

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

From: Montana Burt [<mailto:montanalb16@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 4:54 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: American Cougar

Stop killing Cougars. Put the most dangerous ones in a conservatory and let people come see them. Living in the eastern U.S., I can't believe I've never seen one in person, not even at a zoo.

People give Africa so much flack for the conservation efforts, but they seem to be outdoing you.

Allow people to experience these animals in a cool way, instead of just executing them for trophies.

Best Regards,

Montana L. Burt

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Big Game and Baiting  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 3:57:32 PM

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**From:** sio.midco.net, tvoeltz  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 3:51 PM  
**To:** SDGFPINFO  
**Subject:** Re: Big Game and Baiting

Hello,

I wanted to state that I am not very happy with the preference point system. Since it has gone into effect, I have not gotten a deer tag in 3 years. I would have rather paid ten dollars more than have the preference point system. I would really love to get back out there and be able to hunt but because of the preference point system, I don't know if I will ever get to hunt again. I am very disappointed.

Thank you,

Tony Voeltz

Sioux Falls, SD

**From:** [South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 11:27 AM  
**To:** [tvoeltz@sio.midco.net](mailto:tvoeltz@sio.midco.net)  
**Subject:** Big Game and Baiting

### [South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks](#)



South Dakota big game hunters are reminded that it is illegal for anyone to place any salt or salt lick or construct, occupy, or use any screen, blind, scaffold, or other device at or near any salt or salt lick for the purposes of enticing or baiting big game animals to the same for the purpose of hunting, watching for, or killing big game.

Additionally, South Dakota hunters may not establish, utilize, or maintain a bait station from August 15 to February 1, inclusive, and from March 15 to May 31, inclusive, to attract any big game animal, including wild turkey.

A bait station is a location where grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay, minerals, or any other natural food materials, commercial products containing natural food materials, or by-products of such materials are placed or maintained as an attractant to big game animals for the purpose of hunting. The use of scents alone does not constitute a bait station. This section does not apply to foods that have not been placed or gathered by a person and result from normal environmental

conditions or accepted farming, forest management, wildlife food plantings, orchard management, or similar land management activities.

Hunters should also be aware that it is illegal to establish, utilize, or maintain a bait station on lands owned by the department and on properties managed and classified by the department as Game Production Areas, State Parks, State Recreation Areas, State Lakeside Use Areas, State Nature Areas, and State Water Access Areas.

For more big game regulations, click [here](#).

This message was sent to [tvoltz@sio.midco.net](mailto:tvoltz@sio.midco.net) from:

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks | [sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us) | South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks | 523 E. Capitol Ave | Pierre, SD 57501

[Manage Your Subscription](#)

Email Marketing by



**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Big Game and Baiting  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:19:04 PM

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**From:** Chuck Diehl [mailto:diehl@northstartek.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:16 PM  
**To:** SDGFPINFO  
**Subject:** Re: Big Game and Baiting

Excellent law! I hate watching shows with deer get killed from a blind eating bait.

Chuck Diehl - Northstar Technology Sales  
C - 612 802 9790

On Sep 24, 2015, at 11:27 AM, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks <[sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us)> wrote:

South Dakota big game hunters are reminded that it is illegal for anyone to place any salt or salt lick or construct, occupy, or use any screen, blind, scaffold, or other device at or near any salt or salt lick for the purposes of enticing or baiting big game animals to the same for the purpose of hunting, watching for, or killing big game.

Additionally, South Dakota hunters may not establish, utilize, or maintain a bait station from August 15 to February 1, inclusive, and from March 15 to May 31, inclusive, to attract any big game animal, including wild turkey.

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Hunters should also be aware that it is illegal to establish, utilize, or maintain a bait station on lands owned by the department and on properties managed and classified by the department as Game Production Areas, State Parks, State Recreation Areas, State Lakeside Use Areas, State Nature Areas, and State Water Access Areas.

For more big game regulations, click [here](#).

Email Marketing by

This message was sent to [diehl@northstartek.com](mailto:diehl@northstartek.com) from:

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks | [sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us) | South Dakota Game,  
Fish & Parks | 523 E. Capitol Ave | Pierre, SD 57501

[Manage Your Subscription](#)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Bobcat regulations  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 8:41:37 AM

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**From:** Bowdens [mailto:[bowdens@gwtc.net](mailto:bowdens@gwtc.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2015 7:53 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Bobcat regulations

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to voice my opinion regarding the west river bobcat season for 2015-2016. I would like to see game, fish & parks current proposal accepted and keep the same season and regulations as we have had the previous two seasons.

I am an avid hunter and trapper. Last winter was a typical season on the trap line as far as bobcat sign and harvest. I released several juveniles and females.

My observation of being on the trap line in the areas I trap is that the population is about normal.

I have heard some people say that they drive the roads in the Black Hills without seeing many bobcat tracks. My suggestion to them is to get out of your trucks and hunt on foot and they might be surprised at the sign you see.

Fur prices were down which also had an affect on the harvest total last season. Also having a six week season instead of the 8 weeks we used to have makes a difference in the harvest totals.

Thank you,

Larry Bowden

Hot Springs SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](mailto:Miller, LouAnn)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](mailto:Comes, Rachel)  
**Subject:** FW: Bobcat season input for finalization in October  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:07:56 AM

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**From:** Steve [<mailto:sacherkas@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 6:28 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Bobcat season input for finalization in October

I just listened to the August audio with commission concerned to the point of putting a limit per trapper on bobcats. I agree with the state biologists to leave the season as is and NOT put limits per trapper or quotas in place. I have trapped bobcats in many states for the last 10 years including South Dakota, Wyoming, Missouri, Iowa, and New Mexico. First let me say that I believe South Dakota has a healthy population of bobcat. I base this on the amount of sign I seen in Feb 2014 in the southern Missouri river breaks west river, and my scouting Dec 2014/Jan 2015 in the Black Hills and prairie area to the south and southeast. I bought some land (153 acres in Fall River in southern hills) last December and plan to build and move there in 2-3 years (seeing bobcat regularly on trail cameras). In comparing the amount of sign in South Dakota I find it more than what I have seen in Wyoming trapping the last 10 years, and also more than New Mexico. Both of these states do not have quotas and much longer seasons. I also see less trappers in south dakota in comparison to any of the states I trap. When you look at the shorter season, less trappers, and lower market prices (down 35-40% this past seasons which also was down 25% from 2 seasons ago) I would expect even a smaller harvest in the coming 2015-2016 season. Do not let the harvest numbers sway your opinion. I urge you to NOT implement any quota and let science be your guide. I was planning on trapping this past season but chose not to due to the market conditions. I do plan on trapping this upcoming season but that could change as the current market (commodities like oil, precious metals, and copper) indicates it could get worse before it gets better. On the other hand California recently banned bobcat trapping (all political against biologist recommendations with recent Cecil the lion news adding to the left leaning views) which will reduce the supply of quality western cats to the market by about 10%.

If you need assistance in attaining your cat goals for the study let me know and I may be able to help you depending on the time of year.

Steve Cherkas  
515-306-2592  
Johnston Iowa

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Bobcat season proposal  
**Date:** Friday, September 25, 2015 11:24:10 AM

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

From: brost [<mailto:jbrost@gwtc.net>]  
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 11:18 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Bobcat season proposal

I support the proposal as submitted by the game, fish & parks to the Commission to duplicate the same season dates and regulations as the past two seasons.

thank you

James Brost  
202 meadowlark dr  
Hot Springs, SD, 57747

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: bobcat season  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 3:54:42 PM

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**From:** harry mitchell [mailto:[wanesharose1@gmail.com](mailto:wanesharose1@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 2:54 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** bobcat season

would like season dates remain as last year. thank you, h.mitchell, hot springs, s.d.

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Bobcat season  
**Date:** Friday, September 18, 2015 7:53:04 AM

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**From:** jsbirdsall [mailto:jsbirdsall@goldenwest.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 6:56 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Bobcat season

I would like to say I am in favor of the gfp proposal to leave the bobcat season the same as last year.  
James Birdsall 28086 Angostura Rd. Hot Springs SD 57747

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Bobcat Season  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 10:05:53 AM

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**From:** ed wahlert [mailto:[edwyatt@live.com](mailto:edwyatt@live.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:26 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Bobcat Season

My name is Ed Wahlert and I think the Commission should support the proposed Bobcat Season submitted by the GF&P with No changes made from last year's season.

Ed Wahlert  
14071 E Howl Rd  
Oral, S.D. 57766

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Bobcat Trapping East and West River  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:47:54 AM

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**From:** Ray Maize [mailto:sdtrapr@mncomm.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 6:32 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Bobcat Trapping East and West River

Dear South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commissioners,

I support the proposed season of 2015-2016 of Bobcat Trapping West River to be the same as in the past two seasons. I also support the proposal of opening up the counties of Clay, Hughes, Hutchinson, Hyde and Union for East River trapping.

Thank You,  
Ray Maize  
Pierre, SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments upcoming meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 8:40:22 AM

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**From:** Dr Bob Woerman [mailto:drbobw@alliancecom.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 10:05 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Comments upcoming meeting

To Department of Game, Fish and Parks

From Dr. Bob Woerman  
204 Country Club Ave.  
Brandon, SD 57005  
Cell Phone: 605 941 0211

Comments:

Walleye rules and regulations: Visiting with several fishermen comments are all the same, "Make the Walleye regulations more uniform from one lake or stream to the next in South Dakota." Right now regulations are confusing and it is easy to make a mistake when keeping or releasing a Walleye.

Mountain Lion Hunting: Total number of Mountain Lions that can be killed is approaching the limit in the Black Hills. It is time to trim the kill numbers back or we will not have this resource in the Black Hills. You do not hear about lions as a nuisance like we did a few years ago.

Purchase and accrual of preference points: I am not familiar with the petitions described but I am in favor of accrual of preference points. For example I am 70 years old lifetime hunter and have quite a few preference points for a Custer State Park Elk License. Each year my odds are getting slightly better. Take away the preference points, I will never have the opportunity to hunt Custer State Park Elk.

Same is true for antelope hunting and deer hunting in certain counties. Preference points allow South Dakota residents opportunity to hunt.

Same is true for petitions about out of state water fowl hunters. Less South Dakota citizens have been hunting in recent years. A good reason for this is the SD citizen is shut out of land now used by out of state hunters. What best describes these hunters in many instances are corporate hunters. Corporations entertain clients by taking them hunting. These are not family hunts but big dollar hunts that South Dakota Citizens cannot compete with due to limited incomes compared to a corporation or affluent out of state group. The land owner is paid large sums of money from parties hunting or out of states lease hunting rights on the farm or ranch or perhaps have purchased real estate.

Keep preference points.

Limit out of state water fowl hunters by limiting out of state waterfowl permits.



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cougar Rewilding Foundation SDGF&P 2016 Mountain Lion Management comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:58:02 AM

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**From:** Christopher Spatz [mailto:spatzcat61@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 7:50 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Cougar Rewilding Foundation SDGF&P 2016 Mountain Lion Management comments

Regarding quotas/harvest limits pertaining to **South Dakota's** 2016 Mountain Lion Hunting Season

Position: Opposed

Dear Commissioners,

In SDGF&P's August 2012 commissioner meeting video reviewing revised mountain lion estimates and the proposed increase of hunting quotas, one commissioner notes that an indication of population decline is the failure to meet quotas. At the close of the 2015 mountain lion hunting season, 22 females from a harvest limit set at 50 *marked the sixth consecutive season* the female harvest limit/quota had not been reached. The total mountain lion take of 43 was short by 32 of the limit set at 75, *marking the third consecutive season* in which the total limit was not reached. 6 years and 3. While SDGF&P biologists have attributed the declining harvests recently to poor tracking conditions, the August 2015 Mountain Lion Management and Season Recommendation video notes that the population is indeed "trending down." How else to interpret failing to meet quotas/harvests limits for 6 years and 3, especially when they are consecutively undershot by as much as 56%, as they were in 2015?

Mr. Kanta notes in the August 2015 presentation to the Commissioners that not only are hunters finding sign of fewer mountain lions on the landscape, but hunters are now commenting that the 2010 - 2015 SDGF&P Mountain Lion Management Plan has been far too effective at reducing the population. Hunters are concerned for the very viability of mountain lions in the Black Hills. "We need to back off," says Mr. Kanta, "die-hard hunters are saying be careful, we don't want to lose this resource."

The Commissioners have chosen not to heed cougar biologists and cougar advocates recommending best-practice, peer-reviewed hunting protocols. The Commissioners have chosen not to heed SDGF&P polls showing a majority of South Dakota citizens and Black Hills residents who wished for no reduction in South Dakota's mountain lion population. Will the Commissioners listen then to your primary constituents, hunters?

The proposed quota/harvest limit reductions for 2016 of 60 total and 40 females continues the trend in unsustainable mountain lion harvests. SDGF&P considered but rejected Washington State University's peer-reviewed research findings that over-harvest disrupts mountain lion social order, and that a 14% take matching the reproduction rate is the established harvest rate to ensure both pet, livestock and human safety, and for population sustainability.

Representing our board of directors and members, and every taxpayer of the United States who own the Black Hills National Forest, the Cougar Rewilding Foundation recommends that the commissioners reject the proposed

mountain lion harvest limit for 2016 and permanently adopt Washington State University's harvest threshold of 14% of the total population estimate.

Respectively submitted,

Christopher Spatz  
President  
Cougar Rewilding Foundation

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Deer tag preference points.  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 11:54:38 AM

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**From:** Aaron Rost [mailto:rost.aaron@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 11:46 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** RE: Deer tag preference points.

May i please get a response. Just curious is all.

Aaron Rost

On Sep 10, 2015, 7:33:50 AM, Aaron Rost wrote:

To whom it concerns. Was curious as to why u now have to buy preference points?  
? This is gonna really hurt the hunters that dont have a lot if money to be throwing  
away!! People wonder why hunting is not as good as it used to be with number of  
hunters. This is one example. I am not enthused that now we have to buy  
oreference points and compete with the wealthy!! Not sure what was wrong with the  
old way that was fair to ALL HUNTERS!!

Aaron Rost

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: fee increases  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 2:21:44 PM

---

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

From: Dana DeWitt [<mailto:ddeWitt@mtmc.edu>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 2:15 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: fee increases

Dana C. De Witt  
503 James Place  
Yankton, SD 57078

Dear Commission Members,

I would like to point out that real income has either gone down or been flat for the last 7 years. Taxes and fees keep going up and despite the fact that they are regressive. The poorer a person is the less opportunity they have to participate in outdoor adventures. Maybe people want it that way, I hope not. Thank you for your good work.

Sincerely,  
Dana C. De Witt

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Hunting Mountain Lions  
**Date:** Thursday, August 20, 2015 8:17:37 AM

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**From:** ellyn [mailto:ellynrae@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 10:50 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Hunting Mountain Lions

To the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission,

I think you should stop hunting mountain lions for one season. The population has been decimated by your allowing so many of the shy reclusive cats to be slaughtered, which is why your bounty hunters can't find them.

And \$121 for a permit? Why bother? Do you think the lives of these top-of-the-food-chain predators is worth nothing, as evidenced by your willingness to let hunters use dogs now, too??

If you canceled one hunting season, who would be mad? I'm guessing the ranchers and the gun lobby, right? I hope you can stand up to such pressure, and do the right thing for these beautiful cats who need our protection.

Thank you for listening and at a minimum do not allow the cats to be hunted with dogs. Too barbaric and awful to even think about.

Respectfully,  
Ellyn Berner  
Mountain View, CA

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: I AM OPPOSED TO NON-RESIDENTS HUNTING MOUNTAIN LIONS IN SD  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 12:36:16 PM

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

From: Evelyn Hyde [<mailto:dchye@pie.midco.net>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 12:22 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: I AM OPPOSED TO NON-RESIDENTS HUNTING MOUNTAIN LIONS IN SD

I AM OPPOSED TO NON RESIDENTS HUNTING MOUNTAIN LIONS IN SOUTH DAKOTA!

IF MORE MOUNTAIN LIONS NEED TO BE HARVESTED, INCREASE THE NUMBER ALLOWED TO BE TAKEN!

Respectfully,

Dean A Hyde

703 N Madison  
Pierre, SD 57501

tel# (605) 224-5443

PS: This will open the door to guided hunts with dogs and everything associated with non sporting harvests.

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: I wish the bobcat season to remain the same with n...  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:03:37 AM

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

From: 6053906990@vtext.com [<mailto:6053906990@vtext.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 9:58 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: I wish the bobcat season to remain the same with n...

I wish the bobcat season to remain the same with no changes from last year. Thank You Terry March  
27938 knappie road, Hot Springs SD, 57747

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: input to GF&P meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:48:53 PM

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**From:** Chip O'Malley [mailto:chipo@itctel.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:44 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** input to GF&P meeting

1. What are you going to do about all the atv traffic running most the elk out of South Dakota black hills into Wyoming. I was told there are less than 3000 elk in the hills right now and over 8000 in Wyoming black hills. Your own biologists have attributed this to atv traffic.

2. I live in lake county and I would like to thank you for the great job your doing managing our migratory birds. I gravel township roads for a job. The last week I have seen thousands if not hundreds of thousands of comorrants and pelicans. I saw only 3 canadian geese. Between the gf&p destroying the nest and the farmers legally and illegally shooting all the adults and young we no longer have a viable hunting population. You are killing off our game birds because they destroy a small amount of crops which could be managed and protecting non game birds that are desemating lakes and streams by eating millions of fish every year. This also could br managed by having a season on comorrants which was approved by the US fish & wildlife and turn down by you (GF&P).

Chip O'Malley  
Wentworth, SD. 57075

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: kill the cats  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 10:42:52 AM

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

From: Kampa [<mailto:kampa@nvc.net>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 10:39 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: kill the cats

you should make mountain lion season open for dogs and up the quota

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Lion hunting quota  
**Date:** Monday, August 31, 2015 1:46:06 PM

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**From:** Diane Welsh [mailto:welshd7@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2015 1:38 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Lion hunting quota

Dear Commission,

I know solely by my correspondence, the Mountain Lion hunt will not end, but I am asking for your sincere consideration to grossly reducing the planned numbers of allowable kills. I realize you are proposing a reduced number already, but lower numbers would be even more in line of reasonable. These animals are a major part of the eco balance and disruption of that balance will cause an increase of rodent populations and carion across the state. The hunters should also be responsible and accurate hunters so any animal injured will not be abandoned to suffer until its last breath. Your consideration to these aspects is most graciously appreciated. Thank you.

Diane Welsh

speaking on behalf of my page- Passion For Wolves, concerned with all wildlife and our ecosystem.

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: lion season  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:03:44 AM

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**From:** Jorgensen, Brian L [mailto:BJORGENS@amfam.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 4:16 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** lion season

WE do not need to open this up to non-residents. We are restricting the residents enough on this, why would we allow more non-residents to the mix.

Leave it the way it is.

Thanks,

Brian Jorgensen  
Aberdeen, sd

American Family Insurance Company | American Family Life Insurance Company | American Family Mutual Insurance Company | American Standard Insurance Company of Ohio | American Standard Insurance Company of Wisconsin | Midvale Indemnity Company | Home Office - 6000 American Parkway | Madison, WI 53783

\*If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete this e-mail, any attachments and all copies.

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Lion Season  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:38:57 AM

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**From:** [djlove@gwtc.net](mailto:djlove@gwtc.net) [mailto:[djlove@gwtc.net](mailto:djlove@gwtc.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 7:17 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Lion Season

To: Commissioners; SD Game Fish and Parks

From: David R. Love Ret. L.E.

Subject: Comments on lion season

How difficult it is to write to you commissioners knowing that your decisions are already set and no amount of reason, logic, science, compassion, common sense or respect for the Creator can sway you. And this pathetic state of affairs will continue until you commissioners are replaced by people who are not hunters and ranchers or beholden to those two groups; by people who have the intelligence and moral attributes that you all lack.

Your comments to the contrary, it seems clear that you are well on your way to eradicating mountain lions from the Black Hills and the state for the 2nd time. How proud you must be to have and exercise such power. You are all contemptible.

So, for what it is worth, I am against setting the season for two years, I am against the use of hounds anywhere, I am against the idea of letting people from out of state hunt SD lions, and if they must, then the tag should be no less than \$500.. I am against the "harvest" (what a despicable term) numbers which are far too high to insure a healthy population (but, of course, that is what you are aiming at), and I am against the whole concept and practice of killing lions in the prairie unit.

You are catering to hunters who are totally selfish and ranchers who are ignorant, backward, fools. You are overseeing the destruction of a beautiful creature which has a beneficial part of the ecology of the Black Hills and for no good reason other than because you can and

want to. You have no shame.

Sincerely,

David R. Love

12166 Silver Star Drive

Custer, S.D. 57730

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Lion season/quota  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:07:11 AM

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

From: Tim Goodwin [<mailto:tgoodwin1955@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 4:48 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Lion season/quota

In regard to upcoming Lion Season, I make the following recommendations:

1. Keep dates of season from Dec 26 to March 31.
2. Keep Quota the same 75 Lions or 50 Females whichever comes first.
3. Do not allow dogs in Black Hills Forrest District keeping this a foot season for any hunter to attempt his skills.

Last years season was very difficult as there was virtually no snow of any tracking depth to hunt in from Jan2015 thru March2015.

Lion kills go up when there's snow!!

Sincerely,

Timothy R Goodwin  
12870 J Pine Road  
Rapid City SD 57702  
Ph 605-390-5324  
[tgoodwin1955@gmail.com](mailto:tgoodwin1955@gmail.com)  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Lions  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:37:55 AM

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**From:** Gardner Gray [mailto:gb.gray@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 4:20 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Lions

Dear Sirs:

Regarding the lion hunt season for the next two years, allow me to make some observations and comments.

1. I Object to licenses being sold to as many as 250 out-of-state folks for only \$121 dollars per each. I especially object to out-of-state hunters being allowed to hunt on the prairie unit, which means out-of-state folks can hunt with hounds.

2. I especially object to Commission's January 2015 approval of hound hunt on the prairie -- which allows such hound hunt for 365 days of the year on private land and on some public lands.

3. I object to the 60 lion harvest "cap" as too aggressive, especially as it is being set for two years. At this rate, you might as well admit your true goal and announce total removal despite the importance of a cornerstone species

4. I object to extension of the SD Mountain Lion Management Plan for 2 more years.

5. I object to the 365-day, unlimited season on the Prairie Unit.

6. I object to the hunt in-toto on the basis that your figures and plans are not based on science or the need for a healthy lion survival program. Your numbers are unsustainable and therefore illogical, unnecessary and based on the desires of a few hunters to kill for sport rather than any kind of safety issues.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gardner Gray  
PO Box 153  
Pringle, SD 57773  
605 673 3730

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mountain Lion / Non Resident Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:06:23 AM

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**From:** Dan Thayer [mailto:[danthayer@hotmail.com](mailto:danthayer@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 4:30 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Mountain Lion / Non Resident Proposal

I understand there is a move afoot to let non-residents in to hunt mountain lions. Why would anyone propose this when there is a move to cut back on the number of resident tags? The system is working fine and a sound management program is in place, I suspect this is all about more dollars for non-resident licenses and likely more dollars in the pockets of professional guides. If you are cutting back on resident licenses and allowing non-residents in, seems like it speaks for itself! I am opposed to any non-resident access.

Thank you

Dan Thayer  
127257 West Bridge Rd  
Aberdeen, SD 57401

**From:** [Kiel, Emily](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#); [Simpson, Scott \(GFP\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mountain Lion Hunting - Comment period ending Oct 1  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 8:28:15 AM

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**Emily Kiel** | *Communications Manager*  
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks  
523 East Capitol Avenue | Pierre, SD 57501  
605.773.3904 | [Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us](mailto:Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us)



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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 8:01 AM  
**To:** Kiel, Emily  
**Subject:** FW: Mountain Lion Hunting - Comment period ending Oct 1

**From:** Pamela Williams [<mailto:3blackdog9@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 8:45 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Mountain Lion Hunting - Comment period ending Oct 1

I oppose all hunting with hounds and ask that you enact permanent prohibitions. Please do NOT expand hound hunting in Custer State Park.

I ask that you eliminate mountain lion hunting. There is no excuse for recreational killing, and few if any people consume mountain lion flesh. South Dakota doesn't need to declare itself a heartless place where wildlife is cruelly killed to give someone a thrill.

Please show mercy to these shy, beautiful, rare animals.

Thank you.

Pamela Williams  
2418 Jean  
Boise, ID 83705  
[3blackdog9@gmail.com](mailto:3blackdog9@gmail.com)

**From:** [Kiel, Emily](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#); [Simpson, Scott \(GFP\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mountain lion hunting  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 8:28:10 AM

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**Emily Kiel** | *Communications Manager*  
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks  
523 East Capitol Avenue | Pierre, SD 57501  
605.773.3904 | [Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us](mailto:Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us)



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**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 8:01 AM  
**To:** Kiel, Emily  
**Subject:** FW: Mountain lion hunting

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**From:** jenna brager [<mailto:ainajaye@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 2:01 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Mountain lion hunting

To Whom it May Concern:

It has come to my attention that you are allowing the legal hunting of mountain lions and are in fact setting quotas. This is an extremely outdated practice. It is common knowledge in this era that mountain lions, as top predators, are an essential part of a healthy ecosystem. All animals and plant species, as well as humans, depend on healthy ecosystems for survival.

There is absolutely no need to manage mountain lion populations. As a top predator, their population manages itself and also is crucial for maintaining healthy populations of prey species. By allowing hunting of top predators such as mountain lions, you are jeopardizing the health of the entire ecosystem, including human survival.

Please wake up to these facts. Mountain lions are a threatened species - they must be protected from hunting, therefore hunting should certainly not be encouraged or allowed.

With all due respect for your life and the lives of mountain lions across North America,

Jenna Brager  
Nevada City, California

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mountain Lion hunting  
**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2015 3:47:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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**From:** Malcomb, Pat D. [mailto:[Pat.Malcomb@spartanmotors.com](mailto:Pat.Malcomb@spartanmotors.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 2:48 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Mountain Lion hunting

I was reading the public comments on this issue and just had to write in. Most of the negative comments were from out of state people that have no interest in South Dakota what so ever, they are just all anti hunting and there is no reasoning with them so I wont even try. Then you have the Humane society sending in the same E-Mail with mostly fictional people to try a persuade you from doing the right thing, I am sure you will see right through the scheme. I would propose that the state captures and sends a SD mountain lion to anyone who wants to stop the hunt, this would be a win win as we could reduce the numbers without hunting, and the anti-hunters get to save and take care of a mountain lion, who knows maybe those cute lions would make a good pet.

Thanks for listening Pat Malcomb  
3016 E 21<sup>st</sup> Sioux falls

**Pat Malcomb**

Engineering Plumbing Liaison  
Emergency Response

**CELL** 605-323-7761

**EMAIL** [Pat.Malcomb@spartanmotors.com](mailto:Pat.Malcomb@spartanmotors.com)

**WEB** [www.spartaner.com](http://www.spartaner.com)



**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mountain Lion Hunting  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:08:41 AM

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**From:** ray malphrus [mailto:malphrusr@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 2:45 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Mountain Lion Hunting

Please stop the Mountain Lion Hunting. I've hunted most of my life but see no need to kill such a beautiful creature as a mountain lion.

Thank You

Ray Malphrus  
Simi Valley, Ca.

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mountain lion season  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 3:51:05 PM

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**From:** [djlove@gwtc.net](mailto:djlove@gwtc.net) [mailto:[djlove@gwtc.net](mailto:djlove@gwtc.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 2:35 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Mountain lion season

Dear Commissioners,

Like many other South Dakotas I choose to live in this state because of its abundance of natural beauty. More than anything else I enjoy watching wildlife in its parks and national forests. Along with some of the prominent cougar experts who have been keeping track of the state's lion management program, I am concerned that these beautiful animals once again are being extirpated here. I believe that the number of cats to be taken in the next hunting season should be reduced, and I oppose any plan that would allow non-residents to hunt lions here.

Sincerely,

Judy Love,

Custer

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mt lion non resident  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:06:46 AM

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

From: Rod Sather [<mailto:bison@gwtc.net>]  
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 4:42 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Mt lion non resident

I think is a good idea.  
Rod Sather , vivian,sd

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mt Lion Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:05:56 AM

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

From: Joe.arbachins [<mailto:joe.arbachins@venturecomm.net>]  
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 4:23 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Mt Lion Proposal

Please do not allow out of state hunters. I am still trying to get a lion.  
Sincerely,  
Joe Arbach  
14384 320th Ave  
Hoven SD 57450

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mt. Lions & non-resident opportunity  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:07:43 AM

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**From:** Scott Hed [mailto:scotthed@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 6:28 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Mt. Lions & non-resident opportunity

Thank you for considering my comments.

South Dakota's mountain lion seasons have been backed by scientific data, and the take has been conservatively managed. The lion seasons have been deemed successful, and the opportunity to hunt these big cats should be a sustainable one for South Dakota hunters.

Why would we want to increase the number of overall tags, when the current way of doing businesses seems to be working just fine?

Why would that increase come at the expense of South Dakota resident hunters, whose numbers would be cut, and simultaneously change policy to allow non-resident hunters?

While I don't hunt mountain lions personally, I do support my fellow South Dakota resident hunters, whom I believe ought to continue their opportunity while not losing that opportunity to non-resident hunters.

Thank you again.

Scott Hed  
Sioux Falls

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: n res mountain lion season  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 2:02:44 PM

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**From:** tma@midconetwork.com [mailto:tma@midconetwork.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 1:56 PM  
**To:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Subject:** n res mountain lion season

please count my vote as a no. john henderson 1101 westwood dr pierre sd 57501

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: No Out of state licenses for Mt. Lions  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 2:06:27 PM  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Widman Financial [mailto:widmanfinancial@swiftel.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 12:58 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** No Out of state licenses for Mt. Lions  
**Importance:** High

The SDWF is against issuing out of state licenses for Mt. Lions. We feel the lion numbers are too low to also support out of state hunters, and that out of state licenses will promote more commercialization -which will eventually lead to including hounds.

South Dakotan residents should be the only folks allowed to hunt this trophy animal.

thanks,  
Rich Widman  
President  
SDWF

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Non resident lion hunt.  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:13:28 AM

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

From: Bruce Mair [<mailto:bruce.mair1@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 4:03 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Non resident lion hunt.

It just boggles my mind that South Dakota would even consider opening lion hunting to nonresidents. It makes absolutely no sense to cut back on South Dakota licenses and then turn around and open it up to nonresidents. It makes us wonder who you actually represent. Please don't even consider allowing nonresidents to hunt lions in South Dakota.

Bruce Mair  
Sioux Falls  
Member SDWF

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Non Resident Lion Season  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:08:58 AM

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**From:** Steve [mailto:sacherkas@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 4:32 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Non Resident Lion Season

As a non-resident land owner I look forward to an opportunity to hunt mountain lions. I have a nice big male showing up regularly on my trail camera. He seems to have thinned down the mule deer population quite a bit this year.

Are you on track to finalize this at the next meeting so that the first season will be this coming Dec 15 - Mar 16?

Steve Cherkas  
Johnston, Iowa

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Non resident mountain lion hunting  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:03:20 AM

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

From: pie.midco.net, jengbrecht  
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 4:05 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Non resident mountain lion hunting

Please do not allow non residents to hunt mountain lions here in South Dakota. It is a huge privilege to hunt these great animals and it should be only residents to get that chance.

Jason Engbrecht

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Non resident mountain lion licenses.  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 12:22:55 PM

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

From: Terry Harmel [<mailto:harmelt@icloud.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 12:16 PM  
To: Miller, LouAnn  
Subject: Re: Non resident mountain lion licenses.

Terry Harmel  
1336 South Lake Drive  
wAtertown, SD

Sent from my iPad

> On Sep 29, 2015, at 9:13 AM, Miller, LouAnn <LouAnn.Miller@state.sd.us> wrote:  
>  
> I have received your comment below and in order to include in the public hearing minutes, please  
reply with your first name, last name, city, and state.

>  
> Thank you  
> LouAnn Miller  
> SD Game Fish & Parks  
> Phone number 605-223-7660  
>  
>  
>  
>

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

> From: Terry Harmel [<mailto:harmelt@icloud.com>]  
> Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:32 AM  
> To: GFP Wild Info  
> Subject: Non resident mountain lion licenses.

>  
>  
> Vote No on allowing non resident lion hunting. Thankyou.  
> Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Non Resident Mountain Lion Season  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:09:40 AM

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**From:** Jim Twamley [mailto:jim.twamley1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 8:06 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Non Resident Mountain Lion Season

Please do not approve of expanding the existing Mountain Lion Season to non residents. The current program is meeting the goals of the Department and provides residents with the opportunity to harvest a truly unique animal.

If the Department wishes to increase the harvest numbers that could be accomplished by reopening the season during the Black hills Deer seasons.

JIM Twamley  
PO Box 641  
Parker, SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Nonresident Mountain License Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 9:14:36 AM

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**From:** Curt Tesch [mailto:[curtaps@venturecomm.net](mailto:curtaps@venturecomm.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:33 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Nonresident Mountain License Proposal

I do not understand how you can consider opening up mountain lion hunting to nonresidents when at the same time you are reducing the chances of resident hunters by reducing license quotas. If reducing the quotas is appropriate, please do so but do not open the state up to more nonresident hunting.

Curt Tesch  
Associated Production Services  
10527 469TH AV  
Rosholt, SD 57260  
605-537-4565  
[curtaps@venturecomm.net](mailto:curtaps@venturecomm.net)  
<http://www.manaonline.org/member/associatedproductionservices>

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Non-resident Mt. Lion Season  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 10:02:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)

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**From:** John and Tammy [<mailto:tj.morgen@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 9:39 AM  
**To:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Subject:** RE: Non-resident Mt. Lion Season

May I also add, there are many other states that have a larger and more sustainable lion population that offer lion hunting opportunities to non-residents. Thanks again for your consideration.

John Morgenstern  
Rapid City, SD

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn [<mailto:LouAnn.Miller@state.sd.us>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 7:11 AM  
**To:** 'John and Tammy'  
**Subject:** RE: Non-resident Mt. Lion Season

I have received your comment below and in order to include in the public hearing minutes, please reply with your first name, last name, city, and state.

Thank you  
LouAnn Miller  
SD Game Fish & Parks  
Phone number 605-223-7660



---

**From:** John and Tammy [<mailto:tj.morgen@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 9:04 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Non-resident Mt. Lion Season

Please, DO NOT open the SD mountain lion season to non-residents. It is apparent the lion population is not as robust as previously thought since the number of lions being taken has been going down and the number of permits is being reduced. Why would we want to allow non-resident lion hunting when the opportunity for residents is being reduced? Certainly the limited number of non-resident tags would not be a financial boom for GF&P. Let's keep our lions for our residents. Thank you for your consideration.

John Morgenstern  
SD Resident

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Non-resident Waterfowl licenses  
**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2015 9:25:06 AM

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**From:** Brian Lomica [mailto:brian.lomica@fbfs.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 7:44 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Cc:** Johnson, Rich (rich.johnson@mercerc.com); Shannon, Brent (BRENT.SHANNON@LibertyMutual.com)  
**Subject:** Non-resident Waterfowl licenses

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to encourage the state of South Dakota Fish and Game to increase the number of Non-resident waterfowl licenses that are available each and every year. My father owns the family farm, near Kimball, in which he grew up on and I spent countless days on the farm in my youth. I have hunted in South Dakota for the last 40 years and consider it the best days of my hunting. It is discouraging when you are unsuccessful in the annual application process and I am unable to spend time at the family farm hunting waterfowl in the fall.

I appreciate your time and consideration and again encourage the state of South Dakota to improve the non-resident hunting opportunities.

Brian Lomica  
P & C Quality Assurance Auditor  
Claims Administration  
Farm Bureau Financial Services  
FBL Financial Group, Inc.  
Ph: 515-226-6750

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**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: nonresident waterfowl  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 10:42:28 AM

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**From:** Matt Owens, MD [mailto:matt.owens@redfieldcmh.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 10:41 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** nonresident waterfowl

Matthew Owens  
Redfield SD  
38747 176<sup>th</sup> strt

I am opposed to any expansion of NonResident waterfowl licenses/access.

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Non-residents and Mt. Lions  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 10:23:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)

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**From:** kotajake@reagan.com [mailto:kotajake@reagan.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 10:11 AM  
**To:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Subject:** RE: Non-residents and Mt. Lions

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

**From:** "Miller, LouAnn" <[LouAnn.Miller@state.sd.us](mailto:LouAnn.Miller@state.sd.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 10:07am  
**To:** "kotajake@reagan.com" <[kotajake@reagan.com](mailto:kotajake@reagan.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Non-residents and Mt. Lions

I have received your comment below and in order to include in the public hearing minutes, please reply with your first name, last name, city, and state.

Thank you  
LouAnn Miller  
SD Game Fish & Parks  
Phone number 605-223-7660



**From:** [kotajake@reagan.com](mailto:kotajake@reagan.com) [mailto:kotajake@reagan.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 9:57 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Non-residents and Mt. Lions

Leave the lion season to the residents. Start bring in the non-residents and they will want us to allow them to bring in dogs to hunt lions. I think the residents do a good job of keeping the lion population in check. I hunt behind Piedmont and around Nemo and I have noticed since the lion season started is the increase in Elk and deer in those areas again.

Thank You

Jerome Besler  
Piedmont, SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: October Commission Meeting - Non Resident License Petition  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 2:21:06 PM

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**From:** Mitchell Reuss [mailto:mitch.reuss@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 2:13 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** October Commission Meeting - Non Resident License Petition

I am writing this email in regards to a petition listed on the October meeting agenda. It has been made overwhelmingly clear that the majority of resident and non resident hunters are vehemently opposed to any changes in the current allocation of non resident waterfowl licenses. To spend further consideration on this matter is an absolute waste of the commission's time given the amount of effort that was put forth studying this issue over the past 6 months. This petition is clearly just another attempt by commercial interests to change policy solely to fatten their wallets.

Mitchell Reuss  
Sioux Falls, SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: out of state hunters  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 10:05:32 AM

---

**From:** Judy Carroll [mailto:[judy.carroll@redfieldcmh.org](mailto:judy.carroll@redfieldcmh.org)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:14 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** out of state hunters

Good morning.

I'm writing in support of welcoming out of state hunters to our state of South Dakota. I believe the economy benefits greatly from their days they spend in South Dakota. South Dakota has a lot to offer the hunters and their families when they are visiting. The friendships and lasting relationship that have developed over the years are irreplaceable.

Please open up our state and arms and "WELCOME" the hunters and families to our great state of South Dakota!

Thank you.

*Judy Carroll*  
*Administrative Assistant*



**Community Memorial Hospital**

111 West 10th Ave  
Redfield SD 57469  
605-472-1110  
605-472-0331(fax)  
[judy.carroll@redfieldcmh.org](mailto:judy.carroll@redfieldcmh.org)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please Help Save the Lives of Mountain Lions  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:49:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)

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**From:** valeria999v [mailto:valeria999v@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:32 AM  
**To:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Cc:** Leslie  
**Subject:** RE: Please Help Save the Lives of Mountain Lions

Thank *you*, Ms. Miller. Here, as per your request, is my essential info:

**Leslie Williams**  
**El Cajon, California**

I have received your comment below and in order to include in the public hearing minutes, please reply with your first name, last name, city, and state.

Thank you  
LouAnn Miller  
SD Game Fish & Parks  
Phone number 605-223-7660



\* \* \*

To Whom it May Concern at the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks,

I understand that you are in the process of deciding whether or not to make changes to mountain lion hunting policies in South Dakota. I'm glad you are considering lowering the quota - which would be a step in the right direction. But if you are also allowing out of state visitors to hunt lions, please consider the following:

•

- Allowing out of state hunters will commercialize South Dakota's wildlife, over-exploiting an extremely limited natural resource.
- A few hunting guides may get rich from allowing nonresident hunting, at the expense of South Dakota residents and local hunters.
- Sport hunting increases conflicts for local residents through increased depredation and potentially dangerous encounters with young transient lions.
- Ideally,
  - - All mountain lion hunting should be stopped until we know the health of the lion breeding population in South Dakota, and the health of the populations in neighboring states expected to provide dispersing lions into South Dakota.

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

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter,

Sincerely,  
Leslie Ann Williams

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](mailto:Miller, LouAnn)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](mailto:Comes, Rachel)  
**Subject:** FW: Please think carefully on this limit. Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:12:43 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 10:35 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Please think carefully on this limit. Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 28, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

I believe way too many of our mountain lions are being killed every year. And every year it has taken longer & longer to reach the limit on kills, which tells me they are getting scarce again. Manage our mountain lions with science not guns. I also believe there is no way to actually count these lions accurately & it is too easy to inflate the count to appease hunters and make the limit higher. I, for one, am sick of the killing of our wildlife. Who made us the judge and jury to decide how many live & how many die.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Teresa Hicks  
4590 N Elk Vale Rd  
Rapid City, SD 57701-8514  
(605) 390-1278  
[kindredspirits3@gmail.com](mailto:kindredspirits3@gmail.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed bobcat season changes - game commission  
**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2015 7:56:15 AM

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**From:** Ted Wick [mailto:[wick@gwtc.net](mailto:wick@gwtc.net)]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2015 9:47 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Proposed bobcat season changes - game commission

Dear sirs:

I respectfully request that no changes be made to the SD bobcat trapping season. The increased running of hounds risks the potential of accidental bobcat depredation, in particular of kittens during the young bobcat season. Please accept the SDGF&P proposal to continue the trapping season dates and regulations the same as the past two seasons.

Sincerely,  
Roland T Wick

28023 Cascade Road  
Hot Springs, SD 57747  
605 745 4164  
[wick@gwtc.net](mailto:wick@gwtc.net)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, August 03, 2015 10:27:30 AM

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**From:** Chris Holmes [mailto:[chris-sd@hotmail.com](mailto:chris-sd@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 02, 2015 10:06 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Hello, GFP,

I would like to see a proposal to suspend pheasant hunting on public lands only during opening weekend of rifle deer season. Or, at least, the East River Deer Season Opener. I am an avid hunter who hunts primarily on public lands. I have found it increasingly difficult to hunt deer on public lands due to the presence of pheasant hunters and dogs. I spend a lot of time scouting, sitting and watching different wildlife. I am usually fairly certain of where the whitetail I am after will be on opening day; and I am always in my blind at least an hour before daylight. Nothing is more discouraging than putting all that work into harvesting an animal only to have it ruined by 20 jackasses with 7 dogs and out-of-state plates!

There is also the safety aspect of having one group of hunters with high-powered rifles having to constantly watch-out for the pheasant hunting groups that don't seem to understand when they are actually in harm's way. Having too many hunters in the field also contributes greatly to "road hunting" of deer. I have heard the comment made time and time again that: "if you don't have private land to hunt, you don't have a chance." Although I have proven that statement wrong, I also have to walk 3/4 of a mile back into a dog-leg section of public land, sit on the back side of a slough, and be in my stand before daylight just to escape the presence of pheasant hunters. I talked with an older gentleman last year late in the season who was not having much luck. I offered that he could hunt in my spot (since I had already harvested a deer.) But, when I showed him where it was on the walk-in map, he declined. Simply saying: "there's no way I can walk in that far" Now, why shouldn't he have the same opportunity that I do? Why should we have to hide a mile back into public land just for the opportunity to shoot a deer?

All I am asking for is two days that we might hunt deer in a more sportsman-like (and safe) manner.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Chris Holmes  
P.O. Box 132

Hosmer, SD 57448

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Re:  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:36:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)

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**From:** Ron Binger [mailto:[ronbjeanb@gmail.com](mailto:ronbjeanb@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 10:32 PM  
**To:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Subject:** Re:

Ron Binger  
Lake City, South Dakota

On Tue, Sep 29, 2015 at 9:00 AM, Miller, LouAnn <[LouAnn.Miller@state.sd.us](mailto:LouAnn.Miller@state.sd.us)> wrote:  
I have received your comment below and in order to include in the public hearing minutes, please reply with your first name, last name, city, and state.

Thank you  
LouAnn Miller  
SD Game Fish & Parks  
Phone number [605-223-7660](tel:605-223-7660)



**From:** Ron Binger [mailto:[ronbjeanb@gmail.com](mailto:ronbjeanb@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 5:33 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:**

I would recommend that non-residents are not able to get a SD Mt Lion tag. I feel these tags should all be give to the residents of the state.  
Ron Binger

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: second season deer hunting  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 9:02:29 AM

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**From:** Janel Brandt [mailto:[whirlwind@venturecomm.net](mailto:whirlwind@venturecomm.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2015 8:58 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** second season deer hunting

I am writing to express my opinion on the removal of the second season of antlerless deer hunting. Think of all the college kids that have to travel quite a distance to hunt on parents or grandparents land. The second season is during their Christmas vacation and some times especially depending on the weather, that is the only time they are able to hunt. Usually these kids travel and arrive home late on a Friday night, have Saturday to hunt and have to travel back again on Sunday. The competition with the pheasant hunters is pretty high in the earlier part of the first deer season. Deer are agitated and nervous after being chased out of their CRP and tree belts day after day and week after week. During that second season, the pheasant hunting usually slows somewhat and deer seem more relaxed, and go back to their favorite spots again. I thank you for listening to my opinion on this matter. I sent a similar email but did not include all of the information that you requested sorry. Todd A. Brandt from Bowdle, SD



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Stop Killing Mountain Lions!  
**Date:** Thursday, August 20, 2015 7:59:33 AM

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

From: itsedh@softcom.net [<mailto:itsedh@softcom.net>]  
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 7:06 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Stop Killing Mountain Lions!

Please stop killing mountain lions to meet someone's (hunters') expectation of a kill.  
Let them learn to do without that manly trophy.  
Let Nature's top of the hill animals live their lives in peace, not murder.  
Respectfully,

Edh Stanley  
Sacramento, CA

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Stop!  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:17:41 AM

---

**From:** mikki terzian [mailto:mikki.terzian@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:16 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Stop!

Stop hunting mountain lions! They provide a service to our world that humans cannot.

Mikki Terzian

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Trapping regulations  
**Date:** Friday, September 18, 2015 2:03:21 PM

---

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

From: JeanOwen [<mailto:jomeadows65@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 1:44 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Trapping regulations

Please leave trapping regulations , as proposed, unchanged.

Owen Meadows  
Box 423 Hot Springs, S.D. 57747

605 890 0181

**From:** [Kiel, Emily](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: HSUS mountain lion comments  
**Date:** Friday, September 25, 2015 4:23:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [39402E7A-07A2-4FD3-93A1-48F70DEC33E71201.png](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)  
[HSUS-SD-LowerQuotas.pdf](#)  
[ATT00002.htm](#)

---

For public comment.

Emily Kiel  
605.222.0277  
[Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us](mailto:Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Kanta, John" <[John.Kanta@state.sd.us](mailto:John.Kanta@state.sd.us)>  
**To:** "Kirschenmann, Tom" <[Tom.Kirschenmann@state.sd.us](mailto:Tom.Kirschenmann@state.sd.us)>, "Switzer, Chad" <[Chad.Switzer@state.sd.us](mailto:Chad.Switzer@state.sd.us)>, "Lindbloom, Andy" <[Andy.Lindbloom@state.sd.us](mailto:Andy.Lindbloom@state.sd.us)>, "Kintigh, Mike" <[Mike.Kintigh@state.sd.us](mailto:Mike.Kintigh@state.sd.us)>, "Kiel, Emily" <[Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us](mailto:Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject:** **FW: HSUS mountain lion comments**

FYI - I assume they sent this in for comment, but wanted to be sure,

John Kanta  
Regional Wildlife Manager  
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks  
4130 Adventure Trail  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
(605) 394-2391

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

From: Wendy Keefover [<mailto:wkeefover@humanesociety.org>]  
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 2:48 PM  
To: Kanta, John  
Subject: HSUS mountain lion comments

Hi John,

I wanted to reach out to you and send you our comments.

Although we are not in 100% agreement with the GFP position (we think the harvest limits should be further lowered), I want to say how much I appreciate your cordial and professional manner.

Thank you and have a great weekend!

Cheers,

Wendy

Wendy Keefover

Native Carnivore Protection Manager, Wildlife Protection  
[wkeefover@humanesociety.org](mailto:wkeefover@humanesociety.org) T 240-428-9025

The Humane Society of the United States  
2100 L Street NW Washington, DC 20037  
[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org) <[umanesociety.org](mailto:umanesociety.org)>

Join Our Email List Facebook Twitter  
Blog <<http://hsus.typepad.com/wayne/>>

[cid:C21B0136-2A6E-4D0E-A92A-7DF4BA2C7134]



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September 25, 2015

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

**Re: Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*) Trophy Hunting**

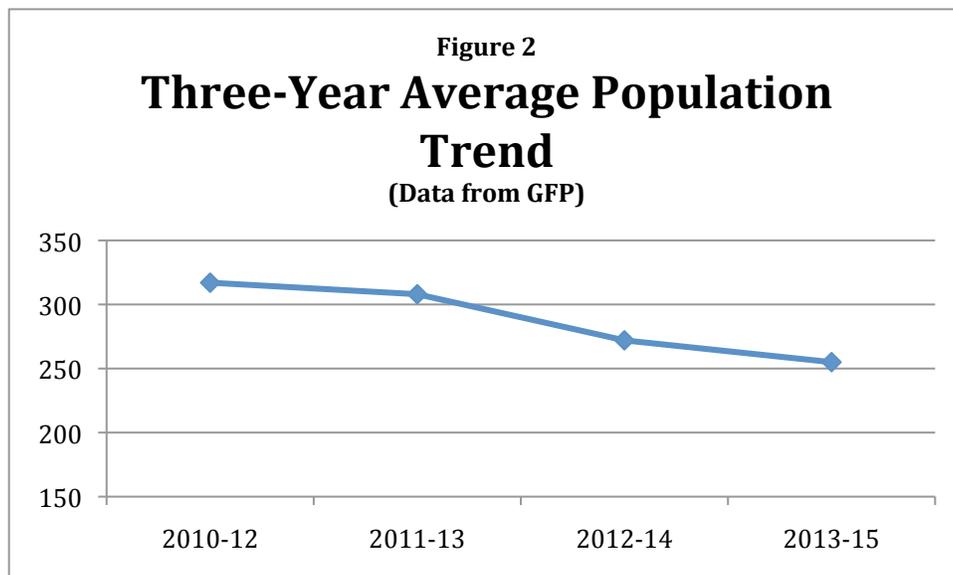
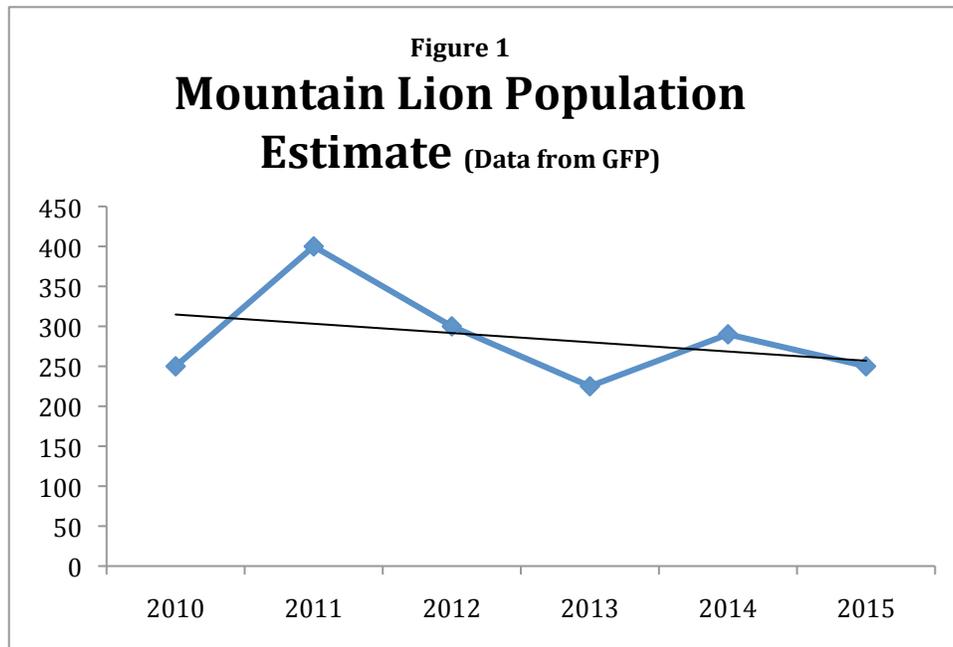
Dear Chairman Cooper and Commission Members:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our supporters in South Dakota, we submit the following comments in support of South Dakota Game, Fish and Park's (GFP's) recommendation to reduce mountain lion harvest limits from 75 total cats to 60; reduce female harvest limits from 50 to 40 cats; and reduce access and permits allowed on Custer State Park. However, while these reductions are a needed course correction, they are not nearly enough to maintain a sustainable mountain lion population in South Dakota, a concern not only for animal welfare advocates, but also for mountain lion hunters, according to a recent survey conducted by GFP.

South Dakota's 2015 mountain lion population is approximately 250 animals. A harvest limit of 75 allows a 30 percent offtake rate, which is not a "safety net" as "harvest limits" imply; instead, we are witness to unsustainable management of rare, but iconic wildlife (e.g., Beausoleil et al. 2013).

Furthermore, a GFP recorded that 31% to 50% of females were in the hunter kill during the period 2009-2015. In comparison, Wyoming only permits the killing of between 20 to 25% of its females. Far too many females are killed in South Dakota. Permitting the hunt of females results in added kitten mortality with concomitant suffering.

South Dakota's lion population is in decline, primarily because of trophy hunting. Figures 1 and 2. South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined nearly 40% since 2011, or by 20% if we use GFP's population trend. Either offtake amount is too extreme because harvest limits are set far too high and far too many females are killed, which harms South Dakota's mountain lion population. Much more must be done to protect and conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population.



**South Dakota's Mountain Lion Population is in Decline. Figures 1 & 2**

**Figure 1 shows a 38% decrease from 2011 to 2015**

**Figure 2, using averaged numbers, shows a 20% decrease from 2010-12 to 2013-15**



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**I. The GFP permits heavy persecution, not a “conservative management approach” recommended by mountain lion biologists.**

Mountain lions occur at low densities relative to their primary prey making them sensitive to both bottom-up (prey declines) and top-down (human persecution) influences (Stoner et al. 2006). Trophy hunting cougars is their major source of mortality (Logan and Sweanor 2001, Cougar Management Guidelines 2005, Stoner et al. 2006, Robinson and Desimone 2011, Stoner et al. 2013b, Wolfe et al. 2015). See: Figure 3.

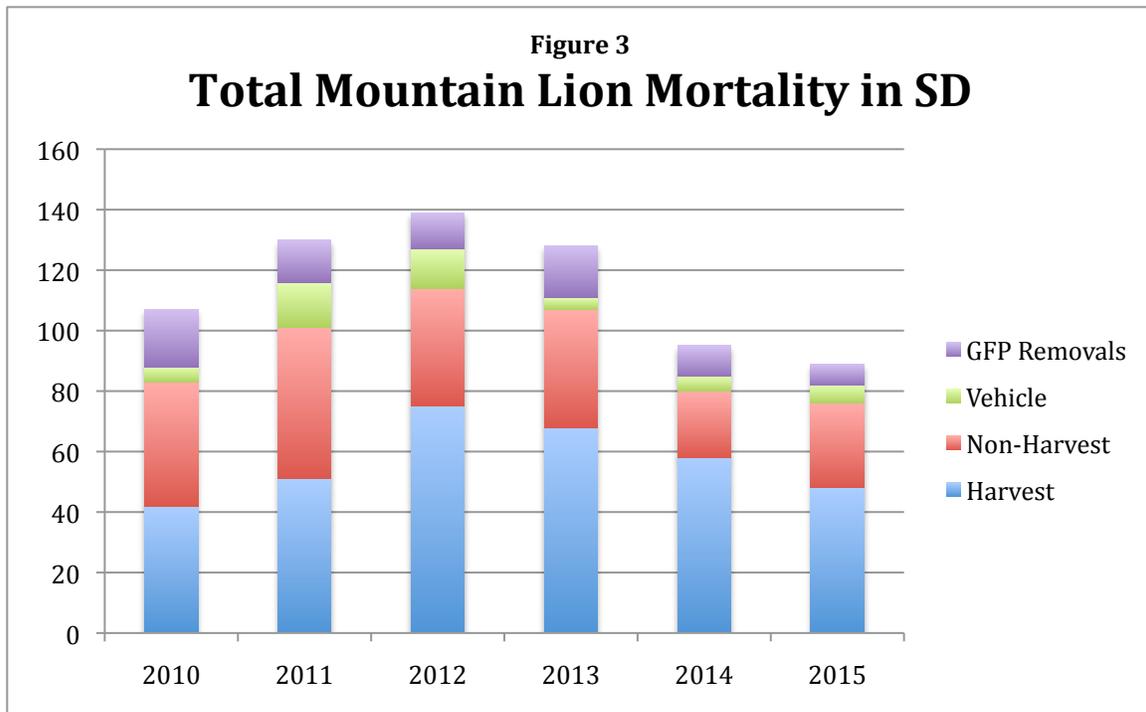
Humans are unsustainable “super predators” of rare carnivore species (Dairmont et al. 2015). It seems that the only thing that ensures mountain lion continuity in South Dakota are *de facto* refugia and suboptimal habitats (e.g., Stoner et al. 2006, Stoner et al. 2013a, Stoner et al. 2013b). That is because South Dakota mountain lions are managed using a “sledgehammer approach” (Logan and Sweanor 2001, Robinson and Desimone 2011). That is, heavy hunting regimes designed to suppress South Dakota’s mountain lion population.

Mountain lion biologists, Wolfe et al. (2015) Laundré and Clark (2003), recommend that wildlife decisionmakers manager mountain lions at a metapopulation level rather than at the single population level. Wolfe et al. (2015) warn: “We recommend a conservative management approach be adopted to preclude potential over-harvest . . .” (Wolfe et al. 2015, p. 195).

Yet, in South Dakota, mountain lions experience *additive* levels of mortality (e.g., Robinson et al. 2014, Wolfe et al. 2015). To compensate for individuals lost, mountain lion biologists recommend that other mountain lions be allowed to “replenish” the heavily exploited areas—the Black Hills and Custer State Park, which means that South Dakota must reduce hunting levels to even greater levels to ensure their conservation (Wolfe et al. 2015).

**III. Trophy hunting mountain lions causes additional mortalities in a population, particularly to mothers and their kittens.**

Contrary to popular perception, the killing of male mountain lions does not increase the survival of females or increase productivity of a population (Stoner et al. 2013a, Wielgus et al. 2014). Study results showed that hunting males caused an overall decline in the population through the loss of fecundity, the indirect loss of kittens and juveniles (through infanticide), and on females themselves (because they too have greater chance of being hunted too) (Stoner et al. 2006, Wielgus et al. 2014, Wolfe et al. 2015). The best available science also indicates that after a hunting regime, mountain lions experience social chaos from the disruption of both their social structure and land tenure systems.



**Comparison: Sources of Mountain Lion Mortality: Most Comes from “Harvest”**

When trophy hunters remove the stable adult mountain lions from a population, it encourages subadult males to immigrate, leading to greater aggression between cats and mortalities to adult females and subsequent infanticide (Lambert et al. 2006, Cooley et al. 2009b, Robinson and Desimone 2011, Wielgus et al. 2013, Robinson et al. 2014).

In heavily hunted populations, female mountain lions particularly experience higher levels of intraspecific aggression resulting in predation on themselves and their kittens (Stoner et al. 2013a, Wielgus et al. 2013). Trophy hunting adult females ensures the death by dehydration and malnutrition for orphaned kittens, even those who are at least six months old (Stoner et al. 2006).

Over-hunting a mountain lion population can change the demographics of a population to one with more male subadults (Lambert et al. 2006, Stoner et al. 2006, Robinson et al. 2008, Cooley et al. 2009a, Cooley et al. 2009b, Beausoleil et al. 2013, Peebles et al. 2013). Overhunting harms a population’s ability to recruit new members if too many adult females are removed (Anderson and Lindzey 2005).

Hunting mountain lions results not only in the direct mortality but has an additive effect of causing kitten orphaning and their subsequent starvation and population reduction (Stoner et al. 2006, Stoner et al. 2013a, Robinson et al. 2014). Also, studies show where there are heavy hunting pressures, hunter mortality exacerbates other causes of mountain lion mortality, including



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intraspecific strife; prey-pursuit injuries; vehicle collisions; predator control actions; poaching; starvation and disease (see: Beausoleil et al. 2013).

### **IV. Trophy hunting mountain lions increases complaints and livestock losses.**

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

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

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

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

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

### **V. Mountain lions are vital to their ecosystems, and indirectly improve human health through predation.**

Maehr et al. (2003: 849) assert the importance of mountain lion on the landscape:

One aspect of cougar ecology that is becoming less debatable is its role in biotic communities . . . *P. concolor* has the potential to structure the distribution and demography of prey (Logan and Sweaner 2001, Maehr et al. 2001). Browse lines, highway collisions, Lyme disease (Wilson and Childs 1997), loss of biodiversity (Alverson et al. 1988, Waller and Alverson 1997), and other problems associated with overabundant white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) hint at the benefits of returning such a predator . . .



## THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

In Zion National Park, researchers found that by modulating deer populations, mountain lions prevented overgrazing near fragile riparian systems. The result: more cottonwoods, rushes, cattails, wildflowers, amphibians, lizards, and butterflies, and deeper, but narrower stream channels (Ripple and Beschta 2006). In other words, cougars enhance biological diversity, including other imperiled species.

Because the Midwest and Eastern U.S. is largely devoid of top carnivores, mountain lions serve an important ecological role, including the ecosystem services (e.g., Weaver et al. 1996, Ripple and Beschta 2006, Estes et al. 2011) they provide.

### **VI. Conclusion:**

The GFP Commission must conserve all wildlife populations, including mountain lions for all the public. They are iconic and rare. The GFP's proposal to reduce harvest limits and access to Custer State Park is a good first step, but must more be done to conserve these wild cats for all and for future generations.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Darci Adams, South Dakota State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States  
[dadams@humanesociety.org](mailto:dadams@humanesociety.org)

### **Bibliography:**

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**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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- Wolfe, M. L., D. N. Koons, D. C. Stoner, P. Terletzky, E. M. Gese, D. M. Choate, and L. M. Aubry. 2015. Is anthropogenic cougar mortality compensated by changes in natural mortality in Utah? Insight from long-term studies. *Biological Conservation* **182**:187-196.

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2015 12:22 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Sept. 2015 commission letter  
**Attachments:** Sept. 2015 commission letter.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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**From:** Bowdens [<mailto:bowdens@gwtc.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2015 12:10 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Sept. 2015 commission letter

Please forward this letter to the SD GF&P Commissioners to be read and considered at the October 1st commission meeting in Spearfish.

Thank you,  
Larry Bowden  
Hot Springs SD

President of "Western South Dakota Fur Harvesters Association"

Western South Dakota Fur Harvesters Association

PO Box 25 Hot Springs SD 57747

September 25th 2015

Dear SD GF&P Commissioners,

As officers and directors of Western South Dakota Fur Harvesters Association we would like to voice our support to the bobcat season proposal submitted by Game Fish & Parks for the 2015-2016 season. This proposal is based on data from the "Bobcat Harvest Summary" of the 2014-2015 season compiled by SD GF&P staff, supported by data from the University of Idaho and Matson's laboratories of Montana. We support having the exact same dates and regulations as we have had the previous two seasons for west river and the addition of five counties to the east river season. At our annual meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> we discussed this proposal with our membership and it was overwhelmingly supported by our members.

Pertaining to bobcats some of our members had a concern about hounds being run before season for training. On page 40 of the current "Hunting and Trapping" handbook it addresses dog training in relation to game birds. There are multiple restrictions of training dogs during the majority of the closed bird season, we assume to protect the young birds and nesting hens. We could not find any regulations concerning the running of hounds during any closed furbearer season. Our members concerns were for the possibility of juvenile bobcats being caught on the ground by hounds thus having a negative impact on the bobcat population.

We would like to suggest that GF&P survey trappers as to how many bobcats we may have released from our traps during the season. WSDFHA encourages trappers to release unharmed juvenile and female bobcats from our traps to help ensure a continued healthy population. We recognize that bobcats are difficult to get data on and this information may help to estimate population numbers.

We have participated in two meetings with GF&P personnel this year to discuss fur harvesting and trapping items. We appreciate these meetings and feel that it is time well spent.

Sincerely,

Larry Bowden, President WSDFHA

Jeremiah Heath, Vice President WSDFHA

Hot Springs SD

Newell SD

Continued

Marvin Halls, Sec/Treasurer WSDFHA

Hot Springs SD

Larry Rossum, Director WSDFHA

Rapid City SD

Shoun Simons, Director WSDFHA

Enning SD

Joseph Bowden, Director WSDFHA

Rapid City SD

Wayne Helmick, Director WSDFHA

Rapid City SD

Verl Tifft, Director WSDFHA

Newell SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 9:14:57 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:46 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 29, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems. Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Denise Meyerink  
Chamberlain SD

Sincerely,

Ms. Denise Meyerink  
204 W. 16th Avenue  
Chamberlain, SD 57324  
(605) 234-5318  
[meyerink@midstatesd.net](mailto:meyerink@midstatesd.net)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 8:21:49 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 4:45 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 23, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Corinne Conry  
342 W Lincoln St  
Spearfish, SD 57783-2026  
605  
[cconry2000@yahoo.com](mailto:cconry2000@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Friday, September 18, 2015 10:42:17 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 10:29 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 18, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems. Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Julie Anderson  
845 Virginia Ln  
Rapid City, SD 57701-9474  
(605) 341-0317  
[signsofhope@rap.midco.net](mailto:signsofhope@rap.midco.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Friday, September 18, 2015 7:54:32 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 5:00 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. melodee pattee  
12750 Merchen Rd  
Hot Springs, SD 57747-7106  
[banrach2012@gmail.com](mailto:banrach2012@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Friday, September 18, 2015 7:52:31 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:58 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

I have been concerned with this for awhile now. SD uses Mt. Lion in there tourist brochures in all forms and all places, yet they kill them on many occasions without cause. If you use them as an attraction to our most important industry, tourism, you should preserve them or quit using them as the lay person or non hunter will never have the opportunity to see them in the wild. The hunters use them as excuses (seen/heard by myself) by saying they affect the elk herd, yet in the same year you are forced to move a herd to Custer State Park due to landowner complaints-this makes no sense other than catering the Sportsman, who are not our greatest industry even though they also say they are the biggest contributors; this also is false. If they are all gone we all LOSE! GFP are also lacking as there are many times the lions are viable and can be relocated as has been done past years successfully; yet they are shot right away like the GFP are also trophy hunters. We must have people who want to protect our precious wildlife not destroy them. This is a problem nationally! Someday they will be all gone and this is what some people want; very sad! I have also witnessed a dead and very young cat, which to me is senseless. Also Mt. Lions are out at night and the "they will get your pet or toddler" makes no sense either. Watch/Lease your pet, keep cats indoors and who leaves a toddler out of their site-no good mother or caregiver. The excuses are growing old!

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems. Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. LESLIE SKINNER  
25085 Shamrock Rd

Custer, SD 57730-6308  
(605) 673-4264  
lskinner@custercountysd.com

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Friday, September 18, 2015 7:52:12 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 1:28 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 18, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Miss Stephanie Arbach  
221 3rd Ave NW  
Watertown, SD 57201-2314  
[bocker90@gmail.com](mailto:bocker90@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 4:06:00 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 3:57 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Neutral Zone  
Antiga rua 44  
Campinas, SD 013058061  
(199) 142-0051  
[adeventterer@gmail.com](mailto:adeventterer@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 3:34:47 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 3:27 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Julie Berry  
447 N Plum St Lot 53  
Vermillion, SD 57069-2425  
[motherearth72@hotmail.com](mailto:motherearth72@hotmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 3:09:15 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 2:31 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard Stockert  
1300 Edgewater Dr  
Apt 102  
Pierre, SD 57501-1363  
(701) 202-7283  
[richard\\_stockert@hotmail.com](mailto:richard_stockert@hotmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 1:31:06 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 1:29 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rhonda Doyscher  
3120 W. Auburn St  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
[rdoyscher@gmail.com](mailto:rdoyscher@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 1:11:06 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 1:08 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Ada Courtney  
1005 Wood Ave  
Rapid City, SD 57701-0977  
(605) 348-7628  
[thewinniewonka@gmail.com](mailto:thewinniewonka@gmail.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:13:05 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 11:38 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 28, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,  
Terry Newman  
721 E Chicago St #38  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Sincerely,

Ms. Terry Newman  
721 E Chicago St Lot 38  
Rapid City, SD 57701-1694  
[terrbyn@rushmore.com](mailto:terrbyn@rushmore.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:40:15 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 11:28 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Rebecca Darland  
PO Box 973  
Spearfish, SD 57783-0973  
(605) 591-9520  
[beckydarland@yahoo.com](mailto:beckydarland@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:41:10 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:27 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Ms. Joyce Flax  
3400 W 53rd St  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-4010  
[jif@sio.midco.net](mailto:jif@sio.midco.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:01:55 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 4:56 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Janice Hallahan  
620 Northern Lights Blvd  
Box Elder, SD 57719-4305  
(605) 721-0116  
[death\\_steed@hotmail.com](mailto:death_steed@hotmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:01:47 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 4:57 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Debbie Letsche  
45758 - 260th Street  
Humboldt, SD 57035-6223  
[starfire@goldenwest.net](mailto:starfire@goldenwest.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:01:36 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 5:25 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Joan Thompson  
14200 Sturgis Rd Lot 1  
Piedmont, SD 57769-3001  
[jmthompson8@yahoo.com](mailto:jmthompson8@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:01:27 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 5:26 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Ms. Geneva Costa  
615 S Main Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-4905  
[geneva.costa.art@gmail.com](mailto:geneva.costa.art@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:01:19 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 5:57 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Ms. Lori Mccann  
6105 S Landau Cir  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108-6368  
(605) 201-8318  
[lorim1966@yahoo.com](mailto:lorim1966@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:01:10 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 5:59 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

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Sincerely,

Dr. James Zeman  
22519 Fawn Dr  
Deadwood, SD 57732-7402  
[jzeman@abe.midco.net](mailto:jzeman@abe.midco.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:00:56 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 6:25 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Lori OCull  
221 3rd Ave E  
Mobridge, SD 57601-2629  
[lori.ocull@yahoo.com](mailto:lori.ocull@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:00:48 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 6:27 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Ms. Janet Malsom  
408 S 4th St Apt A  
Milbank, SD 57252-2505  
[janetmalsom@msn.com](mailto:janetmalsom@msn.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:12:22 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 10:34 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 28, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Enough is enough already! Please stop developing policies based on money and start honoring our state's mountain lions. It is cruel and unnecessary to orphan kittens to meet a quota that's not even a good policy.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ann Naber  
45686 Wicker St  
Meckling, SD 57069-4448  
[bh\\_blonde73@hotmail.com](mailto:bh_blonde73@hotmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:00:38 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 6:59 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Mr. Jörg Jakubowski  
Wolfs Ave  
Siegen, SD 1023584754  
[jjprv@web.de](mailto:jjprv@web.de)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:00:29 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 7:01 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Ms. Liza McCann  
6105 S Landau Cir  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108-6368  
[liza.mccann@jacks.sdstate.edu](mailto:liza.mccann@jacks.sdstate.edu)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:00:19 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 7:26 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Ms. Jennifer Kalenze  
1217 Sunset Ave  
Mobridge, SD 57601-1226  
(605) 845-2392  
[jennkalenze@yahoo.com](mailto:jennkalenze@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:00:06 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 7:54 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Rangaswamy Ramakrishnan  
4766 Vijayanagar II Stage, Mysore  
Mysore, SD 57017  
00917353786572  
[optorama@yahoo.com](mailto:optorama@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:59:48 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 8:26 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

I live in the Black Hills of South Dakota and have been saying this all a long. Our local Game Fish and Parks people suck!! To begin with, they don't preserve and protect wildlife!!! They gun it down and kill it every chance they get!! A few years ago they killed a yearling moose that was grazing near a grade school for absolutely no reason, instead of tranquilizing it and relocating it and then told all the little grade school kids they had no choice but to kill it which was total crap!! That moose wasn't hurting anyone!!

Then they were all gun ho when the mountain lions started to show up back in the Black Hills and now they are saying there are too many and they are coming into towns and peoples yards, well to bad!! Why don't us humans consume more forest for our selfish needs until there are no more animals on the planet. Its ridiculous that their own kids and grand kids will never lay their eyes on so many of the creatures we have all been blessed to share the planet with. I thought Game Fish and Parks main objective was to protect the forest and wildlife living there, well SOUTH DAKOTA GF&P maybe needs a refresher coarse on what the hell that means!!!

Sincerely,

Ms. Tana Koch  
1421 Cherry Ave  
Lot 10  
Rapid City, SD 57701-3996  
[tskoch342@yahoo.com](mailto:tskoch342@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:59:40 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 8:55 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Peggy Jakopak  
PO Box 381  
710 Third Street  
Scotland, SD 57059-0381  
(605) 583-2876  
[tuneses@yahoo.com](mailto:tuneses@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:59:31 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 8:55 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dawn Wipf  
1623 10th Ave SW Lot 205  
Aberdeen, SD 57401-5666  
[dawnwipf@hotmail.com](mailto:dawnwipf@hotmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:59:21 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 8:56 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Dr. mary affinito  
1713 S Judy Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-3838  
(605) 338-2360  
[mary.affinito@gmail.com](mailto:mary.affinito@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:59:12 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 9:24 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tammy Bentson  
5401 S Sarmar Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-2870  
[tambentson@gmail.com](mailto:tambentson@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:59:01 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 9:25 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tim McGannon  
600 E 54th St  
Mitchell, SD 57301-6308  
[tmctee01@me.com](mailto:tmctee01@me.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:12:05 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 10:03 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 28, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Dawn Freidel  
PO Box 237  
Corsica, SD 57328-0237  
[freideldawn@gmail.com](mailto:freideldawn@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:56:48 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 9:25 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Zackeriah Horn  
1733 Hughes Ct  
Rapid City, SD 57703-0106  
[neon\\_metropolis@hotmail.com](mailto:neon_metropolis@hotmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:56:38 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 9:27 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Connie Ryan  
13068 Siding Ln  
Rapid City, SD 57702-9726  
[connie1933@hotmail.com](mailto:connie1933@hotmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:56:27 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 9:54 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tonia Wagoner  
27246 Wind Cave Rd  
Hot Springs, SD 57747-7530  
(605) 890-2385  
[toniad880820@gmail.com](mailto:toniad880820@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:56:15 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 10:27 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Patty Cummins  
21386 393rd Ave  
Alpena, SD 57312-6400  
[crittercamp@santel.net](mailto:crittercamp@santel.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:56:03 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 10:58 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Cate Cork  
3349 Pinewood Dr  
Rapid City, SD 57702-9130  
[ccddiver@rap.midco.net](mailto:ccddiver@rap.midco.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:55:18 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 10:58 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Ms. Cate Cork  
3349 Pinewood Dr  
Rapid City, SD 57702-9130  
[ccddiver@rap.midco.net](mailto:ccddiver@rap.midco.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:54:55 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 10:58 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Ms. Cate Cork  
3349 Pinewood Dr  
Rapid City, SD 57702-9130  
[ccddiver@rap.midco.net](mailto:ccddiver@rap.midco.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:54:44 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:24 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Aaron Gayken  
310 W 21st St Apt 9  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-0763  
(605) 275-6972  
[agayken75@yahoo.com](mailto:agayken75@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:54:23 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:24 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Aaron Gayken  
310 W 21st St Apt 9  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-0763  
(605) 275-6972  
[agayken75@yahoo.com](mailto:agayken75@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:54:18 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:25 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems. Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Miss Elisabetta Costagli  
Corso italia 50  
San Vincenzo, SD 57027  
[ecostagli@gmail.com](mailto:ecostagli@gmail.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:11:40 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 10:03 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 28, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems. Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Patty Jenkins  
48352 26th Street  
Brandon, SD 57005  
(605) 582-6463  
[dpjenkins@alliancecom.net](mailto:dpjenkins@alliancecom.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:54:06 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 12:27 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Miss Nicky Busutil  
1402 Highview Dr  
Apt 1  
Milbank, SD 57252-1518  
[pishycakes@gmail.com](mailto:pishycakes@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:53:57 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 12:56 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Nicole Gonzalez  
PO Box 334  
Black Hawk, SD 57718-0334  
[nikkigz@aol.com](mailto:nikkigz@aol.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:53:48 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 12:56 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Angela Randle  
5409 Ash St  
Black Hawk, SD 57718-9459  
(913) 642-1659  
[angelaran@aol.com](mailto:angelaran@aol.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:53:35 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 1:55 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Glen Gregus  
128  
Taga St  
Hirata, SD 57301  
(909) 709-1404  
[gleneg@hotmail.com](mailto:gleneg@hotmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:53:27 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 2:25 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Patricia Claussen  
405 E Cedar St  
Brandon, SD 57005-1217  
(605)37  
[claussenpatricia@gmail.com](mailto:claussenpatricia@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:50:25 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:26 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 17, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Claire Svanda  
5002 Chalkstone Dr  
Rapid City, SD 57701-4705  
(303) 512-3149  
[claire.dupont.co@gmail.com](mailto:claire.dupont.co@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 4:54:11 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 4:52 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. denise maher  
629 Alta Vista Dr  
Rapid City, SD 57701-2322  
[dmmaher@rushmore.com](mailto:dmmaher@rushmore.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 4:26:37 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 4:25 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jo Kephart  
412 W Clark St  
Vermillion, SD 57069-1914  
[jkephart412@yahoo.com](mailto:jkephart412@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:59:18 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:54 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

We live in their habitat, we need to adjust to that and not kill them.  
We have a neighbor that shoots squirrels, skunks, and fox, this is so wrong!

Sincerely,

Mrs. mary bowers  
12759 Pine Haven Rd  
Hot Springs, SD 57747-7545  
(605) 745-3257  
[maryfb49@gmail.com](mailto:maryfb49@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:31:05 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:25 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mr. James Jensen  
3612 E 25th St  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-3359  
[sd\\_sailor2004@yahoo.com](mailto:sd_sailor2004@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:10:08 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 8:33 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 28, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30% with far too many females dying.

Female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation. Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sara Parker  
2905 E 33rd St  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-4365  
(605) 376-9073  
[sara.parker@perceptivemedia.net](mailto:sara.parker@perceptivemedia.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:30:51 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:27 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lacey Jackson  
1719 S 1st Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-1905  
(605) 251-7684  
[laceyandandy@gmail.com](mailto:laceyandandy@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:30:37 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:27 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

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Sincerely,

Dr. Alair Altiero  
3804 S Spencer Blvd  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-4705  
[alair.altiero@yahoo.com](mailto:alair.altiero@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:18:20 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:58 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Louise McGannon  
600 E 54th St  
Mitchell, SD 57301-6308  
[mustlovedogs03@yahoo.com](mailto:mustlovedogs03@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:18:11 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:52 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Josh hopper  
360 18th St SW  
Watertown, SD 57201-3422  
[jhopp2313@icloud.com](mailto:jhopp2313@icloud.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:42:26 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:23 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. D Madsen  
15642 Sd Highway 15  
Milbank, SD 57252-6212  
(604) 733-1410  
[diannavbg@hotmail.com](mailto:diannavbg@hotmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:42:13 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:25 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Margaret Dixon  
405 1st Ave W  
Mobridge, SD 57601-2518  
[maddix10@yahoo.com](mailto:maddix10@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:41:59 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:26 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Melissa Martin-Schwarz  
1918 Cruz Dr  
Rapid City, SD 57702-4312  
(605) 716-0853  
[m\\_martin@bhws.com](mailto:m_martin@bhws.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:41:49 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:26 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Roberta Rotherham  
1704 S Larkspur Trl  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3329  
(605) 310-4758  
[dmrdrotherham@yahoo.com](mailto:dmrdrotherham@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:40:18 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:26 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Elaine Dodson  
1319 Foothills Dr  
Spearfish, SD 57783-9463  
[lainied@rushmore.com](mailto:lainied@rushmore.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:40:01 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:27 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ruth Steil  
404 Burgess Rd  
Yankton, SD 57078-1818  
[rsteil@midco.net](mailto:rsteil@midco.net)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2015 8:41:39 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2015 10:27 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 26, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

PLEASE stop giving in to the uninformed and ignorant ranchers and the selfish (there is no other word) "sport" hunters. The wildlife belongs to all the citizens and it is past time when the majority opinion is heeded.

Sincerely,

Mr. David and Judy Love  
12166 Silver Star Dr  
Custer, SD 57730-9139  
(605) 673-3824  
[djlove@gwtc.net](mailto:djlove@gwtc.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:10:15 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:06 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Kerma Cox  
PO Box 503  
Custer, SD 57730-0503  
(605) 673-1261  
[kerma.cox@hotmail.com](mailto:kerma.cox@hotmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:09:55 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:01 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Sincerely,

Miss Vanessa Carlson  
45621 306th St  
Wakonda, SD 57073-6306  
[v.carlson3@gmail.com](mailto:v.carlson3@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:09:31 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:07 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Michelle Teets  
12713 Robinson Rd  
Black Hawk, SD 57718-9327  
(605) 390-8636  
[michelle.teets@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.teets@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 1:09:10 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 1:06 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Ryan Fossum  
805 S West Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-4640  
[ryanfossum@hotmail.com](mailto:ryanfossum@hotmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 1:02:26 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 1:01 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Sincerely,

Miss Leslie Ranum  
14785 Shetland Ln  
Rapid City, SD 57703-9045  
[ranum4@msn.com](mailto:ranum4@msn.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 1:01:57 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:37 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Linda biers  
10557 My Shadow Rd  
Piedmont, SD 57769  
[lm Larsonbiers@gmail.com](mailto:lm Larsonbiers@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 1:01:40 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:44 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Kurt Seamans  
293 Elm St  
Draper, SD 57531  
[mamacat@goldenwest.net](mailto:mamacat@goldenwest.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:36:40 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:34 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Our state has a glut on the deer population.. which is in direct correlation with the killing of their natural enemies the Wolf and the Mountain Lion. I have hit a deer with my car... and I know of many people who have. Not only that but deer now are eating gardens and finding their way into city limits state wide. By destroying the natural ecosystem, we are killing our planet.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sherry Horton  
1000 E 14th St  
Apt 305  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-5262  
(605) 251-2440  
[erthgoddss@live.com](mailto:erthgoddss@live.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:26:07 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:30 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Sheila Martin  
112 Ox Yoke Ct  
Custer, SD 57730-8401  
[missusmoose@lonetree.com](mailto:missusmoose@lonetree.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:25:52 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:30 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems. Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Thomas Martin  
112 Ox Yoke Ct  
Custer, SD 57730-8401  
(307) 286-1162  
[moose@lonetree.com](mailto:moose@lonetree.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2015 8:41:01 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2015 3:56 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 26, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Donna Watson  
24 Adams St  
Deadwood, SD 57732-1407  
(605) 578-9770  
[dnnwatson52@gmail.com](mailto:dnnwatson52@gmail.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:25:31 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:31 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pam Merxbauer  
430 S Ottawa St  
Iroquois, SD 57353-2103  
[pam@homenetworksd.com](mailto:pam@homenetworksd.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:25:20 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:31 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sherry Korthals  
3202 E 28th St  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-4450  
(605) 361-8428  
[sherryssk@sio.midco.net](mailto:sherryssk@sio.midco.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:25:04 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:32 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Cathy Merrill  
510 8th St S  
Brookings, SD 57006-3881  
[smillnace@yahoo.com](mailto:smillnace@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:24:52 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:33 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Susan Roselles  
11700 Sturgis Rd  
Black Hawk, SD 57718-8909  
[sroselles@yahoo.com](mailto:sroselles@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:24:28 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:36 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Melissa Johnson  
7613 S Hughes Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108-5929  
[mjohnson@stencilhomes.com](mailto:mjohnson@stencilhomes.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:24:19 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 11:40 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

They are being shot statewide because they happen to be seen near populated areas. I believe this is because their food source and habitat is being threatened. I hunt but haven't for a few years due to the declining population of the whitetail deer in my area and this is one of the food sources for the mountain lions. If this is the case statewide I believe it is the reason they are being spotted near populated areas including where I live. They are being pushed out of their natural environment. Maybe other areas of conservation need to be addressed other than just killing off the mountain lion population.

Sincerely,

Ms. Beverly Hyland  
1470 Pelican Point Rd  
Madison, SD 57042-6732  
(605) 291-6173  
[bevhyland@live.com](mailto:bevhyland@live.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:23:30 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:01 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. susan smith  
607 S West Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-4149  
(605) 334-9344  
[susan.smith@furnituremartusa.com](mailto:susan.smith@furnituremartusa.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:23:19 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:06 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kim Tysdal  
3932 Lakeview Dr  
Rapid City, SD 57702-3252  
(605) 786-3256  
[kmtysdal@rap.midco.net](mailto:kmtysdal@rap.midco.net)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion populationz  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:23:03 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:07 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion populationz

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Cesar Lopez  
calle valmojado 119  
madrid, SD 28047  
664241716  
[cesarlopez1778@live.com](mailto:cesarlopez1778@live.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:22:50 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:18 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. mary jo canonico  
411 N 6th St  
Emery, SD 57332-2124  
[maryjo12000@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjo12000@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Friday, September 25, 2015 8:25:42 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 4:24 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 24, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Heather Nearman  
8609 S Regent Park Dr  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108-1509  
[nearheat@outlook.com](mailto:nearheat@outlook.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:22:32 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:18 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Anne Mettler  
2126 Arroyo Dr  
Rapid City, SD 57702-5199  
[bluesarah7@msn.com](mailto:bluesarah7@msn.com)

**From:** [Cary, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:19:02 PM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:08 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 16, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 40 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Dee Peters  
2311 Cognac Ct  
Rapid City, SD 57701-5803  
[wahoopeters@gmail.com](mailto:wahoopeters@gmail.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](mailto:Miller, LouAnn)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](mailto:Comes, Rachel)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 29, 2015 10:06:26 AM

---

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 9:46 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 29, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

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South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Brittany Jacobson  
108 9th Ave SW  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
[brittanyjacobson@hotmail.com](mailto:brittanyjacobson@hotmail.com)

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Hepler, Kelly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 6:05 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public comments about Mountain Lion season setting  
**Attachments:** SD 2015 on Letterhead with date.pdf; ATT00001.htm; Logo.EMAIL.tiff; ATT00002.htm  
**Categories:** Commission

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Penny Maldonado <[penny@cougarfund.org](mailto:penny@cougarfund.org)>  
**Date:** September 30, 2015 at 5:10:09 PM CDT  
**To:** "Hepler, Kelly" <[Kelly.Hepler@state.sd.us](mailto:Kelly.Hepler@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject:** **Public comments about Mountain Lion season setting**

Dear Secretary Hepler,

Congratulations on your appointment. I very much hope we can open up positive lines of communication in the future. I understand you are interested in looking at ways to expand your revenue base by embracing a more diverse constituency. This is a subject which many states are tackling and it has been my privilege to observe and participate in their early exploration of possibilities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want to investigate ideas for engaging non-hunting constituents and their interests.

In the mean time, please accept the attached organizational comments for tomorrows Commission meeting.

Respectfully,  
Penny

Penny Maldonado  
Managing Director  
The Cougar Fund  
(307)733-0797  
[penny@cougarfund.org](mailto:penny@cougarfund.org)

"Civility is not a sign of weakness"  
John F.Kennedy

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:51 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comments about Mountain Lion Season for October 1st meeting  
**Attachments:** SD 2015 on Letterhead with date.pdf; Logo.EMAIL.tiff

**Categories:** Commission

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**From:** Penny Maldonado [<mailto:penny@cougarfund.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 5:00 PM  
**To:** Jensen, Gary; Spies, Jim; Sather, Duane; Phillips, W. Scott; [jlcoop11@aol.com](mailto:jlcoop11@aol.com); [barryj@gwtc.net](mailto:barryj@gwtc.net); [hpd@nvc.net](mailto:hpd@nvc.net); Peterson, Cathy; [jeff.vonk@state.sd.us](mailto:jeff.vonk@state.sd.us); Hofer, Doug; Leif, Tony; GFP Wild Info; GFP Admin Rules; Kanta, John  
**Subject:** Public Comments about Mountain Lion Season for October 1st meeting

Please accept the attached comments on 2016 mountain lion season setting.

Penny Maldonado  
Managing Director  
The Cougar Fund  
(307)733-0797  
[penny@cougarfund.org](mailto:penny@cougarfund.org)

"Civility is not a sign of weakness"  
John F.Kennedy



Board of Directors  
Marc Bekoff, Ph.D.  
H. Webb Blessley  
Patricio Robles Gil  
Jane Goodall, Ph.D., DBE  
Rick Hopkins, Ph.D.  
Robert W. Koons  
Cara Blessley Lowe  
Thomas D. Mangelsen, Ph.D.  
Corinne R. Rutledge  
John E. Swallow

Dear Commissioners,

September 30, 2015

Please accept the comments of The Cougar Fund as you deliberate the proposals for the 2016 Mountain Lion season and the future of the mountain lion population you have worked so hard to recover.

We have enjoyed informative and productive communication with your staff in the past. This has entailed working to identify strong areas of common ground and respectfully sharing perspectives on other issues, where our ability to agree has been challenged. We very much hope that the Commission will view this letter in that same spirit!

The contents of the proposal indicate that you will be addressing some very significant changes for this season. Please consider these points as you strive to make your decision.

#### **Harvest Mortality Limit Reduction**

First, please accept our thanks for considering a harvest reduction. We know the proposal recommends a reduced limit as the best way to protect South Dakota's mountain lions. There has been concern from biologists, advocates, and hunters, alike, that in preceding years, mortality limits have been strikingly higher than harvest results. Might it appear that a limit set far above what the harvest has been is like having no limit at all? We have confidence that neither the Commission, nor the staff, want to approve what could essentially be perceived as an unlimited season.

*We appreciate your efforts to reduce harvest mortality. We respectfully ask you to consider a lower mortality limit and commit to closely monitoring and reviewing the season's harvest so that you can respond swiftly if it indicates that the pressure on lions continues to be too high.*

#### **Out-of-State Mountain Lion Hunting Opportunity**

***We recommend that the Commissioners firmly reject adding out-of-state mountain lion hunting opportunity for the following reasons:***

- Lowering the mortality limit is a positive response to harvest trends. By rejecting out-of-state hunting you will unify support from in state, for science-based



Board of Directors  
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Cara Blessley Lowe  
Thomas D. Mangelsen, Ph.D.  
Corinne R. Rutledge  
John E. Swallow

management. Added competition from out-of-state hunters at a time of decreased mortality limits increases pressure on South Dakota constituents. The majority of South Dakota's hunters want to maintain or even increase current mountain lion populations.

([https://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/docs/surveyreports/PublicSurvey\\_MtLion.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/docs/surveyreports/PublicSurvey_MtLion.pdf)).

- Out-of-state hunting fosters commercial expectations that can exert political rather than scientific influence on the decision making process in the future.
- *Significant* changes to policy were made just this year, when the Commission approved the use of hounds on the Prairie Unit for year-round, unlimited hunting. *Please consider averting further rapid and significant change by not allowing out-of-state hunting of mountain lions.*

### **Mountain Lion Management Plan and Biennial Season Setting**

We realize that the South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan was due this year. When your staff is able to give their undivided attention to this very important review, we will be anxious to participate via the state's policies for public comment and insight. We encourage you to look for a document based on current best science, rather than on speed of production.

*In this regard, we strongly urge you to delay the proposal for biennial season setting until the Plan has been reviewed and approved.*

Commissioners, thank you once again for the privilege of sharing our comments with you. Please receive them in the respectful manner in which they have been submitted, and take them into consideration as you decide the future of South Dakota's mountain lions.

Sincerely,

Penelope Maldonado  
Managing Director  
307-733-0797  
[penny@cougarfund.org](mailto:penny@cougarfund.org)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Commission Comments 2015  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:51:41 AM

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

From: Dr Tom Huhnerkoch [<mailto:tomccats@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:48 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Cc: GFP Admin Rules  
Subject: Commission Comments 2015

Sept 30, 2015

Dear Current GFP Commission:

For 15 years I have tried to help realize some sound yet compassionate 'management' for SD cougars.

Last year, when malcontents from the ranching community influenced the decision to allow dogs in the hunt and killing of cougars year around, seemed to set a new low, even for GFP. That assumption was short lived now that some ill informed folks decided to allow non-resident killers to invade SD lands.

I thought I had seen everything but alas, the only vile ruling left to be prescribed against one of the most important animals on Earth is to allow dogs inside the Black Hills fire protection district. Sadly that move will probably become reality

Although these predators perform invaluable service to our environment for some insane reason they are killed for the narcissistic whims of a very few humans.

If indeed the slaughter must for some political purpose continue the only intelligent management decisions would be to: maintain the restriction against non-resident hunting, by law reclassify the Puma as 'trophy game' (as does Wyoming), set the tag fee at or near \$500.00 (thus giving the cat its due), use a lotto license system as done with large elk, remove the year around rule change and finally do your diligence and begin studying and monitoring all SD lands as would be the true measure of a competent Management Plan!

Dr.Tom Huhnerkoch  
Lead, SD 57754

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:52:19 AM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 11:25 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Sep 30, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Miss Trish Scripser  
228 Franklin St  
Rapid City, SD 57701-3740  
[trishs519@yahoo.com](mailto:trishs519@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mountain Lion Season  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:52:01 AM

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**From:** Julie [mailto:signsofhope@rap.midco.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:48 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Mountain Lion Season

To: GF&P Commissioners

I am opposed to the mountain lion hunting season for the the following reasons:

1. Allowing out of state licensees to hunt with hounds on the prairie unit.
2. Allowing the use of hounds anywhere.
3. Allowing hunting in Custer State Park – this is a state owned park and as it is part of my park, I do not want hound hunting of mountain lions where they are not causing any problems.
4. People who do not want to see mountain lion hunting in South Dakota have no voice, despite attending meetings and voicing input on the subject.
5. Allowing Betty Olson to set the GF&P policy on hunting lions.
6. Research suggests killing mountain lions doesn't resolve conflicts with human populations.
7. This season allows the killing of kittens either by being on the prairie or by abandonment of a mother who is killed.
8. There is no talk on a quota as to when this killing will stop.
9. This is being marketed to hunters as trophy hunting, especially out of state hunters.
10. The GF&P cave in to special interest groups.
11. Mountain Lions have no place to safely roam and will be shot on site if someone complains.

It is my sincere hope that people who oppose this season will be given a voice and a new season will not be allowed, as the number of lions killed every year is declining.

Thank You for your time,

Julie Anderson  
845 Virginia Lane  
Rapid City, SD  
57701

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: mountain lions  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:53:23 AM

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**From:** Wendy Luedke [mailto:wendymloedke@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 11:57 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** mountain lions

I am AGAINST the mountain lion hunting in South Dakota. Trophy hunting should not be legal.

**Please:**

1. Lower the quota
2. Do not allow out of State hunters to hunt mountain lions
3. Do not allow dogs when hunting mountain lions or any other animal

Wendy Luedke  
11293 Riviera Court  
Lead, SD 57754

**Wendy M. Luedke**

**"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." -Albert Einstein**

**"When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts." - Dalai Lama**

**"I believe if Dante were alive today and rewriting the 'Inferno' that the lowest places in hell would be reserved for those who commit cruelty to our animals and our children." -U.S. Attorney George Beck**

**"I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of the whole human being." -Abraham Lincoln**

**"Compassion for animals is intimately connected with goodness of character; and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man."-Schopenhauer**

**"Not to hurt our humble brethren, the animals, is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission: to be of service to them whenever they require it. If you have people who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity you will have people who will deal likewise with other people." -St. Francis Assi**

**"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." -George Orwell**

**"To be a vegetarian is to disagree - to disagree with the course of things today... starvation, cruelty - we must make a statement against these things. Vegetarianism is my statement. And I think it is a strong one." -Isaac Bashevis Singer**

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: NO Non-Resident Mountain Lion Licenses, etc  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:50:52 AM

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**From:** Boyd [mailto:abpc@brookings.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 7:30 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** NO Non-Resident Mountain Lion Licenses, etc

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you NOT to allow Non-Residents to hunt mountain lions in SD. Hunting opportunities for SD residents are becoming increasingly more difficult. If non-residents are allowed to obtain mountain lion licenses in SD they will only compete with our current resident mountain lion hunters. I do not hunt mountain lions but can attest to how our resident opportunities are getting more limited.

During this year's youth waterfowl season, I tried to obtain permission for my 12 year old son to hunt waterfowl on private land. I was denied by 66% of the landowners I asked with at least one denying me because they were saving the spot for non-resident waterfowl hunters the following weekend. If we are to maintain our hunting heritage in SD, we need to afford hunting opportunities for our residents and youth. By allowing non-residents to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota, you will assuredly have a negative impact on our resident hunters for years to come.

Thank you for your time,

Boyd Schulz  
1312 Pheasant Run Rd  
Brookings, SD 57006

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Non Resident mt lion tags  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:51:12 AM

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**From:** George Bogenschutz [mailto:mtnmach@itctel.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:23 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Non Resident mt lion tags

Dear Commissioners,

As there has been no indication that South Dakotans have not been able to harvest sufficient Mt Lions under the current regulations to meet GF&P harvest goals I see no need to open the season to non residents at this time. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
George Bogenschutz  
Nunda, SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Nonresident Waterfowl Proposal October 1 Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 3:07:57 PM

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**From:** Paulson, Eric  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 2:33 PM  
**To:** Hepler, Kelly  
**Cc:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Nonresident Waterfowl Proposal October 1 Meeting

Good Afternoon,

My name is Eric Paulson and I live in Pierre, SD. I was notified that Mr. Barrie is petitioning for the Commission to reconsider its decision on the Nonresident waterfowl issue resolved earlier this past summer. This, to me, appears to be a last ditch attempt in 2015 for Mr. Barrie to increase licenses in South Dakota. He has strategically avoided petitioning the Commission in August for the petition to be heard at the Aberdeen meeting, the region where he has a majority of the opposition, and proposes his petition in the Spearfish meeting on the opposite side of the state. To me this is his effort to minimize the resistance at the meeting so that he can try and sway you all's decision. This is a huge slap in the face to the process that took place between about March through July where the commission made sure meetings were on both sides of the state to ensure all voices were heard and both the opposition of the increase and those for the increase were given equal participation opportunities.

Mr. Barrie had his chance to voice his opinions along with anyone else this past spring and summer and a decision was made by the commission. In fact, one could argue he had even more of a chance than your average citizen since he not only commented on his own behalf but was also placed on the Nonresident Waterfowl Work Group. Mr. Barrie's group's, the SD Opportunity Group, sole purpose is to raise money for their group's members' businesses and special interests. They do not take into account the quality of hunting currently available to both resident and nonresident hunters and the detrimental impacts increased licenses could have!

I would urge you to stick with what was ultimately decided earlier this past summer and leave the debate on nonresident license allocation and increases for next year and deny Mr. Barrie's petition. It's too late for the changes to take effect for this year anyway as the nonresident application deadline has passed and the season started. For the sake of due process to those opposed to Mr. Barrie's viewpoints, I would ask that any decisions varying from the one decided just a few short months ago be handled next spring and summer similar to this past year.

I sincerely appreciate you taking time to read my email and fully support the original decision from this past summer of 2015 and encourage you to deny the petition by Mr. Barrie that will be before you in October.

Thank you,

Eric Paulson  
Pierre, SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please Vote NO  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 3:07:11 PM  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Deb Springman [mailto:[dernhart@hotmail.com](mailto:dernhart@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 2:48 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Please Vote NO  
**Importance:** High

Dear GF&P Commissioners:

Please vote NO to the issuing of 250 non-resident mountain lion hunting licenses. Our state's population of mountain lions is not out of control. We can keep the number of mountain lions down with the resident licenses we issue. If we need to issue more licenses, then do so for the residents of South Dakota. Please do not commercialize this animal, by allowing non-residents to hunt it. Thank You for listening.

Sincerely,

Deb Springman  
Brookings Wildlife Federation Member

**From:** [Hepler, Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Nonresident Waterfowl Proposal October 1 Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 2:35:14 PM

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Paulson, Eric" <[Eric.Paulson@state.sd.us](mailto:Eric.Paulson@state.sd.us)>  
**Date:** September 30, 2015 at 2:32:58 PM CDT  
**To:** "Hepler, Kelly" <[Kelly.Hepler@state.sd.us](mailto:Kelly.Hepler@state.sd.us)>  
**Cc:** GFP Wild Info <[WildInfo@state.sd.us](mailto:WildInfo@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject: Nonresident Waterfowl Proposal October 1 Meeting**

Good Afternoon,

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any decisions varying from the one decided just a few short months ago be handled next spring and summer similar to this past year.

I sincerely appreciate you taking time to read my email and fully support the original decision from this past summer of 2015 and encourage you to deny the petition by Mr. Barrie that will be before you in October.

Thank you,

Eric Paulson  
Pierre, SD



# STATE TRAPPING REPORT CARD



State	Leghold Traps Prohibited	Conibear Traps Prohibited	Snares Prohibited	Trapper Report Required	24 Hr/Daily Trap Check Land sets	24 Hr/Daily Trap Check Water Sets	Trap ID Required	Trapper Education Required	Non-target Animals Recorded	Bobcat Trapping Prohibited	Otter trapping prohibited	Grade
AL	X	X	X	+	+	X	+	+	X	X	X	C-
AK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	F
AZ*	X*	X*	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	B
AR	X	X	X	X	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	D
CA*	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	B+
CO*	+	+	+	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	+	C+
CT	X	X	+	X	+	+	+	+	X	+	X	C+
DE	X	X	+	X	+	+	+	X*	X	+	X	C
FL*	+	+	X	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	C-
GA	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	C-
HI	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	A-
ID	X	X	X	+	X	X	+	X	X*	X	X	D
IL	X	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	X	+	X	C
IN	X	X	X	X	+	+	X	X	X	+	+	C-
IA	X	X	X	X	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	D
KS	X	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	C
KY	X	X	X	X	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	D+
LA	X	X	X	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	D
ME	X	X	X	X	+	X	+	+	X	X	X	D+
MD	X	X	X	X	+	X	X	+	X	+	X	D+
MA*	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	B
MI	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	D-
MN	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	D-
MS	X	X	X	+	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	D
MO	X	X	X	X	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	D+
MT	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	D-
NE	X	X	X	X	+	X	+	X	X	X	+	D+
NV	X	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	D-
NH	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	C
NJ	+	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	X	+	X	C+
NM	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	C
NY	X	X	+	X	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	C-
NC	X	X	X*	X	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	D
ND	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	X	X	X	+	D
OH	X	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	X	+	X	C
OK	X	X*	+	X	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	C-
OR	X	X	X	+	X	X	+	+	X*	X	X	D+
PA	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	+	X	X	+	D+
RI	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	+	B-
SC	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	C-
SD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	D-
TN	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	D-
TX	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	F
UT	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	+	X	X	+	D+

<b>VT</b>	X	X	+	+	+	+*	+	+	X	X	X	<b>C+</b>
<b>VA</b>	X	X	X	X	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	<b>D+</b>
<b>WA*</b>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	<b>B</b>
<b>WV</b>	X	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	<b>C</b>
<b>WI</b>	X	X	X	+	+	X	+	+	+	X	X	<b>C</b>
<b>WY</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	X	+	X	+	<b>D+</b>

**Key:** + “yes” or positive policy      X “no” or negative policy

**Leghold Traps:** The most commonly used trap in the United States by commercial and recreational fur trappers, these traps are inherently indiscriminate and will trap any unsuspecting animal who steps into the trap jaws, including companion animals, threatened and endangered species, and even humans. Animals captured in leghold traps endure fractures, ripped tendons, edema, blood loss, amputations, tooth and mouth damage (from chewing and biting at the trap), and starvation. Some animals will even chew or twist their limbs off in order to escape.

**Snares:** Simple in design and vicious in action, a snare is generally made of light wire cable looped through a locking device or of small nylon cord tied so that it will tighten as the animal pulls against it. The more a snared animal struggles, the tighter the noose becomes; the tighter the noose, the greater the animal's struggle and suffering. The body snare also may be used as an underwater drowning set for capturing and killing beavers and other aquatic animals. The body snare is designed to kill the animal by strangulation, drowning and/or crushing of vital organs. However, snares do not discriminate among victims and will capture any animal around any body part.

**Conibear Traps:** Consisting of two metal rectangles hinged together midway on the long side to open and close like scissors, the Conibear trap poses a serious hazard to companion animals and non-targeted wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. Despite years of research, there have been no significant advances in reducing non-targeted captures. Because they frequently are used in water, one of the primary causes of death for animals trapped in water such as beaver or otter is via drowning. The American Veterinary Medical Association has deemed drowning as an unacceptable method of euthanasia.

**Trapper Report:** Very few states tightly monitor the number of animals trapped each year and most do not require trappers to report the number or species of animals they kill, but may conduct voluntary surveys that tend to have very low response rates from which state wildlife agencies then “guess estimate” the total numbers of animals trapped each year. Mandatory trapper reports can provide a more accurate estimate of the number and type of species killed annually. It is important to point out, however, that no matter how accurate kill data or “harvest reports” are, they do not reflect population trends. Regardless, wildlife agencies frequently use harvest reports to estimate populations and to set annual bag limits and trapping seasons in lieu of conducting scientifically valid population assessments.

In addition, some states rely on voluntary or mandatory “fur dealer/buyer reports” to estimate annual trap kill totals. These reports have little correlation to the actual number of animals trapped since these reports only record the number of pelts purchased within the state. Out-of-state sales and pelts unsold are not recorded.

**24 Hour /Daily Trap Check:** Animals caught in traps for several days may starve, dehydrate, be attacked by other animals, or mangle their mouths and limbs in futile efforts to free themselves. Trappers also catch non-

targeted animals including deer, birds, squirrels, endangered species, cats and dogs; these animals have a much better chance of survival if traps are checked at least once every 24 hours.

**Trap ID:** While most state agencies lack the enforcement personnel necessary to ensure compliance with state trapping regulations, requiring that traps are affixed with owner identification helps law enforcement identify individuals who are setting traps in violation of state regulations. Trap IDs also aid in identifying individuals responsible for setting traps that have killed or injured companion animals, people or protected wildlife.

**Trapper Education:** Mandatory trapper education courses can help ensure that trappers understand and are aware of trapping regulations. Education courses can also provide instruction for avoiding and dealing with non-targeted catches, including companion animals and threatened and endangered species. In addition, education courses can provide information on less-cruel methods of killing trapped animals. However, few states require or offer trapper education courses. As a result, most trappers learn “in the field” by “trial and error” at the expense of the animals.

**Non-targeted Animals:** Most states do not require trappers to report non-targeted animals trapped, thereby cloaking the cumulative impacts and danger of trapping on wildlife, companion animals and communities. In lieu of available state collected data, Born Free USA maintains a database tracking incidents across the country that involve companion animals and threatened and endangered species. This data is collected via news reports or submitted directly to Born Free USA by veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators and residents who have encountered a trapping situation firsthand. Reports are submitted at [www.bornfreeusa.org/trappingreport](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/trappingreport)

**Bobcat and Otter Trapping:** Otter and bobcat are listed on Appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), a category designating species who are threatened or at risk of becoming so if traded heavily. Trapping can severely impact species who cannot naturally compensate for externally caused population reductions. Sensitive species include bobcat, river otter, wolverine, lynx, fisher, marten and kit fox.

Wildlife management practiced by state agencies is strongly dictated by economics. When pelt prices rise, pressure on furbearers increases and, in some situations, the size of the furbearer population can fluctuate depending on its perceived economic worth. Historically, basing management on economics rather than science has depleted populations of some species and created unnatural increases in others. Otter and bobcat trapping was specifically included in this evaluation because these species are native to most states, are sensitive species whose trade is of international concern, and are trapped primarily or solely for recreational or commercial purposes.

Notes:

WA\* Leghold traps, Conibear traps and snares are prohibited for the capture of mammals for recreation or commerce in fur. Conibear traps in water, padded leghold traps or a non-strangling type of foot snare can be used with a special permit for protecting human health and safety and wildlife conflicts (not to exceed 30 days, and a non-lethal control tool must be attempted first), protection of threatened and endangered species, and for use in “legitimate wildlife research” (excluding Conibear traps).

SC\* The Department may issue special depredation permits to allow the use of snares in water to target beavers.

RI\* Leghold traps are allowed with a special permit from the director of the Department of Environmental Management.

OR\* The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife estimated that it would take 140 hours of field staff time to search 24 offices for records and compile data, at a cost of \$3,920.00. This indicates that, while data may be collected, it is not readily available for evaluation or consideration by the Department or the public. For comparison, Wisconsin was able to provide non-targeted trapping data at no cost and Wyoming was able to provide the information for just \$10.

OK\* Trappers can obtain a 30-day permit to use Conibear traps in water targeting beavers.

NC\* Snares may be used in water to target beavers.

NY\* Traps must be checked every 24 hours; however, there are several area and species exceptions that allow traps to be checked every 48 hours.

MA\* A state ballot initiative in 1996 banned body-gripping traps. Special permits may be issued to use Conibear traps for certain types of wildlife damage.

ID\* Trappers are required to report only dead, non-targeted species (non-targeted species found alive are to be released, but need not be reported).

HI\* There is no recreational trapping in Hawaii. However, traps and snares have been used for certain types of wildlife damage.

FL\* Leghold traps may be used only by permit from the executive director of the commission.

DE\* Persons born after Jan. 1, 1978, are required to take a trapper education course prior to obtaining a trapping permit. Persons over age 65 and residents who live on more than 20 acres do not need a permit to trap nor are they required to take, a trapper education course.

CO\* A state ballot initiative in 1996 banned body-gripping traps. The ban effectively covers recreational and commercial fur trapping. Exemptions exist for control of wildlife damage to commercial crops and livestock on private land, to protect public health and safety, and for bona fide scientific research. Leghold traps used for these purposes must be padded when set on land.

CA\* A state ballot initiative in 1998 banned the use of body-gripping traps for commercial and recreational trapping. Leghold traps, Conibear traps and snares can be used for nuisance wildlife control and human health and safety.

AZ\* All body-gripping traps and snares are prohibited on public land as a result of a ballot initiative passed in 1994. Body-gripping traps are allowed on private land. Snares are not permitted, except those not designed to kill for purpose of scientific research, sport falconry or relocation.

VT\* Body-gripping traps set under ice need only be checked once every three days.

Dear MISS PETERSON:

Hello. I would like to leave a comment regarding the hunting of Mountain Lions in South Dakota.

- ① All Mountain Lion hunting should be stopped, until we know the health of the Lion breeding population in South Dakota, and the health of the populations in neighboring states expected to provide dispersing Lions in to South Dakota.
  - ② Allowing out of state hunters will over exploit an extremely limited natural resource.
  - ③ Hounding has been banned in two thirds of the United States. This is an archaic and cruel practice for both wild animals and dogs; And it should be banned in South Dakota as well.
- Thank you in advance for your valuable time and attention to This very important matter.

Sincerely  
Amir Niknam  
AMIR NIKNAM

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 788  
Black Hawk, SD 57718  
Oct 1st, 2015

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

PHAS Cougar letter # 1

Dear Commissioners,

We want to thank Secretary Helper for creating a Tribal Liaison and appointing Ron Skates to that position. This action is long overdue and it wonderful that GFP has finally created this position.

We object to the SD Lion season parameters and have done so for years; we have sent letters in to all hearings since 2005 and testified at all but one hearing in the last 10 years. This is an important issue to us. We want the Black Hills cougars managed as a source population. We want lions to be recovered on the prairie, especially on tribal lands, if the tribes want the recovery.

We object and have repeatedly objected to your cougar season for many reasons:

1. We desire to know cougars exist on the land - both in the Black Hills and on the prairies of SD. We want to "wildlife watch", see tracks and just know that they are there. We believe your aggressive season seriously reduces lions in Black Hills and your goal seems to be to eradicate lions on the prairie.
2. We are concerned about the cruelty to kittens when moms die and with the creation of orphaned and undertrained sub-adults, that may become "conflict" lions.
3. We believe the danger from cougars is exaggerated and that cougar opponents promote and exploit people's fear of cougars; a fear not supported by facts.
4. We want the Department to seriously review the new cougar research out of Washington State that challenges the assumptions that heavy hunting of lions reduces lion conflicts with human/livestock. We want answers from SDGFP about how this research in NW coast applies to SD and Wyoming Black Hills. We need more information on cougar-human conflicts and if these conflicts are increasing or decreasing with time and how this relates to the Black Hills aggressive harvest.
5. We believe that wild predators deserve a fair share of the harvest of wild ungulate prey. We object to killing predators to maximize hunter harvest of "prey" animals

6. We want you to give equal weight to concerns of wildlife enthusiasts who value cougars - we want the same respect you give to "hunter/fishers" and large agricultural producers. A licensee fee is not a donation. With their license fees, hunter/fishers purchase a thing of value from public -- access to take wildlife from the land. Wildlife is owned by all SD citizens. Also much of the Black Hills is federal land and belongs to all American citizens -- it does not belong to a few large agricultural producers. However Native Americans claim it also, with the moral claim of broken treaties and theft. At any rate, the Black Hills that supports most of our lion population is substantially public land. So this is about a public resource grown substantially on public land.

#### Specific Objections/Requests for 2015-2017 Seasons

We thank you for the fifteen lion reduction in Black Hills harvest "cap", but believe this "cap" is irrelevant, cosmetic or disingenuous, as it is unrealistically high. Hunters have not reached your "caps" for the last 3 years. We believe your staff does not expect them to kill all 60 lions.

You set the "caps" way above what can be harvested, thus the "brake" you place on the season is actually the season length. Several years ago the Commission proposed "caps" on bobcat harvests. But as we understood it, the staff felt too uncertain about population levels, so wanted the "brake" to be the length of the bobcat season. Which is what you chose.

You need to reduce the "cap" at least to 43 lions (last harvest) or as Cougar Rewilding suggests in their letter -- 14% of population, the value suggested by Wielgus. SD GFP has not shown us a chart with the estimate of the lion population after the 2014-2015 hunt, so we can't calculate what 14% of today's population would be.

We object to the 60 lion harvest "cap" as too aggressive, especially as it is being set for two years. We question the uncertainty of the population estimates and lack of transparency -- at the very least, you do not share the anticipated 2017 lion population levels with the public, if you even have created an estimate. We object to a 2-year season, especially given lack of transparency with respect to the anticipated kill levels and anticipated populations at end of seasons.

A. We object to licenses being sold to any out-of-state folks, especially for only \$121 dollars each. We especially object to out-of-state hunters being allowed to hunt on the prairie unit, which means, they can hunt with hounds. The approval of hound hunting was – controversial. It was allegedly so livestock producers could be appeased. Please don't make this controversial decision worse by allowing out-of-state hunters to increase the number of hound-hunters.

B. We object to Commission's January 2015 approval of hound hunt on the prairie -- which allows such hound hunt for 365 days of the year on private land and on some public lands. We request that you repeal this recent rule change.

C. We object to extension of the SD Mountain Lion Management Plan for 2 more years. Why? So many of SDGFP's assumptions and goals that we object to are made policy in this Plan.

D. We have seen some new Lion Populations. Several tribes believe they have seen the recent creation of resident or breeding mountain lion populations. This is a changed circumstance for some tribes since 2010-15 Mt. Lion Management Plan was adopted. SDGFP new Secretary Hepler has appointed a tribal liaison. We look forward to a new future of much improved GFP

consultation with tribes.

Once you are satisfied with the information you receive from tribes, we believe you will determine the 2010-2015 Plan is outdated, with its assumptions of no habitat, no breeding and no resident lions on the prairie. We believe that Tribal authority to manage for lions will change your perception that property owners in the prairie don't want lions. We believe that National Forest, BLM, USFWS, NPS and State School Lands in the western part of SD challenge the assumption that the concern in prairie is just about private lands.

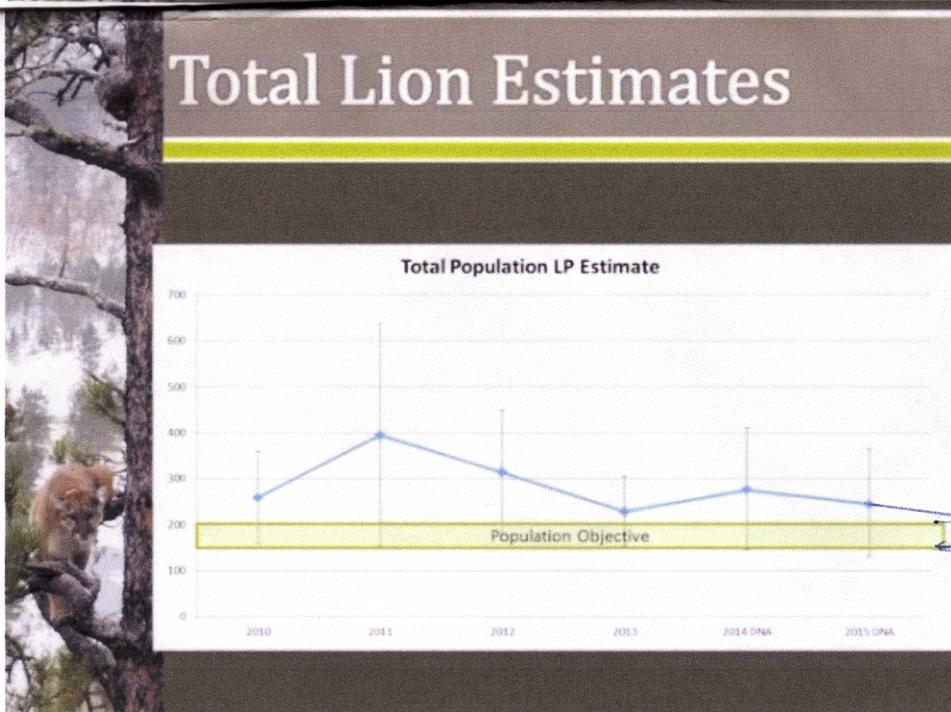
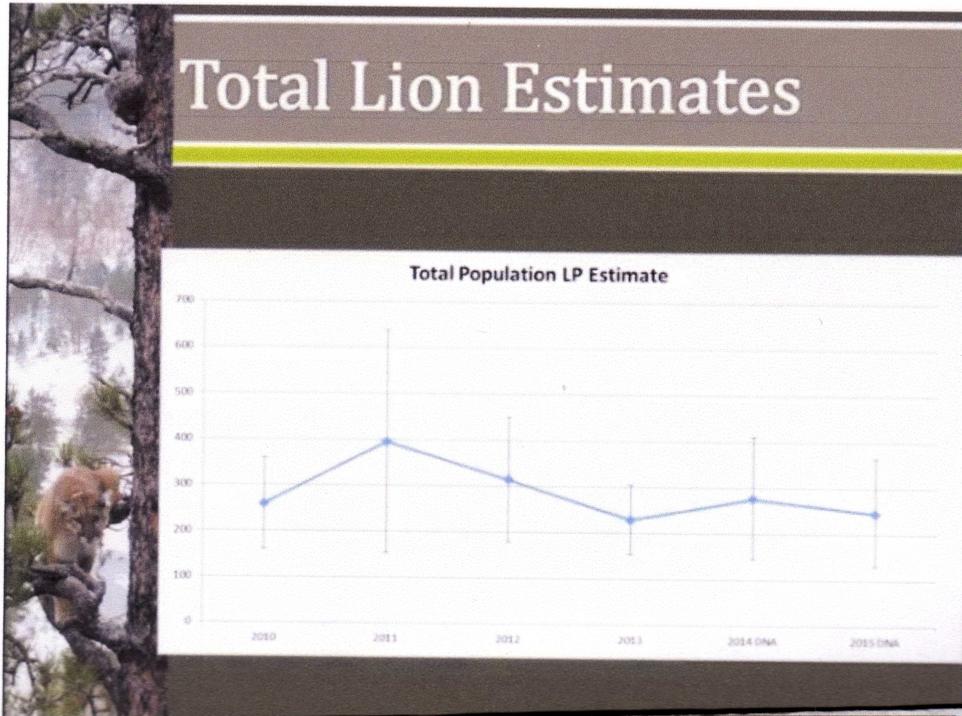
We also want the Black Hills to continue to be a source population for Nebraska's small lion populations. We believe these populations are connected to SD tribal lion populations.

E. We object to the 365-day, unlimited season on the Prairie Unit. We once again ask you to break the prairie unit up into geographic subsets to allow for different management objectives in different parts of prairie unit. This could allow aggressive cougar hunting in some areas and reduced or no hunting in other prairie areas. We believe that the boundaries of Black Hills lion habitat are too small and that areas with breeding lions around BHs are currently inappropriately excluded from the Black Hills unit. We also hope for management buffers outside reservations for cooperation of GFP with tribes on lion management. We want connectivity corridors to small disjunct populations.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Hilding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society



You can see. That's our population objective that we have as our population objective that we have listed in our management plan. That's from 150 to 200. Obviously, the bulk of our estimates are still above that. Our 95%

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 788  
Black Hawk, SD 57718  
Oct 1st, 2015

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

Cougar Comment letter # 2

Dear Commissioners

We attach a visual aid to this letter we will use during our testimony today.

In attached document, we have taken your staff's "Total Population LP Estimate" chart (from August Commission Meeting) and continued the population line out towards the end of the season in 2017. It shows population dropping below 150 lions.

The last date point on this chart (2015), really refers to Christmas 2014. So the last season used to determine this population trend was the 2013-2014 season, where you had a higher harvest and higher cap than is currently proposed.

We suggest if you continue the tradition of -- setting not realistic caps, that are way above what you believe the hunters can catch, you may end up in 2017, with less than 150 lions and be outside your 2010-2015 goals.

As the majority of people in your poll (2010-2015 Plan) wanted no change in the population levels and a minority wanted slight change, we do not see how a harvest that drops lions below 150 is consistent with either the Plan's objections or the public poll.

The small text sentence below the last chart is from a transcription of the August staff presentation.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hilding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Nancy Hilding

1 attachment

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Date:** Monday, October 05, 2015 8:44:46 AM

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

From: Jerod Lutter [<mailto:lutterwaterproofing@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 6:04 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject:

Jerod Lutter Belle Fourche SD. I support not changing the bobcat season from the previous two years

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment provided for the Nov 2015 meeting wrt: GFP Commission Proposes Increases for State Parks and Boating Fees  
**Date:** Monday, October 05, 2015 2:38:02 PM

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**From:** Tinsley, Todd L CAPT USN CENSEALSWCC [mailto:Todd.Tinsley@navsoc.socom.mil]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2015 2:31 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Comment provided for the Nov 2015 meeting wrt: GFP Commission Proposes Increases for State Parks and Boating Fees

Dear South Dakota GFP Commission,

Please accept the following comments in response to the proposed increases for State Parks and Boating Fees as stated in the October 5, 2015 GFP News.

As a long time South Dakota resident currently residing outside of the state serving on active duty in the Navy, I am not opposed to reasonable fees nor proposed increases that help maintain the high quality recreational opportunities provided throughout the state. The GFP does an amazing job developing, maintaining and marketing the many outdoor leisure programs, facilities and areas - I am very proud to say I am from South Dakota and personally look forward to every chance I can return home and partake of the many GFP provided recreational opportunities. I do, however, take exception to the comparison made in the following paragraph from the GFP News cited:

"The proposed Custer State Park week long pass is comparable to similar fees charged today at Rocky Mountain National Park (\$20), Theodore Roosevelt National Park (\$20), Yellowstone National Park (\$30) and Grand Teton National Park (\$30). Custer State Park is an iconic destination park and hosts many of the same out of state guests that frequent these National Parks."

The National Park System has a graduated/adjusted fee structure that includes reduced or "fee-less" costs to select demographic populations like senior citizens, disabled persons and the military. If the National Park System is the standard being used to measure cost basis, I recommend the Commission consider adopting a similar modified fee structure for the South Dakota State Parks and Recreation venues. This would be consistent with the comparisons made in the paragraph above as well as be in line with the limited participation enjoyed by our senior citizens, disabled persons and military populations. I suspect that many in these same demographic populations have limited funds available to spend on recreation as well. Making the fee structure more appealing may entice them to spend a bigger portion of their limited disposable income to partake of these wonderful recreational opportunities and support the South Dakota GFP initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration and time. Again, I am extremely proud to call myself a South Dakota resident and actively encourage everyone I know to visit our wonderful state to see its beauty, diversity and meet the finest people in our nation.

V/R, TT

CAPT Todd L. Tinsley  
Commanding Officer  
Center for SEAL and SWCC  
Home email: [varockgym@gmail.com](mailto:varockgym@gmail.com)  
330 I Avenue  
Coronado, CA 92118  
757-803-3032

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population  
**Date:** Friday, October 02, 2015 2:23:16 PM

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

From: The Humane Society of the United States [<mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org>]  
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 2:04 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Conserve South Dakota's fragile mountain lion population

Oct 2, 2015

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission

South Dakota's mountain lions are wild icons who deserve far better protections for future generation. As an official managing South Dakota's greatest cat, I ask you to uphold your public trust duties to manage mountain lions for all.

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks proposes to reduce its mountain lion hunting "harvest limit" on the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit by a modest amount. While going from a limit of 75 to 60 and female sublimit of 50 to 40 is a good first step, it is not nearly enough. Since 2010, South Dakota's mountain lion population has declined by 30 percent with far too many females dying. This kind of management suppresses the population, which has terrible conservation and ethical consequences.

I would like to emphasize that female cats should especially be protected. Killing mother cats puts their dependent kittens into jeopardy. Without their mothers, young kittens will die from dehydration, malnutrition or predation, which are all ethical problems.

Second, female cats do not disperse far from the areas of their births, so killing them can limit population recovery, which is a conservation concern for South Dakota.

South Dakota's mountain lions deserve to be managed using the best available science, with their populations protected from heavy levels of trophy hunting, and managed for all citizens so that they will be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Ashlee Pray  
18 McMaster St  
Deadwood, SD 57732-9704  
[ashlee.pray@gmail.com](mailto:ashlee.pray@gmail.com)

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: GFP Commission Proposes Increases for State Parks and Boating Fees  
**Date:** Monday, October 05, 2015 2:37:13 PM

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

From: dakotawholesale.com, ted  
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 1:30 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: GFP Commission Proposes Increases for State Parks and Boating Fees

Dear Commission:

As a life-long businessman as well as South Dakota sportsman, I understand increased costs associated with maintaining facilities and operations.

I like the idea of increasing fees where there is a service provided directly to the user, (Telephone reservations should have a charge, but why only \$9.90 for non-residents and \$2.00 for residents? The airlines charge \$15-\$25 for a phone reservation vs. on-line.) Don't make this complicated, charge \$10.00 or \$15.00 for phone reservations period.

I am not a boat owner, but I question raising the licensing fees of resident South Dakotans, who already pay plenty of fees and gas taxes to South Dakota.

Why not raise the non-resident fishing license fees? For that matter, why not raise the non-resident hunting fees too?

These people pay thousands of dollars in travel expenses, hunting lodge fees, etc., etc., etc.....I do not for a minute believe that they will cancel coming to the greatest pheasant hunting place in the world because their license costs another \$25 or \$50 dollars. These people pay \$300-\$400 per day to hunt pheasants, on top of their travel expenses.

Why do the "Shooting Preserve" non-resident licenses cost less than the standard non-resident license? This reeks of special favors and back door dealings.

Make the non-resident small game license the same for everyone, whether they use them or not. (I would propose raising the fee to \$125 for a Nonresident Small Game License. (10-days, (2) 5-day periods.

The same fee structure should be implemented for non-resident fishing licenses.... why have a one-day period even an option?  
I can't believe that GF&P can even process a one-day fishing license for \$16.00

When I go to Canada fishing, I pay for the privilege. When I go to Montana to hunt elk, I pay for the privilege.

When I travel throughout our beautiful state, I see many South Dakota resident sportsmen and women who are hunting and fishing with older equipment and limited budgets.....when I see non-resident sportsmen and women utilizing our fantastic resources, I see newer, top-of-the-line equipment.

Lets do what we can to keep the cost of resident hunting and fishing to a minimum.

When I go to Montana or Wyoming to hunt elk , I go there because it is some of the best elk hunting in the world, not because the price of their non-resident license is a few dollars cheaper than another state. When people come to South Dakota to hunt or fish, they do so for the same reason.

Thank you for your time.

Yours truly,

Ted Swenson  
26640 484th ave.  
Brandon, SD 57005

605-351-9305

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Lion Hunting  
**Date:** Friday, October 02, 2015 8:07:01 AM

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

From: Ron Laughlin [<mailto:ronlaughlin@rchs61.org>]  
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 6:29 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Lion Hunting

Hello,

Just read in newspaper about non-resident lion hunting. Would like to express my approval for allowing this to go forward. Yes, i believe allowing non-residents to hunt lion here, is a good idea, and hope it becomes.

Thanking you,

Ron Laughlin  
3114 Wonderland Drive  
Rapid City, SD 57702

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: NO nonresident Lion Tags  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 3:57:52 PM

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**From:** Andy Ellis [mailto:sillera94@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 3:37 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** NO nonresident Lion Tags

Hello my name is Andy Ellis and I live in Brookings SD. We South Dakotans have very few hunting privileges left that are exclusive to residents only. Why do we have to open every darn door to non residents? Our lion season should be left alone. Commercialization of our resident hunting privileges is happening more and more every year. If the game commission wants to let nonresidents push out more residents then they should let nonresidents have a seat on the commission, seems fare. It seems like the commission can be swayed by private outside entities that push farther into residents' quality of hunting. More private land is being leased every year by nonresidents OR residents who guide nonresidents. Close the door on these NEW nonresident tags, we have plenty of pressure as it is, DON'T add to the problem.

I hope you listen to residents and not the dollars of the nonresidents as I think they seem more important than us at times. I don't want to seem aggressive but the nonresidents are clearly putting a lot of pressure on the commission to allow more and more licenses/tags each year and we residents MUST push back and stand our ground. If we don't, all you will see is more out of state plates over utilizing our resources. Thanks for your time, AE.

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Non-resident hunting of mountain lions  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 10:30:30 AM

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**From:** Leon Fenhaus [mailto:l.fenhaus@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 9:17 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Non-resident hunting of mountain lions

Commissioners:

The current management of mountain lion hunting in the Black Hills has been successful in controlling the population and providing a quality hunting experience. The addition of non-resident hunters will increase the number of hunters and hunting pressure and dilute the experience for all hunters. The increase in hunters will also negatively impact the other big game populations during the time of the year they need to conserve their resources for the winter and reproduction. Lion hunting is the newest big game hunting opportunity in SD and residents are far from exhausting their interest. It is for these reasons I oppose expanding lion hunting to non-residents. I strongly encourage you to do the same.

Leon Fenhaus  
Rapid City, SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Non-resident Mountain Lion Licences  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:53:21 AM

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

From: lindsay Wollmann [<mailto:lindsaywollmann@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 6:01 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Non-resident Mountain Lion Licences

GF&P Commissioners,

I urge you to vote against issuing mountain lion licenses to non-residents. The mountain lion population in South Dakota is too small to support non-resident hunters, along with SD residents. Mountain lions are a trophy animal and the opportunity to hunt them should be reserved for residents.

Lindsay Wollmann  
Brookings, SD

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Opitz Lake  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:35:04 AM

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**From:** venturecomm.net, mdunn@venturecomm.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:55 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Opitz Lake

We feel that the fishing restrictions on Opitz Lake should be kept as they are now in place. It is a small lake and we feel it will be "fished out" in a very short time.

Sincerely,  
Mike and Mary Dunn  
PO Box 55  
Eden, SD 57232

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Bobcat season  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:53:07 AM

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

From: Imac [<mailto:drdmrmef@gwtc.net>]  
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 4:56 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Proposed Bobcat season

Dear SD Game, Fish and Parks Commissioners:

I support the current Bobcat season being proposed by the SD Game, Fish and Parks.

Donald L. Massa, DDS  
28148 18 Cutacross Rd  
Edgemont, SD 57735

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed changes to mountain lion hunting policies  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:52:47 AM

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

From: Valerie D. Face [<mailto:vdf@juno.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 2:09 AM  
To: Cooper, John; Peterson, Cathy; Dennert, Paul H.; Jensen, Barry; Jensen, Gary; Phillips, W. Scott; Sather, Duane; Spies, Jim; GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Proposed changes to mountain lion hunting policies

Dear Commissioners,

I am not a resident of South Dakota, but I wanted to comment on your proposed changes to mountain lion hunting policies because I deeply appreciate mountain lions and the crucial role they play, as apex predators, to keep ecosystems in balance.

While reducing the mountain lion hunt quota is a step in the right direction, and I approve of it, it would be better to stop all mountain lion hunting until the health of the breeding population in South Dakota, and the health of the populations in neighboring states (sources of mountain lions dispersing into South Dakota), is known.

I am very troubled by the proposals to authorize the issuance of nonresident mountain lion hunting licenses and establish those licenses at a fee of \$121. \$121 is a paltry sum for an affluent, out-of-state hunter, and it is alarming to think of what is truly being given away for that fee. Commercializing and incentivizing the killing of South Dakota mountain lions will likely lead to their rapid over-exploitation. A handful of guides and hunting ranches may profit, but South Dakota residents and local hunters will have less say in what happens to these iconic cats and the ecosystems that they keep healthy. Nonresident hunters will not have to live with the consequences of their actions; local hunters will be more likely to support South Dakota's goals for healthy long-term breeding populations.

Finally, please do not allow the inhumane practice of hunting mountain lions with hounds. It is cruel to the cat being hunted and it endangers the hounds as well as any mountain lion kittens that may be hidden in the area. Hounding has been banned in two-thirds of the United States for good reason, and I urge you to ban it in South Dakota as well.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,  
Valerie D. Face  
Santa Clara, CA

~\*~\*~\*~

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"  
- from "The Summer Day" by Mary Oliver  
<http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/133.html>

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed increase for Resident Boat Registration Fees  
**Date:** Monday, October 05, 2015 12:58:56 PM

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**From:** dakotalab7@yahoo.com [mailto:dakotalab7@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2015 11:52 AM  
**To:** SDGFPINFO  
**Subject:** Proposed increase for Resident Boat Registration Fees

Dear Sirs:

I am **totally opposed** to any increase in Resident Boat Registration fees. The residents of South Dakota **Should Not** have to pay more money to fish South Dakota waters. The Non-residents, especially Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska are Not paying enough to fish South Dakota waters. I have notice that nonresidents fishermen especially on Eastern South Dakota lakes such as Dry Lake, Lake Thompson, Indian Springs and Lake Poinsett **out number the residents Fisherman by 20-30%**. I further note that most (if not all) of the border waters in South Dakota are infested with invasive species ie: Zebra Mussels, curly pond weed, European Rudd and others. This was probably cause by Nonresidents.

Increasing the Resident Boat Registration fee does not and will not cleanup the problems the nonresident have caused.

I also know that **Nonresidents monies** provide **33% of SDGFP operating capital** whereas **Residents only provide 20%** . The Non resident consumptive users, both Hunting and Fishing need to pay more.

Thank you,  
Earl E. Nelson  
26981 Elmen Place,  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Purposed Resident Boat Registration Fees  
**Date:** Monday, October 05, 2015 2:37:28 PM

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**From:** dakotalab7@yahoo.com [mailto:dakotalab7@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2015 2:20 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Purposed Resident Boat Registration Fees

Dear Sirs:

I am **totally opposed** to any increase in Resident Boat Registration fees. The residents of South Dakota **Should Not** have to pay more money to fish South Dakota waters. The Non-residents, especially Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska are Not paying enough to fish South Dakota waters. I have notice that nonresidents fishermen especially on Eastern South Dakota lakes such as Dry Lake, Lake Thompson, Indian Springs and Lake Poinsett **out number the residents Fisherman by 20-30%**. I further note that most (if not all) of the border waters in South Dakota are infested with invasive species ie: Zebra Mussels, curly pond weed, European Rudd and others. This was probably cause by Nonresidents.

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Earl E. Nelson  
26981 Elmen Place,  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Registration fees  
**Date:** Monday, October 05, 2015 10:13:14 AM

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

From: grizzly adams [<mailto:grizadams@live.com>]  
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 8:58 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: Registration fees

To whom it may concern,

KELO tv is reporting that you are asking for higher registration fees for boats. I think we should start having nonresidents buy a boating tag. This should create enough money to leave the resident fee where it is. It's only fair that all users shoulder the burden of patrolling and maintaining our resources.

I snowmobile in a few western states that require non residents to purchase tags for their snowmobiles. I would also ask that you do the same in South Dakota. I don't feel that it would have a negative impact on tourism numbers, and again would boost revenue so that the expense of creating, maintaining, and patrolling the trails doesn't fall only on the residents.

Jesse Koerner  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Miller, LouAnn](#)  
**To:** [Comes, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Spink county waterfowl  
**Date:** Friday, October 02, 2015 10:34:48 AM

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**From:** Ron Wren [mailto:[ron.wren@redfieldcmh.org](mailto:ron.wren@redfieldcmh.org)]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 02, 2015 10:32 AM  
**To:** SDGFINFO; Matt Owens, MD  
**Subject:** Spink county waterfowl

Do not allow Spink county to give up its waterfowl to commercial operations. Commercial pheasant opportunities have severely limited upland hunting to the residents of Spink county. By increasing waterfowl licenses to nonresidents the access and opportunity for resident hunters will continue to diminish. Hunter recruitment is dwindling. And is associated with lack of access and negative interactions with landowners. Spink county pheasant hunting has gone the way of the aristocratic huntsman of Europe. Do not allow the very limited waterfowl hunting opportunities in Spink county follow suit. FYI Spink county has NO land in the SDGFP Walk In Program. This is by in large due to commercial hunting.

I would also ask the commission to implement a mandatory, outfitter and guide license for anybody associated with Fee Hunting. These dollars would more than cover the extra license fees from Nonresident waterfowl hunters.

Sincerely,

Ron Wren