

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Janet Hoben <janethoben@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 8:06 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] No mountain lion hound hunting!

The use of hounds is inhumane, outdated and NOT considered fair chase. Expanding hounding onto prairies, where there are few trees for lions to escape, poses increased risk to the lions and the dogs.

Here in the greater Los Angeles Area we cherish and celebrate our mountain lions! We are even working on building a multi million dollar freeway overcrossing so they can safely cross our busiest freeways and their genetic diversity can be improved. You may have heard of the famous P22 mountain lion of Hollywood who has been featured in Nat Geo and many other places.

Please say no to ANY hunting of mountain lions.

Sincerely,

Janet Hoben  
20652 Lassen St Space #89  
Chatsworth CA 91311  
213-248-8998

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** scientist <scientist@mountainlion.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 6:37 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] SD Mountain Lion Hound Hunting  
**Attachments:** 2017-10-30 SDGFP Hound Comment letter.pdf

Dear Commissioners,

Please see the attached public comment.

Best,  
Veronica

Veronica Yovovich, PhD  
*Science Program Director and Wildlife Conflict Specialist*

### **Mountain Lion Foundation**

PO Box 1896  
Sacramento CA 95812  
[www.MountainLion.org](http://www.MountainLion.org)

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Norma Hernandez <norma3hernandez@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 12:34 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] TAKING ACTION AGAINST EXPANDING HOUND HUNTING ON PUBLIC LANDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA!

Good evening SDGFP Commission,

I would like to submit my comment. I oppose the petition to the expanded opportunities for hunting mountain lions with hounds on the South Dakota Prairie.

Hound hunting of mountain lions should NOT be allowed in private lands or to be expanded onto all public lands in South Dakota.

As an indigenous person, we must protect our sacred animals. Animals are respected as equal in rights to humans. Tlazohcamati (Thank you),

Quotes: Every seed is awakened and so is all animal life. It is through this mysterious power that we too have our being and we therefore yield to our animal neighbors the same right as ourselves, to inhabit this land -Sitting Bull, Hunkpapa Teton Sioux.

Kinship with all creatures of the earth, sky and water was a real and active principle - Lakota.

Kind Regards,

Naualli Xochipilli Tepeyollotl, From Hawthorne, California

**Comes, Rachel**

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**From:** Wendy Luedke <wendymluedke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 29, 2017 4:33 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] using hounds to hunt mountain lions - NO!

"**Trophy hunters** use radio-collared trailing hounds to chase mountain lions and bay them into trees or rock ledges so that the trophy hunter can shoot these cats at close range. This hunting method is unsporting, unethical and inhumane. Hounds kill kittens, and wild cats often injure or kill hounds."- SD Humane Society. These are trophy hunters, they kill to get a mount, nothing more. This should not be made easier for them!

Hound hunting of mountain lions should NOT be expanded onto any public lands in South Dakota. It should not even be allowed on private lands - if this could be changed, I'd be all for it!

**Wendy M. Luedke**

**Lead, SD 57759**

**"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge."**

**-Isaac Asimov**

**"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." -George Orwell**

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*

— *Nelson Mandela*

***"One must care about a world one will not see."***

— *Bertrand Russell*

***"Fairytale are more than true; not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten."***

***-Neil Gaiman***

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Katie Day <kinser0011@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 7:10 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Comments for SDGFP commission re: expansion of hound hunting mountain lions on prairie

Dear members of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission,

My friends & family are avid hunters in eastern South Dakota and oppose the proposal from President of Houndsmen Association to expand hounding of mountain lions in the Prairie region.

South Dakota's mountain lions are extremely rare on the landscape and we must continue to manage their population in order to ensure they remain in our state for generations to come. This means reducing the killing of young, dispersing mountain lions leaving the Black Hills to find new habitat. Allowing intense persecution of mountain lions in this region of the state will cause intense pressure to these individuals and prevent the ability for mountain lions to establish themselves in other parts of South Dakota and beyond.

Additionally, hounding is not a fair-chase hunting method, providing an unfair advantage to mountain lions hunters looking for an easy kill. Those of us who uphold fair hunting practices do not support this method of tracking and baying mountain lions. Hounding should be prohibited throughout our state, not expanded. I ask that you oppose the proposed amendment to expand hounding of mountain lions in the Prairie region.

Thank you,  
Katie Day  
Renner, SD

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Cathleen P <mrsaplaza@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 11:23 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Expanded Mountain Lion hunting with hounds

Hello,

I am writing to express my deep disagreement with any expansion of mountain lion hunting with hounds.

Hunting using hounds gives no fair chase to cougar, and is abhorrent to many hunters who support the premise of fair chase.

Mountain lions help contain our deer population. Without our apex predator, we can expect starving deer, increased auto accidents involving deer and increased crop damage- Mountain Lions help control the deer population in a natural way.

We do not need out of state trophy hunters coming into our state and killing our lions. Kittens are killed indiscriminately by hounds, and this inevitably leads to a lack of genetic diversity. Our state needs to think about long term sustainability of these animals, and not bow to pressure from special interest groups.

The quotas every year are barely, if ever, met. This speaks to a lack of lions in our area. Expanding the use of hounds only increases this problem. Please, do not let our lions get killed off from our majestic landscape. Please do not allow an expansion of hunting with hounds.

Regards,  
Cathleen Plaza  
Spearfish, SD

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Evgenia <evgenia.ruzanova@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 6:40 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Hound hunting of mountain lions

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Please do not approve the petition of extending hound hunting of mountain lions to public lands. This method of hunting is unsporting and inhumane. Such an iconic American animal as a mountain lion should be treated with respect. As a consequence of human activities these animals already suffer from lost of habitat, pollution, and in some states have an endangered status. Especially cruel and endangering is the fact that hounds kill kittens. The future of the species depends on it.

Thank you in advance, and I and many others really hope for your understanding.

Evgenia Harrison  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Sent from my iPhone

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Megan Gardner <megan.gardner@outlook.com.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 1:04 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] HOUND HUNTING ON PUBLIC LAND

Dear Sir/Madam

I am absolutely appalled and horrified that you are considering inflicting more cruelty and torture against the majestic mountain lion!!! Hound hunting is a despicable practice, barbaric and unfair! Why must the mountain lion be subjected to this evil cruel chase?? My god, who are these people that get off on this?? It simply is disgusting. The mountain lions should be given full protection, not chased to their death by marauding dogs. The farmers should keep their livestock off PUBLIC land and lock their livestock up properly so they are not attacked by the lions, which are rightly on their own land that the farmers took off them.

Why is everything about greed and blood lust?? Why can the animals not be left alone to live their life out as they should. I am so sick of this treatment to the iconic animals of this country.

This is unethical, unsporting ( I would hardly call killing animals a SPORT!!) and inhumane. Its time the OTHER people in America have their say and their chance to see wild animals.

Thank you

Megan Gardner  
327 Sth Cleveland Ave  
St Paul  
Minnesota

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Megan Gardner



## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Terry Newman <tumblebug@rushmore.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 29, 2017 6:30 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Hound hunting on public lands

From Terry  
Sent from my iPhone

South Dakota Game Fish & Parks

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to the consideration by the South Dakota Game Fish & Parks to allow the hound hunting of mountain lions on public lands.

As a life long resident of SD and supporter of hunting I must register my protest of this action. First of all, it appalls me that hound hunting is allowed in any manner in my state. It is an inhumane and unsportsmanlike hunting technique. Such a far cry from the hunting my father did to provide food for my family as I was growing up. It is bad enough that it is allowed on private land but as you are considering allowing it on public land, land that belongs to the all people of the state, I must make known my vehement opposition.

This is something that is only in the interest of “trophy” hunters and without consideration of the hounds and mountain lions. Please do not go forward with this proposal.

Sincerely,

Terry Newman  
Rapid City

From Terry

Sent from my iPhone

From Terry  
Sent from my iPhone

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Maura Lucas <mclucus@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 8:40 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Hound Hunts on Public Lands

Please refuse to allow hound hunting of mountain lions on public lands. It is inhumane and barbaric to risk causing pain, suffering, and death to the animals for any reason. Go high on this one.

Sincerely,  
Maura Lucas  
Malibu, California

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** John Mantooth <[john.mantooth@gmail.com](mailto:john.mantooth@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 11:37 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Hunting mountain lions with hounds

Please do not hunt the mountain lions on public lands! Mountain lions are an important and beautiful part of the ecosystem.

Margaret Mantooth  
[john.mantooth@gmail.com](mailto:john.mantooth@gmail.com)  
Perkins, OK

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Cheyenne Nimes <timesnimes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 7:48 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Mountain Lion Comments.

Please do not expand hunting, nor use hounds to hunt our precious mountain lions.

If adopted at the November GFP Commission meeting, the net result would allow the pursuit of mountain lions on other public lands open to hunting; including U.S. Forest Service lands and prairies.

The use of hounds is inhumane, outdated and NOT considered fair chase. Expanding hounding onto prairies, where there are few trees for lions to escape, poses increased risk to the lions and the dogs.

Cheyenne Nimes  
Salt Lake City, Utah

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*No trees were killed to bring you this message,  
but billions of electrons were horribly inconvenienced.*

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Carsyn Susann <carsynsusann@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 6:28 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Mountain lion hunting proposal

Dear, Commissioners

I support the mountain lion proposal of allowing a hunt with dogs to continue on to public land in South Dakota.

Carsyn Farlee. Dupree, SD

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** mac <tebbensm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 29, 2017 10:20 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Mountain Lion Hunting with hounds :(

To Whom it may concern,

I understand that South Dakota Game Fish & Parks (SDGFP) is considering a hound hunting petition submitted last month by the President of the South Dakota Houndsmen Association. This is so concerning to me. We have lived in the Black Hills just a short distance from Whitewood Creek for 10 years. We know there are Mt. Lions around us...we see their tracks, we hear their calls, and we have even seen one allusive kitten and a big cat cross the road, but we have never feared them. I don't agree with the need to hunt them but I realize hunters want to hunt them, but then they should have to do just that and work at it. Not have some dog track it for them. That is unfair and inhumane. I understand that Trophy hunters use radio-collared trailing hounds to chase mountain lions and bay them into trees or rock ledges so that the trophy hunter can shoot these cats at close range. This hunting method is unsporting, unethical and inhumane. Hounds kill kittens, and wild cats often injure or kill hounds. These are majestic animals that help control the balance in our beautiful National Forest. Houndsmen should not have more rights then I the casual observer of wild life and definately not cheat in hunting these wild animals.

Mary Tebben  
20481 Oakbrook Road  
Whitewood SD  
57793  
605-578-1098

**Comes, Rachel**

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**From:** cfarlee35 <cfarlee35@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 6:34 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Mountain lion hunting

Dear commissioners,

I support the new mountain lion hunting proposal of continuing a hunt onto public land with dogs from private land in sd I urge you all to support it as well.

Caelan Mason Farlee, Lantry SD

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 7:51 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Comments on Proposal to Amend ARSD 41:06:61:06, Expanding Hounding of Mountain Lions outside the Black Hills Fire District  
**Attachments:** HSUS Comments\_2017 Hounding Petition.pdf

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**From:** Darci Adams [<mailto:dadams@humanesociety.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 4:54 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Comments on Proposal to Amend ARSD 41:06:61:06, Expanding Hounding of Mountain Lions outside the Black Hills Fire District

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Staff for Members of the Commission -

Attached please find a PDF document with comments from me on behalf of our organization regarding the proposal to amend ARSD 41:06:61:06 being discussed at the commission meeting on Tuesday, November 2 in Brookings.

I am unable to attend this meeting in person and ask you to share my comments on behalf of The Humane Society of the United States with members of the commission in advance of this meeting.

The studies cited in my comments can be found via this Dropbox link and can also be shared with South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commissioners: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/f8igkxnv3lhvjzqz/AAC1V-DMYCwLUJ7kY\\_HbA-0Ga?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/f8igkxnv3lhvjzqz/AAC1V-DMYCwLUJ7kY_HbA-0Ga?dl=0).

Sincerely,

**Darci Adams**  
South Dakota State Director, State Affairs  
[dadams@humanesociety.org](mailto:dadams@humanesociety.org)  
PO Box 733 Hartford, SD 57033  
t 605.595.4860



[HSUS South Dakota Facebook](#)

The Humane Society of the United States  
1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 450  
Washington, DC 20037  
[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)

[Join Our Email List](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Blog](#)



The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization, rated most effective by our peers. For more than 60 years, we have celebrated the protection of all animals and confronted all forms of cruelty. We are the nation's largest provider of hands-on services for animals, caring for more than 100,000 animals each year, and we prevent cruelty to millions more through our advocacy campaigns.

The HSUS is approved by the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance for all 20 standards for charity accountability, and was named by Worth Magazine as one of the 10 most fiscally responsible charities. To support The HSUS, please make a monthly donation, or give in another way. You can

also [volunteer](#) for The HSUS, and see our 55 ways you can help animals. Read more about our 60 years of [transformational change](#) for animals, and visit us online at [humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org).

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 10:41 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Comments on the proposal to allow hounds to pursue lions onto public land from private land

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**From:** Helen McGinnis [<mailto:hissyhelen38@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 8:49 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Comments on the proposal to allow hounds to pursue lions onto public land from private land

Helen McGinnis  
PO Box 300  
Harman, WV 26270  
304-227-4166

[hissyhelen38@gmail.com](mailto:hissyhelen38@gmail.com)  
[Klandagi:Puma Rewilding on Facebook](#)

I object to allowing hound hunters to pursue mountain lions from private lands onto public lands. In part, it's because I oppose further expanding hound hunting in South Dakota. Few South Dakotans own packs of hounds, so the expansion is likely to benefit outfitters and out-of-state hunters (who are not currently allowed to hunt lions in SD, to the best of my knowledge).

As a member of the Prairie Hills Audubon Society, I have been following the mountain lion situation for at least ten years, but only this morning I had an epiphany that would explain the Commission's decisions. In her 2003 dissertation, [Distribution and Abundance of American Martens and Cougars in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming](#), Dorothy Fecske estimated the carrying capacity of mountain lions in the Black Hills National Forest was 152 adult lions. Cougar biologist Dr. John Laundre' has independently confirmed this estimate. If there are more than 150 adults, many subadults (especially males) will disperse out of the Hills. I recall that the first lion management plan had a specific goal of eliminating dispersers. So I speculate the Commission intends to reduce the lion population to 150-175 lions (including kittens, which should not be counted). Any "surplus" should be "harvested" or otherwise killed.

I believe subadults should be allowed to disperse from the Black Hills. Some of them have head East, one getting as far as Connecticut. A majority of the lions documented in the Midwest originated in South Dakota. Lions should be allowed to recolonize the East and Midwest to restore ecological balance in our forests and to compensate for the ignorance and fear which led to their extirpation.

Instead of expanding hound hunting on the Prairie, I wish the Commission would launch an education campaign, addressing the danger of cougar attacks on humans, statistics on livestock and pets killed and how to avoid lion depredations, and scientifically accurate information on the impact lions actually have on ungulate populations. (I am assured that usually they have little impact compared to factors such as weather.) I have been

keeping track of lion attacks on humans in the US and Canada since Jan. 2000. My compilations are here - [http://tchester.org/sgm/lists/lion\\_attacks\\_mcginnis.html](http://tchester.org/sgm/lists/lion_attacks_mcginnis.html)

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 1:29 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] expansion of hound hunting mountain lions on prairie

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**From:** Kim Forgey [<mailto:kimnicole3@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 12:24 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] expansion of hound hunting mountain lions on prairie

Dear members of the SDGFP Commission,

I am opposed to the proposal to allow hounding of mountain lions on public lands in the Prairie region. This hunting method is not supported by numerous livestock owners who do not want hounds harassing their animals or mountain lions themselves. Hounding is a high-stress hunting method that can disrupt livestock occupying public lands as well as private lands when the dogs trespass onto unapproved lands.

Any expansion of hounding in South Dakota comes with the very real risk of increased trespassing of hounds onto private lands. My family and I run a pheasant hunting preserve in central South Dakota. Allowing hounding of mountain lions in this region could potentially disrupt our birds, causing them stress or injuries, and cause a negative impact on my family. Additionally, we value our public lands in this region and do not want noisy, aggressive hounds let loose in areas where South Dakotans like to recreate.

Please do not allow hounding of mountain lions on public lands in the Prairie. The proposal could harm my business and those of other livestock owners throughout the region.

Kim Forgey  
18559 Remington Place  
Pierre, South Dakota

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2017 10:44 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Hound hunting in South Dakota

**From:** Beth Haivala [<mailto:bethhaivala@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2017 10:21 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Hound hunting in South Dakota

There is nothing more enjoyable for me than to run & hike in the beautiful places of South Dakota. I almost always take my dog with, for companionship and protection. Allowing hunting mountain lions with dogs ensures the lions keep their distances from both of us. Please expand the areas allowing lion hunting with dogs. It protects people, young & old, as well as domestic animals, especially on places that have dogs.

Thank you!

Beth Haivala  
Black Hawk, SD

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2017 12:36 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Hound Hunting on Public Land

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

From: Tom Shaw [<mailto:tomshawqostar@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 11:36 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: [EXT] Hound Hunting on Public Land

I support the use of hounds hunting lions on public land outside of the hills.  
Thomas Shaw  
White Owl, SD

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 8:51 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] (no subject)

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

From: [Coryanddeb@goldenwest.net](mailto:Coryanddeb@goldenwest.net) [<mailto:Coryanddeb@goldenwest.net>]  
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2017 7:15 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: [EXT] (no subject)

Hi my name is Cory Levin. I am sending this email stating that my wife and I are in full support of using hounds to hunt mountain lions on public land outside the black hills (ft. meade slim buttes corp land on Missouri and game production areas)

Thank You

Cory and Deb Levin  
15737 209th place  
Hereford SD 57785



## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2017 2:21 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT]

**From:** Sydney Shaw [<mailto:shawsyd@meadeschools.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2017 2:06 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT]

I support hound hunting on public lands outside of the hills.

Sydney Shaw  
Sturgis, South Dakota

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 11:10 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Amendment to expand hound hunting of mountain lions on public lands.

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

From: anita hachard [<mailto:hachards4@verizon.net>]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 9:44 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: [EXT] Amendment to expand hound hunting of mountain lions on public lands.

SDGFP Commissioners,

I'm writing to ask you to oppose the proposed amendment to expand hound hunting of mountain lions on public lands in the Prairie.

Many of us like to frequent public lands and hounding is a highly controversial hunting method and the majority of my friends and family do not support it, let alone want to allow on SD public lands.

It's important to recognize hounds under the direction of houndsmen are often a nuisance in the areas they are permitted and often trespass onto private lands. Allowing hunters the increased ability to hound mountain lions is unwarranted, especially as only a handful of lions are ever found outside of the Black Hills.

Mountain lions in South Dakota deserve reasoned management and protections. Allowing further hounding of the species in the state is a step backwards which will only appease a small number of hunters who want to easily track and kill these cats.

Please oppose the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,  
Anita Hachard  
Newbury Park, CA.

**Comes, Rachel**

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 11:05 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] comments for SDGFP commission re: expansion of hound hunting mountain lions on prairie

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**From:** Heather Nearman [<mailto:nearheat@outlook.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] comments for SDGFP commission re: expansion of hound hunting mountain lions on prairie

Dear Commission members,

Please do not allow the expansion of mountain lion hounding onto public lands in South Dakota. This method of hunting mountain lions is dangerous not only to the large cats being chased by dogs but also to the dogs themselves. Dogs used for hounding may be hurt by the prey they chase who try to defend themselves. As a result, hounding dogs can suffer from severe injuries and even death.

Hounding dogs can also pose a threat to unintended animals such as livestock and other wildlife. Dogs can even kill mountain lions kittens if they come across these indefensible young cats. Opening up much of our state's public lands to hounding is not in the best interest of any of the animals potentially endangered by the practice. Hounding is a barbaric practice that must no longer be permitted in South Dakota.

Thank you,

Heather Nearman  
Sioux Falls, SD

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 7:52 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Comments for SDGFP commission re: expansion of hound hunting mountain lions on prairies.

**From:** Lori Ann [<mailto:lolo2379@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 5:58 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Comments for SDGFP commission re: expansion of hound hunting mountain lions on prairies.

SDGFP Commissioners,

I'm writing to ask you to oppose the proposed amendment to expand hound hunting of mountain lions on public lands on the prairie. As a South Dakotan from this region, I am highly opposed to hounding happening in my community, and on the public lands so many of us like to frequent. Hounding is a highly controversial hunting method and the majority of my friends and family do not support it; let alone want it in our backyard. Hounds are a nuisance in the areas they are permitted and often trespass onto private lands. Allowing hunters the increased ability to hound mountain lions is unwarranted, especially as only a handful of lions are ever found outside of the Black Hills.

Mountain lions in South Dakota deserve reasoned management and protections. Allowing further hounding of the species in our state is a step backwards which will only appease a small number of hunters who want to easily track and kill these cats. I call on you to oppose the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

Lori Lockman  
Sioux Falls, SD

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 9:56 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Lion pursuit

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

From: Riley Niewenhuis [<mailto:riley.niewenhuis@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2017 8:35 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: [EXT] Lion pursuit

Riley Niewenhuis from Corsica SD I support the pursuit of a lion onto public from private. I live 1/2 mile from GF&P ground. We run a 2800 hd feed lot and raise 7 different breeds of exotic sheep and goats , lions need to be able to be controlled in are area . If I have a coon or a coyote problem I am able to help control these with my dogs on the public land, so I feel lions shouldn't be any different. My friend and neighbor border the GF&P and can't keep any farm yard bird around for there kids to enjoy and are recently getting some goats. They are concerned for there safety as well as there kids if there is a lion out there we can't pursue. There has been two lion within 6 miles of us this summer, tracked into corn fields, so they are around our tightly populated community. Thanks for letting my voice be heard. Riley

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 10:40 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Mountain Lion hunting

**From:** Karen Haggbloom [<mailto:seahagg350@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 8:02 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Mountain Lion hunting

The mountain lion is a trophy animal. Hunting it with dogs is not very sporting. Anyone not willing to give this animal a fighting chance does not deserve a trophy.

Karen Haggbloom  
6401 W 46 St  
Sioux Falls SD

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 9:57 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Mountain Lion Proposal

**From:** Carah Tisdall [<mailto:4trekr101016@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 28, 2017 10:47 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Mountain Lion Proposal

Dear Commissioners  
My name is Carah Tisdall /age 15  
Rapid City SD

I would like to speak about the proposal about the use of dogs to hunt Mountain Lions that continues onto public ground outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District. In South Dakota we allow dogs to hunt upland game, rabbits, raccoons, coyotes and bobcats on the public land outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District, but you are discriminating against dogs hunting Mountain Lions.

If a dog was tracking a bobcat and it crosses onto the public land it can continue to hunt, along with any other animal that dogs may hunt, except for a Mountain Lion. Boot hunters may hunt mountain lions on that public land, but dogs may not hunt Mountain Lions.

I am 15 and a Mountain Lion hunter, I have been hunting them for quite a while and I understand that public land is public and that these dogs should be allowed to hunt.

I hope you take this letter into consideration to pass our proposal. I strongly recommend that you pass this proposal.

-Carah Tisdall 4821 Hickory Dr. Rapid city SD 57701 //15 year old female old Mountain Lion hunter



## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 10:38 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Mt.lion purposal

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

From: Kathy Hagen [<mailto:hagenfarms@venturecomm.net>]  
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2017 9:59 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: [EXT] Mt.lion purposal

Jim hagen britton SD, myself and several other members of n.d.coonhunters assoc. who also live in s.d. ,support the purposal to allow the use of dogs to hunt mountain lions that continue on to public ground outside the black hills fire protection district. Thank you Jim

Sent from my iPad

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 4:03 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Hound hunting

---

**From:** [bhasart@hur.midco.net](mailto:bhasart@hur.midco.net) [<mailto:bhasart@hur.midco.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 3:46 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Hound hunting

I support hound hunting of lions in public land outside of the Black Hills. Willie and Barb Hasart P.O. Box 93 St Lawrence SD 57373. We were residents of the Black Hills for 30 years and have seen what Mt. Lions can do to baby calves and other livestock. We now live on the East side of the river and have seen Mt Lion in this area also. Thank you for time. .

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 8:06 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Hound use for mountain lion hunting on public land

---

**From:** Twila Rauth [<mailto:twilarauth@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 4:05 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Hound use for mountain lion hunting on public land

I support hound use for mountain lion hunting on public land outside the black hills.  
Twila Rauth, Aladdin Wyoming  
Sent from my iPhone

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 1:25 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Hound use

---

**From:** Phil and Linda VanDervoort [<mailto:elkcreek5@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:46 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Hound use

Dear Sirs:

We support the use of hounds while hunting lions on public land outside of the Black Hills area.

Philip and Linda VanDervoort

Piedmont, SD

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 8:07 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Input to GF&P Commission Re: the use of dogs hunting mountain lions on public land outside of the Black Hills

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

From: Doug T [<mailto:dougtheel@icloud.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 9:12 PM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: [EXT] Input to GF&P Commission Re: the use of dogs hunting mountain lions on public land outside of the Black Hills

Dear GF&P Commission,

I am writing to voice my support for approving the use of dogs to hunt mountain lions on public land outside of the Black Hills. This would include the Custer National Forest.

However I'm personally opposed to allowing it on the Core land along Lake Oahe.

A good friend has a lot of land along the Core land up there and constantly has people trespassing on his private land during grouse, pheasant, and deer seasons.

Part of the problem is that some of it isn't very wide and is not marked well.

Respectfully,

Doug Theel  
5117 Stoney Creek Drive  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-381-6811

Sent from my iPhone

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 10:38 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] LION. BHFPD

**From:** Timaysha Enfield [<mailto:timayshaenfield@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 29, 2017 4:15 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] LION. BHFPD

Just wanted to get my name put in for supporting the proposal of continuing a lion track onto public land from private land outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District. Timaysha D. Enfield - Woonsocket SD

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 12:21 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Lion hunting

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

From: daniel nissen [[mailto:danieln\\_91@hotmail.com](mailto:danieln_91@hotmail.com)]  
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 11:54 AM  
To: GFP Wild Info  
Subject: [EXT] Lion hunting

I support hound hunting on public lands outside the black hills.

Daniel Jackson Nissen  
Piedmont, South Dakota

Sent from my iPhone

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 10:33 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Support for Amend ARSD 41:06:61:06 - Mountain Lion Hunting Season.

---

**From:** Kevin Hanks [<mailto:k1hanks@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 8:22 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Support for Amend ARSD 41:06:61:06 - Mountain Lion Hunting Season.

I fully support allowing use of hounds to pursue mt lions on public lands. Lions are more often being reported near homes and one recently spotted on a playground in Rapid City. Public lands are open to many other types of hunting and recreation, why should this be any different?

Kevin Hanks  
Piedmont, SD



## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 10:37 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Support for hunting with hounds

---

**From:** Wolford, Mallory [<mailto:Mallory.Wolford@animalhealthinternational.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Support for hunting with hounds

To whom it may concern:

I support hounds for hunting mountain lions on public land outside of the black hills.

Mallory Wolford  
Whitewood, SD

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## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 1:25 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Support Hound Hunting

---

**From:** Don & Shirley Hofer [<mailto:donhofer@hur.midco.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:58 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Support Hound Hunting

I support Hound Hunting of Lions on Public Land outside of the Black Hills.

Donald G. Hofer  
Miller, SD 57362

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 9:00 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Support of bill.

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**From:** roscosgasgas [<mailto:roscosgasgas@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 11:06 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Support of bill.

My name is Ross Rohde from Rapid City, SD. I am writing you in support of the use of hounds on public ground outside of the Blackhills national forest. I believe this will make things less complicated when tracking a cat that starts on private ground but continues on to public. This may not seem like a big deal for the average person, but for the land owner(that wants the cat removed) and the hunter(that has traveled 100 miles or better)it is.

I appreciate the time you have taken to read this and hope you will agree with the land owners and houndsmen on this issue.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 9:39 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Supporting Mountain lion hunting proposal

**Categories:** Commission

Thank you,

**Joe Cary** | *Secretary*

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

20641 SD Highway 1806 | Fort Pierre, SD 57532

605.223.7683 | [Joe.Cary@state.sd.us](mailto:Joe.Cary@state.sd.us)



**From:** Reed Vandervoort [<mailto:vandervoortr76@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 9:32 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Supporting Mountain lion hunting proposal

Dear Commissioners and fellow South Dakotans,

I'm vice president of the South Dakota Houndsmen Association and a 4th generation South Dakota rancher and member of the Montana Houndsmen Association. I encourage you all to support the proposal of allowing dogs to continue onto public land in pursuit of mountain lions outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District. As you all know other hunting dogs are currently legal on public ground in South Dakota and many ranchers I've visited with over this issue strongly support our proposal. The fact that the track must be started on private land before crossing onto public land is what intrigued a lot of them. These ranchers whose land borders these properties don't have to worry about the "public ground hunters" crossing onto their property without permission, which many have dealt with in the hunting of other species. The passing of this proposal would insure good hunter/ landowner relations and expand hunting opportunities in South Dakota. I strongly support this proposal. Thank you for your time.

Reed VanDervoort, Piedmont, SD

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 2:17 PM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Mountain Lion Rules Petition

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**From:** Kinsley, Teri [<mailto:Teri.Kinsley@k12.sd.us>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 2:05 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Mountain Lion Rules Petition

I support hound use for mountain lion hunting on public ground outside the Black Hills.  
Teri Kinsley  
Murdo, South Dakota

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 7:45 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Hound hunting

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**From:** Maretta Martin [<mailto:mrmartin@venturecomm.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 4:28 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Hound hunting

I support Hound hunting of mountain lions on public lands.

Maretta Martin  
19645 394th Ave.  
Hitchcock, SD 57348

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Christina Zuccaro <christinazuccaro@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 1:38 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] Mountain Lions

To Whom It May Concern:

In 79 years, we have only seen two mountain lions on our ranch, and they were beautiful to watch. Leave the damn cats alone.

Sincerely,

Christina Zuccaro Midland, SD

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 11:24 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Proposal of Hounds

Thank you,

**Joe Cary** | *Secretary*

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

20641 SD Highway 1806 | Fort Pierre, SD 57532

605.223.7683 | [Joe.Cary@state.sd.us](mailto:Joe.Cary@state.sd.us)



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**From:** Hagen, AustinJ [<mailto:Austin.Hagen@yellowjackets.bhsu.edu>]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 11:16 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Proposal of Hounds

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Austin Hagen, I live in Rapid City.

I am contacting you in regards to support the proposal of allowing the use of dogs to hunt mountain lions that continue onto public land outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District. I grew up in NE South Dakota (Sisseton) and we were always allowed to use dogs on public land whether it was upland bird hunting, waterfowl hunting, or raccoon hunting. I firmly believe it shouldn't be any different when it comes to mountain lions. I now am a student in college and unfortunately do not have the time for hounds, the first thing I will do when I graduate will be getting hounds again. Passing this proposal will help young kids like myself enjoy the outdoors South Dakota has to offer and make getting into hounds more pleasurable as I will be able to hunt more land surrounded by public land.

Thank you,  
Austin Hagen



## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 9:08 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Public Land House Use

**From:** Megan Farrell [<mailto:mrfarrell10@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 14, 2017 11:39 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Public Land House Use

Hello,

My name is Megan Farrell of Beresford, SD, and I support hound use for hunting mountain lions on public land outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District and encourage the commission to support it as well.

Thank you,

Megan Farrell

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 9:08 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Public land

**From:** Chris Wells [<mailto:wells.bells5@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 14, 2017 11:37 AM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Public land

Hello, my name is Chris Wells of Beresford, SD. I support hound use for hunting mountain lions on public land outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District and encourage the commission to support it as well. Hound hunting is just as traditional and as much of a sport as bird hunting behind dogs (a sport that has turned our great state into one of the largest destination hunt locations). Hounds men are very much a part of sportsmen that buy tags every year that help land owners benefit from creating public hunting opportunities. I am thrilled with the progress and the opportunities for hounds men that the Game Fish and Parks has allowed us in the last couple of years. We are very close to having equal opportunities for all sportsmen alike, and I am excited to be able to pass my love of the outdoors and hound hunting on to other generations, all while staying in South Dakota.

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 8:45 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Public Lands/Hound Hunting Proposal

---

**From:** Julie [<mailto:signsofhope@rap.midco.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 8:00 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Public Lands/Hound Hunting Proposal

To: GFP Commission,

When first taking comments on starting a mountain lion hunting season, there were a group of people who spoke up against it and just wanted to keep the GF&P's role for solving any conflict with people and lions.

The season got approved.

Then there was another meeting to renew the mountain lion season.

Again, people spoke up against this, and again the season was renewed.

There was a comment period to up the number of lions to be killed. People spoke up against this again.

Again it was approved.

Then it was opening up Custer State Park for hunting.

Against protest it was approved.

Year round hunting on the prairie unit was proposed.

Again, approved.

Then hunting lions with dogs.

Approved.

Now, hunting with hounds on all public lands if it starts on private land has been proposed. On prairie land, this means very few trees, so the chances of a lion being ripped apart go up considerably. A hound hunter at the Rapid City meeting said sometimes the lion they tree isn't the one doing livestock damage. If they are unsure this is the lion, they should abandon the hunt in the first place. This is nothing but a ploy for trophy hunters to kill a bigger cat.

When will the GF&P listen and abide by people like myself who do not want wildlife killed for trophy hunters or hound enthusiasts? A hunter at the Rapid City meeting stated that the hound hunters were "given" Custer State Park hunting to appease their wishes.

I implore you, the commissioners on this board to listen to the group of constituents who have protested this hunt from its beginnings and ban the use of hunting with hounds from private to public lands. These lands belong to everyone, not just hunters.

Thank You,

Julie Anderson  
845 Virginia Lane  
Rapid City, SD  
57701

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Miller, LouAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 8:02 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] Puma hunting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**From:** Nick Scotto [<mailto:scotto.nick@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 9:51 PM  
**To:** GFP Wild Info  
**Subject:** [EXT] Puma hunting

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you about the possibility of hound hunting mountain lions on public lands in your state. First I feel like there is no fair chance for the lion, where is the sport in that? Why would anyone take pride in letting the dogs do the work then you shoot the animal stuck in a tree or edge of a cliff? That to me does not make a good Hunter. It's a lazy way out of actually doing the hunting. Where's the pride in that? As a retired Hunter myself I see this easy way out as a disgrace. Please reconsider this and hopefully we can think of a better solution.

Thanks,  
Nick  
Reno, Nevada  
[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** Cary, Joe  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 9:31 AM  
**To:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: [EXT] South Dakota Mountain Lion perposal

**Categories:** Commission

Thank you,

**Joe Cary** | *Secretary*

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

20641 SD Highway 1806 | Fort Pierre, SD 57532

605.223.7683 | [Joe.Cary@state.sd.us](mailto:Joe.Cary@state.sd.us)



---

**From:** sdmuleskinners [<mailto:sdmuleskinners@aol.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 8:23 AM

**To:** GFP Wild Info

**Subject:** [EXT] South Dakota Mountain Lion perposal

Dear Commisioners

My name is Brad Tisdall ( President of South Dakota Houndsmen Association )  
Rapid City SD

I am writing you today asking you to Support the perposal in front of you Allowing The use of Dogs to hunt Mountain Lions that continues on to public ground outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

In South Dakota we allow Dogs to hunt

Up land birds - Waterfowl - Rabbits - Raccoons - Coyotes & Bobcats.

We allow Trappers the use of Dogs to track lost game. We allow leashed dogs to track and recover wonded big game.

Please pass this Perposal I belive it will also help with landowner relationship between land owners and the Department of Game,Fish & Parks.

Again South Dakota Houndsmen Association would ask you to pass this perposal

Our Association we be attending the meeting fell free to allow us to help answer any Questions you might have

Thank you

Brad Tisdall

4821 hickory dr

Rapid city,Sd 57701

605-786-6101

(President of South Dakota Houndsmen Association )

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone



# MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION

## *Saving America's Lion*

October 30, 2017

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Lynn Cullens

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**30**  
YEARS OF  
Saving America's Lion  
**1986 ~ 2016**

Post Office Box 1896  
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[www.mountainlion.org](http://www.mountainlion.org)  
[info@mountainlion.org](mailto:info@mountainlion.org)  
(916) 442-2666

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
523 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Mountain Lion Hound Hunting

Dear Commissioners,

The Mountain Lion Foundation is writing in support of banning hound hunting mountain lions in the state of South Dakota. To explain our position, we would like to bring up the following issues:

- 1) Hound hunting cannot be considered fair chase.
- 2) Hound hunting is said to be more selective because hunters can tell sex, age, and reproductive status, but hunter ability to correctly ascertain this information is overestimated.
- 3) The population cannot sustain such heavy hunting pressures, which would jeopardize long-term viability of the State's population.

In the following paragraphs, we have further enumerated why we believe that banning hound hunting would be a prudent choice for the Commission.

### **1) Hound hunting is not fair chase.**

Hounding is an inhumane and outdated sport that has been banned in two-thirds of the U.S. Shooting an animal out of a tree at point blank range is unethical and it has no place in modern wildlife management or recreation. Hounding poses significant risk to the hounds as well as to young wildlife, including dependent kittens and cubs, who may be attacked and killed by hounds (Lindzey et al. 1992, Logan and Sweanor 2001, Elbroch et al. 2013). Hounds also disturb or kill non-target wildlife and trespass onto private lands (see e.g., Hristienko and McDonald 2007). This practice is not fair chase and is highly controversial even among hunters (Teel et al. 2002).

Furthermore, lack of trees in prairie portions of the state leave few places where a mountain lion could successfully seek refuge from the hounds. This leads to two main problems: 1) prolonged chases, causing undue stress on the mountain lion, and 2) putting the mountain lion and hound dogs at risk of having a physical standoff on the ground. In each of these cases, there is a greater potential for causing unnecessary harm to the mountain lion, hound dogs, or both.



## **2) Hound hunting is incorrectly said to be more selective.**

Many proponents of hound hunting claim that hunters can be more selective using this technique. Since hunters can get so close to a treed animal, hound hunting advocates assert that hunters can determine the sex, size, and general age of an animal before determining whether or not they would like to harvest that individual. Knowing the sex and other demographic status of the individual being hunted could be helpful in maintaining a viable population. As information released by SDGFP states, “Some Western States research suggests lion populations begin to decline when adult females comprise > 25% of the harvest. SD 2017 adult female harvest = 31%”. Even with the ability to potentially sex an animal in a tree, by their own admission, their female harvest is above the estimated sustainable threshold. Adult female survival is vital for population growth and recovery from harvest (Martorello and Beausoleil 2003). The higher the proportion of hunted animals that are female, the more the population is likely to decline (Wolfe et al. 2015). So we have already seen that hound hunters are not necessarily using demographic information to hunt more sustainably.

In addition, the Mountain Lion Foundation has conducted extensive research on this topic, and we have found this claim to be false. A review of 30 years of records from game managers throughout the western United States found that although technically feasible, most hunters could not tell the size and sex of an animal up a tree. Hunters had roughly 50% accuracy when determining sex – the same as if they had determined the sex with a coin toss.

Furthermore, of the hunters who claimed to be selective and said they would let smaller and female animals go free, less than 30 percent actually did so. Hound hunting an animal is often a costly event in both time and resources – with expensive outfitters and travel costs leading up to the event, hours spent waiting for the hounds to tree an animal, and then hiking out to the site where the animal has sought refuge in a tree. After all this, more than 70 percent of hunters shoot the first animal they tree, regardless of age, size, or sex.

## **3) South Dakota’s mountain lion population is too small to sustainably support heavy hunting.**

The proposed hunting recommendations for the Black Hills and Custer State Park is 60 total lions, or 40 females. If the estimated adult/subadult population is 230 individuals, this represents 26% of the huntable population. If the true population is actually smaller, and there’s a good chance it is, that percent increases at an alarming rate. In northern Washington, where they have a much larger population, and where dispersing individuals are likely much more readily available, a 24% hunter harvest resulted in a declining female cougar population (Robinson et al. 2008). A sustainable harvest is between 12 and 16 percent of the population. Other Western populations may have been able to sustain the proposed harvest level, however, this is unlikely to be the case in South Dakota. Recovery from harvest relies on nearby source populations; therefore, mountain lion harvest should be managed at the metapopulation scale (Cougar Management Guidelines Working Group 2005:73–74). This means something very different for a well-connected population in other western states, such as Washington,

Colorado, or Wyoming than it does for an isolated population like the one in South Dakota. Since South Dakota is isolated, dispersing individuals will not be as readily available to help replenish the population after many of the individuals have been hunted.

Even when healthy source populations exist, prolonged harvest can have detrimental impacts on female mountain lion numbers. Harvesting resident adult males can allow higher rates of immigration by males seeking recently opened territories. When a new resident moves into an area, he may kill off the existing kittens so the local females will be ready to breed more quickly so he can sire his own young (Ross and Jalkotzy 1992, Logan and Sweanor 2001). In addition, harvested females leave kittens orphaned and unable to survive (Beausoleil et al. 2013).

We urge you to take leadership for South Dakota's mountain lions by calling for an end of hound hunting in the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynn Cullens

Executive Director  
Mountain Lion Foundation

### References

- Beausoleil, R.A., Koehler, G.M., Maletzke, B.T., Kertson, B.N. and Wielgus, R.B., 2013. Research to regulation: Cougar social behavior as a guide for management. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, 37(3), pp.680-688.
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- Hristienko, H., and J. McDonald, John E. 2007. Going in the 21st century: a perspective on trends and controversies in the management of the black bear *Ursus* **18**:72-88.
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- Logan, K. A., and L. L. Sweanor. 2001. Desert puma: evolutionary ecology and conservation of an enduring carnivore. Island Press, Washington, DC.
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- Robinson, H.S., Wielgus, R.B., Cooley, H.S. and Cooley, S.W., 2008. Sink populations in carnivore management: cougar demography and immigration in a hunted population. *Ecological Applications*, 18(4), pp.1028-1037.
- Ross, P.I. and Jalkotzy, M.G., 1992. Characteristics of a hunted population of cougars in southwestern Alberta. *The Journal of wildlife management*, pp.417-426.
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Bruce Blair  
13861 Highland R.D.  
Piedmont, S.D.  
57769

I support using dogs on  
public lands for mountain  
lion hunting, the same as  
Wyoming & Montana was a  
season. There are not enough  
lions killed as I still  
have none on camera  
year around & after, on my  
Ranch.

Bruce Blair  
Black Hills Herford Pond  
Piedmont, S.D.

South Dakota Dept of Game, Fish & Parks  
523 East Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501

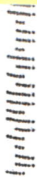
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Pierre, SD 57501





**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty

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October 30, 2017

Cathy Peterson, Madam Chairman  
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
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Email: [wildinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:wildinfo@state.sd.us)

**Re: OPPOSE - Proposal to Amend ARSD 41:06:61:06, Expanding Hounding of Mountain Lions outside the Black Hills Fire District**

Dear Madam Chairman Peterson and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our supporters in South Dakota, we oppose the proposed amendment to ARSD 41:06:61:06 regarding the use of dogs to hunt mountain lions (*Puma concolor*), referred to here as “hounding.” The amendment would expand hounding outside of the Black Hills Fire District (Prairie region) of South Dakota, allowing trophy hunters to pursue mountain lions that originated on private lands to cross over or culminate on public land.

Currently, hounding is restricted to Custer State Park and on private lands in the Prairie region with permission of the landowner or lessee. Hounding pursuits of mountain lions that originate on private lands in the Prairie region may only cross over or culminate on property owned by the Office of School and Public Lands or the United State Bureau of Land Management other than the Fort Meade Recreation Area (ARSD 41:06:61:06). The proposed amendment to expand this practice, however, is unnecessary and not based on reasoned decision-making. Therefore, we call on the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) Commission to reject the proposed amendment and not allow hounding to expand in the Prairie region.

**I. Hounding is unsporting, cruel and harmful to wildlife, including to mountain lions**

The HSUS believes hounding is a cruel and unsporting practice and should not be expanded in South Dakota. Using radio-collared trailing hounds to chase mountain lions and bay them into trees or rock ledges so that the trophy hunter can shoot the cat at close range is unethical and inhumane. Hounds kill kittens, and mountain lions often injure or kill hounds (Lindzey et al. 1992, Logan and Sweanor 2001, Elbroch et al. 2013). The practice is exceedingly stressful and energetically taxing to mountain

lions (Harlow et al. 1992, Bryce et al. 2017). Hounding is not considered “fair chase” hunting by most (Posewitz 1994, Teel et al. 2002).

Hounds also chase non-target wildlife such as deer and other ungulates and trespass onto private lands (e.g., Hristienko and McDonald 2007, Grignolio et al. 2011, Mori 2017). Grignolio et al. (2011) found hounding was highly costly to non-target deer. While the hounds were chasing other species, they caused non-target deer, especially younger animals, to panic and huddle in an inferior habitat. Hounds also significantly increased deer home range sizes—meaning deer had to expend extra energy to distance themselves from the hounds. Furthermore, Grignolio et al. (2011) citing several others, indicated that hounding highly disturbs deer, likely reducing individual fitness and reproductive success while harming deer populations on the whole. This disturbance likely affects domestic livestock as well, causing stress and reducing their health and reproductive potential.

Additionally, the amendment is entirely unnecessary and does not reflect the justification for it provided by SDGFP—to provide “livestock producers better assistance in the removal of mountain lions outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District” (SDGFP 2017). Only a handful of livestock losses from mountain lions have ever occurred in the Prairie region of South Dakota. In 2016, wildlife damage staff responded to only 11 conflicts throughout the state, primarily in the Black Hills region (Fisk 2016). As such, exposing the region’s public lands and wildlife to packs of noisy and energetic hounds is an excessive and gross overstep in addressing these very rare, if any, conflicts, which are far better managed using a host of non-lethal techniques.

The proposed language does not reflect this justification and, instead, allows for all hounding, including for trophy hunting, which originates on private land to cross over or culminate on public land. It would be arbitrary and capricious for the Commission to finalize this proposed regulatory amendment based on a justification that it is necessary to address livestock conflicts when the record shows that the true purpose of the amendment is to expand hounding in the Prairie region in order to appease a handful of trophy hunters. S.D. Codified Laws § 1-26-36 (a court may set aside an agency decision that is “Clearly erroneous in light of the entire evidence in the record” or “Arbitrary or capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion or clearly unwarranted exercise of discretion.”); *Johnson v. Lennox Sch. Dist. No. 41-4*, 649 N.W.2d 617, 621 (S.D. 2002) (“a decision is arbitrary and capricious when the decision-making agency: 1) relies on factors not intended to be considered; 2) fails to consider an important aspect of the problem; 3) offers an explanation for its decision that runs counter to the evidence before it; 4) renders a decision so implausible that it cannot be ascribed to a difference in view or the product of agency expertise.”).

## **II. Mountain lions are rare but incredibly valuable to other wildlife and to South Dakotans.**

Top carnivores are sparsely populated across vast areas, invest in few offspring, provide extended parental care to their young, have a tendency towards infanticide, females limit reproduction and social stability promotes their resiliency (e.g., Weaver et al. 1996, Stoner et al. 2006, Wielgus et al. 2013, Creel et al. 2015, Wallach et al. 2015, Elbroch et al. 2017).



Research shows that human persecution, especially from trophy hunting, can be quite harmful to their social structures, disrupting their relationships among one another (Stoner et al. 2006, Darimont et al. 2009, Peebles et al. 2013, Bryan et al. 2014, Wallach et al. 2015), and threatens their persistence (Darimont et al. 2015). A recently published study on mountain lions in the Teton region show that mountain lions are quite social animals and live in “communities” (Elbroch et al. 2017). The effect of human persecution is “super additive” meaning that hunting pressures on mountain lions and other native carnivores far exceed what would occur in nature (Vucetich et al. 2005, Wright et al. 2006, Eberhardt et al. 2007, Darimont et al. 2015).

Mountain lions provide a host of essential ecosystem services, including to other wildlife (Maehr et al. 2003, Soule et al. 2003, Ripple and Beschta 2006, Elbroch and Wittmer 2012, Allen et al. 2014, Elbroch et al. 2014). The wild cats enhance South Dakota’s ecosystems and prevent deadly and socially costly collision with overabundant deer (Gilbert et al. 2016). South Dakota wildlife officials must educate citizens on the best practices for co-existence rather than constant, harmful persecution (Carter and Linnell 2016, Chapron and Treves 2016).

Only around 300 mountain lions exist in South Dakota and a handful of these cats disperse from the Black Hills onto the Prairie. As a result, South Dakota is the stepping stone for mountain lion recovery to the Eastern United States (The Humane Society of the United States 2017). Yet, this small population already suffers from overexploitation as the state sets incredibly high hunting quotas. In 2016, the state’s hunting quota was 60 lions in the Black Hills region and an unlimited quota in the Prairie region. Expanding hound hunting in the Prairie further harms South Dakota’s mountain lion population and threatens the survival of dispersers, restricting the species’ potential expansion into their historic range.

### **III. Mountain lions must be conserved for all, not just managed for a few trophy hunters.**

The state has an obligation to manage mountain lions for all citizens, not just a vocal minority who enjoy trophy hunting mountain lions. *See State v. Halverson*, 277 N.W.2d 723, 724 (S.D. 1979) (“Wild animals in this state are the property of the state. SDCL 41-11-1. The citizens of this state have an interest in the management of wildlife so that it can be effectively conserved.”). The majority of Americans, by 61%, hold positive values towards mountain lions compared to just 13% who hold negative values (George et al. 2016). Another study showed that most people hold positive attitudes towards mountain lions and were likely to believe that mountain lions are a sign of a healthy environment and pose little real risk to people living near them (Zinn et al. 1996).

Expanding hounding of mountain lions onto public lands in the Prairie region is harmful to the state’s public lands and all wildlife in the region, including the few mountain lions that find themselves east of the Black Hills. Further, while the regulations provide that “Wind Cave National Park, Jewell Cave National Park, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial are closed to mountain lion hunting” (S.D. Admin. R. 41:06:61:06), the proposed amendment fails to give proper notice to the regulated community that the new expansion of hounding onto public land would not (and could not lawfully) include those federal properties managed by the National Park Service that are adjacent to Custer State Park. *See* 36 C.F.R. §§ 1.4, 2.2 (prohibiting hunting – including take and attempted take, which includes pursuit – of wildlife in National Parks); U.S.

Const., art. IV, § 3, cl. 2; *Wyoming v. United States*, 279 F.3d 1214, 1226-27 (10th Cir. 2002) (Congress' power under the Property Clause is "plenary."). Thus, the Commission must not finalize this regulation without clarifying that the pursuit of a mountain lion by dogs that originates on private land may *not* cross over or culminate on public land owned by the National Park Service. *See* S.D. Codified Laws § 1-26-36 (agency actions may be set aside if they are "In violation of constitutional or statutory provisions" or "In excess of the statutory authority of the agency").

#### **IV. Conclusion**

We call on the Commission to oppose the proposed hounding amendment. The proposed amendment is cruel and not in the best interest of South Dakotans. Approving the amendment would be arbitrary and capricious. Mountain lions deserve reasoned management so that their populations are conserved for future generations—including for all stakeholders (Jacobson et al. 2010, Nelson et al. 2011). Instead of expanding trophy hunting opportunities for mountain lions, SDGFP must look to reduce this practice across the state in order to ensure the species' long-term protection. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



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October 30th, 2017

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**Comment letter in Opposition to Increasing Access of Hound Hunters of Cougars to the Prairie Public Lands.**

Prairie Hills Audubon Society (PHAS) objects to recreational hound hunting of cougars every place in SD, except by SDGFP professionals doing research or doing control of "conflict" lions.

Here are some of our reasons:

1. Hound hunting is cruel and can cause harm to both the cats and the dogs. It is more cruel and unethical in the prairie areas where there are fewer trees for lions to climb to avoid dogs. Kittens can be inadvertently killed or orphaned.
2. Hound hunting is not "fair chase"
3. Hound hunting is generally more efficient than "boot hunting" and confers a hunting advantage to those who own hounds or can hire guide(s) with hounds, over those who merely own a rifle.
4. One justification for the hound hunt is to help landowners remove "problem lions" that threaten livestock. At the October Commission meeting the petitioner (President of the South Dakota Houndsmen Association) could not clearly show that many of the 9 lions killed by hound hunters in the prairie - since prairie hound hunting of cougars was allowed (2015) - were in fact "conflict" lions. He claimed one lion of the nine lions killed via hound hunters was alleged to have scared livestock in

a pen and thus harmed livestock. GFP staff disclosed only 4 documented depredations by cougars on livestock or pets in 1999-2015 on the Prairie, and there have been no documented depredations since then, that West River staff could tell us of -- so where are the documented depredations problems that the hound hunters are allegedly curing? Why doesn't GFP insist on substantive evidence - instead of listening to stumbling & uncertain response to the question -- "were the hound hunted lions on prairie "problem lions"?" The President of the South Dakota Houndsmen Association and proponent of the petition could not clearly answer that question.

5. Hounds may disturb other wildlife and may disturb other public land users.

6. Public land managers may have a duty to protect wildlife viability - that includes protecting their few cougars. There is a body of federal law that protects wildlife on various federal land jurisdictions. The Federal Government's land management does not exist primarily to deliver hunting licenses to sportsmen, or grazing to ranchers. The public owns public lands and the federal lands serve much broader purpose and are accountable to broad and diverse constituencies.

7. Hounds may create trespass to private lands. This is also a jurisdiction issue when in the checkerboard of tribal/non-tribal lands on the prairie unit, as hounds & hunters may exit GFP jurisdiction to tribal jurisdiction, where hunting may not be permitted, especially without tribal licenses.

8. Hound hunting harms the recovery of the small number of breeding cougars in suitable habitat on prairie. When cougar populations are small, every female and kitten in small populations is especially important and connectivity to larger cougar populations is needed for population viability. Hound hunting is more effective than "boot hunting" and will make recovery of lion populations on prairie even more difficult, given the 365-day prairie season. There are documented trapped and/or killed kittens on the prairie. Dead mothers with past proof of lactation have also been documented. Breeding is happening on the prairie. Jurisdictions involve both tribal and non-tribal lands.

9. Hound hunting of mammals is a controversial practice and is outlawed in many states. Many folks object to it for many reasons. The hound hunters have been piecemeal enlarging on past wins. First they got Custer State


Park, then private land on the prairie and now seek access to public land on the prairie. They are continually asking for more. We believe that the SDWF agreed to not object to the allowing hound hunting in prairie on private lands in Jan. 2015, with a compromise not to include public land in the hound hunt... but now the hound hunters want that extra piece too.

10. Increased hound hunting will further impede possible cougar re-colonization of the Midwest and East. Since 1990, occasional wild cougars have been turning up in states where they'd been extirpated by the 1920s. DNA analysis has shown that most of these cougars were born in the Black Hills. The SD Game Fish & Parks (GFP) has declared all the state outside the Hills as "[politically] unsuitable habitat". Cougars on the Prairie can be killed at any time. Hounds drive cougars into trees or onto rock outcroppings where they can easily be shot & thus are extremely effective method for killing them. The GFP is in the process of reducing the Black Hills lion population by setting unattainable hunting quotas/caps. Expansion of opportunities for killing cougars with the use of hounds on the Prairie may cut off any possibility of re-colonization of the Midwest and East and restoring more balanced ecosystems there.

### **Additional Amendment to the Rule**

The proponent of the petition for rule change could not well document that hound hunters were actually killing "conflict lions" rather than just engaging in recreational hunting. We object to hound hunting of cougars on the prairie unit and object to the petition and the proposed rule, however if this rule change is passed, it should be amended to require an affidavit of landowner be submitted to SDGFP, along with the cougar carcass stating the conflict he/she had with the dead lion and that he/she requested the help of the hound hunter and had notified SD GFP of the conflict lion, prior to calling the hound hunter. Such affidavits should be available for public review. The hound hunter should also submit an affidavit, if the hunt left private land to public land, explaining actions on public land.

Thanks,



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